

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF NEWS AND VIEWS

# Beijing Review

北京周报

Vol. 30, No. 7

February 16, 1987

## Strengthening Laws on Foreign Economic Relations

### WORKING TO WIPE OUT ILLITERACY

### 生字表

看圖學詞學句  
 民會共 产 党 爱 国 京 天  
 安星 红 旗 我 和 桥 汽 天  
 在 跑 从 灯 话 了 用 处 说  
 鸡 鸭 鹅 那 学 校 到 老  
 读 书 教 空 习 字 姐 姐  
 奶 哥 么 科 学 服 里 都

飞机  
月亮







A disabled couple at home.

*Li Jintian*

Playing.

*Li Jintian*



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**COVER:** A "little teacher" (right) from  
Liuhe Village in Mulan County holding  
her literary class.

Zhang Zhaowen

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK



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p. 20

### Laws Back Foreign Economic Activities

■ Very few people remain doubtful about China's determination to implement the policy of opening to the world. Yet quite a few business people abroad are still of two minds about investing in China. This is because, though China has more than 160 laws and regulations to govern its economic relations and trade with other countries, China's legal system has loopholes to plug and many more laws need to be adopted. To deal with this problem, China is stepping up its legislation and plans to set up more organizations to supervise enforcement of the laws (p. 14).

### Policies for Combating Liberalization

■ *Renmin Ribao* (*People's Daily*) on Feb. 2, 1987 published an editorial to expound the policies on the current struggle against bourgeois liberalization, pointing out that it would be strictly limited within the Party to solve questions of fundamental political principles and orientation and would not affect the economic reform, rural work, scientific research, discussions of style or technique in literature and art, and the people's lifestyle (p. 25).

### Plain Living and Hard Work Reaffirmed

■ The spirit of plain living and hard work was stressed at a recent national economic work conference. The purpose of reaffirming this spirit is to curtail the over-expanded consumerism that has prevailed for some time, and revamp unrealistic ideas of material enrichment. To achieve this, it is necessary to control the macroeconomy while invigorating the microeconomy and conduct painstaking ideological education so that everybody understands that the growth of consumption must not exceed the expansion of production (p. 4).

### Combating Illiteracy

■ After 37 years of unremitting efforts, illiteracy has fallen from 80 percent to 20 percent. Among the present 200 million illiterate people, 90 percent are farmers. This article deals mainly with how farmers are helped to learn reading and writing (p. 17).

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# Old Spirit Reaffirmed

by Geng Yuxin

**A**t the National Economic Work Conference held last month in Beijing, it was decided that China would continue to press ahead with economic structural reform this year. The conference stressed the need to carry forward the spirit of plain living and hard work, and to launch a campaign to increase production and practise economy, to increase revenues and cut expenditures, so as to ensure a stable, long-term, balanced economic development.

The spirit of plain living and hard struggle is the fine tradition of the Chinese nation. Relying on this spirit the Chinese people have overcome numerous difficulties and obstacles both during the revolutionary war years and in the period of socialist construction. Reaffirming this old spirit, of course, has its new purposes, that is to compress the over-expanded consumerism that has prevailed for some time, and overcome unrealistic ideas of material gain. This would facilitate a proper balance between a rising consumption level and the general supply of goods that could possibly be produced. This implies correcting certain deviations which have occurred in implementing the current policy, not changing the policy itself.

From 1978 to 1986, as a result of implementing the open policy and effecting reforms aimed at invigorating the domestic economy, China's national income increased at an average annual rate of 9 percent. Between 1978 and 1985, per-capita income in the countryside rose at an average annual rate of 14.8 percent and that of urban workers, 8.5 percent (with the price-rise factored in for both cases). Such a rate of increase worked to the satisfaction of the people. It was the result of reducing the overly high rate of

accumulation and paying attention to improvement of the people's livelihood.

However, in a period after 1983, a tendency towards high consumption arose. This was followed by seeking and competing for an overly high standard of living and by the indiscriminate issue of bonuses, and indulging in extravagance and waste. As a result, consumption funds and capital construction investment got out of hand while industrial production increased at an excessive rate in the fourth quarter of 1984 and the first half of 1985, so that the economy became over-heated. Later, the government adopted a series of measures to tighten control of the macroeconomy while gradually cooling down the economy with the result that it tended to grow at a steady and appropriate rate. Thus the growth rate of total industrial output value dropped from 18 percent in 1985 to 10 percent in 1986.

The problem seemed to have been solved, but the hidden danger in pursuing high consumption has not yet been eradicated. To remove this potential trouble, it is necessary both to gradually adopt better measures to control the macroeconomy while invigorating the microeconomy and conduct painstaking ideological education so that everybody understands that the growth of consumption must not exceed the expansion of production.

Recently, Xu Dixin, a noted economist, pointed out in a speech: The aim of socialist production is to meet the people's growing material and cultural needs, but this must be based on the actual production development level. The contention for high consumption in disregard of China's present production level is an idea divorced from reality.

Xu said it is production that determines consumption, not vice versa, though consumption, under given conditions, also promotes production.

Since the beginning of the 1980s, Chinese urban and rural residents' average annual cash income has increased at a higher rate than that of the national income (16 percent versus 13 percent, calculated according to current prices). This represented an effort to improve the people's livelihood which had long been overlooked in the past. But this lopsidedness in the distribution of national income should not be allowed to continue; otherwise, it would inevitably lead to inflation. It is estimated that the people's accumulated purchasing power that has not yet found an outlet is equivalent to the total retail volume of commodities for eight months. It is worthwhile to conscientiously study and find a correct outlet for such a large volume of purchasing power. At present, most people want to buy high-grade consumer goods. But if part of the purchasing power is directed towards developing production, for instance, to building more public services, more cultural and educational facilities and developing the tertiary industry, it will then give added strength to the economic development and this in turn will promote people's welfare.

China began socialist construction only 30-odd years ago. It is still a developing country with backward economy and culture. Under such circumstances, it is all the more necessary to carry forward the spirit of plain living and hard struggle, and of building up the country through thrift and hard work. Only by so doing is it possible to inspire people with the determination to invigorate China and make more contributions. Advocating high consumption will only divert people to seeking personal enjoyment and craving immediate satisfactions. ■

## Heavier Responsibility Vested in Factory Heads

After a two-year trial period of giving factory directors of state-run enterprises full responsibility for production and management, the Chinese government has bestowed approval on the system. The altered style of industrial leadership has given birth to three sets of new regulations titled: Working Rules for Factory

Directors of State-Owned Industrial Enterprises, Working Rules for Grass-Roots Organizations of the Party, and Working Rules for Workers' Congresses.

The new regulations, considered an important component of the overall urban economic reform, call for a reasonable division of responsibility among

an enterprise's three power mechanisms -- directors, Party committees and workers' congresses.

Responding to a request to outline some of his basic thoughts on the improved regulations, Vice-Minister of the State Economic Commission Yuan Baohua gave the following explanation. "Our target is to overcome the problem of lack of co-ordination in the previous system under which the director took responsibility under the leadership of Party committee, that was brought in with the founding of New China in 1949, and enables the enterprise administration, Party organization and workers' congress each to strengthen its own work."

He pointed out that the major drawback of the old system was the lack of clear division of work between the Party and government, turning the enterprise's Party committee from a political organization into a managerial organization. Therefore, the Party committee secretary had the final say on everything and the factory director had no power. "Such a system fell short of scientific management of modern enterprises," Yuan continued, adding that the Party committee was so burdened with the enterprises' routine production and administration that its own role as a Party organization was weakened.

When asked what would be the major significance of setting up a management committee as required by the new regulations, the vice-minister explained that the committee is to work with the directors. It should include the director, the chief engineer, the Party committee secretary, the trade union president, the secre-

## Policy on SEZ Remains Unchanged

Criticism of bourgeois liberalization and the change in personnel at the top Party level will not influence China's open policy and the policy towards the special economic zones, said State Councillor Gu Mu on February 5.

"On the contrary, we are studying how to make our special economic zones more prosperous," he added.

Gu made the remarks when he visited two of the country's four special economic zones -- Zhuhai and Shenzhen in Guangdong Province. He presided over a meeting on the work of special economic zones which was held in Shenzhen on Feb. 6.

He said that the sole aim of the effort against bourgeois liberalization is to completely and accurately carry out the line adopted since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee held in late 1978. These policies mainly include two points: adhering to the Party's four cardinal principles -- the socialist road, the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, the people's democratic dictatorship and Marxism-Leninism and Mao

Zedong Thought, and upholding reform, opening to the world and invigorating the domestic economy, he explained.

"We can't separate our achievements in importing foreign investment, technology and managerial know-how from these two points," he added. "The doubts of some foreigners as to a change in our present open policy are groundless."

On how to evaluate last year's decrease in the number of joint venture items in the special economic zones, Gu said the whole country signed fewer contracts on using foreign funds in the first half of 1986. We regard the main reason as our failure to create an investment environment suited to the needs of foreign investors. The State Council issued a 22-article provision on encouragement of foreign investment last October to solve this problem.

"Meanwhile, we noticed the reduced projects are mainly non-productive ones, and this is what we desired," he said, adding that "We shall continue to import advanced foreign technology and management expertise."

tary of the Communist Youth League committee and representatives of the workers. The factory director should heed the opinions of the committee, draw on collective wisdom, and absorb all useful ideas before making important decisions.

According to the 40-article Working Rules for Factory Directors of State-Owned Industrial Enterprises, factory directors are required to run their enterprises effectively and adhere to the socialist road of management. They are duty-bound to protect state interests, as well as those of the enterprises and workers. They should regularly report on their work to Party organizations and workers' congresses, and accept their supervision.

The document says factory directors must, first of all, work out annual target plans for their enterprises in line with the state plan and market demands. They must ensure the fulfilment of the state quotas, pay attention to substantial changes in supply and demand, and make their enterprises more competitive by developing new products.

Factory directors will also be in charge of upgrading their enterprises' existing technologies, renewing their own facilities, and attaching great importance to production, safety and environmental protection. The directors will also be responsible for creating better living and recreational facilities for their workers, the rules stipulated.

Answering the question of what are the advantages of giving directors the power to appoint or dismiss cadres under them, Yuan said this would be conducive to setting up a unified, powerful and highly-efficient management system and solving the long-existing problem of directors having the right to direct production, but not the right to appoint their subordinates.

The new system also grants the directors the power to reward and punish their workers and staff with promotions, wage hikes, or even disciplinary dismissal. They have the right to employ workers on the basis of examinations, under the guidance of the state labour employment policies.

The director responsibility system, introduced in 1984, has been tried out in 27,000 enterprises throughout the country. Results indicate that under the new system, a factory director shoulders heavier responsibility after he has gained greater decision-making power, thus giving fuller play to his management potential.

But these reforms do not mean abolishing the Party's leadership. Instead, they help improve it. According to the 37-article regulation on the responsibility of Party organizations in state-run enterprises, Party committee will supervise and guarantee the implementation of Party and government policies. At the same time, they should aid the directors in exercising decision making power over operation and production, and mobilize trade union and Communist Youth League organizations in a concerted effort to help run the enterprises well.

As for the new regulations concerning workers' congresses, which are composed of 20 articles, Yuan Baohua noted that all enterprises must set up workers' congresses and other forms of democratic management while instituting director responsibility system.

The workers' congress is a power organ through which workers exercise democratic management. It has the power to examine its enterprise's major policy decisions, to supervise the work of its administrative leaders and to protect the workers' legitimate rights and interests. "The workers' congresses should also help the directors in their work and accept the Party's committees' ideological and poli-

tical leadership." Yuan added.

In order to preserve continuity in the reform process, and to ensure the implementation of the new rules, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China has issued a circular calling on all state-owned enterprises to put these rules into effect. ■

## Cultural Exchange: Go on to Boom in '87

In the present climate of economic reform and opening China up to the world, and with people's expressed desire to keep abreast of cultural developments around the world, China's cultural exchange with other countries will go on to flourish and expand in the year 1987. "This will not be affected in the least by the current struggle against bourgeois liberalization. Instead, people may witness another boom in cultural exchange, which will be largely characterized by multi-channel, multi-layer and diversified activities," remarked the latest issue of *Chinese Culture*, a bi-weekly newspaper run by the Ministry of Culture.

**Official Exchange.** In 1987, China will send official cultural delegations on visits to more than 30 countries, which will reciprocate by sending their cultural delegations to China. The number of exchange groups will top 500 for the year, with the participation of 1,500 people. Moreover, people from at least 60 countries and regions will be entertained and fascinated by a series of Chinese performances, while Chinese audiences will enjoy performances presented by foreign artists from more than 30 countries.

This year dozens of exhibitions will be sent abroad. A display featuring the remarkable terracotta figures of soldiers and horses buried with Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty

(221-207 BC) and pottery figurines from China's various dynasties will be held in many European, American and Asian countries. Visitors can learn about China's ancient artistic and scientific advancement at these exhibitions. The art exhibits sent abroad this year include not only traditional Chinese paintings and calligraphy, but also oil paintings, water colours, sculpture, lacquer paintings, peasant art and children's paintings, as well as folk paper-cuts, embroidery, ceramics, kites and other kinds of arts and crafts. One-man shows will also be sponsored in more than 40 countries and will feature works by noted calligraphers and painters including Wu Zuoren, and the late masters Qi Baishi, Xu Beihong and Li Kuchan. In return, art treasures from about 40 countries will be on display in Chinese exhibition halls.

**Non-Government Exchange.** Exchanges between non-governmental institutions will cover more countries and regions, and will involve groups from both national and local organizations, collectives or individuals, going abroad either at state or private expense. Non-governmental exchange also includes bilateral and multilateral activities, friendship visits, special inspection tours, academic discussions and advanced training programmes.

The China Association for Cultural Exchange With Foreign Countries, which was established in July 1986, plans to send five or six delegations to visit several countries in Europe, America and Africa and host visiting writers, artists and noted public figures from more than 20 countries. Meanwhile, China national cultural and art organizations such as the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, Chinese Writers' Association, the International Cultural Exchange Centre and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries plan to strengthen and

expand co-operative ties with their foreign counterparts. In addition, there will be increased cultural exchanges between Chinese provinces and states of foreign countries, and between Chinese and foreign cities.

An important component of non-governmental cultural exchange, Chinese performing troupes will present more commercial performances abroad, with more diversified programmes. Foreign audiences in over 20 countries will be able to see performances of Chinese acrobatics, song and dance, symphony concerts, national music, opera, ballet and various kinds of traditional local operas, all sponsored by China Corporation for Art Performances Abroad.

**Multilateral Exchange.** Multilateral exchange encompasses dozens of international competitions and meetings. China's books will be displayed at 23 international book fairs, and China will also organize a series of international cultural and art activities, including an international meeting of librarians, an international symposium on China's ancient culture dating back to the Yin Dynasty (c. 1300-1100 BC), and two international meetings on China's operas and traditional music. Also, in the latter half of the year, the Ministry of Culture will hold the first art festival in which some foreign performing troupes, artists and tourists will be invited. There will be an international photography exhibition held in Beijing and, an international exhibition of fine arts held in Shanghai. Joint efforts by Shanghai and an American entertainment firm will also be made to launch international art exchange activities.

Last year, China pursued a vigorous cultural exchange schedule with foreign countries. The Ministry of Culture arranged a total of 1,075 exchanges participated in by 7,647 people—

a record in Chinese history. So far it has signed cultural agreements with 98 countries and drafted annual plans for cultural exchange with 71 countries. ■

## COSCO Meets New Challenges

China's freight shipping charges will continue to be market-oriented with further reductions expected this year, an official of the China Ocean Shipping Company (COSCO) has announced.

By the end of 1986, COSCO had moved a total freight volume of 63 million tons, up 7 percent over the previous year.

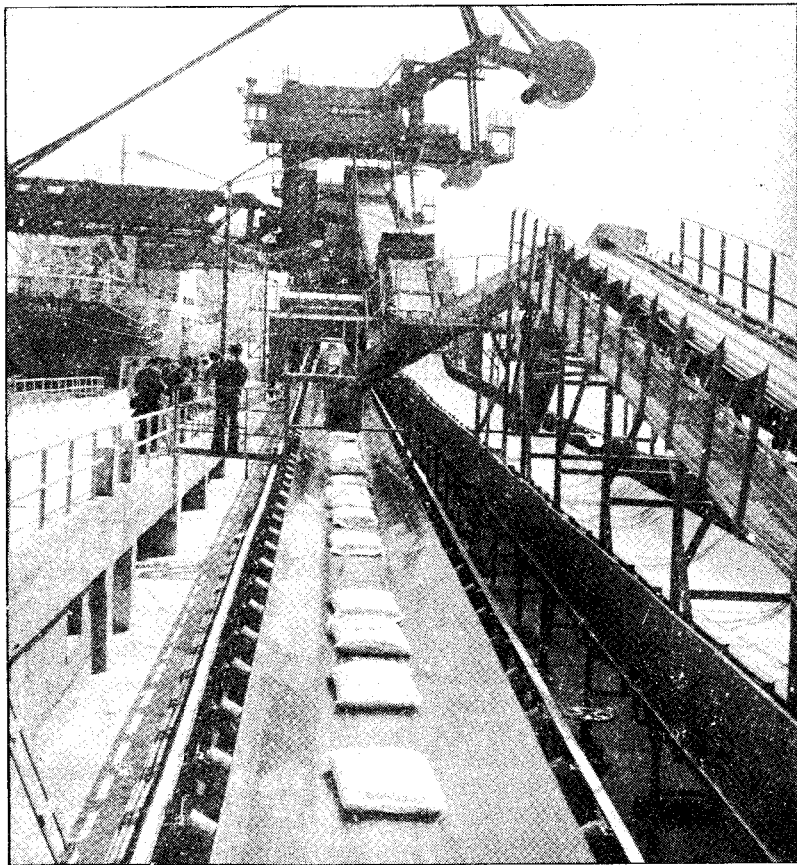
Last year, COSCO reduced its freight charges three times. Charges for container transportation dropped 50 percent and freight charges for textile products were cut by 17 percent. According to COSCO official Li Hongtai, on average the company's freight charges are 26 percent lower than those charged by chartered ships.

"We have to compete with others in the ocean trade," he explained. Li said that confronted with a slump in the world shipping market, COSCO made "very strong" efforts last year to remain competitive and achieve its planned targets.

With 37,000 sailors and a staff of 50,000, COSCO now owns and operates 614 vessels of different types with an aggregate deadweight tonnage of 13 million.

The company has inaugurated 37 regular shipping lines and its fleet calls at about 600 ports in more than 150 countries and regions. Every month, it provides 93 sorties on these lines, of which 44 are being served by general cargo vessels and 49 by container ships.

For years, China had to rely heavily on chartering foreign ships for the carriage of its import and export cargoes. Chinese vessels



Unloading imported fertilizer at Ningbo Port.

XUE CHAO

carried only 18 percent of the country's foreign trade freight until 1960.

COSCO was established in 1961 to meet the country's overseas transportation needs. At the same time, it was the only ocean-shipping company of the country, and had a fleet of 25 vessels with a total of 230,000 deadweight tons. Freight volume that year was 850,000 tons.

Today, COSCO has become the world's eighth biggest freight-shipping fleet and it is constantly seeking new cargo business from around the world.

However, the company has faced new challenges in recent years as a result of the continuing slump in world shipping, and because of competition from other Chinese shipping lines. Spurred by

the nation's open policy, more than 70 ocean-shipping companies have mushroomed during the past three or four years. Although these new shipping lines are mainly smaller, provincial ones, COSCO's long-held monopoly of state-owned shipping business has been broken up.

Confronted with this situation, COSCO has been making efforts to improve its fleet, operations, management and services. It is implementing its guiding principles of "protecting the interests of cargo owners, maintaining business reputation and offering safe, reliable, prompt and inexpensive service." The company is particularly keen to ensure prompt arrivals. Last year, 80.6 percent of its ocean-going ships arrived at their destination ports on time

compared with only 40 percent in the early 1960's. Meanwhile, the company has been attaching great importance to safety in transportation. There have been no serious accidents over the past three years.

Recently, COSCO partially reorganised its cargo-canvassing system, adding cargo service departments to its headquarters and its subsidiaries in Guangzhou, Shanghai, Tianjin, Qingdao and Dalian. COSCO has also established joint venture shipping companies with some inland provinces like Hebei and Jiangxi and signed 14 joint venture agreements with overseas shipping groups in Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Australia, Kenya, the Federal Republic of Germany, Norway and the United States.

During the Seventh Five-Year Plan (1986-90), the company is planning to buy new ships and replace outdated ships in the current fleet with fully-cellular container vessels, bulk carriers, tankers and passenger ships. ■

## Inter-Regional Co-op Grows in N. China

The long-standing barriers between regions and departments, which hampered economic development in the past, are being shattered in north China as more inter-regional co-operative projects and organizations have emerged, according to *China Daily*, an English language paper.

By the end of last year, there were more than 20,000 inter-regional projects, some involving more than 10 million yuan each.

In 1986 Beijing invested 130 million yuan in a dozen provinces to set up jointly managed centres to produce iron, cement and aluminium.

The municipal government of Tianjin put in 150 million yuan last year in neighbouring areas to open 42 raw material production bases.



It is hoped that these bases will provide the city's metallurgical, chemical, building and food industries with 16 kinds of badly needed raw materials, a Tianjin official said.

Inter-regional co-operation also includes setting up new industrial enterprises, especially those manufacturing prize-winning, high-quality goods.

There were 1,984 such enterprises by the end of last year in Tianjin, Hebei and Inner Mongolia, combining production and technological skills with more than 15,000 enterprises in 20 provinces and regions.

But it was in the field of merchandise distribution that such co-operation developed most rapidly in the past year.

Sales of industrial and consumer goods through an agent system reached 6 billion yuan in north China last year.

North China has also set up 11 economic or technical co-operation organizations with neighbouring areas, including the Central China Economic and Technological Co-ordination Committee and the Around Bohai Sea Economic Co-ordination Zone.

Officials from Beijing and Tianjin said that co-operation had helped their cities' structural adjustment by transferring plants requiring large amounts of energy to the provinces of Henan, Shanxi, Ningxia and Guizhou, where there are ample raw materials.

At the same time, they also encouraged these provinces to develop service industries in the two cities.

A Beijing official said that last year the city brought in 330 such enterprises, most of them small and medium-sized restaurants, specializing in regional cuisines.

With the blessing of the central government, inter-regional co-operation—popularly known in China as horizontal links—witnessed a rapid and smooth development across the country's urban and rural areas. ■

## Weekly Chronicle

(Feb. 2-8)

### POLITICAL

February 4

Xinhua reports former Deputy Editor-in-Chief of *Hong Qi* (Red Flag) Wang Renzhi has been appointed head of the CPC Central Committee's Propaganda Department. Former head of the department Zhu Houze is now a deputy director of the Rural Development Research Centre under the State Council.

February 5

Qu Wu, 89, is elected new chairman of the Revolutionary Committee of the Chinese Kuomintang at a plenary session of the committee.

February 6

CPC Central Committee issues a circular, calling on Party organizations at various levels to earnestly implement the recent NPC Committee decision in regard to strengthening education in legal system and maintaining stability and unity.

### ECONOMIC

February 2

"Great Wall" credit cards for renminbi are issued by the Beijing branch of the Bank of China.

February 3

Milk supply in Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Wuhan, Nanjing and Xian has improved with aid from the World Food Programme. Xinhua reports. The annual average per-capita consumption in the six cities has reached 20.9 kilogrammes.

February 4

The China International Iron and Steel Investment Corporation is set up in Beijing.

February 7

State Economic Commission

calls on all localities to pay attention to economic efficiency while making efforts to increase production and reduce expenses.

### CULTURAL

February 3

*Renmin Ribao* reports scientists in the Shanghai Medicine Institute under the Chinese Academy of Sciences have developed a new trace element test technique for cancer prevention.

Xinhua reports the State Council recently issued "Regulations on Further Promoting the Reform of the Management System of Science and Technology."

February 4

The first Chinese-built nuclear reactor, mainly used for experimentation, has been in safe operation for six years in Sichuan Province, Xinhua reports.

February 5

The State Climatological Commission is set up in Beijing.

### FOREIGN RELATIONS

February 4

CPC Central Committee sends a telegramme to the Central Committee of the National Executive Council of the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania to congratulate it on the 10th anniversary of the founding of the party.

February 6

Chinese and Sri Lankan leaders mutually send messages of congratulations on the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

China and Belize establish diplomatic relations.

February 8

Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Qian Qichen arrives in Moscow to resume border talks with the Soviet Union, which have suspended for nine years.

PHILIPPINES

## Constitution Enjoys Popular Backing

*An overwhelming majority of Filipinos supported the new constitution in a plebiscite.*

The Philippine February 2 constitutional plebiscite is over. According to the Philippine Commission on Election, official canvass showed "Yes" amassing 16,605, 426 votes as against 4,949,901 "No" votes, representing a 77 percent approval which exceeded the 51 percent vote needed to pass the charter. It was reported that upwards of 85 to 90 percent of the registered voters turned up at the polls, as against 55 percent in the 1982 plebiscite and about 63 percent in 1984.

In Manila, voters waited for hours under a hot tropical sun to cast their ballots.

Teodoro Benigno, presidential press spokesman, said that it was a "record turnout" in the first honest and orderly election in the Philippines "in a long, long time."

Accompanied by her children, President Corazon Aquino cast her ballot in a polling precinct in her hometown of Tarlac Province.

It is well known that before the vote for the constitution, the situation in the Philippines was tense. On January 22, some 10,000 farmers staged a protest demonstration near the Presidential Palace, demanding a genuine land reform and a decrease in the irrigation fees imposed on the farmers by the government. Government troops opened fire on the crowd, killing at least 17 and wounding many others. Following this bloody clash, President Aquino expressed deep regret over the incident, saying some groups would try to destabilize the government and attempt to reject the ratification of the new constitution. A special committee has been set up to investigate the incident.

On January 27, more than 200 military men loyal to deposed former President Ferdinand Marcos attempted a coup. They attacked some military installations and occupied a TV station. The Philippine military was authorized by President Aquino to take necessary action against the plotters and within only 6 hours

the rebels surrendered. A 10-man board was created to investigate the coup attempt and four courts-martial were set up to try military personnel allegedly involved.

On the eve of the constitutional plebiscite, the opponents also set off some explosions in a radio station, church and supermarket in Manila.

But these actions failed to cast a shadow over the plebiscite and the new constitution was finally passed. Its main provisions are: 1) The president will be elected for a term of six years and President Aquino will remain in office until 1992; 2) The president has no legislative power and has no

President Corazon Aquino casting her ballot at a polling precinct in her home town in Tarlac Province.



power to institute martial law, dissolve the congress or arrest opponents at will; the Senate and House of Representatives have the right to reject any martial law declared by the president; 3) When the lease for US military bases expires in 1991, it must be decided by the congress whether to extend the terms; 4) The Philippines will be a nuclear-free country.

Observers in Manila consider that the ratification of the constitution returns the Philippines to constitutional democratic rule, paves the way for legislative and local elections this summer and makes the future of American military bases in the Philippines the subject of legislative action. What is more important is that the approval of the constitution has dispelled the doubts of opposition leaders about the capacity of President Aquino. Philippine top opposition leader Juan Ponce Enrile, who actively campaigned against ratification, conceded defeat. He said, "We accept the verdict of the people. We must join hands in addressing the serious problems of our country."

The Western media hold that in the days to come, the main threat faced by President Aquino is from the Philippine military forces. It was reported that only 60 percent of the military personnel cast "Yes" votes for the constitution and about 40 percent voted "No." Referring to the unusually high number of "No" votes in the armed forces, President Aquino said that this is one of her main concerns and that she would reach out and talk to the younger officers and enlisted men in the armed forces. She also said that the ratification of the new constitution would bring stability to the country, discourage future military coups and improve the economic situation.

Another problem is how President Aquino will deal with the National Democratic Front (NDF), an umbrella organization comprising the Communist Party

of the Philippines, the New People's Army and other groups waging armed struggle for the past 18 years. The 60-day ceasefire agreement expired on February 8, and it is reported that the NDF has declined the government invitation to extend the agreement. A statement issued by the

NDF on February 7 said that only when the government recognizes the NDF as a political entity, fundamentally solves the various social problems and ensures that the popular force prevails over the military will it return to the negotiating table.

by Li Li

USA

## Shifting Policy Towards ANC

*US Secretary of State George Shultz recently met with African National Congress (ANC) President Oliver Tambo, a step showing a slight shift in US policy towards black groups in South Africa.*

In recent months the US government has adopted a so-called conciliatory attitude towards black Africa, in an attempt to draw nearer to most African countries and keep a distance from South Africa, notorious for its apartheid policy.

In addition to Shultz's visit to six sub-Saharan African countries, Michael Armacost, US Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, visited Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Armacost met three leaders of the ANC, the main black movement in South Africa fighting against the Pretoria white-minority regime. Following this, Shultz met with ANC leader Tambo in Washington on January 28; this contact being the highest-level one ever between the US government and the ANC.

Tambo, 69, arrived in New York on January 19 for a two-week private visit. He had been in the United States before, but had never been received at the US State Department.

Shultz said before the reception that "our meeting with the ANC and other parties to the conflict in South Africa does not constitute

an endorsement of their goals or tactics."

This meeting, however, is seen by US officials as representing greater recognition by the Reagan administration of the need for ANC participation in any solution of the South African problem. The United States has so far refused to officially recognize the group, which has been banned by Pretoria since 1960.

In a speech in Washington, Tambo called the meeting a "positive development." But he criticized the US policy towards South Africa as "a disaster" and urged it to seek a "total break (with the Pretoria regime)," diplomatic and every other kind.

Observers believe that the decision to receive Tambo marks a change in US policy towards South Africa and shows that the Reagan administration wants to talk to black opposition groups in that country.

In recent years the Reagan administration has pursued its policy of "constructive engagement" towards South Africa, meaning it has sought to use moral persuasion, rather than economic sanctions, as pressure on Pretoria to dismantle apartheid.



Constructive engagement, however, came to an end last October when the US Congress overrode Reagan's veto of tougher sanctions against South Africa. The sanctions became law.

For both strategic and economic considerations, the Reagan administration still balks at invoking more effective and extensive sanctions against Pretoria. After the congressional vote in favour of sanctions, the South African authorities retaliated by banning two groups of American congressmen from visiting the country and expelling the Johannesburg bureau chief of the *New York Times*.

The meeting with Tambo is expected to worsen the already strained relations between the two sides. While gradually changing its policy towards South Africa, the United States seems to have adopted a new approach to the black groups there. US officials see this meeting as the first step towards such a policy change.

What is more, Shultz called on Pretoria to lift its ban on outlawed political parties, release ANC leader Nelson Mandela and open negotiations with all relevant political groups in South Africa.

On the other hand, Shultz made it clear during his tour that US policy towards South Africa had not changed despite the imposition of sanctions. He also said that the United States would not abandon South Africa, and ruled out stricter sanctions.

A State Department spokesman said recently that the differences between the United States and the ANC have narrowed, but an important divergence of opinion remained. "We remain deeply concerned about the ANC's emphasis on armed struggle," the spokesman said.

In contrast, Tambo stressed on many occasions that a continuation of the armed struggle against the Pretoria regime is necessary as long as the apartheid system

continues in that country. "There is no way we can stop the armed struggle," he said, adding, "the issue today is the destruction of a Nazi system in South Africa."

The ANC leader listed the ANC's goals as the formation of a massive democratic coalition to end apartheid and the establishment of a new non-racist society in

which basic freedoms would be guaranteed to blacks.

Observers remain sceptical about whether the new US approach to the ANC and its gestures towards African countries will work as long as the Reagan administration continues to cling to its policy of appeasing Pretoria and tolerating apartheid.

by Ma Shijun

## BRITAIN

### Top-Secret Plan Known Worldwide

*The leakage of a British defence plan, which resulted in its cancellation, is disturbing Britain's political equanimity.*

On February 1, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) office in Scotland was searched by police for 28 hours, an incident unprecedented in the history of British broadcasting. Three days earlier, the company's director general had gloomily resigned, becoming the first BBC director general responsible for overall editing and administration to have stepped down this way in the past 60 years.

The two incidents were reportedly prompted by the fact that BBC had leaked Britain's top-secret plan for developing a spy satellite to monitor Soviet top-secret information conveyed through telephones and in military communications. To the public, the satellite, which would cost £500 million, was described as part of a communication satellite system and would be sent off in 1988. News about the plan is contained in a TV documentary serial made by BBC, but it was spread through an article published in the *New Statesman* on January 22.

The top secret has triggered off a nationwide political dispute. The government charged that the leakage of the plan threatened the security of the country, while the

opposition party accused the government of not having previously informed Parliament of the plan. The media protested against the police search of the broadcasting organization, contending that this had violated freedom of the press. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher concluded that in Britain there were more people furnishing information to the enemy than there were people defending the nation.

The British government probably would not have been so infuriated if the leak had involved some other secret instead, but in this case, the plan now known to all reveals Britain's intention to gradually break away from Washington. Like that of other European nations, British defence relies heavily on the support and assistance of the United States. However, eager to achieve European defence independence and unity and fearful that Washington may reach an accord with the Soviet Union at the expense of the interests of its European allies, many European countries are negotiating to take united action among themselves. Therefore, despite the US-British agreement on exchanging information,

Britain had been planning to make a spy satellite of its own. Once in use, the satellite would help diminish Britain's dependence on Washington for information. It would also enable the British government to know what is happening currently and to form independently its own judgment of the world situation. Moreover, with its own first-hand information, Britain could elicit more willingness on the part of

Washington to share information according to their information agreement.

Britain has decided to give up building the spy satellite now that its secret plan has become no secret and thus valueless. With the British government continuing its efforts to find out who divulged the plan to the media, the storm following the top-secret leakage is not likely to calm down very soon.

by Chu Liuxiang

USA

## Reagan's 6th State of the Union Address

*In his sixth State of the Union address to Congress, US President Ronald Reagan made foreign affairs a top priority.*

United States President Reagan appeared before the Congress as well as on TV screens on January 27 as a chief executive fully recovered from illness, his confidence and glib tongue familiar to everyone, putting a bold face on past and future happenings in the United States.

After summarizing briefly his achievements in tax reform, fighting inflation, lowering interest rates and reducing unemployment, Reagan was extremely anxious to ease anxiety in the minds of the American people that they would suffer another Watergate scandal.

Though he admitted that the US secret arms deal with Iran was a failure and "one major regret" in his six years of presidency and he promised to assume full responsibility for this action which had not worked, he defended himself, saying that "the goals (of the secret deal) were worthy" because "I do not believe it was wrong to try to establish contacts with a country of strategic importance" or "to try to secure freedom" for American hostages kidnapped by terrorists in Lebanon. He pledged to take "whatever action" necessary to find out all the facts

concerning the Iran arms deal, but did not supply any new revelations despite repeated urging by Congressmen and the public to tell the truth.

Meanwhile, Reagan made no mention at all of the covert diversion of arms deal funds to the Nicaraguan anti-government forces—the most controversial aspect of the affair. Instead, he hinted to the Congress and the American public to put aside the Iran scandal and "get to work." "Much is at stake here, and the nation and the world are watching to see if we go forward together in the national interest, or if we let partisanship weaken us," he said. He declared that the United States "will not sit idly by" to see its interests threatened in the Middle East, or "yield to terrorist blackmail."

On US-Soviet relations, the president said that he is still committed "to more constructive relations with the Soviet Union." "The United States has made serious, fair and far-reaching proposals to the Soviet Union, and this is a moment of rare opportunity for arms reduction," he asserted. While stressing that to establish more constructive super-

power relations, "more responsible Soviet conduct around the world is a key element of the US-Soviet agenda," he accused the Soviets of seeking to "expand their power" in the third world with 120,000 Soviet combat and military personnel and 15,000 military advisers throughout Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Speaking of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, Reagan said, "We are ready to support a political solution that guarantees the rapid withdrawal of all Soviet troops and genuine self-determination for the Afghan people." He also reminded his audiences of a Soviet transfer of US\$75,000 million in weapons in the past five years to its friends like Syria, Viet Nam, Cuba, Libya, Angola, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Nicaragua.

Referring to his Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), known as the "Star Wars" programme, he said that the Soviet Union "sought to cripple" the programme last October when he met Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Iceland. But he stressed, "I wouldn't let them do it then. I won't let them do it now or in the future," adding, "SDI will go forward."

With regard to the US policy towards Central America, Reagan told the Congress that his administration will continue to support the Nicaraguan contras and declared that "there must be no Soviet beachhead in Central America" and that the US would stick to the Monroe Doctrine which had been a plank of US foreign policy on South America since 1823.

He warned the Congress that he "will veto any effort that undercuts our national security and our negotiating leverage"—a reference to any effort to cut military expenditures.

The general impression is that Reagan offered nothing new in his State of the Union message, which has more rhetoric than substance.

by Xin Di

# Laws Back Foreign Economic Activities

by Our Correspondent Yang Xiaobing

China introduced the open policy in 1979. In July the same year it formulated the first law on economic relations with non-Chinese companies: The Law on Chinese-Foreign Joint Ventures. The new Constitution adopted in 1982 reaffirmed China's encouragement of foreign investment in China. Thus far, China has promulgated close to 60 laws and regulations dealing with foreign economic activities, including 17 issued by the National People's Congress and more than 40 by the State Council. In addition, ministries and commissions under the State Council have also promulgated over 30 rules and regulations, and the various localities have introduced by-laws and statutes to encourage foreign investment.

The rapid progress of China's economic legislation has won praise from many foreign friends, said Gu Ming, director general of the Research Centre for Economic Legislation under the State Council. In 1984, former US Secretary of State Cyrus Vance led a delegation made up of over 100 senior entrepreneurs, financiers and lawyers to an international investment and law symposium in China. Afterwards he has said many times that China's promulgation of relevant laws increases foreign investors' confidence in the future, which is very important to their decision-making.

The Japanese government and business circles have sent delegations to investigate China's economy and investment environment. After making comparisons with the Southeast Asian countries, they welcomed China's fast progress in enacting economic laws and said that it was amazing how much China had done in only five years, catching up in many ways Southeast Asian countries

with a long history of absorbing foreign investment.

## Making Laws

China's foreign economic laws and regulations concern Sino-foreign joint ventures, offshore oil exploitation, taxation, foreign economic contracts, technology import, foreign currency control, labour management, industrial and commercial administration, customs, inspection of import and export commodities, bank loans, trademarks, patent right, special economic zones and arbitration.

The various laws and statutes have provided a basis for the orderly progress of contracts in all their stages. The Law on Foreign Economic Contracts, for example, affirms that the law is subject to other Chinese laws and adds that accepted international practice may apply where no relevant provision is stipulated in the laws of the People's Republic of China. It also notes that in case parties involved fail to solve dispute through consultation or mediation, the dispute may be submitted to the arbitration council in any agreed country. Such clauses not only safeguard the sovereignty of China but also give full consideration to the interests of foreign businessmen.

Many domestic economic laws are relevant to foreign economic activity. If these laws are included, China has more than 160 laws and regulations governing its foreign economic relations and trade.

Currently efforts are being made to perfect China's economic legislation. The laws now under discussion or being drafted include those on Sino-foreign cooperative enterprises, foreign trade, copyright, sea trade, book-keeping and companies.

By the end of 1985, China had signed 16 agreements on the protection of bilateral investment with 17 countries—Sweden, Romania, Federal Germany, France, the Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Federation, Finland, Norway, Austria, Thailand, Italy, Denmark, the Netherlands, Kuwait Sri Lanka, Britain and Singapore. Negotiations over such agreements are now under way between China and Japan, Switzerland, the United States and Malaysia. In addition, China has concluded investment insurance agreements with the United States and Canada through exchange of notes; signed agreements on avoiding dual taxation and the prevention of tax evasion with Japan, the United States, France, Britain, Federal Germany, Belgium, Malaysia, Norway and Denmark; and initialled such agreements with Sweden, Finland, Canada and Singapore. It is still negotiating such agreements with Yugoslavia and eight other countries.

In addition, China has joined a number of multilateral treaties and conventions. In 1980, China resumed its membership of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. It has also applied to retake its seat in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. China is already a member of the Paris Convention, an international organization devoted to the protection of industrial property.

Economic and technological exchanges have been facilitated by China's enacting appropriate laws. By June 1986, 2,759 Sino-foreign joint ventures had been established with contracts worth US\$4,365.1 million, and 4,162 cooperative enterprises with contracts worth US\$10,555 million



and 136 exclusively foreign-owned businesses worth US\$560 million were in place. A full 35 offshore oil prospecting and exploitation projects had also been ratified. In the past year or more, over 8,000 people from 47 countries abroad have applied for patent right in China.

## Enforcing Laws

To apply the laws involves many departments. For instance, a joint venture has to go through the State Planning Commission, the State Economic Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, the bank, material supply, financial, taxation and foreign exchange control departments and the customs house before it can go into operation, and all these departments need to apply the law.

Ye Zhiming, an official of the Foreign Investment Department of the General Administration for Industry and Commerce, said the state is engaged on new industrial and commercial administrative regulations. At the moment the bureau relies mainly on the Law on Chinese-Foreign Joint Ventures the rules for implementing it and the Law on Exclusively Foreign-Funded Enterprises to register and manage joint ventures, co-operative enterprises and wholly foreign-funded businesses. Applicants may receive business licences 20 days after they submit their application to the industrial and commercial administrative department, if they hold the required documents and if the documents comply with the requirement of law. The industrial and commercial administrative department will carefully check the clauses in the contract in the light of the Rules for the Implementation of the Law on the Chinese-Foreign Joint Ventures.

In mid-December 1986, a business in Xinjiang and a Hong

Kong businessman applied to the General Administration for Industry and Commerce to start a jade processing joint venture. The administration, however, found the contract did not accord with the provisions of the Economic Contract Law as it neither stipulated a time limit for payment nor stated any compensation on liabilities for breach of contract. It asked the applicants to add these clauses to the contract. Since the businessman was not in the mainland at the time and given Xinjiang's distance from Beijing, the bureau agreed to register the venture but did not grant it a business licence. It notified the parties involved of the situation, thus helping the contractors but also following the law.

The industrial and commercial administrative departments have also tried their best legally to protect the interests of all parties involved in Sino-foreign joint ventures. For instance, not long ago, a printing house decided to establish a joint venture with a Hong Kong business. It was hampered by some departments of the Beijing Municipality. The General Administration for Industry and Commerce intervened, ascertained that local regulations should not conflict with state laws, and gave the venture the go-ahead.

The industrial and commercial administrative departments also supervise the progress of enterprises in operation, to protect their legitimate interests. A Chinese enterprise and West German firm set up a joint venture in Tianjin and named it Liming (Li fourth tone) Cosmetics Co. Ltd. Soon afterwards a chemical plant in the same line, named Liming (Li second tone), was opened in the city. The Tianjin Industrial and Commercial Administrative Bureau decided to instruct the chemical plant to change its name.

The taxation departments levy taxes according to the Income Tax Law on Sino-Foreign Joint

Ventures, the rules for the implementation of the law, and the Income Tax Law on Foreign Enterprises. The standard tax rate on joint ventures is 33 percent (in the special economic zones it is only 15 percent, lower than in Hong Kong), and the income tax rate on exclusively foreign-funded businesses is calculated at progressive rates ranging from 20 to 40 percent, in addition to a local income tax of 10 percent.

## Judicial Work

From 1979 to the end of 1985 China's courts handled about 500 foreign economic cases. This is a small number compared with the 226,950 domestic economic cases handled by China's 3,000 economic tribunals in 1985 alone.

Between 1984 and March 1986, the five maritime courts in Shanghai, Tianjin, Guangzhou, Qingdao and Dalian handled about 50 cases involving foreign-related maritime disputes.

Yang Funian, a senior judge of the economic tribunal of the Supreme People's Court, said the reasons that not so many foreign-related economic disputes have been brought to court are, firstly, that there are other channels, such as arbitration, for solving this kind of dispute; and secondly, that people, including foreign businessmen, often do not understand China's judicial work.

It is quite easy, in fact, to start legal proceedings in China, said Yang. So long as the cases come within the jurisdiction of Chinese courts and the positions of the plaintiffs and defendants and the content of the lawsuits are clear, the intermediate people's courts in all localities will accept the cases according to relevant provisions of the law on Civil Lawsuit. Compared with other countries, Chinese courts deal with the cases they accept more promptly and the costs are low. For a dispute over property valued at 50,000

yuan, the service charge is 520 yuan, and a case involving property worth 5 million yuan costs only 12,720 yuan.

Judges in Chinese courts are fair and trustworthy. For instance, in 1985, a German business sued the Shanghai Foreign Trade Corporation for refusing to pay the debt in connection with a new vessel it had bought. The suit was brought to the Shanghai Municipal Intermediate People's Court. The two parties appointed agents to negotiate outside the court, and the two agreed that the defendant pay 50 percent of the debt. Although the German company did not quite agree with the defendant's explanation, it signed the agreement. When the court examined the agreement, it found that the agreement did not make clear the defendant's liability and that the plaintiff had been made to sign. It did not approve the agreement, instead, it tried the case openly and judged that the defendant should pay the plaintiff the whole debt of 34,000 German marks and also pay costs.

Yang said that in handling foreign-related economic cases, Chinese courts abide by the stipulations of the multilateral and bilateral international treaties China has concluded or joined. Up to now, China has joined the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, the Agreement on International Railway Cargo Communication, the International Conventions on Carriage of Goods by Air, the Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the Convention on Consular Relations and concluded with many countries consular treaties with stipulations on judicial administrations. Since China's laws are still inadequate, if it is found that China's laws contradict international treaties China belongs to, the international treaties will be followed.

With the steady implementation of China's open policy, the variety

of foreign-related economic cases accepted by Chinese courts has increased. In addition to cases of disputes over economic contracts, there are also cases involving disputes over foreign transport contracts, encroachment on economic rights, maritime relief, patent rights, mortgages and compensation for lost vessels and property.

### Arbitration Activities

Currently the China Foreign Trade Arbitration Commission is handling 90 arbitration cases. Arbitration is recognized by Chinese law for disputes arising in foreign economic and trade activities. Arbitration is included in almost all Sino-foreign economic and trade agreements and contracts between Chinese and foreign companies.

Tang Houzhi, assistant secretary general of the arbitration commission, said that the commission follows the principles of independence, equality and mutual benefit, and refers to international practice. The contracts of Sino-foreign joint ventures, co-operative enterprises and joint exploitation of natural resources within China can only be governed by the law of the People's Republic of China.

Tang pledged that the commission will not take sides and that it will work independently and fairly. China is already a member of the Convention on the Recognition of Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards.

Combining arbitration with mediation is a prominent feature of China's arbitration work, carried out separately or jointly, as necessary, and the mediator and arbitrator can work as each other's substitute.

Not long ago one of two managers of a Hong Kong business signed an agreement with a company in Guangdong to establish a joint venture in the

province. Later, when the Hong Kong business itself split up, the other manager told the Guangdong business that the old agreement had become invalid and they should sign a new contract. The Guangdong business contacted its partner who insisted that the old agreement stood. After repeated negotiations, the dispute was brought to the Foreign Trade Arbitration Commission. After mediation, all parties agreed that the old agreement should go ahead while a new joint venture be set up between the Guangdong business and the other Hong Kong manager.

In recent years, China has taken up joint mediation. When there is a dispute between Chinese and foreign citizens, the Chinese party may seek help from the Chinese arbitration body while the foreign party calls on the arbitration body of its own country. The arbitration bodies of both countries can then meet on equal terms to mediate the dispute jointly. The China Foreign Trade Arbitration Commission and the American Arbitration Association have already solved disputes over trading contracts involving large sums of money this way.

China, however, has still not found the optimum level for its foreign economic laws and regulations. Some vital points have still not been clarified in law, and organizations for supervising the enforcement of the law are inadequate. This has drawn complaints from foreign investors that some localities charge wantonly, do not keep to the law and lack efficiency. To deal with these problems, China is stepping up its legislation work. In 1987, it will enact the Law on Sino-Foreign Co-operative Enterprises and a number of rules to encourage foreign investment in China. The State Council will also establish organizations to supervise the enforcement of the laws. ■

# Combating Illiteracy in China

**In the past 37 years, illiteracy has fallen from 8 to 2 in every 10 persons, but there are still more than 200 million people categorised as illiterate in China. Over 90 percent are farmers, but steps are being taken to bring learning to them.**

by Zhang Shaowen\* & Our Correspondent Wei Liming

**B**efore liberation, 90 percent of the labouring people in Bazhong County, Sichuan Province, were illiterate and none of the local women could read or write. By 1979, only 13 percent of people aged between 12 and 40 were illiterate there. Bazhong County thus became one of the first counties in Sichuan Province that had basically eliminated illiteracy.

In the past, Wulian County in Shandong Province was an unknown backwater. Although it is only 200 kilometres from Qingdao, a cultural coastal city, it was quite cut off from the developed areas and remained poor and backward. Wulian is surrounded by mountains, and has over 600 villages scattered in several hundred small valleys. Despite efforts at improvements—the local people's development foundered on the hostile natural setting.

In 1982, China held its third census, and the local people were surprised to learn that 33 percent of the younger farmers were illiterate. The local government decided to eliminate illiteracy in three years. This decision won the support of the county's people.

Wulian County was faced with a widespread phenomenon—that over the previous years, especially from the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s, extensive illiteracy reappeared as a result of neglect of primary education. In Wulian County 1 to 2 million illiterate

people were engendered every year, offsetting the good effects of the anti-illiteracy campaigns of the 1950s. The 1980s have been again a period where basic elimination of illiteracy in the countryside is still one of the most pressing tasks

for China's education departments.

## Defining Illiteracy

In China, anyone reading fewer than 500 words is considered

**A young woman in the suburbs of Zhengzhou, Henan Province, helping a farmer learn to read.**

GAO LUJIA



\*Zhang Shaowen is an official in the Adult Education Department of the State Education Commission.



illiterate. The state demands that every worker should be able to read 2,000 characters, and every farmer and resident should be able to read 1,500 characters. People below this level who cannot read a newspaper, write a letter or a receipt are considered semi-illiterate.

According to the national census in 1982, there were 237.72 million illiterate people aged over 12; some 56 percent are over 45. This indicates that most of the older illiterates came from old China. Among farmers, 82 percent of the over 60s are illiterate, those who are in their 50s are 69 percent illiterate; in their 40s, 51 percent; between 30 and 39, 31 percent; in their 20s, 21 percent, and only 11 percent of farmers between 12 and 19 are illiterate.

More women are illiterate than men. There are 218.53 million illiterates in the countryside, 69 percent are women. Of the male people over 12, 21 percent are illiterate; of the female people over 12, 49 percent are illiterate. This is a result of China's backward economy and education and the influence of feudal ideology and custom. In southeast Guizhou Province, a region inhabited by minority nationalities, early marriage is a common practice. Girls learn embroidery and must prepare their dowry from early childhood. So they do not go to school. According to local custom, learning embroidery and singing folk songs is a girl's duty, without which she will not find a husband. Going to school is of no consequence to them.

Illiteracy is more widespread in the countryside than in the cities, and more among farmers than among workers. Of all illiterates over 12, 91 percent are in the countryside, 9 percent are in the cities; 91 percent are farmers, and only 8 percent are workers. Thus in China, eliminating illiteracy means wiping out farmer illiteracy.

In developed regions, the illiteracy rate is lower than in



WANG JINGYE

Si Yingshan, a country girl of Qinghai Province, (right) with her tutor Zhao Shuzhen.

underdeveloped regions. In places like Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and Liaoning, the proportion of illiterate people aged over 12 is below 20 percent, but in underdeveloped regions, such as Yunnan, Guizhou, Tibet, Gansu, Qinghai and Ningxia the proportion of illiterate people of the same age group is over 40 percent. So clearly the development of economy is important to the elimination of illiteracy.

### Historical Background

Old China was a semi-feudal, semi-colonial society and its education was very primitive. The attendance rate for school-age children was only 20 percent, and only a few of the labouring people could go to school. At that time 80 percent of the Chinese people were illiterate. In the countryside, minority nationality regions and remote border areas, there was 90 percent illiteracy. In some places, entire villages were found to be illiterate.

Since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, education has developed. In 1985, there were 832,000 primary

schools in China, 133.7 million primary school pupils and 19.99 million pupils who had completed primary education; this was respectively 2.9, 5.6 and 16.9 times as much as in 1946 (1946 saw the highest number of primary students under the Kuomintang). The nation's average attendance rate for primary schools has reached 95.9 percent. There are now 21 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities where attendance rate for school-age children has reached or surpassed 95 percent.

One-third of all the counties have spread primary education among the people. The development of primary education has laid a foundation for the elimination of illiteracy and raising people's cultural level. In the campaigns to eliminate illiteracy, we have brought learning to 153.13 million illiterate people. Of them, 15.06 million have known how to read and write since 1981.

According to the national census in 1982, the proportion of illiterate people over 12 was 23.7 percent; 8 percent of urban employees and 18 percent of farmers under 40 were illiterate.

Half of all farmers are literate now or have the equivalent of a primary education, 30 percent of farmers have reached the level of a junior middle school. In the past, 80 percent of farmers were illiterate, but now 80 percent of them are literate.

About 1,418 counties (and prefectures) in China are considered as having basically eliminated illiteracy (where illiteracy among 12- to 40-year old farmers is less than 15 percent). Some remote minority nationality regions and some counties in Gansu, Guizhou and Xinjiang have also accomplished this goal.

Now most farmers can read and write, they can learn about the Party's policies, current affairs, elementary knowledge of law and science, and some of them become grass-root level cadres, teachers, doctors and technicians.

In the past, Zunyi County, Guizhou Province was relatively undeveloped, now it has spread primary education among the people and has on the whole eliminated illiteracy. In order to teach the farmers, 17 technical schools have been established and 3,500 farmers are studying there. In these schools, they study how to plant rice, *Gastrodia elata* (a kind of Chinese medicine), edible fungus and to cultivate cured tobacco. Liu Guanghua, a young farmer, applied his *Gastrodia elata* growing skills and earned more than 10,000 yuan in a year.

Xu Weizhi applied the techniques he learnt for growing fruit at his home in Tongnan County, Sichuan Province. His 600 peach trees yielded a plentiful harvest which went up to 6,000 kilogrammes from 500 kilogrammes after he had studied cultivation techniques. This contributed to the family fortune so that in one year his family earned 4,790 yuan, while the average per-capita income was 598 yuan.

In recent years, UNESCO has sent many officers to inspect China's anti-illiteracy drives and farmers' education in Henan,

Shandong, Jilin, Sichuan, Jiangsu, Shanghai and Guangdong. They have confirmed China's success in the elimination of illiteracy.

In the past three years, Jilin Province and Bazhong County in Sichuan Province were awarded the Noma Prize, and Wulian County in Shandong Province was awarded the Hadezhda K. Krupskaya Prize by UNESCO, for their elimination of illiteracy.

Since 1978, more emphasis has been laid on combating illiteracy so that the campaign has developed rapidly in quite a number of provinces, particularly in those which did not do well before. Several measures have been taken:

**To establish administration offices and appoint full-time cadres.** The State Education Commission includes an adult education department as do provincial, autonomous regional, municipal and county-level education commissions, departments and bureaus. Some 50,000 full-time cadres have been appointed to administer the education of farmers in the rural areas.

Generally, cadres are sent to underdeveloped regions, where settlements are scattered and illiteracy rates comparatively high. Good results in many counties have demonstrated that only in areas which have full-time cadres rural education is really successful. Helan County, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region has a leader named Liu Gui, who cares deeply about illiteracy. He promised the county's People's Congress that he would eliminate illiteracy during his term. If I failed, he said, please punish and dismiss me. Thanks to his good leadership, full-time cadres were sent to the county. Leaders of the local government regularly examined education work in his area. The local people said that although it was difficult to eliminate illiteracy, it became easier when they put some effort into it.

Some influential figures were also invited to help in the work. Hu Yanzhen, an imam and vice-chairman of the county's political consultative conference, visited local Muslims quite often, and encouraged them to study with a quotations from the *Koran*. "If you don't know, ask someone who does." He also told them that he himself used to be illiterate, but now could read newspapers and the *Koran* in Mandarin edition. Among the local people, this argument carries much weight. "The sage says learning is important. Even the Imam studies. So we must study as well."

**Professional and amateur teachers make joint efforts.**

Except for a few professional teachers, most of the teachers are spare timers working according to the principle of "people teach people, those who know lend a hand." Primary and secondary school teachers, retired teachers, and government employees, technicians and educated youth are all invited to teach.

Even some senior primary school pupils are appointed as "little teachers." These include those who have shown great enthusiasm and responsibility. Wang Yuzhen, a farmer in Jiaohe County of Jilin Province, has a little baby and could not go out for a class. Wang Shuping, a primary school pupil, volunteered to be her "little teacher." Her mother, however, disapproved and reproached her. But Shuping insisted. One day on her way to the woman's home, Shuping fell and sprained her ankle. Hobbling on a stick, she arrived at Yuzhen's home. Yuzhen was very moved and brought some food to her teacher's home, saying she would have her class there. Shuping's mother was also moved and did not try to prevent her daughter from teaching any more.

Incentive measures have been adopted to motivate teachers. Shandong's Wulian County, for example, links the teacher's pay with the number of students in his

or her class. After they have completed all the assigned curriculum and brought the students' reading and writing abilities to the required level. Teachers who achieve exceptional results are given a bonus.

Teachers and cadres are trained as follows: Teachers teaching in the township are trained in the county, those in the village are trained in the township. They are instructed in government policies and encouraged to cultivate a sense of responsibility to be good teachers. They also discuss teaching materials and methods, and exchange teaching experiences.

Teaching and research institutions have been established in some areas, which hold regular activities. Since 1982, Guangxi, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Guizhou, Anhui, Xinjiang, Yunnan and Shaanxi helped by UNESCO, have opened teachers' training classes and have 4,450 graduates so far. These classes help raise the professional levels of their trainees.

**Mass support for expenses and facilities.** Schools try to collect funds from those who are rich enough and ready to donate,

and they organize work-study programmes as much as they can. They are also subsidized by the local governments. Xigang in Helan County offers 1,200 yuan from the fund retained at its disposal to pay 6 yuan to each classroom for the heating in winter, 3 yuan for the electricity and 10 yuan to each teacher a month. During festivals or holidays, celebrations are organized. Of the 147 students, 88 were no longer illiterate after six months' study.

Furthermore, the local education departments subsidize teachers' training, compile teaching materials, arrange meetings for teaching experience exchanges, and reward excellent educators.

**Policies and regulations to encourage students to study.**

The Chinese Constitution stipulates: the "state develops educational facilities of various types in order to wipe out illiteracy, and provide political, cultural, scientific, technical and professional education for workers, peasants, state functionaries and other working people. It encourages people to become educated through self-study." Jiangsu, Fujian, Xinjiang, Gansu and other

provinces and all the autonomous regions have drawn up regulations on anti-illiteracy, while other places have adopted "study stimuli," including setting a deadline on eliminating illiteracy; recognition of units or individuals who have done well; criticism of those who have failed to finish the required task on schedule and punishment for those who have erred seriously.

All illiterate people aged from 12 to 40, except the disabled, must be educated. Students who finish their study in the allotted time are given their education free. People who refuse to study though they are able to or fail to become literate at the allotted time have to pay compensation fees, known as "illiteracy fund," and cannot be recruited as workers, or promoted to office workers.

**Making teaching materials more practical.**

To meet the demand of modern rural life, students learn not only how to read and write, but also agricultural techniques, general knowledge, basic law, and current events. Many textbooks are highly acclaimed. *Reading Primer on Workpoint Records* edited by southern Juxian County in Shandong in the 1950s, *Learning Elementary Words on Cotton Growing Technology* by Shandong's Xinxian County, are typical examples.

Girls of the Miao nationality in Guizhou traditionally learn singing and embroidery from their childhood. To attract Miao students, Yang Xiyi, an evening school teacher, opened an embroidery class for illiterate girls and invited two folk artists to teach them in addition to writing and reading. Another teacher composed more than 20 folk songs to teach his students on top of their literacy studies.

**Flexible and varied teaching methods.** In areas where a group of illiterate people live in close proximity they have larger classes. In areas where they live much in separation they study in small

Yao and Miao nationalities of Yunnan Province in a class taught by a soldier in the local area.

LIU FAHUI





groups or individually. They have more classes in the slack farming seasons than in the busy. Most of the classes are spare-time.

Since 1982, Wulian County, Shandong Province, has arranged for some 40,000 men and teenagers to hold classes during the winter and spring months when there is little farming to do. Women who have difficulty joining them have classes in groups made up of 5 families. Because of these flexible methods, over 60,000 farmers had been taught to read and write in anti-illiteracy classes by 1985.

It is stipulated that the minority people can learn either their own language or Mandarin. Yunnan has more than 10 ethnic groups, who learn their own languages.

It took a long time for people to understand the significance of minority languages in the anti-illiteracy campaign. The Aba Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan started teaching Mandarin in 1962. In 1981, however, no one could read and write. The local government realized Mandarin was too hard for Tibetans to learn and too easy to forget. So it began teaching in Tibetan and has since achieved good results.

Gong Muqiu, a Tibetan vet, used to be illiterate, working only on the basis of his experience. Now that he becomes literate, he has read many veterinary textbooks and his skills improved vastly. Other Tibetans' work efficiency has risen also.

**Make primary education universal and stop new illiteracy.** Many educators long engaged in the fight against illiteracy have stressed "We cannot eliminate illiteracy in ten years if we allow it to grow in one year." Statistics for 1957 show that illiteracy in Yanchi County, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, was 29.7 percent, while in 1982 the rate was still over 28 percent. The reason for this was that primary education had been ignored, only 80 percent of children attended school, so that

in 25 years 20,000 more illiterate people were generated.

Some full-time schools in the countryside have organized classes for any child under 15 to begin schooling. Various measures are taken to enable them to complete primary school education in as short a time as possible.

In making primary education universal, Bazhong County in Sichuan Province issued "three permissions" to school-age children, especially girls in poor families. These are: permission to attend school bringing along their younger sisters or brothers; permission to go to school late and leave early; and allowing pupils of full-time and spare-time schools to join each others' classes and transfer to each others' schools.

Boys and girls of 12 to 15, who have not completed five years of education also come within the scope of the universal education drive. Half-day classes and evening classes have been set up; every available means has been used to keep the rate for starting school at over 98 percent. That has more or less stopped the illiteracy trend.

**Plans and standards for elimination of illiteracy.** The State Education Commission plans to eliminate illiteracy by the middle of the 1990s in the developed areas and by the late 1990s in underdeveloped areas.

The state has made a test and formulated definitions for individual and collective elimination of illiteracy. The state also stipulates that a priority must remain that in the 12 to 40 age-group in the countryside literacy must stay at 85 percent or more, while in factories and enterprises at 90 percent or more.

## Problems

While 3 million people are brought to literate level each year, as primary education is still not universal in some areas of China, there are 1 to 2 million new

illiterate people every year on the register. Although from 1964 to 1982, illiteracy was reduced by 27.58 million, an average drop of 1.53 million each year, it is still imperative for China to make primary education universal. Only in this way will the situation be markedly improved.

The leaders and masses in some areas have looked down on the anti-illiteracy movement, especially on women's education. For example, 30 of the 62 cadres at the district and township levels in one district of Guizhou Province, are illiterate or semi-literate. Whenever the anti-illiteracy movement is mentioned, there are laggards who would say: "It is unnecessary for me to learn to read and write. I can serve as a cadre without knowing a single word." They are not interested in running schools, but are fond of bullfighting. One township in the area spent 140,000 yuan a year on bull fights but did not lift a finger to help run schools.

Many cultural and educational workers think that to solve this problem, anti-illiteracy should be made an important aspect of the work of governments of all levels and literacy work should be combined with the interests of farmers, so that farmers will understand that they could study agricultural technologies if they were literate, and this would help them become prosperous.

Some farmers in a village in Jinping County, Guizhou Province learn agricultural technology at evening classes. This helped them reap a bumper harvest of the seeds of Job's tears (*coix lacrymajobi*), which attract the attention of the whole village. They all joined the literacy movement and illiteracy was soon eliminated in the village.

The battle against illiteracy has not been so successful everywhere. The tasks have been better fulfilled in the more developed areas than in the remote and mountainous areas and in the areas of minority nationalities. China still has to work to combat illiteracy. ■

## FACTS AND FIGURES

# Urban Living Standards Improved in 1986

**A** sample survey of the livelihood of 17,000 families in 106 larger cities shows that in 1986 urban people's lives improved, their incomes increased and consumption level rose steadily.

Preliminary statistics reveal that urban residents' average per-capita income reached 890 yuan, up 18 percent over 1985; their expenditure was 840 yuan, a 15 percent increase. When a 7 percent price rise was factored in, their actual income registered a 6-percent rise, consumption level, 7.5 percent.

The improvement in urban people's lives was manifested mainly in clothing, food, housing, daily necessities and getting about.

**Clothing.** How people dressed underwent gradual change. Growth rate in the purchase of ready-made clothes rose faster than that of fabrics and materials. By the end of September 1986 their per-capita monthly expenditure on clothes was 9.17 yuan, a 10.3 percent increase over the same period in 1985. Deducing the price-rise for clothing leaves the actual consumption level at a 7.6-percent increase. From January to September, the monthly purchase of clothes by every one hundred people was up by 6.4 percent over the same period of 1985, averaging 70.57 items, of which silk and satin garments increased by 44.3 percent; 15.58 articles of knitwear were bought, up 8.4 percent. Various styles of sportswear were popular not only with children and youngsters but young and middle-aged people as well. The consumption of woollen yarn and knitted woollen goods also increased considerably. The purchase of woollen and silk materials went up only 1 percent and 2.8 percent respectively, while the purchase of cotton cloth dropped 25 percent.

**Food.** Food consumption levels rose considerably. The proportion of expenditure on food grew slightly. After food prices were decontrolled in April and May 1985, the prices for some farm and sideline products rose by a wide margin. A sharp price-rise for meat, poultry, eggs, aquatic products, melons, fruit, milk and other perishable commodities held down consumption of these goods for some time. Expenditure on food in proportion to the whole cost of living dropped from 58 percent in 1984 to 53.3 percent in 1985. In 1986 with the increase in city residents' income and the rise in agricultural production, more and better non-staple foods were supplied on the market; the consumption of non-staple foods gradually came back to normal.

From January to September 1986 per-capita monthly expenditure on food averaged 37.66 yuan, a 19.8 percent increase over the same period of 1985. With the food price-rise factored in, the consumption level actually rose 12 percent. The proportion of expenditure on food to all living costs rose to 54.5 percent. Per-capita monthly spending on pork, eggs and fish rose 19.2 percent, 11 percent and 24.6 percent respectively; the consumption of fruit was up 23.8 percent, beer, 37.1 percent.

**Daily necessities.** Residents' consumption of daily necessities continued to be on higher-grade commodities. From January to September 1986, residents' per-capita monthly expenditure on daily necessities averaged 15.63 yuan, up by 18.7 percent over the same period of 1985. With the price-rise for daily necessities factored in, the actual increase came to 14.7 percent. Of the sum, 8.53 yuan was spent on mechanical and electrical products;

accounting for above 50 percent of all expenditure on daily necessities. By the end of September, 61 washing machines, 57 tape recorders and 15 cameras were owned by every one hundred urban households, an increase of 27.1 percent, 28.4 percent and 45.8 percent respectively over the same period of 1985. Every one hundred households own an average of 26 colour televisions and 16 refrigerators (items available only in the last few years), both double the figures of the same period of 1985. With the improvement in residents' living standards, expenditures on interior decorations, cosmetics and gold, silver jewellery increased nearly four times; complete sets of neat, attractive furniture, furniture parts in sections or combinations, and sofa beds are seen in ordinary homes.

**Housing.** As urban housing floor-space increased, living conditions improved. According to the first national survey of urban housing, by the end of 1985, the floor space for each urban dweller was 6.1 square metres. In the January-November period of 1986, nearly 50 million square metres of housing were built for state-owned units, expanding the per-capita area of housing for city dwellers. In addition, housing facilities were somewhat improved. In urban housing, 97.3 percent of the homes have electricity, 81.6 percent have running water, 61.3 percent have their own kitchen units, 30.2 percent have their own toilets, 11.8 percent have gas stoves, and 7.6 percent have bath-tubs or showers. Because a low-rent system is in operation in China, average annual per-capita rent paid by city people accounts for only 1 percent of their living costs.

**Transport facilities.** The means

of transportation and communication have become diversified. Getting to and from the work place used to be by bus and bicycle. Now with the increase in income, privately owned motorcycles have increased by a wide margin, people's wish to have a private car is growing, and indeed a small number now own private cars.

Although urban residents' lives have improved, a small number of families still find it hard to make ends meet because of large families depending on only one or two family members for support. The Chinese government is taking measures and trying by every

means to help families like this.

### Explanatory Notes

1. Urban residents' family income for living expenses:

In the case of the families involved in the survey, this means the portion of actual income that can be used for planning their daily life, that is, subtracting expenditures on supporting parents and other relatives and expenditure on gifts from the actual incomes.

2. Urban families' living costs refer to:

All living expense for daily life of families involved in the survey,

including spending on various commodities as well as non-commodity expenditures on cultural activities, services and so on.

3. Commodity expenditures of urban residents refer to:

All expenditure on commodities by families involved in the survey, including what is spent on shopping, eating out, or at the cafeteria of work places and purchase of commodities directly from farmers. The items include nine categories: food; clothing; articles of daily use; recreational articles; books, newspapers and magazines; medicine and medical equipment; housing and building materials; fuel and other commodities.

## Latin America's Search for Democracy

by Xu Shicheng

Tremendous changes have taken place in the social and economic structures of Latin American countries since the end of World War II. Many have advanced from semi-feudal and semi-colonial countries to developing capitalist societies, while others are undergoing the transition.

There have also been great changes in the political map of Latin America. Altogether 13 countries gained independence in the post-war years, bringing the total number of independent states to 33. A socialist system has been established in Cuba, and feudal oligarchy and military autocracy have been replaced in most other countries by the bourgeois representative system of government.

A move towards national independence and democracy has

been the main political trend in post-war Latin America. While resisting foreign interference, mainly from the colonialist countries and superpowers, the people of Latin American nations strive for democracy through struggle against autocracy at home.

In the 40 postwar years, various national and democratic struggles, led by different classes, have been waged in Latin America. The 1950s saw capitalist democratic revolutions in Guatemala and Bolivia, and struggles by the people of Cuba, Venezuela, Colombia and Peru to overthrow autocratic regimes.

In the 1960s, guerrilla wars were developing all over Latin America. The Panamanian people demanded sovereignty over the Panama Canal, and the Dominican people rose to resist American invasion. Reformist military governments appeared in Peru. The colonial nations in the Caribbean gained independences one after another.

In 1970, Salvador Allende was elected president of Chile by a coalition of five parties including the Communist and Socialist Parties. In July 1979, the people of Nicaragua, using revolutionary violence, toppled the pro-US dictatorship of the Somoza family which had ruled Nicaragua for more than 40 years.

In the 1980s, the struggles of El Salvador and other Central American peoples against imperialists and dictators are growing. Many independent steps have been taken to shake off the control of the superpowers and resist their hegemonist conflicts; there have been a diversification of foreign relations, a move towards economic integration, active participation in the non-aligned movement, appeals to make Latin America a nuclear-free zone, fighting against maritime hegemonism and promoting South-North dialogue and South-South co-operation to realize a new international economic order.

At present the national-

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democratic movement of Latin America faces three major issues: the conflict in Central America, the process of democratization and the foreign debt crisis.

The fundamental cause of instability in Central America is intense class and national contradictions. This in essence is why the people of this region have called for revolution. One of the superpowers wantonly interferes in the internal affairs there, and another attempts to penetrate the area.

Superpower rivalry here has complicated the issue. The Reagan administration has adopted a hawkish stand towards the revolutionary movement in this region, to prevent "another" Cuba or Nicaragua. After the United States invaded Grenada in 1983, the Reagan administration increased aid to the anti-government contra forces against Nicaragua, and to the El Salvador government, aggravating the unstable situation there.

Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama established the Contadora Group in 1983, which has frequently mediated for a peaceful settlement in Central America. In 1985 Peru, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay organized the Lima Group in support of the Contadora Group and opposed allowing the issue of Central America to be placed exclusively in the context of East-West conflict. Both groups insist that the Latin American people should solve their own regional problems by peaceful means. Although the two international groups have not yet fulfilled their ultimate task, they have made contributions to preventing the war from spreading and thus keeping the superpowers somewhat at bay.

Since the 1970s, a strong current of democratization has spread in Latin America and South America in particular. Under the pressure of the democratic movement and economic difficulties, military juntas have been replaced by

constitutional governments. There is no doubt that the process of democratization is a political step forward. Leaders of countries which have realized democracy, have generally begun reforms aimed at solving the social and economic problems and at the same time they take care of the interests of all sides. So far 27 Latin American countries have established representative system of democracy. The people under military rule are struggling for democracy.

The total foreign debt of Latin America is over US\$370 billion, which has had grievous consequences for the economic development of this region, and for the political and social stability there. To solve the debt crisis, Latin American countries have re-adjusted their economic policies and developed their production, expanding exports and raising their ability to repay. In addition, they have strengthened their co-operation and consultation. On this basis 11 heavily indebted countries have formed the Cartagena Group and jointly dealt with the creditor countries. Their

position is that improving production will enable repayment of the debt, and they request the creditor nations to make more compromise, reduce interest rates and pay a reasonable price for their exports.

Latin American countries have an outstanding tradition of unity and co-operation. The debt issue has not yet been solved and the contradiction between debtor and creditor countries, therefore, will last a long time. But this struggle will help in promoting unity among the Latin American countries, in seeking a good road to development, co-ordinating relations with the developed countries and establishing a new international economic order.

The Latin American national and democratic movement has made great progress since World War II. However, this movement still faces extreme difficulties because of the superpowers' rivalry over this region, political, economic and military, because of the social inequities in most of the countries where a wide gap exists between the poor and the rich, and where the national contradiction is often interwoven with the class contradiction. ■

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# Policies On Inner-Party Struggle

**On February 2, 1987, "Renmin Ribao" published an editorial entitled "Develop the Struggle Against Bourgeois Liberalization Steadily and Soundly." Following is a translation of the full text.**

In the first month of this year China started a struggle to uphold the four cardinal principles and to oppose bourgeois liberalization. This is a big event in the Party's political life. The Party Central Committee relayed without delay to all Party members the important speech of Comrade Deng Xiaoping. At a Spring Festival get-together Comrade Zhao Ziyang made an important speech on behalf of the Party Central Committee. At the same time the Party Central Committee also issued documents on opposing bourgeois liberalization and expounding the nature, significance, importance, long duration, scope and focal point of the struggle. Now more and more comrades have deepened their understanding, cleared their minds of misgivings, and begun to take an active part in the struggle.

The occurrence of the present struggle was not fortuitous. Soon after the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee in 1978 Comrade Deng Xiaoping made an important speech on upholding the four cardinal principles at a forum on the Party's theoretical work. In it he pointed out: "To carry out China's four modernizations, we must uphold the four cardinal principles ideologically and politically. This is the basic prerequisite for achieving modernization." "It is necessary to continue emphasizing the four cardinal principles," he pointed out, "also because a handful of people in society at

large are spreading ideas which are against them or at least cast doubt on them, and because individual Party comrades, instead of recognizing the danger of such ideas, have given them a certain degree of direct or indirect support." From then on to the end of 1986 Comrade Deng Xiaoping talked about adherence to the four cardinal principles and opposition to bourgeois liberalization almost every year and warned the whole Party time and again. The Party Constitution adopted at the 12th National Congress of the Communist Party of China states clearly: "At the present stage, the political basis for the solidarity and unity of the whole Party consists in adherence to the socialist road, to the people's democratic dictatorship, to the leadership of the Party, and to Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought and in the concentration of our efforts on socialist modernization." The whole Party must "oppose all erroneous deviations, whether 'left' or right."

But in general, in the last few years, there has been a lack of firmness and clarity in the stand against bourgeois liberalization. From the central down to the local level, there has been some weakness and confusion politically and ideologically. Some areas, including some media and forums at institutions of higher learning, failed to resist the corrosive influence of bourgeois liberalization, enabling it to

spread unchecked. A few Communist Party members even took the lead in advocating bourgeois liberalization, which resulted in serious harm. To advocate bourgeois liberalization is to negate the socialist system and favour capitalism; its main purpose being to negate the Party's leadership. If unchecked, it will lead more people, especially young people, astray and bring disorder to our society, so that reform and construction would be out of the question.

To fight against bourgeois liberalization is crucial to whether or not we can correctly uphold the line, policies and principles pursued since the Third Plenum of the 11th Party Central Committee, to what kind of generation will inherit our cause, to the destiny of our Party and state and the future of our socialist cause. Generally, upholding the four cardinal principles, opposing bourgeois liberalization and consolidating stability and unity are basic to the foundation of the state and administration of the country. Therefore, the struggle to oppose bourgeois liberalization will be the main task in the political and ideological fields, not only for a period of time just ahead, but for quite a long period of time, and will permeate the whole procedure of opening to the outside world and reform. Regarding this, all Party members should have adequate ideological preparation.

In upholding the four cardinal

principles and opposing bourgeois liberalization, our sole aim is to carry out correctly the Party's line, policies and principles implemented since the Third Plenum of the 11th Party Central Committee and to build socialism with salient Chinese characteristics. So we must straighten our political orientation and distinguish right from wrong through analysis and criticism of erroneous political views expressed in negation of the four cardinal principles. Generally speaking, the struggle is to educate Party members to uphold the four cardinal principles, comprehensively and correctly understand and carry out the line, policies and principles set forth by the Third Plenum. The Party organizations at various levels and all Party members should conscientiously study a series of important expositions made by the Party Central Committee on upholding the four cardinal principles and opposing bourgeois liberalization, especially those by Comrade Deng Xiaoping on behalf of the Standing Committee of the Party Central Committee on the same issue, further reach a common understanding and be clear about the nature and significance of the struggle and stand at the forefront of it. What is the line followed since the Third Plenum? Comrade Zhao Ziyang said: "In the opinion of the Party Central Committee, it entails proceeding from the country's actual situation to build socialism with distinctive Chinese characteristics. It is fashioned on two cornerstones: persisting in the four cardinal principles on the one hand; and sticking to the policy of carrying out reform, opening to the outside world and invigorating the home economy on the other.

These two cornerstones are interrelated, and neither can do without the other." All Party members should take it as the criterion of their understanding.

The struggle will be strictly limited within the Party and will be mainly carried out in the political and ideological fields to solve questions of fundamental political principles and orientation, that is, to oppose the erroneous ideological trends that negate the Party's leadership and the socialist road. It will not involve the policies for economic reform, rural work, scientific research, discussions of style or techniques in literature and art, or the people's lifestyle. In Party and government organizations, urban enterprises and People's Liberation Army units, work will be concentrated on using positive examples to educate Party members there. The struggle will not spread to the countryside, and neither will non-communist democratic parties and non-Party intellectuals be involved.

In the struggle we must attach great importance to our policies and persist in the principle of educating and uniting the great majority. To criticize bourgeois liberalization viewpoints and to correct right deviationist mistakes, we must stick to the line, policies and principles followed since the Third Plenum, and avoid using leftist ideas to oppose Rightist ideas. It will be impermissible to let the current fight affect implementation of the policies for reforms and opening to the outside world in order to invigorate the national economy. In the fields of science, literature and art, we will stick to the policy of "letting one hundred flowers

blossom and one hundred schools of thought contend."

Correct methods must be adopted in opposing bourgeois liberalization. No political movement will be launched. We know quite well that a movement cannot help solve the problem of bourgeois liberalization and one or two movements cannot eradicate the influence of trends of thought favouring bourgeois liberalization. In analysing and criticizing erroneous theories of bourgeois liberalization we must be clear-cut, bold and assured, but remain calm and reasonable. "Left" methods should be resolutely opposed. This is one of the keys to carrying on the struggle steadily and soundly.

The Party committees at various levels should do their work strictly according to the policies, principles and deployment set forth by the Party Central Committee. On one hand we should be resolute in our attitude and not stop half way, while on the other we should be careful to use suitable methods and try our best to avoid any deviation. While going ahead with opposing trends of thought favouring bourgeois liberalization, it is necessary to improve our work in various fields. It is absolutely impermissible to use the struggle as a pretext to suppress people's criticism of shortcomings and mistakes in our work.

In the eight years since the Third Plenum, the situation has been getting better year by year. We are convinced that our country will be even better after we carry out the struggle against bourgeois liberalization steadily and soundly and implement the line set forth at the Third Plenum more correctly and comprehensively. ■

## Developing Tourist Schools

**C**hina started its education in tourism from scratch in 1978. The number of aspiring young people engaged in tourist-related trades is increasing. In 1986, the country's biggest tourist institute—Beijing No. 2 Foreign Languages Institute—raised its entrance examination requirements to the level of major state universities because of the snowballing number of applicants and their high qualifications. Among those who entered their names for tourist vocational schools throughout the country, only one out of every three passed the entrance examinations.

According to the State General Administration for Travel and Tourism, there are four tourist colleges and institutes in China, while departments and classes for tourism have been set up in ten institutions of higher learning. By the end of 1985, 1,861 tourist majors finished their studies, leaving 3,257 undergraduates; and 1,743 students graduated from China's four vocational schools of tourism, with a remaining enrollment of 510 students. Up to now, 189 vocational tourist schools and senior middle schools classes specialized in tourism have been established in 26 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, with a total student population of 27,358.

At the same time, in-service staff training has made much headway. To improve tourist service and managerial skills, China has set up training centres for hotel managers and for chefs who want to learn how to make traditional Chinese dishes. There are also training programmes for those in other fields of the tourist industry. Since 1978, more than 27,000 personnel, including cooks and managers, have studied at the training centres.



**Lang Fuling, a graduate from the Beijing No. 158 Middle School's senior vocational training class, is making hand-stretched noodles at Beijing Hotel. His menu offers a variety of more than 50 kinds of wheaten foods.**

Since China opened its doors to the outside world in 1978, the country has seen an increasing number of foreign travellers. Beijing alone registered a 23 percent annual increase in the number of visiting foreign travellers. The shortage of qualified tourist staff members has therefore become an acute problem. At the beginning of 1986, Premier Zhao Ziyang pointed out at a national tourist conference that raising the quality of the in-service personnel and training qualified tourist staff was the key to China's tourist development.

In December 1986, the State General Administration for Travel and Tourism sponsored a national tourist education conference in Guangzhou. The conference drafted a plan for the development of China's tourist education. To deal with such problems as the lack of funds, qualified personnel and good teaching materials, the plan put forward three proposals: 1) Tourist departments across the country are called on to ensure an annual increase in the funds for

the training of each student by setting the growth rate of educational funds higher than that of their profits; 2) tourist training schools, vocational schools and all forms of adult education will be greatly developed so as to bring forth a vast contingent of qualified tourist guides, hotel and travel service managerial personnel, hotel attendants, cooks, accountants and drivers; and 3) improve teaching materials.

China itself has begun to offer advanced courses in tourist management leading to a Master's degree. Under the auspices of the State General Administration for Travel and Tourism, Tianjin's Nankai University in 1986 opened China's first postgraduate course for 15 students majoring in tourism.

**by Yao Jianguo**

### Tailpieces

■ The China-Tibet Qomolangma Tourist Company Ltd., which opened in Hong Kong on August 19, 1986, is the first overseas enterprise of the Tibetan Autonomous Region.

■ A group of fortified mountain villages of the Bouyei nationality in Anshun Prefecture, Guizhou Province, will open to foreign tourists. Shitou (Stone) Village, located in the upper reaches of the Huangguo Waterfall, is noted for its typical karst formations and unique landscape. More than 200 families in this area live in houses built of rocks and stones. They have found many uses for stone, including slabstone ceilings, window frames, benches and chairs, basins, as well as mills. The Bouyei are highly skilled in folk arts and handicrafts, and have their own style of batik, brocade and embroidery.

In the last few years, mountain villages in Anshun Prefecture have received tourists from the United States, Canada, Japan and other countries.

## Intellectuals to Take Part-Time Jobs

**"GUANGMING RIBAO"**

(Guangming Daily)

It goes without saying that people in China may take part in all sorts of recreational activities to their hearts' content during their spare time. Yet, when intellectuals do scientific or technical experiments, study, offer consultations, take up teaching, tutoring or similar activities of benefit to society after workhours, many people find it hard to understand in the proper light. This is an unhealthy phenomenon.

The knowledge spread by intellectuals during their spare time is of great value to China in the development of science and technology and no one, especially the leading cadres, should discourage any initiative along this line.

China now has more than 6 million rural enterprises. If all college graduates were to be assigned to work in these enterprises, in the next decade, it would not be possible for every enterprise to have one graduate. However, through part-time work and consultations by scientific workers, which have the advantage of using the existing manpower and financial capacity fully with good economic and social efficiency, it would be possible to mitigate the contradictions and advance production greatly.

According to some studies, professional personnel in the United States change their occupations at a rate of about 10 times per person on an average, but in China the rate is only about one time. In other words, most of the professional people in China engage in one professional field as long as they live. This situation is unfavourable to China in the competition of world talents. So,

to encourage intellectuals to work in their sparetime is good for them to enrich their know-how, widen their field of vision, enhance their scientific, technological or cultural talents as well as enable a normal and reasonable flow of talented people.

## Coping With Effects of Rural Influx

**"ZHONGGUO QINGNIAN BAO"**

(China Youth News)

It sounds incredible, but it is true: nearly half of the vegetables, poultry and meat for urban consumption comes from those seemingly disorganized, often crowded free markets in Chinese cities.

Not only this but many other aspects of city life have been infiltrated by the rural population. A lot of second-hand goods dealers, shoe repairmen and carpenters who roam city streets nowadays are from country areas.

And don't forget vendors of local food specialities and house maids in Chinese cities.

This move from the country into cities is a second climax in the history of the People's Republic.

The first climax came in the late 50s—the years of the "Great Leap Forward." Large numbers of rural workers were employed by urban factories to help develop the economy as fast as possible. But within a couple of years an economic setback appeared, forcing factories to make drastic cuts in their labour force.

The new climax, however, was entirely different, in that it was a natural consequence of steady economic growth in the country.

There are as yet no exact figures showing the number of rural people who are working in urban

Moreover, intellectuals should be given due material reward and moral encouragement when they work for the society during their spare time. The Party and state should immediately draw up rules and regulations to protect and further arouse the enthusiasm of intellectuals and create favourable social conditions for them. As a result, before long the general consensus will favour respect for knowledge and talent. ■

areas. But consider that 60 construction teams from a county in Jiangsu Province have traversed 20 cities, provinces and autonomous regions; and a county in Anhui Province has sent more than 8,000 house maids to major cities. That is evidence enough to prove that urban and rural people are mingling together.

Except for a few complaints, most urban dwellers welcome the help from their rural counterparts. They know that they can now rely on private sellers of vegetables and poultry products and do not have to worry that state-run stores may close before they leave work.

According to the State Industry and Commerce Administration, residents in a Beijing district bought 70 percent of their meat from free markets between January and August last year. Nationwide sales of pork in free markets equalled one-fourth of sales by state-owned stores, while sales of poultry products outstripped state sales by 65 million kilogrammes.

The considerable number of rural people in service industries has made city life more convenient and comfortable, but it also has posed increasing challenges to city administrators.

No management departments have yet been set up to deal with the rural influx and the surplus labour force from the countryside. Therefore, some rural vendors



have filed complaints about alleged mistreatment by some government officials.

Because of the lack of transport and accommodation, some rural sellers have to sleep outdoors or carry their merchandise on their bicycles, which zigzag their way dangerously through busy, narrow streets.

Apparently, it is impractical to encourage surplus rural people to seek jobs in cities, nor is it sensible to allow the situation to get worse.

The best solution seems to be the establishment of relevant departments that will work for the mutual benefit of urban and rural people.

Meanwhile, there are some side-effects of the changes.

Some adventurous rural people have made their fortunes in cities. Others, including teenagers in schools and farmers, are lured to the cities by the hope of earning big money.

One estimate shows that 80 percent of the house maids hired have had little, if any, schooling.

Because of their low educational level and their lack of modern concepts, some rural traders tend to cheat customers by selling fake or unhygienic goods. Others, when asked, said that so long as they earned enough to spend, they wouldn't be bothered about their future.

These tendencies call for more attention on the part of rural leadership. ■

demand in rural areas—now averaging six to seven for every 10,000 rural people, the minister said. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Party and state have trained more than 1 million agricultural scientists and technicians. Of this number, 630,000 have changed their occupations and 260,000 have been transferred to agro-scientific research institutions or government organizations at all levels, while only 150,000 remain working at the forefront or agriculture.

Now there is one farming expert for every 466 hectares of land, one expert on animal husbandry for every 7,000 head of livestock or very 153,000 hectares of grassland and one specialist for every 160 rural enterprises.

Moreover, local governments and banks, Song said, should help urban skilled and educated people set up enterprises in the countryside by granting loans to them or allowing them to share profits or dividends for their technological services. ■

## Rural Areas Need More Talents

“JINGJI RIBAO”

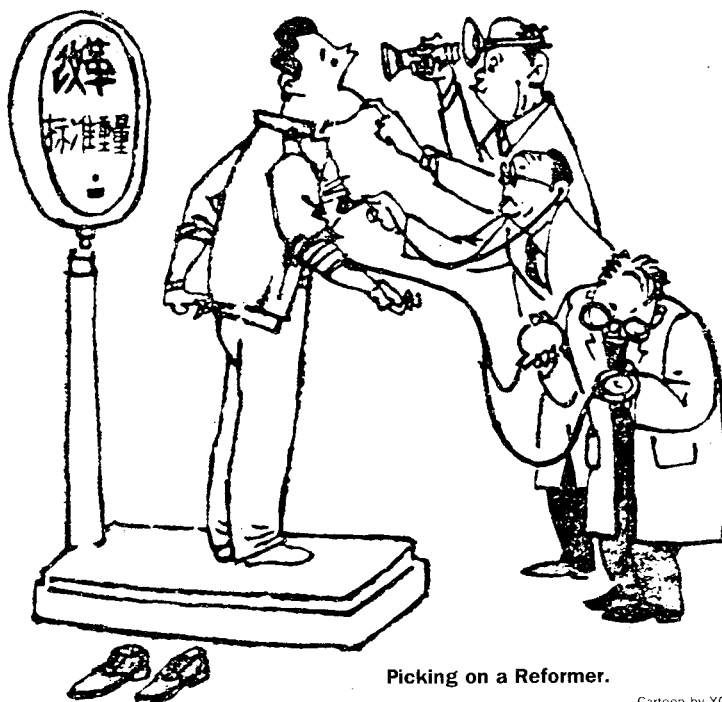
(Economic Daily)

Not long ago, Song Jian, minister of the State Scientific and Technological Commission, said that skilled and educated city people should be encouraged to go to work in rural areas where their service is urgently needed.

Speaking at a national conference on agriculture in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, Song said science and technology are vital to the development of the rural economy; traditional concepts should be discarded and new methods worked out to attract more skilled personnel either to the countryside or to middle or small cities. This would play an important role in developing the rural economy and represent a breakthrough in the current reform. They could become well-off through running their own businesses or be employed as directors or managers or part-time engineers in rural factories. Thus, a fairly large number of entrepre-

neurs with a good grasp of technology would emerge.

Technical personnel are in great



Picking on a Reformer.

Cartoon by YONG FEI

## More Contracts for Technology Import

**D**isregarding its lack of foreign exchange, China in 1986 concluded 744 contracts with more than 30 countries and regions, a 10 percent increase over the year before, for importing foreign technology valued at US\$4.45 billion, a 50.3 percent increase over 1985.

The contracts for developing energy resources account for a large proportion. The contracts China signed with the United States, Japan, the Soviet Union, France and Britain for importing several sets of equipment for thermal and nuclear power stations were valued at US\$2.9 billion, making up 65 percent of the total. At the same time, contracts for importing assembling and production lines of drinks, garments, refrigerators and colour TV sets dropped in number.

The main reason for the increase in technology import is the use of foreign loans. Of all the

contracts signed last year, the value of loans used for technology import made up 60 percent of the total. France concluded a contract for providing US\$800 million worth of nuclear power equipment and leads others with a total value of US\$1.15 billion; Japan, US\$790 million; the United States, US\$660 million; the Soviet Union, US\$510 million; Britain, US\$420 million; Italy, US\$250 million; the Federal Republic of Germany, US\$210 million. In scale of co-operation, and the number and value of co-operative projects, the West European countries are still China's main partners. These countries concluded 290 contracts valued at US\$2.13 billion, accounting for 47.9 percent of the total.

In 1986 the number of economic and technical co-operative projects with the Soviet Union and East European countries also increased, reaching a value of US\$800 million. The Soviet Union

concluded five contracts valued at US\$510 million as compared with only one contract valued at 1.64 million in 1985; the German Democratic Republic, 11 contracts worth US\$160 million.

China also made progress in joint designing and co-operative production. A few years ago China successfully designed and produced basic items of equipment jointly with the Federal Republic of Germany. China signed several contracts in 1986 with the Hitachi Shipbuilding Corporation for jointly designing and producing continuous slab casting machines for the second-stage construction of the Baoshan Iron and Steel Complex in Shanghai.

by Yao Jianguo

## Sino-Swedish Ties: Bright Prospects

**E**conomic and trade co-operation between China and Sweden is developing steadily. Statistics from the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade show that trade between the two countries in 1986 was valued at US\$240 million, a 10 percent increase over 1985. The import and export goods also changed in composition. In addition to the paper pulp and machinery and electric motors, China also imported from Sweden rolled steel, automobiles, electric power transmission equipment, telecommunications equipment, fibreboard production equipment, food-processing equipment, and drilling and welding machines as well as certain technologies. These pieces of equipment and technologies have played a positive role in accelerating China's economic construction. At the same time China's exports increased in variety, adding tinned food, garments, textiles, carpets, labour protection gloves, sports goods, leather goods, drawnwork,

**The Jixian County Iron and Steel Plant in Heilongjiang Province turns out thin steel tubes with technology and equipment imported from the United States, and exports its products to the Southeast Asian countries.**



XUE CHAO

chemicals and tools to the former items, tung oil and iron ore.

China and Sweden already had trade relations when diplomatic relations were established in 1950. The yearly trade value in the 1950s averaged US\$9.73 million, in the 1960s US\$28.52 million and in the 1970s US\$88.11 million. The figure rose to US\$180 million in the first six years of the 1980s.

The two countries also made headway in economic co-operation. China and Sweden have established four joint ventures: the Chinese-Swedish Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., the Heat Metal Wire Co., the New Building Materials Co. and a hotel. Discussions are under way for running other joint ventures. China and Sweden also concluded contracts for jointly producing electro-optical range finders. To train personnel for China, Sweden opened a cutting tools service centre in Shanghai and a biochemical instruments service centre in Tianjin. In addition, the two countries also signed compensatory trade contracts for providing a fruit juice production line, equipment for producing easily opened tins and special-purpose steel rollers. Also the two countries have contracted for importing Swedish 100,000-channel telephone exchange switchboards.

Sweden has provided loans to China for 18 projects and is discussing with China the granting of loans for developing paper and shaving board production, improving telephone switchboards and building hydropower stations. In addition, Sweden granted China a buyers' credit of US\$350 million.

At present, the two countries have signed some agreements on trade, industrial and scientific co-operation, investment protection, ocean transport, aviation and textile export. All these agreements have accelerated the development of the economic and trade relations between the two countries and legally protected the economic and trade co-operation.

The problem confronting the two countries is the imbalance of imports and exports. China has had deficits in its trade with Sweden for a long period and its textile export is limited by Sweden.

## China, US to Build Computer Centre

**A** DEC computer service centre will be established in the second half of this year in Beijing jointly by the China National Instruments Import and Export Corporation and the US Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC).

DEC is one of the largest computer manufacturers in the United States. In the last few years the corporation has exported many computers to China. Richard Poulsen, president of the corporation, said at the signing ceremony, "We achieved business success in the world market because we established localized companies and employed 98 percent of the total payroll from among the local people. We hope to bring into full play our technological strengths, combine the strong points of Chinese society and contribute to China's modernization. According to the contract, the service centre will provide spare parts and technical training for DEC computer clients.

Earlier, the China National Instruments Import and Export Corporation and the US Digital Equipment Corporation had also concluded a contract for establishing a computer training centre in China.

by Yao Jianguo

## 'International Trade' Five Years Old

*International Trade*, a monthly helping Chinese and foreign

businessmen to know each other, has just celebrated the fifth anniversary of its publication. In the last five years, the magazine in Chinese edition has published 2,000 articles expounding China's principles, policies and related rules and regulations for opening to the outside and developing trade, economic and technical co-operation with foreign countries. It also has introduced the economic situation of various countries and their trade policies and experiences, analysed the international economic, trade and monetary situation and provided marketing information.

*International Trade* is published by the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, and its English edition came off in 1983.

by Yao Jianguo

## Trade News in Brief

■ China will import from Poland 1,700 open coal waggons valued at 110 million Swiss francs according to the contract concluded in January this year in Beijing. The waggons will be delivered in three years from 1988 to 1990. In addition, China will import two batches of waggons from the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia. The related talks are being held between China and these two countries.

■ The Shanghai Mitsubishi Elevator Co. Ltd., a joint venture between China, Japan and Hong Kong, was opened in Mid-January in Shanghai. The company will produce high-class computerized elevators with Japanese advanced technology. At present there are orders for its products from more than 40 clients. Beginning in 1988 the company will turn out elevators and automatic stairs of 100 specifications in 9 series. It is expected that the company will produce 2,000 elevators in 1994 and two-thirds of which will be exported.

## Tang Xianzu: Famous Playwright Appreciated

Three hundred and seventy years ago, two literary giants died: Shakespeare in England, and Tang Xianzu in China. In their honour, a Shakespeare drama festival was held in China in the summer of 1986, and half a year later, a Tang Xianzu symposium was hosted simultaneously in Beijing, Shanghai, and the provinces of Jiangxi, Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Guangdong.

Born in Linchuan, Jiangxi Province, Tang Xianzu (1550-1616) was a great dramatist of the Ming Dynasty. Throughout his life, he wrote more than two thousand poems and five plays. Amongst his plays, *The Peony Pavilion*, generally considered his masterpiece, has become a classic of the Chinese stage, and, as early as the 1920s, it was performed abroad by Han Shichang and Mei Lanfang, two famous Chinese artists. Tang's plays have so far been translated into English, German, Russian, French and Japanese.

In his life time, Tang saw the deterioration of feudalism and the burgeoning of capitalism. His works, especially his dramas known as the "four dreams of a Linchuaner" (*The Purple Hairpin*, *The Peony Pavilion*, *The Adventures of Nanke*, and *The Dream of Handan*), reflect the seamy side of feudal society, misery of the people and the potential social changes of the 16th and 17th century China.

Various versions of Tang's plays were staged during the symposium. *The Peony Pavilion* is the best known of all the four dream dramas. "It is my favourite," said Tang himself. The story is about Du Liniang, daughter of a county magistrate of the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279). While taking a stroll in the

peony pavilion garden, Liniang falls asleep and dreams of meeting Liu Mengmei, a young scholar. When she wakes up to find it has only been a dream, she falls ill with lovesickness and soon dies. Three years later, Liu Mengmei travels past this place. Quite by chance he recognizes Liniang in a picture as



YANG LIMING

**The Peony Pavilion: Du Liniang recollecting her dream in the garden.**

the girl he once met in a dream. He prays continuously hoping to join her spirit and the goddess of flowers, taking pity on him, helps Liniang to revive, and the couple become husband and wife.

Among the various presentations of this play, one that achieved wide audience acclaim was the Nanjing Film Studio's version of a stage performance by noted *kunqu* opera artist Zhang Jiqing. The two different arts of film and drama complement each other—with the film version investing the drama with much charm and beauty and its rhythm

in keeping with that in a traditional Chinese drama, which is usually unrushed. "The directorship is marvelous; so is the acting," says Wu Zuguang, president of the Chinese Dramatists' Association. "I really got a kick out of it."

*Huo Xiaoyu*, performed by the Third Troupe of the Beijing Opera Theatre, is a story based on Tang's *The Purple Hairpin*. Li Yi, a bright young scholar of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), comes to Changan, the capital city to take an official examination. With the help of Mother Bao, a matchmaker, he marries Huo Xiaoyu. However, Li's mother forces him to divorce Xiaoyu so that he can marry the daughter of Lu Zhi, general supervisor of the official examination and a powerful figure in the local community. Li deserts Xiaoyu, who subsequently falls ill. Under the pretext of selling hairpins, Mother Bao enters Li's home and accuses him of infidelity. Li's new bride also tries to persuade him to change his mind, but Li turns a deaf ear to all these words. In the end poor Xiaoyu dies full of anger and shame.

*The Adventures of Nanke* is about Chun Yufen, a resigned general, who, in a dream, tours the kingdom of ants. There he is chosen to marry the king's daughter and is appointed magistrate of a county. He is showered with wealth and fame overnight. Unfortunately, he is defeated in a war with a neighbouring state, and his wife gets killed in the same war. As a result, he is dismissed from his post. When Chun Yufen wakes up, he finds himself sitting near an ant hill underneath a locust tree. His dream has a very profound effect on his outlook on life—he becomes cynical and dies while



sitting in a lotus position like a monk.

*The Dream of Handan* tells about a young man who is obsessed with wealth and vanity, and who bribes his way to the title of "No.1 scholar" in the imperial examination. Thereafter, he becomes deeply involved in political disputes and fraud, and undergoes several ups and downs. But when he wakes up finally, he realizes that it is all a dream. The play gives us a picture of the decadent political life by the end of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). During his life time and the

Tang's age saw the burgeoning of capitalism in China, which brought the issue of human dignity to people's attention. Respect for human value, fulfillment of human desire, and acknowledgement of human rights started to take over people's thinking. Consequently, general tastes started to turn to more in-depth emotional and psychological revelations in literary expression, which enabled writing to free itself from the monotonous, stereotyped models. This was especially so in popular art forms like ballad singing, story telling,

his artistic expression. "If Cao Xueqin of the Qing Dynasty was a master at combining realism with romanticism, Tang actually paved the way for him," says Guo Hancheng, vice-president of the Chinese Dramatists' Association. "In Tang's works the two styles have nearly achieved perfection."

During the three-day symposium in Beijing, many scholars proposed to set up a Tang Xianzu studies programme. "Tang has left behind a vast number of works of excellent quality," says Zhang Geng, concurrently theorist and historian of Chinese drama, and co-vice-president of the Chinese Dramatists' Association. "His works attracted considerable attention even in his own time, and they have remained a major research subject over the last four hundred years. The best way to carry on his literary heritage is to set up a special programme, as we have done with the study of Cao Xueqin's *A Dream of Red Mansions*."

Tang has always been a source of pride to his hometown in Jiangxi Province. In 1956 activities were held by the province to mark the 340th anniversary of his death. Activities on a much larger scale were held again in 1982, during which time various versions of his four dream dramas were performed. His tomb was rebuilt and a theatre named Yuming Tang (Jade Tea Pavilion) was set up on the site of Tang's old residence. All these efforts, together with a newly-opened memorial hall where a large quantity of historical documents and photographs are on show, constitute a full-scale Tang Xianzu Memorial Centre. ■



YANG LIMING

**The Purple Hairpin: sorrowful parting between Li Yi (left) and Huo Xiaoyu at the bridge.**

succeeding Qing Dynasty, the play had often been staged. But it almost died out later; only *kunqu* opera singers have preserved some of its episodes in their repertoires. During the recent symposium, a *ganju* opera troupe from Tang's native province of Jiangxi, however, staged the whole play.

For hundreds of years, Tang's works have secured an important place in Chinese literary history. His four dream dramas reflect the strong disapproval, if not hatred, of the people under the long repression of feudalism. They also show the inevitable downfall of such a dictatorial regime.

and novels. Tang, with his genius and insight, was able to cater to such tastes. His works were even appreciated by various government officials for their artistic qualities, despite these officials' bias against Tang's social and political views.

In addition to his in-depth and realistic description of the late Ming Dynasty, Tang's imagination was also at its height. The fact that the four plays are all based on dreams is not accidental. Dreams enabled him to be released from temporal time and space, thus combining realism and idealism to give more freedom to



# Wit and Humour From Ancient China

100 Cartoons by Ding Cong

**English-Chinese Edition  
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tional Book Trading  
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**D**ing Cong has been drawing cartoons for nearly half a century. He signs his name 'Little Ding,' reflecting his still childlike heart and the youthful vigour with which he continues to produce new work.

Another reason for his pen name 'Little Ding' is that his father was also an accomplished painter. Well aware of the bitter life of a painter in the old days, his father was unwilling to let his son follow him in his profession and refused to teach him to paint. Little Ding had only one year's basic training at an art school, but nevertheless had become a well-known cartoonist and book illustrator by the time he was twenty.

Ding Cong has had a chequered career as an artist. When the War of Resistance Against Japan broke out, Ding Cong drifted from Shanghai to the interior, and after eight years of hardship returned only to find himself persecuted by those who could not tolerate his cartoons satirizing political corruption. After taking temporary refuge in Hong Kong, he joined many other Chinese intellectuals in returning to China after 1949 to contribute to the new life. Ding Cong came to Beijing and joined the editorial board of *China Pictorial*. But in 1957, another period of hardship began, which

was to last for 22 years. He was robbed of the right to publish under his own name for most of this time, and was even sent to the Great Northern Wastelands to reform himself through hard labour. His sufferings deepened Ding Cong's understanding of China's life and its cultural traditions. In the late 70s he was finally rehabilitated and he resumed his career as an artist.

*Wit and Humour from Ancient China* is a collection of 100 cartoons and jokes chosen from Chinese histories, biographies, novels and anecdotes dating from the 3rd century B.C. to the 17th century. In these cartoons, Ding Cong ridicules rapacious and stupid officials, and pokes fun at the follies and pretensions of men, while also recording witty repartee.

Ding Cong's cartoons provoke deep thought. One feels that the nasty countenances of his characters in ancient clothing reveal the thought of many people today.

In the cartoon *Cooking a Goose* (p.112), for example, the goose flies away before two hunters can agree on how to cook it. This reminds us of people who prefer empty talk to tackling a problem right away.

*The Pain Next Door* (p. 114) shows a man putting his painful foot through a hole in the wall of his house in an attempt to shift his pain onto his neighbour. A very pertinent cartoon is *Perpetual Drowsiness* (p. 152), which tells the story of a magistrate who went to see a friend. While waiting for him in his sitting room, the magistrate became drowsy and fell asleep. Before long the friend appeared, but when he discovered the magistrate sleeping, he did not

woke him up but sat down opposite him and fell asleep, too. The magistrate and his friend woke up and fell asleep in turn for the rest of the day. The two men finally left without exchanging a word. This really occurs every day in China, where cadres' meetings are numerous and often produce no result.

*Reporting a Poor Harvest, the Daughter-in-Law's Glib Tongue, A Pair of Wild Talkers* etc. are aimed at those who pull the wool over their superiors' eyes, and all those who deceive others who do not know the true facts of a situation.

There are many anecdotes which have entered into everyday speech. In China one describes a jealous man or woman as "drinking vinegar"—*A Fierce Woman Scares the Emperor* (p. 68) gives the origin of this widely used expression.

There are bilingual captions to each picture—both in elegant Chinese and English. While learning something of life in ancient China, one can also derive much entertainment and amusement from Ding Cong's cartoons.

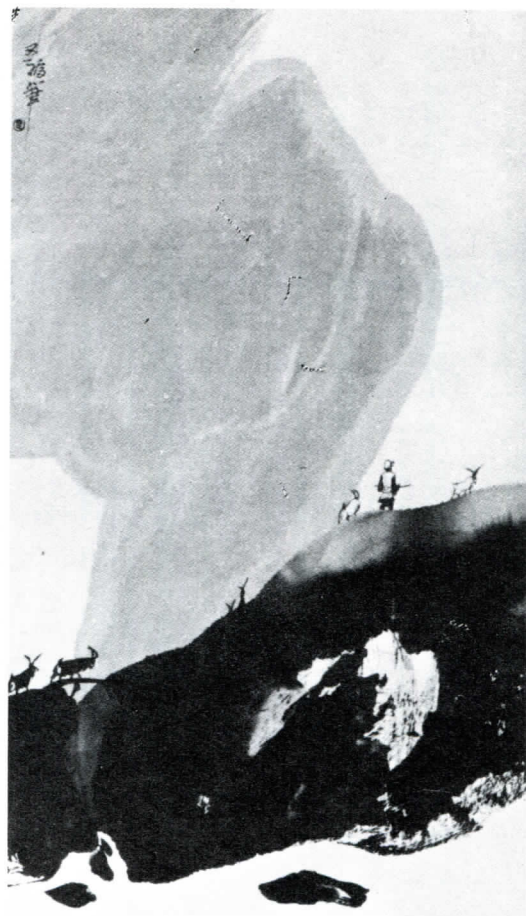
by Zhang Dunyi

## Book News

■ China has published 4,857 types of textbooks for college students in the past 10 years, according to the newspaper, *China Education News*. They were published by the State Education Commission. A total of 164 special committees were established to supervise the compiling of textbooks on science, engineering, agriculture, medicine and foreign languages in the same period.



The Scorching Sun Above  
Taihang Mountains.



Footpaths.

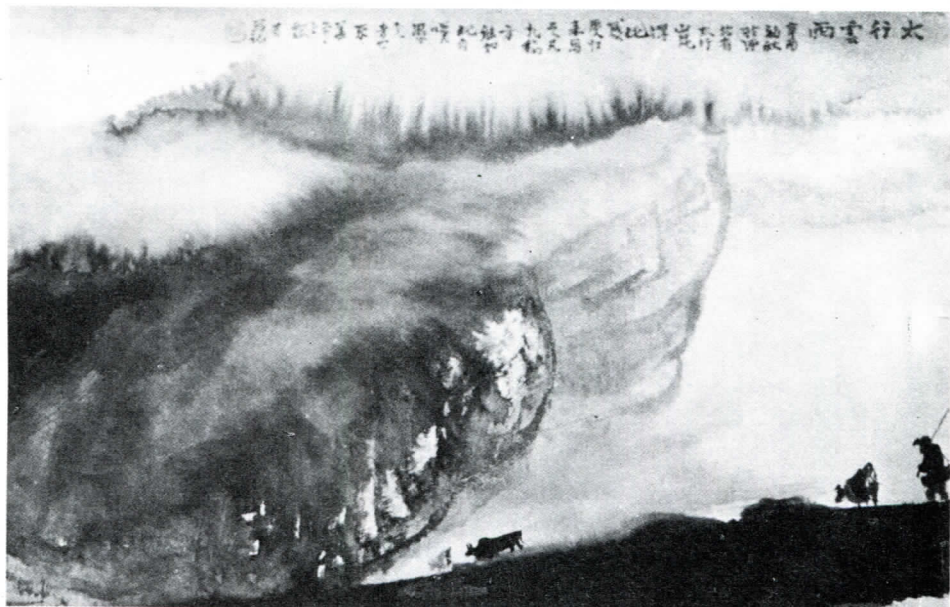
## Traditional Chinese Paintings by Jia Youfu

Jia Youfu, born in 1942 in Suning County, Hebei Province, teaches at the Central Academy of Fine Arts. He specializes in free-style landscape paintings. The paintings here are of the Taihang Mountains.

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**ART PAGE**

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Rain clouds.





# China National Machinery and Equipment Import & Export Corp. (CMEC)

China National Machinery and Equipment Import & Export Corp. (CMEC) is one of the biggest foreign trade corporations in China. We integrate industry and trade. As well as the head office in Beijing, CMEC has also 36 branches throughout the country, and 23 overseas representative offices, wholly owned or jointly owned companies and residential trade offices in 20 places abroad. CMEC's record includes trade relations with 128 places abroad and trade agreements with 322 foreign companies.

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