

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF NEWS AND VIEWS

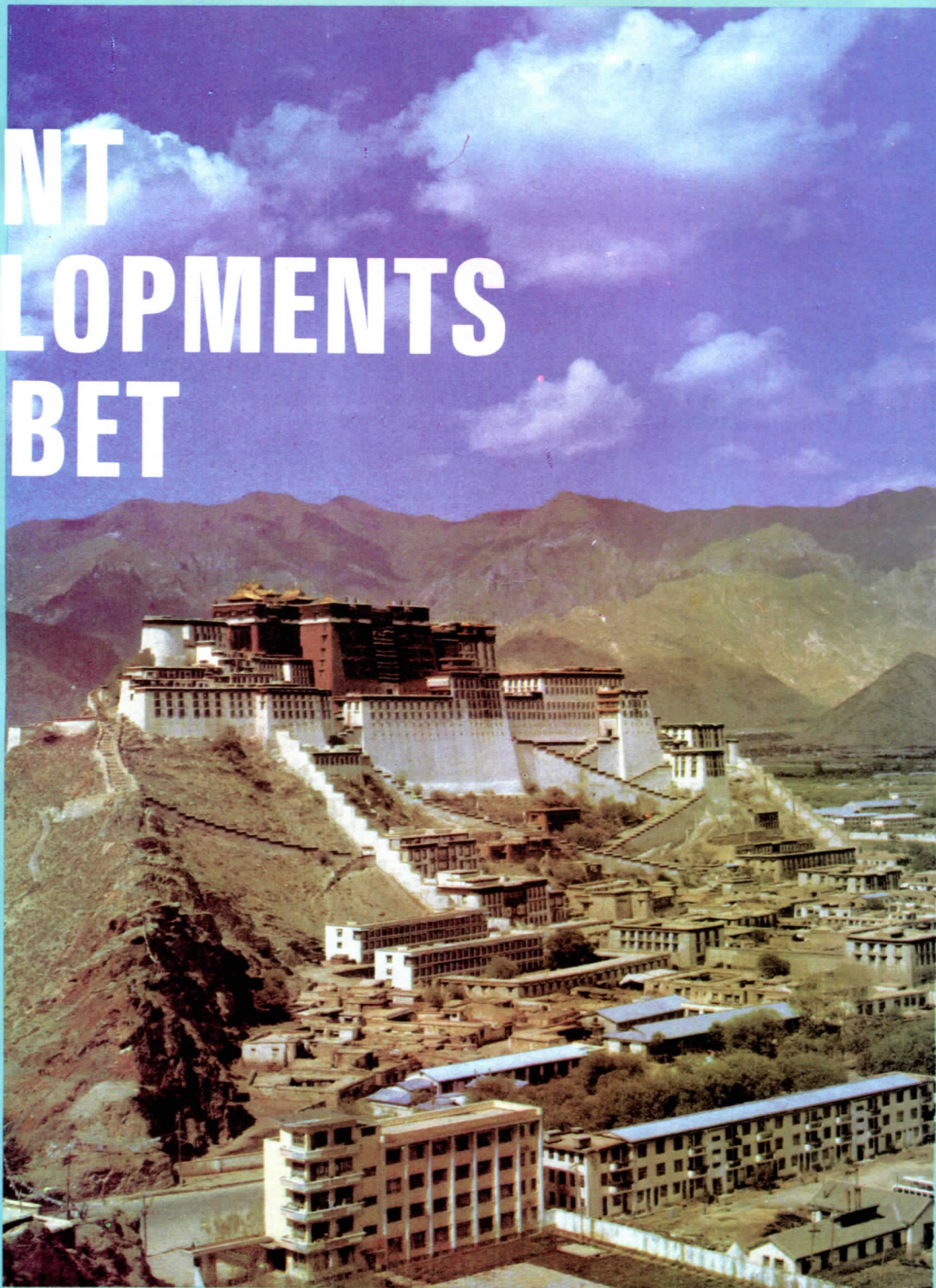
Beijing Review

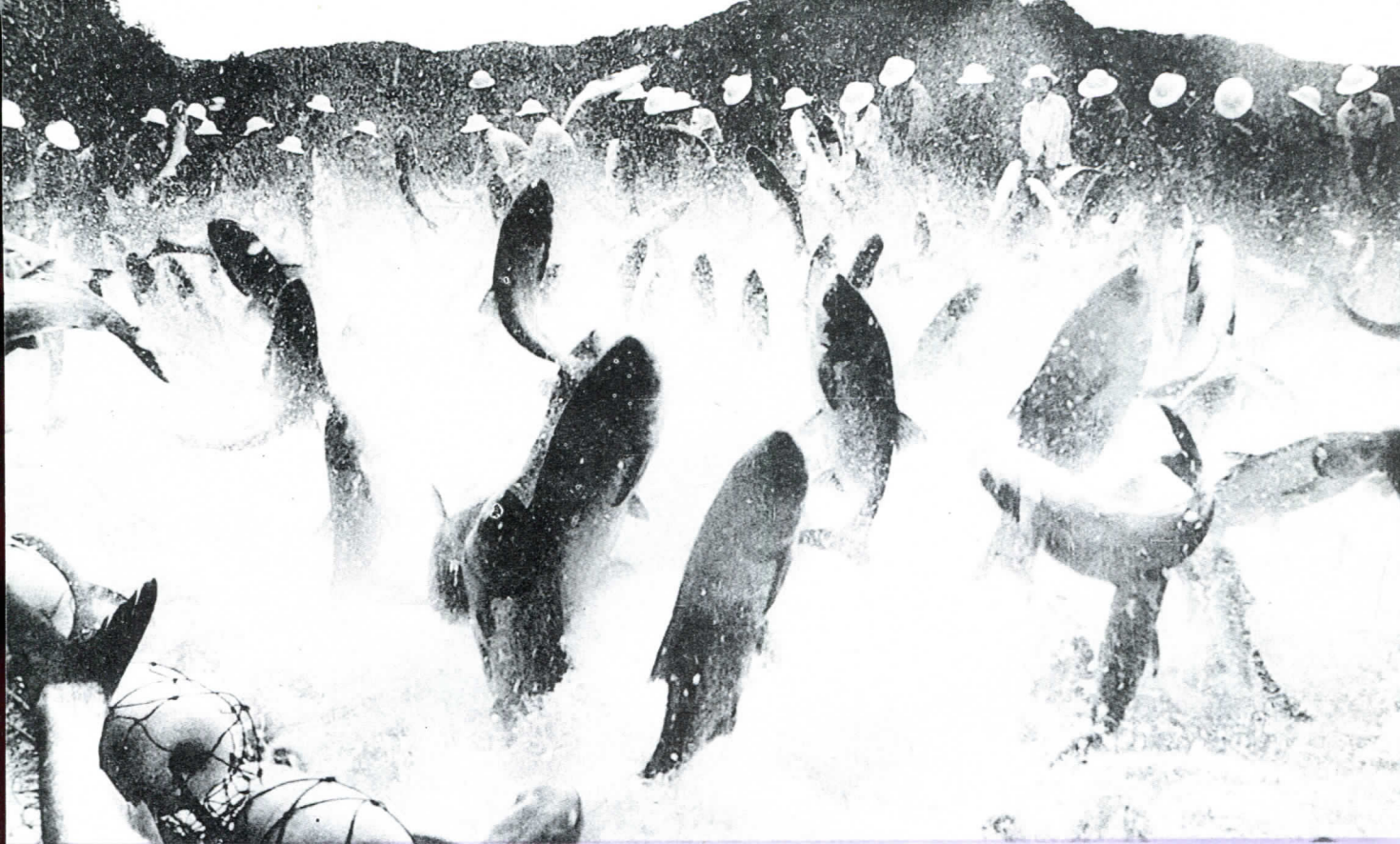
北京周報

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July 13, 1987

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBET





Freshwater fishfarming.

Wu Zongchang

Ducks.

Xu Xiangjun



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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK



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Deng's Speech on Political Reform Republished

■ All Chinese major newspapers republished Deng's 1980 speech on political reform on July 1. It was considered an important preparation for the coming 13th National Congress of the Party (p. 6).

Forest Fire Scorches Bureaucratism

■ The worst forest fire in the Greater Hinggan Mountain since 1949 broke out on May 6. Food, medicine and other necessities were air-dropped in the affected area and tens of thousands of people, including PLA soldiers, forest policemen and rangers fought the blaze. On June 2 the fire was finally put out. The fire, which killed 193 people, wounded 200, left 50,000 homeless and caused enormous economic losses, exposed a great deal of bureaucracy. The forestry minister and a vice-minister were dismissed and five people directly responsible for the fire were arrested (P. 23).

Tibetan Leaders Speak

■ In a recent press conference with foreign journalists, Tibetan leaders, the Bainqen Lama and Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme, talked about the economic gap between Tibet and China's interior, the work of the newly-founded Tibet Development Fund, Tibet's need to fight bourgeois liberalization, personal ordeals during the "cultural revolution," and the policy towards the Dalai Lama. Also in this issue, an article on the exhibition of traditional Tibetan culture in the minorities palace (p. 14).

China Favours Mid-East International Conference

■ If the proposed international conference is to solve the major problems of the Middle East, it should bring together all the parties concerned, including the PLO on an equal footing with the others, besides the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. Also, Israel must commit itself to withdraw from all the Arab territories it has occupied since 1967 and recognize the national rights of the Palestinian people (p. 4).

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Towards a Fair Solution in the Middle East

by Our Special Guest Commentator Wan Guang

The Middle East is one of the world's flash-points. The prolonged unrest there has not only brought destruction and suffering to the region, but also poses a serious threat to world peace and security. Hence the rising call worldwide to explore ways and means to find a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem.

In response to the call, the United Nations sponsored an Asian Regional Symposium on the Question of Palestine in New Delhi, June 8-12. Chinese representatives attended the discussion and shared their views with other participants, with the sincere hope of finding a way to the just and peaceful settlement of the Middle East question.

The root cause of the unrest in the Middle East lies in Israel's expansionism and its conflicts with the Arab nations. The superpowers, taking advantage of these conflicts to scramble for spheres of influence in the strategically important region, have made the issue all the more complicated and precarious.

The crux of the Middle East question is the Palestine issue. Millions of Palestinians have fallen victim to the policy of aggression and expansion followed by the Israeli authorities with the backing of the United States. Displaced and homeless, the Palestinians lead miserable lives as refugees in other countries.

The Arab states and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) want to see a fair and comprehensive solution to the Middle East question through peaceful negotiations. The Fez resolution adopted by the 12th Arab Summit in September 1982 proves their sincerity. But their

hopes have time and again been dashed by the Israeli authorities, who have obstinately refused to return occupied Arab territory and continue to attack and invade Arab nations. Because of Tel Aviv's denial of the national rights of the Palestinians and its non-recognition of the PLO as their representative, the peace process in the Middle East has reached an impasse.

It should be obvious that to reach a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East issue, the following principles must be observed:

- Israel must withdraw its troops from all the Arab territories it has occupied since 1967, including Arab Jerusalem.

- The national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to set up an independent national state, must be restored.

- All the countries in the Middle East have the right to independence and survival. This can be realized only when the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Arab countries are respected and the national rights of the Palestinians are safeguarded.

An international peace conference under the auspices of the UN, as proposed by the Arab states and the PLO, is being increasingly accepted by the international community as a way out of the Middle East impasse. Such a conference, if it is to be successful, should bring together all the parties concerned, including, of course, the PLO on an equal footing with the others, and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. The relevant UN resolutions that embody the three principles mentioned above, along with the Fez

resolution, would form an appropriate and important basis for a solution to the deadlock. The resolutions of the conference should be authoritative and binding on the countries concerned and should lead to a fair and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian and other Middle East questions.

Other conditions are also indispensable for the success of the proposed conference. First, the Arab states and the PLO should co-ordinate their efforts and speak with one voice. Second, the Israeli authorities must undertake obligations to withdraw from all the Arab territories it has occupied since 1967 and recognize the national rights of the Palestinian people. The United States, which is in a unique position to influence Israel, should persuade Tel Aviv to do so. Third, the superpowers should abandon their attempts to use the proposed conference to seize spheres of influence in the Middle East. And finally, world opinion should be mobilized to give the conference powerful support. The third world, Western Europe and other regions can all play a role in promoting the settlement of the Middle East issue.

China has persistently stood on the side of the Palestinians and other Arab peoples and supported their just cause. The Chinese government is in favour of holding an international peace conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the UN. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China is promoting the conference proposal and striving for a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East question. ■

Resistance War Museum Inaugurates

An inauguration ceremony was held on July 6 at the Memorial Hall of the Chinese People's Anti-Japanese War, located near Lugou (Marco Polo) Bridge just southwest of Beijing. The occasion marked the 50th anniversary of China's War of Resistance Against Japan (1937-45). Among the top Chinese officials attending the ceremony were Vice-Premier Wan Li, Yang Shangkun, Political Bureau members Wang Zheng and Hu Qili.

General Yang Shangkun, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission, said in his speech, "As we mark the 50th anniversary of the Lugou Bridge Incident, it is significant and gratifying to have the inauguration ceremony of this memorial museum."

Fifty years ago, occupying Japanese troops fired on Chinese forces holding the bridge and sparked the eight-year war that took millions of Chinese lives. The victory over Japanese fascists is regarded as a turning point in

Chinese history. It was the first complete victory over foreign aggressors since the 1840 Opium War, and the first time China participated as a key ally in a world war. China made a big contribution to the allies, victory over fascism.

Yang said the construction of the museum is one of the many ways that China will promote research into and publicity about the war. He urged historians, theoreticians and the media to educate people, especially the young, in the lessons of the war and to criticize fallacies that distort its nature.

Also present at the inauguration ceremony were two officials from Japanese Embassy in Beijing and some former Kuomintang officers.

The museum, when completed, will cover 20,000 square metres. The total cost of construction will be 30 million yuan. The architectural style, according to one of the designers, Cai Heng, is a

mixture of a traditional decorated roof with simple modern lines. The building looks substantial, as well as handsome, with white marble outside walls and dark green granite interior floors. Outside the main building, there is a large sculpture of a lion awakening from a long slumber, while the inside lobby features an 18- by 4-metre relief showing a group of angry Chinese people. Eight rectangular bells hung on the ceiling.

The museum has three exhibition halls with pictures, documents and objects showing the outbreak of the war, the attacks of Japanese troops against Chinese troops and civilians, the accomplishments of leaders of both the Chinese Communist Party and the Kuomintang and their troops, as well as the foreign friends who helped China win the war. The first stage of construction, covering 5,400 square metres, has been completed. And the museum is scheduled to open to the public in October. ■

Chinese & Israeli Communists Renew Ties

The re-establishment of relations between the Israeli Communist Party and the Chinese Communist Party is one result of his visit, Israeli Communist Party General Secretary Meir Vilner said at a press conference in Beijing on July 6.

Vilner also said that from now on, the two parties will have more contacts and exchanges.

Vilner, head of an Israeli Communist Party Delegation, said the delegation has held extensive discussions with officials from the Chinese Communist Party on the current international situation, the world communist movement, bilateral relations between the two parties and the

Middle East.

The two sides hold identical or similar views on many of the questions discussed, while different views were expressed on other issues, he said.

Discussing the Middle East question, Vilner said, peace in the Middle East can be achieved on the basis of respecting the rights of all states and peoples in the Middle East, including Israel and the Palestinian Arab people.

He stressed that Israel should withdraw from all the Arab territories it has occupied since 1967, and that the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and establishment of an independent Palestinian

state should be recognized.

Vilner said the Middle East question can be solved through an international conference held under the auspices of the United Nations and attended by all parties concerned, including Israel, the Palestine Liberation Organization, which is the sole legal representative of the Palestinian people, Arab countries and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

He told Chinese and foreign reporters that he was not representing the Israeli government or authorities, and the discussions between his delegation and the Chinese side were only party-to-party discussions, which had nothing to do with the Israeli government. ■

Deng Speaks for Political Reform

On July 1, the 66th anniversary of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the major Chinese newspapers republished a 1980 speech by Deng Xiaoping entitled "On the Reform of the System of Party and State Leadership." (An English version of the speech is printed in *Selected Works of Deng Xiaoping*, English edition, pp. 309-317).

In a commentary, *Renmin Ribao* (People's Daily) describes the

republishing of the speech "as an important ideological preparation for the 13th National Congress of the Party." Many observers expect that an overall plan for the reform of China's political set-up will be formulated at the meeting, which opens in October.

In Deng's speech at the enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee in 1980, he cited the major defects in the leadership and cadre systems of the Party and State as "bureaucracy, over-concentration of power, patriarchal methods, life tenure in leading posts and privileges of various kinds."

"Unless they (the Party and

State leadership systems) are conscientiously reformed, we can hardly expect to meet the urgent needs of modernization, and we are liable to become seriously alienated from the masses," he said.

He said the reform of the Party and State leadership systems is aimed at establishing an effective working system at the various levels of government and promoting a better exercise of government functions and powers.

Deng's speech addresses the questions of bringing an increasing number of younger and professionally more competent people into leading positions,

Bridge: Scene of Invasion

(Below) The refurbished Lugou (Marco Polo) Bridge where Japan's war against China began on July 7, 1937.

(Right) The newly built Memorial Hall of the Chinese People's Anti-Japanese War is near the bridge, about 30km southwest of Beijing.

YANG LIMING



solving problems of the current Party and State leadership and cadre systems, and eliminating the influence of feudalism and bourgeois thinking, as well as outlining the major reform measures planned at the time.

An article in the latest issue of the overseas edition of the weekly *Outlook* says that in recent years Deng has systematically outlined China's political reform.

In 1985, the article says, Deng pointed out that urban economic reform involves more than economic aspects. "Without political reform, we will not be able to push forward economic reforms," he said.

Last year, Deng outlined the general objectives of China's political reforms as consolidating the socialist system; expanding socialist productive forces; and carrying forward socialist democracy so as to stimulate the initiative of the people.

According to Deng, the short-term goals of the political reform are to maintain the vigor of the Party and State; to improve efficiency by overcoming bureaucracy; and to arouse the initiative of grass-roots organizations and of individual workers, farmers and intellectuals.

In recent years, he has summarized the main aspects of the reform as separating the functions of the Party from those of government; transferring power to lower levels; simplifying administration; reforming the State and Party functionary and personnel systems; and enhancing socialist democracy and improving the socialist legal system.

He said political reform must not be carried out in such a way as to launch a political movement, but should be promoted constantly along with the growth of the productive forces.

He also called on the whole nation to be both bold and discreet in carrying out the political reform, and to proceed from China's actual conditions while,

with a critical eye, drawing on successful experience from other countries. ■

Jimmy Carter Sees Truth About Tibet

Former US President Jimmy Carter said it is obvious that Tibet's progress in industry, agriculture, education and culture has benefited the Tibetan people.

Carter made these remarks on June 28 in an exclusive interview with Xinhua on his flight from Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, to Beijing. He said he has long been interested in the region.

Carter had paid a two-day visit to the Tibet Autonomous Region. There he visited monasteries, temples, a university and a hospital for traditional Tibetan medicine. He found that many previously damaged monasteries and temples have been renovated by the Chinese central and local governments. He said he was pleased to see that freedom of religion and freedom of worship are flourishing there.

One June 27, the Bainqen Lama, a respected Tibetan religious leader, met with Carter and his party. He told Carter that since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee in 1978, the central authorities have corrected all the "leftist" errors made during the "cultural revolution" (1966-76) in Tibet. Freedom of religious belief is now ensured, he said, adding that the people's life has greatly improved.

The Bainqen Lama said some American friends in the US House of Representatives do not know the Tibetan situation. They passed some amendments inconsistent with actual Tibetan conditions, saying there are violations of human rights in Tibet. The Tibetan people are unhappy about this, he pointed out. The Bainqen Lama said he hopes Carter can advise more American friends to visit Tibet to get an overall

understanding of the region.

When talking about the two amendments adopted on June 18 by the House of Representatives, one on "the violation of human rights in Tibet" and the other on "human rights" in China, Carter told Xinhua that members of the US government can say anything they choose. Sometimes their comments are constructive and sometimes they can be "erroneous or destructive."

Carter said the representatives who voted for the amendments probably have no first-hand experience of Tibet and obtained information from other sources. If he relays what he saw in Tibet to the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, they will have a different view on the amendments, he added.

On June 29, Deng Xiaoping, chairman of the Central Advisory Commission of the Communist Party of China, met the former US president. During the 105-minute meeting, Carter told Deng he had seen many renovated temples in Tibet, and people there can engage in religious activities freely. Carter said that as a farm owner himself, the agricultural development near Lhasa had impressed him.

Deng said Tibet has great potential for development. China's policy is based on the equality of nationalities. Since New China was founded in 1949, there has been no ethnic discrimination in the country, he said. China has 55 minority nationalities, which account for only 6 percent of the country's total population. But the percentage of minority nationality cadres in the People's Congress and administrative organs at all levels is much higher than 6 percent.

After the downfall of the "the gang of four" in 1976, Deng said, the central government took many measures to develop the minority nationality areas and decided that it will be a long-term project for the country's relatively developed provinces and municipalities to help the development of Tibet.

Natural resources are plentiful in the minority nationality areas, so these regions have good prospects for development, Deng said. ■

Middle-Aged Intellectuals in Poor Health

Middle age is becoming a focus of attention as more middle-aged intellectuals are encountering health problems and even dying.

Zhang Guanghou, 50, one of China's leading mathematicians, died of cirrhosis of the liver in Beijing in January. On April 12, 49-year-old Zhong Jiaqing, another famous mathematician, died unexpectedly of a heart attack while visiting Columbia University in the United States.

That is not all. A stream of bad news has come from the Academy of Science of China (ASC). In the Beijing area alone, 11 outstanding middle-aged scientists, including Zhang and Zhong, have died so far this year, following last year's tragic loss of 38 ASC members, 23 of them middle-aged. Meanwhile, many others are in poor health, some in hospital. For example, Chen Jingrun, a well-known mathematician, is being treated for several health problems at the China-Japan Friendship Hospital in Beijing.

The Beijing-based ASC is the leading national science organization in China. It has 81,500 employees, nearly 50,000 of them with a college education. Known as China's "scientists storehouse," it commands vast reserves of scientific knowledge and experience.

The premature health breakdown and death are not limited to the ASC. According to a random survey, the incidence of disease among middle-aged intellectuals in Shanghai is very high. Another survey by the China Education Trade Union shows that 75 percent of the 340 middle-aged teachers in Beijing Teachers' College have various diseases. At Jiangxi Metallurgy College in south China, 54 percent of the

teachers over 45 are unhealthy, suffering from an average of three health problems each. And at Wuhan University, 40 percent of the teachers who died in the past three years were middle-aged.

This trend, if it can be called a trend, started several years ago, when some middle-aged high-level scientists broke down from constant overwork and died of diseases. At that time, some older scientists described, with sorrow, the abnormal phenomenon as "those with grey hair taking part in the funeral of a black-haired person." They hoped such tragedies would not be repeated. Unfortunately, the phenomenon has continued and has caught the attention of the whole society, especially intellectuals themselves. People are appealing to save their precious middle-aged intellectuals.

Yang Le, head of the Mathematics Research Institute of the ASC and a close colleague of the late Zhang and Zhong, has called for the improvement of intellectuals' living conditions. He said most middle-aged scientists have poor physical records. When they were young, they were undernourished because the country was in economic difficulties. Zhang, Yang recalled, had a very good appetite, but he had to remain half-hungry during the 1961-62 period, the most difficult time for New China's economy. "When Zhang graduated and got a job, he had a salary of only 69 yuan a month to support his family including both parents and children. Life was very hard for him, as it was for most middle-aged scientists," Yang said.

After the "cultural revolution," (1966-76), Yang continued, most middle-aged intellectuals have worked diligently in an attempt to

make up what they lost during that chaos. They have been in a situation of what he calls "overload." However, their average living standard is lower than that of the whole society. According to official statistics, Yang said, the average monthly income for a four-person family in Beijing is more than 300 yuan, more than the income of comparable families of middle-aged intellectuals. Also, the intellectuals' housing is worse than that of other people. "It is a misunderstanding to think that the status of intellectuals is very high and that their living conditions have much improved," Yang said.

Wang Zhiqing, an official at the ASC headquarters in charge of labour protection, agreed with Yang, and added that there are some invisible enemies that are gobbling up the intellectuals' lives. Chemical materials, for instance, are harming and killing people gradually, not in chemical factories, where the pollution is visible and protection is complete, but in many laboratories. "In a lab," Wang said, "you don't know where and when a new hazardous material will be produced because you are experimenting; the enemy is invisible. The most unfortunate thing is that we don't have sufficiently effective protective devices. Otherwise, we might have saved many scientists." In a chemistry lab in Shanghai, Wang said, five college graduates came to work in 1964. When they reached middle age, four died of cancer and only one survived. "It's time to improve our protective devices before it's too late," he said.

Besides natural hazards, some people point out, harmful social practices also account for the unhealthiness of some middle-aged people. A recent article by Yu Yingjie in *Renmin Ribao* (People's Daily) said it has been a traditional rule, and a bad one, to promote people or give them better pay and treatment accord-

ing to seniority. An exception may be made in a few cases when younger people work extremely hard and obtain academic distinction. So, Yu said, younger people must overwork if they are to have a chance for promotion and better treatment. "In my opinion," he concluded, "if we really want to stop the sad premature health breakdown and death of the middle-aged and young people, we should not only improve their living standards, but also, and more importantly, break the rule of promotion according to seniority. People of all ages are equal before an academic crite-

tion. By using this criterion, we can promote many talented younger people and prevent those who can't bear overwork from falling by the wayside."

Yu's idea has partly come true. At the end of June, the State Science and Technology Commission announced that 915 middle-aged and young experts in the fields of science, technology and management have been selected to be granted better housing, salary and medical treatment. This is a step towards solving a serious and complex problem.

by Li Halbo

Students Protest Factory on Campus

The student strike at China's Central Finance and Banking College in Beijing caused a great stir. According to the students' petition, the object of the boycott, which lasted from June 10 to June 15, was to get the Beijing Tobacco Works off the campus by the end of this year.

On the first evening of the strike, the students held a demonstration on campus and set the signboard of the factory aflame. For the next two days, two deputy ministers of Finance came to the school but did not succeed in appeasing the students. The strike ended on June 15 after Beijing's Deputy Mayor Zhang Baifa vowed the plant would be moved by the end of 1987 or he would give up his office.

Wang Wanyou, deputy director of the college's Communist Party office, said the strike—the first since nationwide student demonstrations last December and January—was the result of a long quarrel over the sovereignty of the campus between the college and the plant. It is interesting that the academic institution won the quarrel.

More than half of the college's

1,000 students went on strike, mostly first-year students, Wang said. The strike was over one specific demand—the tobacco works should move from the campus on time, according to agreements signed in 1981, 1984, 1985 and 1986 between the college and the plant. The college was restored on the campus in 1978, after being given to the tobacco works during the "cultural revolution," when all the universities were closed. In 1981 a meeting was held to discuss the future of the campus. Wu Shuqi, deputy director of the tobacco works, said the meeting hammered out a very weak agreement that the works should move. But a prolonged quarrel ensued for financial reasons. The Construction Bank of China and the city government maintained that it would cost only 14 million yuan for the college to move and build a new campus, but 100 million yuan would be needed for the works to move and establish a new plant in the eastern suburbs of Beijing.

The college authorities argued that the campus originally belonged to the college when it was co-established by the Finance

Ministry and China's People's Bank in 1953. Besides, the plant causes much pollution in the northwest of Beijing where most universities lie.

On the campus, tobacco fumes are everywhere and noise from machines and trucks is heard day and night. "Noise has almost driven me mad since I entered this college three years ago. Besides, dust caused by the works is also resented by the students," said one student.

"Housing at this school is OK," said another student, "only we can't emotionally accept a factory looming at the front gate as if this campus doesn't belong to the school at all. I was much disappointed the first day I stepped into this school."

Another student said, "I feel everything about this school is kept from students. Only when Deputy Mayor Zhang Baifa spelt out the moving plan could we see the reasons why the works couldn't move out on time."

According to Wu, deputy director of the tobacco works, the State Council decided in 1984 that the works should move off the campus by the end of 1986; the final deadline was the end of June 1978. But, construction at the new site couldn't be completed in time, for reasons "we can't help."

Because of arguments about the financial desirability of moving the works and the difficulties of designing the new plant, construction was delayed until March 1986. Completion of the plant, which will have more than 40,000 metres of floor space, is scheduled for the end of the coming September. At normal speed, it would have taken two and a half years.

Deputy Mayor Zhang told the striking students on June 15 that the city government was to blame for the delay of the construction. He said that if the works hadn't moved off the campus by the end of December, he would step down from his post.

by Zhao Zonglu

SOUTH KOREA

Chun Accepts Demands of Dissidents

South Korean President Chun Du Hwan agreed on July 1 to accept the proposal of his ruling party chief for direct elections and democratic reforms to end nationwide protests.

Chun Du Hwan had a change of mind after he conferred behind closed doors at the presidential mansion for 70 minutes with Democratic Justice Party (DJP) Chairman Roh Tae Woo. Roh demanded in a surprise turnaround on June 29 that Chun give in to opposition demands for reforms.

Roh, who was named by Chun on June 10 as the DJP's presidential candidate, put forward an eight-point proposal on June 29 which includes direct presidential election, the restoration of civil rights to leading dissident Kim Dae Jung, the release of political detainees and press freedom. Roh said that if his proposal was not accepted, he would retire from politics, quitting his post as chairman of the ruling party and rejecting the presidential nomination.

Kim Young Sam, chairman of the Reunification Democratic Party (RDP), the main opposition, said he welcomed Roh's idea.

Kim Dae Jung, the most prominent critic of Chun, said, "It is fortunate that the ruling party has come up with democratic proposals which meet the people's demands. But the public should not ease its vigilance over the current regime before full democracy is achieved."

Meanwhile, the Reagan administration welcomed Roh's proposal. Gaston Sigur, the US assistant secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, described the eight-point plan as "extremely encouraging" and "a kind of breakthrough." Sigur, the State Department's main Asian policy maker, returned on June 26 from a visit to Seoul.

During the visit, he met political leaders including Chun, Kim Young Sam and Kim Dae Jung.

Japan also welcomed Roh's proposal. Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said on June 29 that the plan is a big step towards the end of chaos in South Korea.

The struggle for democratic reform in South Korea centres on constitutional reform. Since Chun took office in 1981, he has been running a military dictatorship, using the present constitution to try to hold on to the presidency. On April 13, Chun announced that the planned discussion with the opposition about constitutional reform would be postponed until 1988 and said he would choose his successor on the basis of present constitution. This was tantamount to denying the right of the opposition parties to run for the presidency and aroused strong protests from the opposition forces. The RDP, under the leadership of Kim Young Sam and Kim Dae Jung, demanded that Chun cancel his April 13 announcement, revise the constitution and hold a free election. The party said that if Chun refused to accept its demands, it would call on the people to overthrow his rule. The Christian organizations, which have great influence in South Korea, also denounced Chun's autocratic rule and called on the country's 1.6 million Christians to pray for the early realization of democracy. Students, artists and journalists also held demonstrations and rallies to oppose the dictatorship. But Chun, disregarding all opposition, chose Roh as his party's presidential candidate on June 10. The move met with strong opposition from students and social democratic organizations, and June 10 saw the biggest protests since Chun came to power. Thousands of students from more than 80 colleges and universities across the country took part in the demonstrations. In the following days, a total of 1

University students demonstrating in Seoul.



million students and others joined demonstrations in 30 major cities. It was under this popular pressure that Chun accepted the demands

of the people to reform the constitution and hold a direct presidential poll.

by Li Li

OPEC

Seeking Oil Market Stability

Based on past experience, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries has decided to continue to limit its oil output to keep the oil market stable.

At their 81st meeting in Geneva, oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) have agreed to limit production to 16.6 million

many countries stepped up oil exploration and production. At the same time, oil-consuming countries sought ways to save energy and seek substitutes for oil.



The 81st meeting of OPEC oil ministers in Vienna.

barrels a day for the second half of 1987. The price of oil on spot markets in the United States and Britain is now higher than OPEC's official price, showing that the organization's policy of limiting output has lent stability to the market.

The world oil market has been relatively quiet in the first half of this year. After oil prices skyrocketed twice in the 1970s,

This led in 1982 to an oversupply of oil on the world market. In 1983 OPEC had to pare the benchmark oil price by 15 percent. It also limited production in an attempt to prop up prices. However, non-OPEC producers—particularly the big oil companies in the West—availed themselves of this opportunity to increase their output and cut prices in a race for new markets. In less than three

years, OPEC lost half its exports and one-third of its markets.

In response, OPEC gave up its shattered official price system and removed its production ceiling in the winter of 1985, letting both output and prices float freely. As a result, the market supply surplus rose to more than 2 million barrels a day and the oil price fell to US\$9 a barrel. The price war inflicted heavy losses on the oil-producing countries and OPEC's income was cut by more than US\$50 billion. In the meantime, however, the low-cost OPEC producers were able to increase their share of the world market by 12 percent. High-cost producers, including Western oil companies, had to cut production, defusing the pressure of oversupply. In this situation, last August OPEC adopted a policy of reducing output to boost prices and reached a provisional agreement to limit production. The oil price quickly climbed to US\$15 a barrel. In December OPEC decided to further trim output and to restore the official price system, fixing an average price of US\$18 a barrel.

In the first quarter of this year, OPEC maintained unity and kept its daily output to 15.7 million barrels, foiling an attempt by the major consuming countries, including the United States and Japan, to use their stocks and refuse to sign contracts at the official price. This success encouraged OPEC to keep the official price. The spot price, after falling slightly, gradually rose again to the current US\$20 a barrel. Comparing the past, it is clear that the oil market's stability can be attributed to OPEC's unity and self-sacrifice. And the group has gained confidence and experience from its recent struggle.

In this context, the 81st meeting of OPEC oil ministers was held in Geneva on June 25-27 to discuss how to make progress in the second half of this year. Although the West is experiencing a travel boom and needs a lot of oil, OPEC decided that in view of stability in

the market, it will not raise the price in the second half of the year. Daily output in the second half will be increased slightly to 16.6 million barrels, cancelling the decision to raise output to 18.3 million barrels in the fourth quarter.

Observers note that OPEC's decision is not only conducive to the stability of the market, but also increases its capacity to control the market. A price of US\$15-20 a barrel dampens the enthusiasm of big Western companies to explore oil and increase output, and discourages consuming countries from saving energy and seeking oil substitutes. The price suits the oil-rich OPEC producers, whose production costs are low. Also, at this price level the oil supply will grow gradually to meet the needs of the slowly developing world economy.

Differences on policy and ineffective implementation of decisions have been a weakness in OPEC in recent years, preventing the group from playing its role

effectively. The bitter lesson of the price war has led OPEC members—both radicals and moderates—to successfully readjust their policy in accordance with market conditions. The three-day meeting was held in a spirit of taking the whole situation into account, seeking common points and leaving differences behind, so an agreement was quickly reached. Of course, the member states' interests will often diverge, leading to differences of opinion. Iraq, for example, wants to raise its output. But observers believe that OPEC can continue to display a spirit of unity and consultation and rationally solve its internal contradictions. At the same time, OPEC members continue to strengthen co-ordination and co-operation with non-OPEC countries. OPEC is also continuing a dialogue with consuming countries which aims to defuse contradictions and foster a joint effort to maintain market stability.

by Dan Lin

SOVIET UNION

Radical Reform Under Way

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev recently called for "radical reform" of his country's economic management system and greater democracy in an effort to accelerate social and economic development.

Mikhail Gorbachev seems determined to stick to his fast-paced economic and social reforms despite the conservatism of some of his comrades, and he appears victorious in this struggle. This conclusion is based on the outcome of two recent important sessions of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) and the Supreme Soviet, the country's parliament.

The focus of these two sessions,

as expected, was the economic and social reforms, that were launched two years ago after Gorbachev came to office. What may have surprised some is the pace set at the meetings. Three acts were passed at the Supreme Soviet session: The Law on State Enterprises, the Law on the Procedure of Appeal to Court Against Illegal Acts by Officials Violating the Rights of Citizens, and the Law on Nationwide

Discussion of the Issues Concerning National Life. The laws aim to speed up the economic reform and promote democratization. The two-day plenary session of the CPSU Central Committee also adopted a Resolution on the Cardinal Principles of Fundamental Reform of Economic Management.

Some of the principles embodied in these documents are very daring and exceeded the expectations of Kremlin watchers in the West. For example, enterprises, the most important component of the Soviet economy under the new law, will have the freedom to decide for themselves how to allocate resources, provide incentives to workers and make themselves more efficient. In short, the enterprises—which used to be under strict and usually rigid control of the state in an over-centralized management system—have been given more freedom, power and autonomy. This is a major departure from the traditional system. Enterprises will be responsible for cost-accounting and for their profits and losses, as well as for their own fund-raising. The state will no longer provide capital construction funds to enterprises free of charge. Income that remains after payments to the state will be used for the expansion of production, divided among the workers or disposed of as the management sees fit.

The State Planning Committee's work will be shifted to dealing with the fundamental tasks of social and economic development and ensuring an overall balance in the national economy, instead of handling the day-to-day business of factories. Besides reforming enterprise management, the planning, financing, and pricing systems are also to be reformed.

The objectives of the reforms, as stated by Gorbachev in his address to the CPSU plenary session, are "to accelerate the country's social and economic development, to

resolutely overcome the unfavourable tendencies in the economy, and impart proper dynamism to it, and to increase the scope for the initiative and creativity of the masses in order to bring about truly revolutionary transformations in society."

The economic reforms in the Soviet Union since 1985 are mainly in an experimental and preparatory stage. Gorbachev launched a campaign to rally support for his reforms and there have been heated debates about the measures, their necessity and objectives among people from all walks of life. As a result of these debates, and of the personal influence of Gorbachev, who went into the streets to talk to citizens about his proposals, the idea of reform has been accepted by more and more Soviets, including the leaders. This laid a basis for Gorbachev's ambitious plans, which were put forward at the two meetings.

To give more effective leadership to the reform, several of reform supporters were promoted to Politburo membership—a key post involving the daily work of the CPSU. Alexander Yakovlev, Gorbachev's major aide in charge of propaganda, and Nikolai Slyunkov, another proponent of reform, were promoted from candidate membership of the Politburo to full membership. Viktor Nikonov, a secretary of the CPSU Central Committee who since April 1985 has been responsible for agriculture, became a member of the Politburo. And Dmitri Yazov, the new Soviet defence minister who replaced Sergei Sokolov after a West German pilot landed a light plane at Red Square, was promoted from candidate to full membership of the Central Committee and made an alternate member of the Politburo.

Besides the law on state enterprises, two laws aimed at promoting democracy and *glasnost* (openness) were passed at the sessions. These three laws mark a

cornerstone of Gorbachev's campaign and are sure to accelerate the process of reform. But this does not mean there are no obstacles ahead. Gorbachev criticized some officials for bureaucracy and conservatism, plus self-

interest and inertia. It will not be easy to reform the Soviet economy, which has a more-than-60-year history of centralization of power, bureaucracy and low efficiency.

by Hua Zhi

USA

Democrats' Budget Challenges Reagan

President Ronald Reagan called the budget proposal approved by both legislative chambers "an offer I can refuse."

After quarrelling for many months, the Democrats in both the US Senate and the House of Representatives have at last come together in passing a congressional version of a one-trillion-dollar budget for fiscal 1988. The budget, which takes effect this October 1, is expected to draw battle line for a bitter struggle with President Reagan over provisions which he says would overburden taxpayers and gut the military programme.

The 1988 spending plan calls for a US\$37-billion decrease in the deficit from its current US\$180 billion, although the cut would still leave the deficit much higher than the US\$108-billion goal set by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings balanced budget act. While new taxes totalling US\$19.3 billion are proposed, military spending will stay at this year's level, with adjustment for inflation. The Reagan administration had requested US\$312 billion for military spending, but it got only US\$296 billion. Congress also cut foreign assistance and subsidies for agricultural products and health.

In view of the administration's eagerness for a bigger defence budget to support its extravagant military projects, including the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), the budget makers have offered the president a bargain. If he accepts all their tax increases—there is strong possibility that he

won't—the Pentagon can have an additional US\$7 billion.

A lot of politicking has gone into the Democrats' budget. It includes several amendments that have little to do with finances, such as amendments on arms control, banning tests of nuclear weapons, banning tests of space-based anti-satellite weapons and delaying tests of an anti-satellite missile. One amendment orders the president to abide by the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) II treaty.

The Reagan administration is actively seeking ways to sign an accord with the Soviet Union on reductions in intermediate and shorter-range missiles in Europe before the approaching US presidential election. So the budget amendments are intended as a two-edged sword which will force the president to either give up his tough defence policy or fall victim to the criticism that he is not serious about arms control.

But it is still in doubt whether the budget plan can become a part of the Democrats' war cry. The US\$19.3 billion in new tax money will mainly come from gasoline, tobacco, alcohol and real estate, which account for a large part of the consumer spending of low- and middle-income US families. It won't escape the Democrats that a planned tax increase was a big factor in Walter Mondale's defeat in the 1984 presidential election.

by Wan Di

Questions and Answers on Tibet

The Preparatory Committee of the Tibet Development Fund (TDF), a non-governmental, non-profit organization, was set up recently in Beijing. Its chairmen are Bainqen Erdini Qolgyi Gyaincain and Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme. At a recent press conference in Beijing, the two chairmen answered foreign journalists' questions.

Question: Mr. Bainqen, you have talked about the great differences between Tibet and the developed areas of the country. Please outline the development indexes of the Tibet Autonomous Region, such as per-capita income and illiteracy.

Bainqen: Tibet is located on a plateau. It is very cold and there is less oxygen in the air. The vast area is sparsely populated and handicapped by poor transport facilities. Heavily weighed down under feudal serfdom, the productivity of Tibet remained low. In the last 30 years or so since the peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1950, under the loving care and help of the Party Central Committee and the State Council, Tibet has made great progress in economic, cultural and other fields. Due to a poor starting position, however, Tibet is still way behind the advanced regions in the country.

The per-capita income of the Tibetan people averages 300 yuan, which is low. China is a third world country, and Tibet is the "third world" region in this third world country. In spite of good economic conditions in some areas in Tibet, the Tibetan economy is on the whole backward. Although in the last 30-odd years Tibet has made great progress in culture and education, but between 70 and 80 percent of the Tibetan people are still illiterate.

Q: According to statistics released by official Chinese sources, there are 80 million people in China who live below the poverty line of 300 yuan a year. How many people are there in Tibet whose income is below the poverty line?

Bainqen: People living below the poverty line make up 10 percent of Tibet's population. The situation

varies from place to place. There are many contributing factors, including very harsh natural conditions, backward production facilities, low productivity and poor management, and some people are poor because they are lazy.

Functions of the TDF

Q: How many Tibetans are there in the TDF leadership?

Bainqen: The Tibet Development Fund is composed of two chairmen and 43 members. Five of them are of the Han, Hui and Mongolian nationalities; 38 are Tibetans. Since the fund has just been formed, there is much work to be done. We are now raising funds for the development of Tibet. We plan to run schools to train professionals, homes of respect for the aged, orphanages and other welfare undertakings. We also plan to renovate temples and monasteries and preserve our cultural heritage and historical sites. We are preparing to repair the Gandain Monastery, one of the largest lama monasteries in Tibet. All this work will be done gradually.

Q: Does the TDF expect to receive donations from governments and private organs in the United States and West European countries? Will the Dalai Lama now in exile contribute?

Ngapoi: The Tibet Development Fund is a non-governmental and non-profit public organization. The aim of the fund is to contact friendly personages, organizations and governments abroad as well as Tibetans abroad, compatriots in Hong Kong and Macao,

Bainqen and Ngapoi (on right) answering reporters' questions.

CHEN ZONGLIE



organizations of overseas Chinese, individual overseas Chinese and people in China as a whole. Efforts will be made to seek their financial support. We welcome their support for our undertakings in Tibet so long as they do this of their own accord and do not attach political strings. Whether the Dalai Lama will make a donation is wholly up to him. We invite all Tibetan compatriots living abroad, including the Dalai Lama, to provide financial support based on their feelings towards their compatriots and their native homes. Of course, we will rely primarily on the Chinese government and people, Tibetans included.

Progress

Q: Mr. Bainqen has lamented the inadequate number of Tibetan cadres in the local leadership and the neglect of the Tibetan language in Tibet. What progress has been made in this regard? Are there any other problems?

Bainqen: I did criticize the government's work in Tibet in the past. For a while, "left" ideology and "left" policy held sway in Tibet, and therefore, many problems arose during the implementation of the policies of the Party Central Committee in Tibet. For instance, the Tibetan language was despised, the Party's policy on religious affairs was not implemented fully, and large numbers of monasteries were damaged. After the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee in December 1978, the Party Central Committee corrected the "left" practices and eliminated the impact of the "left" ideology. It formulated principles and policies based on Tibet's realities, which have already yielded good results. However, we are still not satisfied with the progress. I am convinced that the Party, government and military cadres in Tibet and the Tibetan

people will make unremitting effort to put to rights the past "left" practices and earnestly carry out the correct principles and policies. The situation in Tibet will become better and better.

Q: What about Hu Yaobang's role in Tibet and his mistakes?

Bainqen: Comrade Hu Yaobang visited Tibet on behalf of the Party Central Committee and the State Council in 1981 when Tibet was celebrating its 30th anniversary of peaceful liberation. On behalf of the Party Central Committee, he announced a series of major principles and policies on the development of Tibet, principles and policies which are well suited to the actual conditions of Tibet. They were put together by the Party Central Committee collectively, not by Hu alone. Personally I hold that during Comrade Hu Yaobang's visit to Tibet, he did many positive things for Tibet. Of course, as you know, he had his shortcomings and mistakes. His making mistakes does not mean that the policies of the Party Central Committee are wrong. On the contrary, the Party Central Committee's policies have brought about many changes in Tibet. We should continue to implement the principles and policies of the Party and strive to do a better job.

Bourgeois Liberalization

Q: Do you think Tibet needs to combat bourgeois liberalization? What measures has Tibet taken in this regard?

Bainqen: Bourgeois liberalization must be combated in Tibet. The whole country, Tibet included, must uphold the four cardinal principles. Only by so doing can we achieve socialist modernizations with Chinese characteristics. While emphasizing the four cardinal principles and fighting bourgeois liberalization, we must carry out the principles of reform, opening to the outside world and enlivening the economy. These

things are indispensable and complement one another. Tibet has its own special traditions, habits and customs, way of life and religious belief. The Tibetan people cleave to these; they do not seek to copy the way of life of the West. We need to learn advanced science and modern management from the West. But the Tibetan people will never accept so-called "complete Westernization." Bourgeois liberalization is not a serious problem in Tibet. Nonetheless, it is absolutely necessary for us to carry out positive education.

'Cultural Revolution'

Q: Mr. Bainqen was detained during the "cultural revolution," I believe. What can you tell us about this?

Bainqen: In the early 1960s, I stated my very critical opinions about what was being done in Tibet. At that time of "left" deviationism, people who criticized were often persecuted. I was attacked for criticizing the "Tibetan work" in 1964, and the "cultural revolution" broke out two years later. The "cultural revolution" brought disaster not only to me but to the whole of China. I was put in custody right at the start of the "cultural revolution." Although I was not officially imprisoned, I was not allowed to come and go as I pleased. This lasted nine years and eight months; I regained my freedom after the downfall of the gang of four. My ordeal was not unique during that time when right and wrong were turned upside down. Many senior Party and state leaders suffered cruel persecution. The Party and the Chinese people will remember the lesson forever and work to avert another tragedy.

Q: An American research institute recently accused the Chinese Government of persecuting the Tibetans and obstructing Tibetan people from

Joining the local power organs. What's your comment?

Bainqen: There is no justification for saying that we are persecuting the Tibetans in Tibet. Here I announce that there is not one political prisoner in Tibet. But we do have a small number of criminals who disrupt social order, rob and kill. Of course, these people should be arrested and punished according to the law. Following a humanitarian policy we do not torture them.

Since the Central Committee plenum in December 1978, we have been taking a two-pronged approach in Tibet. First, by resolutely eliminating the "left" influence on the guiding ideology, we have formulated flexible policies in conformity with the actual situation of Tibet. Second,

we have implemented the government's policies on religion, nationalities, united front and economic development. This has brought about great changes in Tibet and improved the living standards of the Tibetan people. The Tibetan people love the new policies from the bottom of their hearts. You may have gone to Tibet and heard what the Tibetan people have said. The Tibetan people believe the situation will be better while the current policies are not changed. Those people who accused us of persecuting the Tibetans have ulterior motives. They created rumours to divert international public opinion.

Policy Towards Dalai Lama

Q: It was recently reported that the relationship between the

Chinese government and the Dalai Lama has deteriorated. Do you have any comment on this? What do you see as the possibility of the Dalai Lama coming back to China?

Bainqen: We have made public our policy towards the Dalai Lama and other Tibetans living abroad. This policy has not changed and will not change. It is the Dalai Lama who has made a lot of changes. Sometimes he says he will return, sometimes he says he will not. Sometimes he says a few nice words and sometimes he says reactionary things. In all, if the Dalai Lama wants to come back, he must abandon the idea of an independent Tibet and of separating Tibet from the motherland. This is a prerequisite for any discussion. ■

Traditional Tibetan Culture on Display

A major exhibition of Tibetan cultural and scientific achievements has just ended in Beijing.

by Tang Chulyu*

Sponsored by the Cultural Bureau of the Tibet Autonomous Region and the Cultural Palace of Nationalities, the Exhibition of Tibetan Culture held in Beijing from April to June attracted many visitors with its colour and variety in nearly 1,000 cultural relics, 300 colour photographs and large-scale models.

A Long History

The exhibition introduced the visitor to the artifacts of the New and Old Stone Ages unearthed since 1958 in Tibet. They include primitive stone cores, scrapers, flakes, adzes, axes, spinning

wheels, bone needles and ceramic fragments. They are very similar to the stone finds of the same period in central China. The human skulls, dug up from the northeastern bank at the confluence of the Yarlungzangbo River and the Nyang River in Nyingchi County in eastern Tibet in 1958, are of the Neolithic and Chalcolithic Ages. They are Mongolian by race, much like the ancient people of central China. All this suggests that the people in Tibet and their culture are closely related to the culture on the upper and middle reaches of the Huanghe (Yellow) River.

The 4,600-year-old village site unearthed in Karub Village in the Qamdo area of eastern Tibet in 1978 is one of the largest historical sites of the New Stone Age ever discovered in Tibet. Many two-

storey buildings of earth and stone were found there, buildings much like those found everywhere in Tibetan inhabited areas today.

A 4,600-year-old ceramic jar unearthed at Karub Village. CHEN ZONGLIE



* The author is the deputy curator of the exhibition hall of the Cultural Palace of Nationalities in Beijing.

The large, long-necked pottery artifacts discovered at the Karub site are similar to the tripod cauldron, ceramic basin and milk jar still in use in Tibetan households. The continuity through time is clear.

Historical records say that before the first Tibetan king appeared in 237 BC, a dozen or so tribes inhabited the valleys along the Yarlung River—a tributary of the Yarlungzangbo River. When the 32nd king of Tibet, Songtsan Gambo, unified Tibet in the early 7th century, he set up the Tubo Dynasty which ruled an area bordering present-day Qinghai Province to the north, India and Nepal to the south and Sichuan Province to the east. This marks the beginning of an important period of development in Tibetan history, during which Tibetan culture advanced greatly. By the

Song and Yuan dynasties (960-1368 AD), Tibetan culture had progressed enough and it reached its zenith during the 14-18th centuries.

Scientific Achievements

After Tibet's unification by Songtsan Gambo, he sent his aristocrats to study in ancient India. Tunmi Sangbuzha, one of those scholars, created the Tibetan written language, drawing on the writings of ancient India and other countries to the west of China. Later Tibetan philologists gradually perfected their written language through many revisions. Many Buddhist sutra and scientific and technological tracts from inland China, India and Nepal were translated into Tibetan, and hand-copied editions spread in the



CHEN ZONGLIE

Statue of the Tibetan king Tsrising Tsanbo.

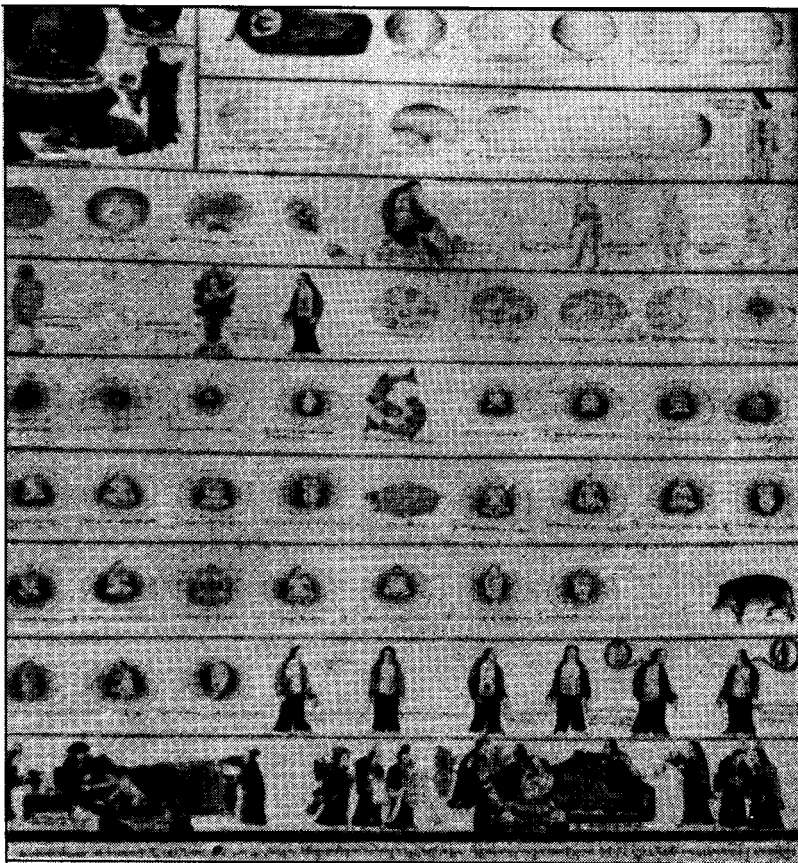
area. When inscribed plate printing techniques became available around 1270, many sutra printing workshops were established.

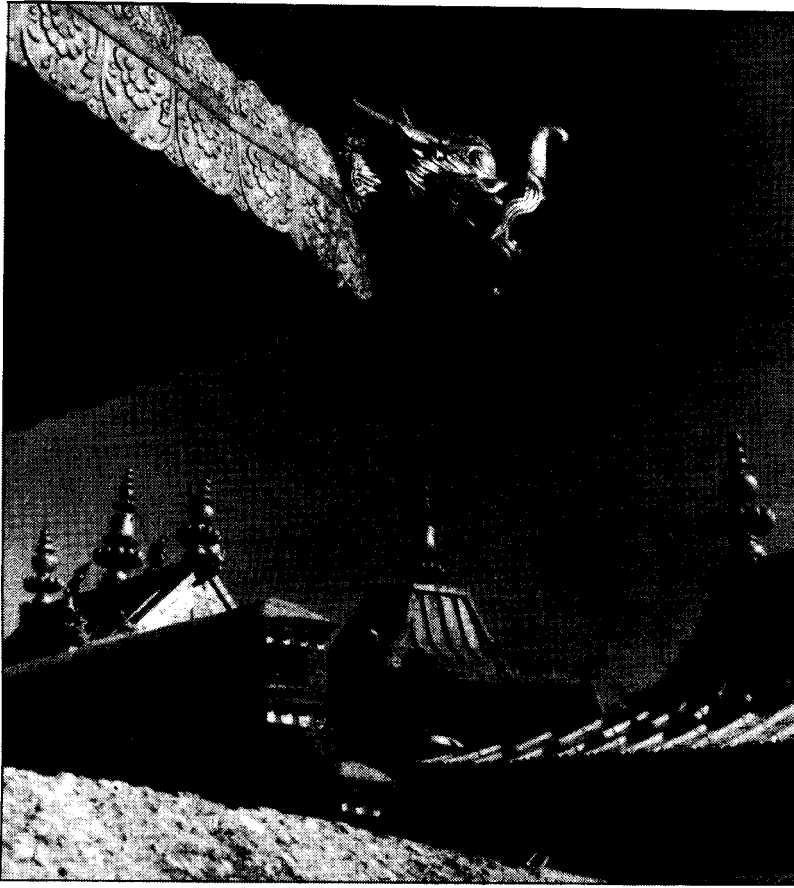
Tibetan astronomy and chronology are the crystallization of the practical experience acquired by the Tibetan people over many years. In ancient China, people saw the earth as a flat square and the sky as a dome. On the earth were four continents and eight islands and in the dome the sun, the moon and stars moved. With the accumulation of knowledge, the Tibetans later acquired an initial understanding of the solar system and they could distinguish the planets Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Mercury, and Venus and the moon. By the 13-14th century, the Tibetan scholar Budun Renqinzhuba was suggesting the earth was spherical.

By the 4-5th century, people in the Loka area began to measure time with sundials. Later, based on measuring the length of the shadow, the Tibetans could determine not only the time, but also months and seasons. Around 724 AD, Tibetan scholar Lupan Sangjiyixi created an instrument which could tell exactly when summer and winter solstices,

Chart describing embryo development.

XUE CHAO





Roofs at the Potala Palace. CHEN ZONGLIE

spring and autumnal equinoxes were. For cloudy days and night time, the water clock was invented. The end result was that the Tibetans recognized a year as having 365 days, 15 hours, and just over 32 minutes. They set a long month at 30 days, a short one as 29 days, the 15th day as a full moon and the 30th day as a new moon. This all contributed immensely to their understanding of astronomy.

The exhibition had 17th-century medical charts on display, including those for medicinal herbs, medicinal ores, arteries and veins, embryo development and acupuncture points. By 1704, a total of 79 colour charts which were the sum of Tibetan medicine were completed. Although by no means the earliest medical charts in Tibet, those on display did

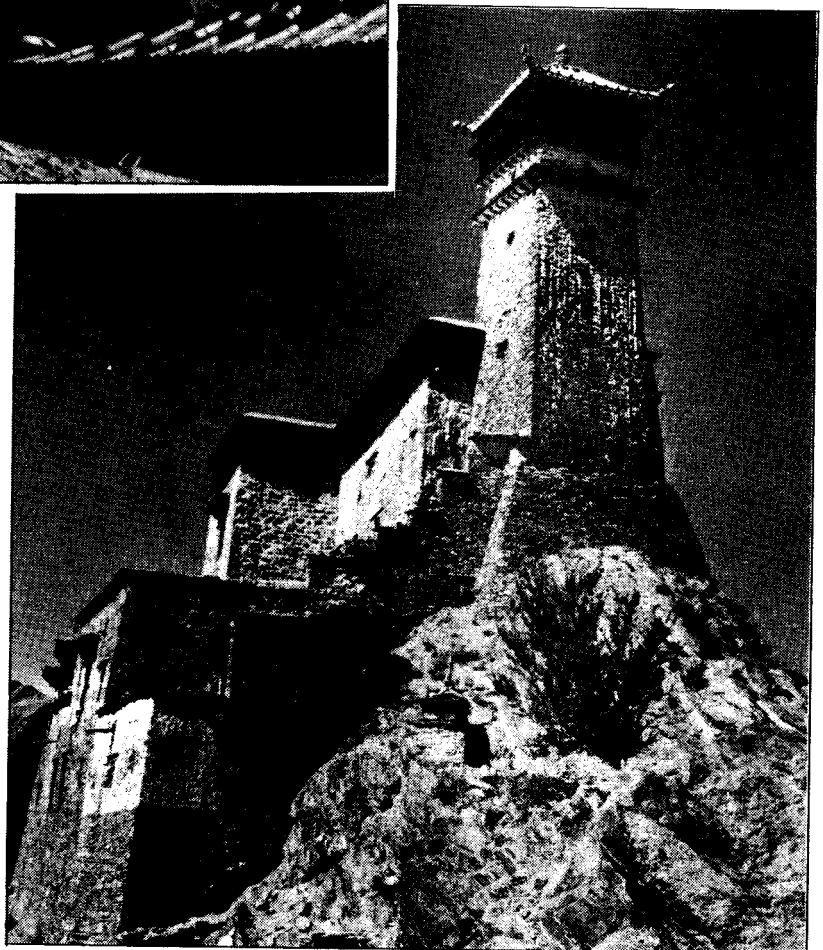
afford a general idea and the achievement of Tibetan medicine.

With its long history, Tibetan medicine is a complete theoretical and clinical whole. It attributes illnesses to mental, climatic or dietary factors, or to fatigue. Diagnosis is made by asking, looking and feeling. Looking at the tongue, feeling the pulse and testing the urine are the most important. Drugs and antagonistic therapy are used internally; bloodletting, hot cupping, moxibustion, massage, steam and medicinal baths are used externally.

In Tibetan medicine, anatomy and orthopaedics are quite well developed. Its understanding of the human body is thorough and

The 1,800-year-old Yubolakam Palace in the Loka Area.

CHEN ZONGLIE



its diagnosis and treatment of certain diseases are sophisticated. Most of the drugs are similar to traditional Chinese medicines and are classified according to their varied functions.

Unique Architecture

Tibetan architecture is best displayed in the temples and palaces, which necessitated a great deal of manpower, material and financial resources. Most of them are built on the sunny side of slopes, with more floors at the front than at the back.

Generally speaking, the temples are a large group of clearly defined buildings, with the Buddha and sutra reciting halls as the main structure surrounded by lamas' courtyards, the official buildings of living Buddhas, sutra printing workshops, lamas' dormitories and other buildings. The main buildings have glazed tile roofs with flying rafters, with gold or

bronze zoomorphic ornaments adding to their magnificence.

Most of the temples and palaces have frames supported by posts and columns with tenon and mortise joints. Carved brackets support the eaves from the columns, and multi-layer rafters protrude over the buildings. All the tops of columns, beams, door

lintels and window frames are carved and painted. The thick walls are made of stone, painted white or vermilion.

The Potala Palace in Lhasa is probably the most magnificent of Tibetan structures. With the main building towering 13 storeys high, it has a total floor space of 130,000 square metres and nearly 1,000

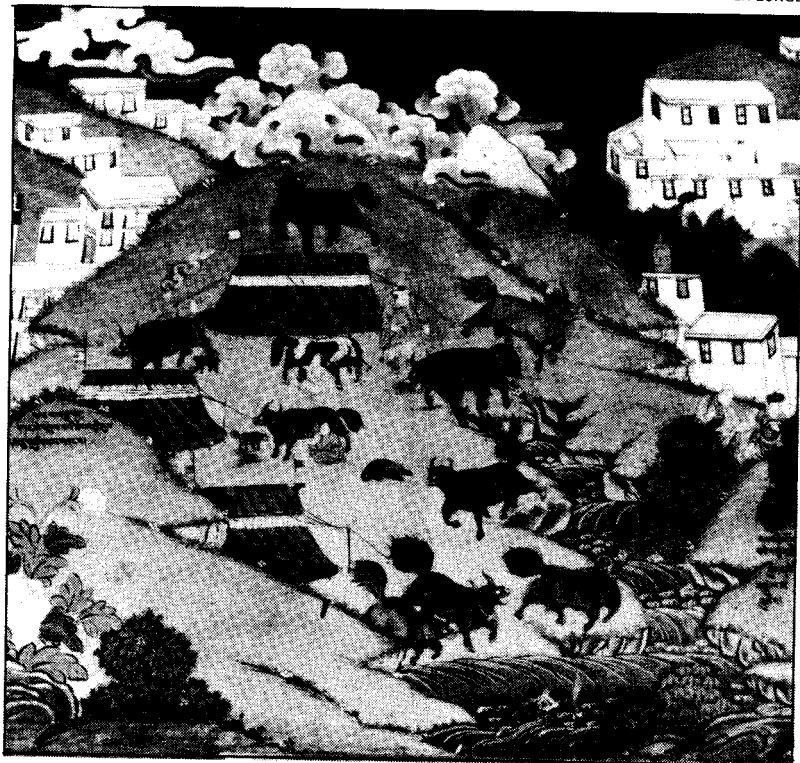
Traditional Tibetan dance.

CHEN ZONGLIE



A mural of pasture in the Potala Palace.

CHEN ZONGLIE



halls and rooms. Divided into the red palace and the white palace, they are all covered with yellowish golden glazed tiles. It was first built in the 7th century and was destroyed by a combination of thunderbolts and a rebellion 200 years later. It was rebuilt between 1645 and 1693.

Ordinary Tibetan houses are flat roofed square structures made of stone slabs or logs. Generally they are two or three storeys high. The first floor has no windows and is for cattle and fodder. The second floor is for the bedrooms, kitchen, toilet, and a big balcony for drying grains. If the house has three storeys, then the third floor is a storeroom with a balcony. These often surround a small open courtyard. Multi-eaved canopies painted in red, blue, yellow or national designs hang above the windows, which are opened on the front walls of the second-floor rooms and above.

Murals and Sculpture

Tibetan murals are known for their superb artistic techniques. A number of distinct schools had formed by the 13th century. The "Han" school uses a few precise elegant lines and applies colours harmoniously. Its works are mainly to be found in the Qamdo area in Tibet and the Ganzi and Abar areas in Sichuan Province. Another school is influenced by Indian and Nepalese art, the characteristics of which are compact composition, dark colour and decorative effect. The most important school is the orthodox Tibetan school. By absorbing the qualities of the other two schools, it gradually formed its own style of bright contrasting and meticulous delineation. Most of the themes of Tibetan murals are taken from Buddhist stories. Others draw on history, notables' biographies, medicine, astronomy, buildings and social custom.

The 301 frescoes of Tibetan history painted on the four walls on the second floor of the New Norbu Lingka Palace in Lhasa are a rare example of such art. The history starts from the ancient legend of Luo Cha marrying the Monkey God all the way up to the deeds of the Dalai Lamas in chronological order.

Tibetan artists use gold, silver, bronze, stone, wood, clay and dried butter for carving. Many of the sculptured objects are expensive because they are inlaid with precious stones. Carving is used not only for architecture and Buddhist statues, but also for articles of daily use.

Tangka is a scroll woven with silk thread, embroidered on cloth, or painted on paper. It is usually mounted on a brocade base and decorated with tassels at both the top corners. Like murals, *tangka* also evolved into different schools. Generally speaking, *tangka* artists' figure painting is accurate and romantic. Their still life

depictions are delicate and vivid; their rocks and scenery grand and imposing; their palaces and pavilions magnificent. With broad vistas in mind, *tangka* artists take a bird's-eye view and to place distant scenes, close shots and figures in a picture perspective, using gorgeous colour and sharp contrast. They draw in golden lines against a black background to awe the viewer when dealing with demons being subdued; and use red or golden backgrounds for themes of happiness or celebration.

Tibetan mask.

CHEN ZONGLIE



Art and Literature

Tibet is known as a "sea of song and dance," where different styles of songs and dances exist. Those popular in the western and northern parts of Tibet use bold and unrestrained movements. In the south the dances are light, slow and graceful, the dancers' fore-arms never moving lower than the midriff. Country people often dance in circles, accompanying themselves with their singing. Some dancers add acrobatics or imitate animal movements with a touch of attractive humour.

An art form involving singing, dancing and acting, Tibetan opera is popular in agricultural areas

among monks, civilians and the upper strata of society. Each opera is composed of an overture, the action proper and a happy ending. The rich melodies and rhymed libretto are accompanied by drums and cymbals. The 500 years of history have produced a rich repertoire of traditional themes for Tibetan opera.

Tibet has also produced a noted literature. The *Sagya's Sayings* composed in the first half of the 13th century is Tibet's first collection of philosophical poems. *Numerous Songs* (500) edited by Mila Riba (1040-1123) is considered one of Tibet's earliest collections of poems.

Tsangyang Jaltso Love Songs written by the Sixth Dalai Lama (1683-1745) have been translated into Han Chinese, English, French, Japanese and Russian. The language of all the 66 poems is fresh and lively, and the feelings and emotions they convey are rich. Some of them praise fidelity in love and the happiness it brings, while others detail the torment religious restrictions bring to some lovers.

The famous folk epic *King Gesar* deals with numerous heroic images headed by Gesar, against the background of the war of unification of the Tubo Dynasty in the 7th century and its wars with neighbouring states. This 31-volume epic exposes the violence of the rulers and the misery of the people. Its theme of eliminating evil has ensured its popularity across the generations.

The arts and crafts on display were attractive too. They included carpets, bright decorative aprons and sharp swords with carved sheaths. ■

CORRECTIONS: The 6th line of the 2nd paragraph, left-hand column, on page 32 of our last issue should read: "Yin Chengzong, a Gulangyu-lander, won a gold medal at the piano competition of the 7th...."

The 10th line of the paragraph in the middle column on the same page should read: "There are some 200 pianos on the island...."

What I See on the 'Roof of the World'

by Xiang Hongjia *

Last year I was invited to attend the first symposium on Tibet in Lhasa and took the opportunity to visit some monasteries and attend religious activities there.

The Gahdan Monastery is one of the three largest monasteries in

Lhasa, capital of Tibet, and is about 25 kilometres east of the city proper. Built by the founder of the Yellow Buddhist Sect in 1409, the monastery was destroyed during the "cultural revolution" and rebuilt a few years ago. The day when I arrived there was the grand "sunning the Buddha" ceremony. Buddhists, men and women, old and young, stood waiting to see the picture of Sakyamuni, founder of Buddhism. The picture, 20 metres wide and 10 metres long, is

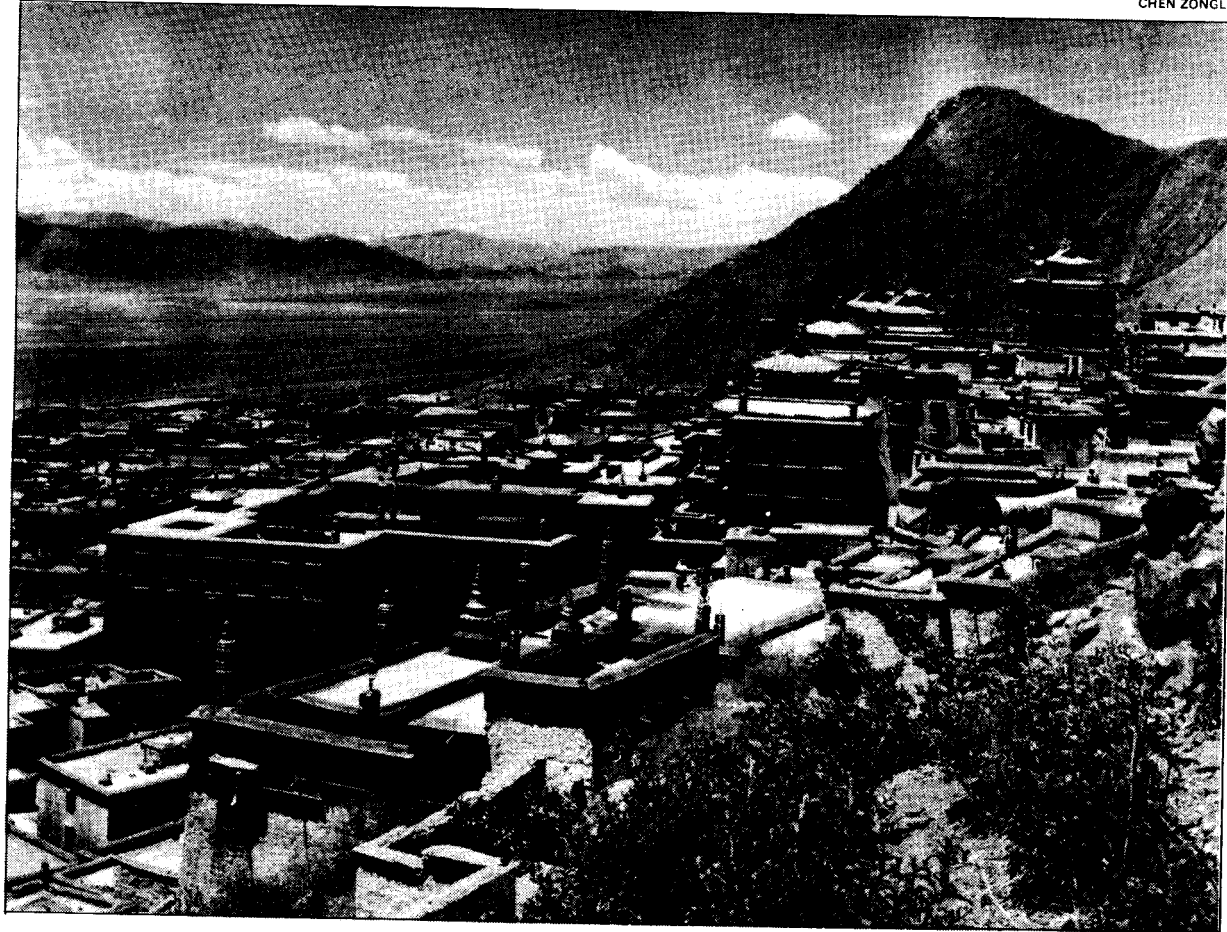
kept at the monastery. I was told that these people came at dawn, holding butter-oil lamps and Buddhist prayer wheels in their hands. As the picture was unfolded, they prayed.

The government has spent considerable sums renovating famous monasteries and sites of religious significance in Tibet. While in Lhasa, I saw Buddhist statues and frescoes renovated or being renovated in many well-known monasteries.

* The author, a Tujia nationality English teacher at the Beijing Institute for Nationalities, is a Tibet specialist and has written a dozen papers and three books on the history, religion of Tibet and archaeological findings in the region.

An overview of the Trashilhunpo Monastery.

CHEN ZONGLIE



Some are encased in glass or iron mesh for protection.

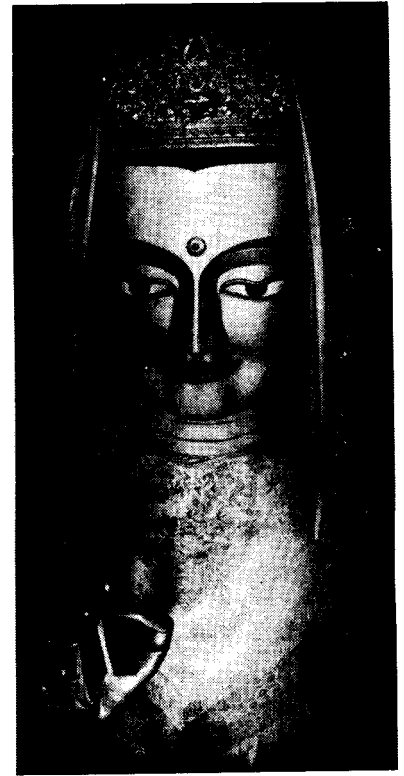
In the library of the Sakya Monastery, located in a dimly lit passage right behind the southern hall, there are over 10,000 well-preserved classic scriptures, mostly copied by Tibetan calligraphers during the time of Qoijie Pagba, the founder of the fifth generation of the Sakya Sect. Among them is a "square scripture," one square metre in size and pressed between two protective boards. Altogether there are about 40,000 Buddhist scriptures kept in the Sakya Monastery, making it an important location for the study of the religion, history and culture of the region. Other monasteries, such as Sera and Daipung, also store large collections of scriptures. The Daipung Monastery, which used to be a Buddhist school, has over 100 annotated scriptures and several hundred manuscripts.

In the Trashilhunpo Monastery built by the first Dalai Lama during the 15th century in Xigaze, which has since the 17th century been the residence of the Bainqen family, there is a 48 pillar hall containing a five metre high gold-plated bronze statue of Sakyamuni. It was said that inside the statue there are relics of Sakyamuni, the hair of the founder of the Yellow Buddhist Sect and the skull of the first Dalai Lama's Buddhist teacher. In another hall stands China's largest

gold-bronze statue of Maitreya Buddha. It stands 26.5 metres tall and was cast with 6,700 ounces of gold and about 111,000 kilograms of red copper.

The world-known Potala Palace stands on a hill in Lhasa. Built some 1,300 years ago of earth, stone and wood, it is the oldest and largest castle intact in the region. It is the symbol of Tibet and is visited by tourists and pilgrims every day. All the frescoes, Buddhist statues and engravings in the palace are priceless rarities. Its eight towers inlaid with agate, turquoise and rubies reflect the light of butter-oil lamps in the evenings. It was reported that the renovation team of the Palace Museum in Beijing will soon come to wire the palace up for electricity to replace lamps in case of fire. The government earmarks a large sum of money every year for the up-keep of this majestic palace.

During my visit to the Tibetan People's Publishing House, I was shown many beautifully designed and bound books of the Tibetan language, including *King Gesar* which tells of ancient wars, *Sagya's Sayings* which records feudal morality and philosophy of life in the form of folk songs, *Tibetan Calendar*, *Astronomy and Star Chart* and *Four Medical Books*. The *Gesar*, a Tibetan epic poem known as the *Oriental Iliad*, was almost lost. The Party



CHEN ZONGLIE

The gilded stature of Maitreya Buddha in the Trashilhunpo Monastery.

committee of the autonomous region and relevant departments organized a leading group and sent people among the inhabitants to collect manuscripts and wood-block editions. Thus far they have found 40 or so folk artists who can sing the narrative poem.

The Sour Milk Drinking Festival, suspended for 20 years, was resumed coincidentally during my visit to Lhasa. The celebration took place in the heavily shaded park of Norbu Lingka in the western suburbs. Tibetans in traditional costumes came bringing food and tape recorders. Many put up colourful tents and drank barley wine and the sour milk while watching the dancing. Leaders at various levels in the autonomous region attended the gala, whose highlights were Tibetan opera performances of many professional and amateur troupes. ■

Sutras written in ancient Tibetan with paint on tree leaves.

CHEN ZONGLIE



Forest Fire Scorches Bureaucratism

by Our Correspondent Wang Xiaobin

The worst forest fire since the founding of New China was finally put out on June 2. The blaze began in the Greater Hingan Mountain forest (53° north latitude and 122° east longitude) on the afternoon of May 6 and burned for 27 days, destroying three towns including a county town, claiming 193 lives, injuring over 200 people and leaving 50,000 others homeless. The fire ravaged 1.01 million hectares of the largest, newly developed timber base in China, destroyed nine tree farms and burnt 855,000 cubic metres of stored timber. Other direct and indirect economic loss and ecological damage is incalculable.

After the fire, the Forestry Minister Yang Zhong and Vice-Minister in charge of fire prevention Dong Zhiyong were dismissed. The State Council also instructed the Heilongjiang provincial government to make a searching self-criticism. Five people who were found directly responsible for the fire have been arrested and others responsible will also be punished.

Soon after the fire broke out, about 100 Beijing journalists made the 2,000 km journey to the spot. Now, weeks after the fire was subdued, reports and commentaries on the fire still appear in the capital's newspapers. The conflag-



WANG XIAOBIN

Flames spreading to the borders of Arctic Villages.

ration has exposed bureaucratism for all to see.

The May 7 Disaster

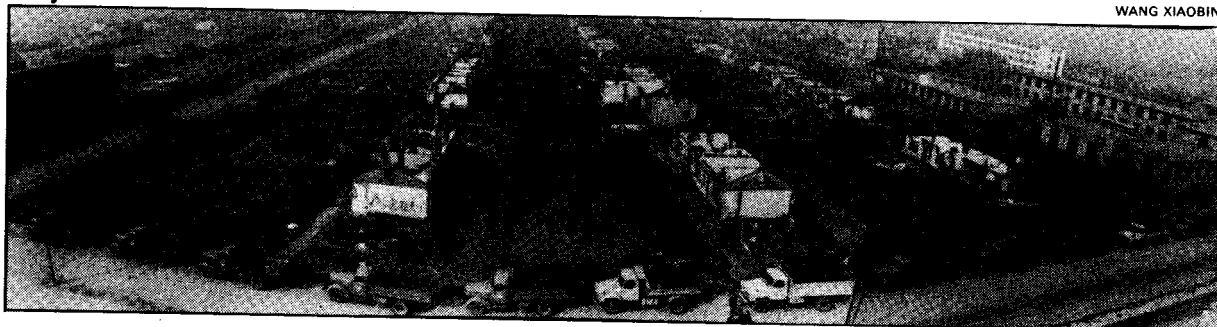
Xilinji, the county town of Mohe, China's northernmost county, used to be the home of 4,000 households and 20,000 people. It is lying in ruins. All but two of the 150 families living in the southeastern corner of the town have been evacuated. The two remaining families live in makeshift shelters built of iron sheets. Fan Xizhang, a member of one of these families, described how on

May 7 all the able-bodied people in the town went to fight the fire in the mountains several dozen kilometres away. At about 7 o'clock that evening, the county's broadcasting station was still calling on people to join the fire fighting. Only 10 minutes later flames a dozen metres high surged into the town. People fled in panic. Trucks, tractors, motorbikes, bicycles and refugees on foot blocked the streets. The flames quickly consumed houses, fences and firewood piles. Most of the people who hid in their cellars were smothered.

Liu Wenhan of the regional fire-fighting headquarters and deputy secretary-general of the Greater Hingan Mountain Administrative Office in Jagdaqí several hundred kilometres away said the fire broke out in five places on May 6. His office concentrated on the spots in Gulian since that is near Xilinji. They telephoned the Mohe county government in Xilinji often on May 6 and 7, and were reassured that everything was under control. On the evening of May 7 Xilinji asked for emergency help and ten minutes later its connection with the administrative office was cut.

Xilinji and two other forest towns—Tuqiang and Amur—lie along a 100 km valley running east

Xilinji after the fire.



WANG XIAOBIN

to west. The flames, whipped by a force 8 wind, raged from Xilinji eastward and soon engulfed Tuqiang. Because it was nighttime there losses in Tuqiang were heavier than in Xilinji. Five hours later the fire burnt Amur.

The fire-fighting headquarters for Mohe is made up of Party and government leaders of Mohe County. When the fire started the county Party Committee was holding a meeting, and one of the subjects for discussion was fire prevention. When they heard the first report about the fire in Gulian, none treated it seriously and they continued their meeting. They considered forest fires common in that season. They did not take any action until the second report came in that the Hewan Tree Farm several dozen kilometres away was on fire. Only then did they begin to organize people to fight the fire at the two places.

The fire at Gulian was quickly dampened, but no one was put to stand guard over the place. The next day they sent all the people in the locality to Hewan to help put out the fire there. A strong wind rose on the night of May 7, rekindling the ashes in Gulian, causing the worst forest fire in China in 40 years.

Fierce Fight

On the afternoon of May 8, deputy secretary of the Heilongjiang Provincial Party Committee Zhou Wenhua was taken by helicopter to Xilinji which was enveloped in black smoke, and the first consignment of relief food, medicine and clothes was air-dropped. This marked the beginning of the major battle against the fire.

On May 12, Vice-Premier Li Peng flew to nearby Tahe County, urging local authorities to redouble efforts to put out the fire there. Chen Junsheng, secretary-general of the State Council and head of the fire-fighting coordinating group under the State

Council, was also in Tahe to help organize forces battling on two fronts, one in Tahe County and another in Mohe County to the northwest.

Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun, in the company of Chen Junsheng, inspected the fire-stricken area on May 25. The commander of the Shenyang Military Area Liu Jingsong and the Party Secretary of the Heilongjiang Provincial Party Committee Sun Weiben all came to the site personally to direct the fire-fighting which involved 2,100 forest policemen and professional fire-fighters, 35,000 PLA soldiers, and close to 20,000 militiamen, forest rangers and volunteers.

Well-equipped and very experienced, the forest policemen were the "crack force" in the battle. Some of them were rushed to Mohe by train from Hulin County in eastern Heilongjiang, 2,000 km away. When they had put out surface blazes with strong currents from their pneumatic extinguishers, other fire-fighters, mostly PLA soldiers, came to eliminate hidden fires, clear combustible materials and keep a watch on the ravaged area. Traditional methods such as making firebreaks were widely used.

However, due to the high temperature, gale-force winds, inaccessibility, poor telecommunication equipment and backward



WANG XIAOBIN

Fire-fighters back from "the front."

extinguishers, the fire raged through some 60 kilometres in the east fire zone and 31 kilometres in the west fire zone by May 13. Six days later, the two fire zones had become one.

The fire spread very fast, and flames went up many metres high. The air was intolerably hot scores of metres away from the flames, but the fire-fighters fought tenaciously. They made a total of over 700 kilometres of fire-breaks, which blocked the fire's advance from all sides. Cloud-seeded rain also helped. On May 25, the fire had been brought under control. All the visible fires and possible danger spots were put out in the next few days. On June 2, a downpour came to extinguish the fire totally.

A woman and her children by the ruins of their home in Xilinji.

WANG XIAOBIN



The story of the fire disaster in Heilongjiang is a chronicle of lax discipline, inefficiency, incompetence and bureaucracy.

Five people have been arrested for their role in starting the fire. One of them is Wang Yufeng, 19, a farmer from Hebei, who came to work at the Gulian Tree Farm (11 km from Xilinji) through the help of a relative only 13 days before the accident. At four o'clock on the afternoon of May 6 when he was refueling his scrub-cutting machine, a spark from the machine started a fire. Wang was terrified. In panic, he ran over a dozen metres through the forest, dragging the flaming machine

Hinggan area. To prevent further fires, the Greater Hinggan Forest Bureau had taken measures such as banning the use of scrub-cutting machines, but the orders were ignored. A couple of years ago, a set of infra-red fire monitoring systems was imported from the United States for the Greater Hinggan Forest Bureau, but they lay unused. Many lookout towers in the forests had been unusable for years. Meanwhile, the Greater Hinggan Forest Bureau had less fire-fighting equipment and fewer firemen than much smaller forest zones in Jiamusi and Mudanjiang in eastern Heilongjiang Province.

fire, there were others who behaved corruptly and bureaucratically.

At Xilinji, there is a red tiled house intact, towering over a sea of rubble. There lived Gao, head of Mohe County, and Qin, the leader of the Mohe County Fire Brigade. When the fire came, Gao was up in the mountain directing the fire-fighting, but Qin called out three of the six fire engines to protect the house. He even ordered the surrounding houses be bulldozed!

After the fire started, the whole country was mobilized, yet the minister of forestry did not show up for about 10 days. He was reportedly in hospital receiving treatment for a chronic illness. "Well, he should have been brought here on a stretcher! It's not as if he were going to die," said many enraged fire-fighters and people in the area when they learnt of his dismissal.

On June 6 the State Council met to discuss the fire. Wan Li, then acting premier, opened the meeting by saying, "This meeting is called to fight bureaucratism."

On June 18, when the NPC Standing Committee was reviewing the State Council's resolutions, a standing committee member warned against serious and widespread bureaucracy. He added, "The way to fight bureaucracy is to strengthen the democratic legal system. While conducting economic structural reform, we must engage in the reform of the political structure. Our cadres must be put under the real supervision by the masses, and the government under the supervision of the National People's Congress. One of the best method of doing so is to make the most of the media to convey criticism from the masses and the people's deputies to the government and cadres."

Indeed, it is unprecedented in the history of China's journalism that this fire was given wide, timely, eyewitness coverage. This is undoubtedly progress. ■



Fire-fighters resting.

WANG XIAOBIN

behind him. Fueled by the leaking petrol, the fire quickly spread into a huge blaze. It is possible that the young man did not know that the use of these machines in the dry season had been banned last March.

Before the accident, there was a floating population of some 19,000 people in the Greater Hinggan Mountain area. They had no fire prevention knowledge and were badly disciplined. Like Wang, many came to work as seasonal workers through connections. Of the five people arrested, some had recklessly disposed of cigarette butts, or violated other rules. Four of them were unemployed who came there to look for a job within the previous two months.

Over the last 22 years, 881 fires have started in the Greater

Heroes & Bureaucrats

Yuan Ze, a young driver of the Mohe County Fire Brigade, worked very hard through the fire and thick smoke to transport victims to safety. On several occasions, he drove past his own house which was on fire, but he did not have time to stop. Later, he discovered his wife and two month-old son had perished.

When Party Secretary of Mohe Township Kong Qinghe learnt that Xilinji had been destroyed, he rushed to the place at the head of a large number of medical workers and relief volunteers. Two members of his family were killed and the rest were seriously burnt, but he buried his pain and continued to direct operations through a crucial period.

While people like Yuan and Kong were selflessly fighting the

Environmental Protection: Much to Do

"RENMIN RIBAO"

(People's Daily, Overseas Edition)

Qu Geping, director of the State Bureau of Environmental Protection, answered questions on China's environmental protection in an interview on May 22.

Q: Many reports say China has achieved great success in controlling environmental pollution. But, people say the problem of environmental pollution is still grave. What is your opinion?

A: It is true that China has made great achievements in environmental protection, but at the same time, there are still serious problems. During the period of the Sixth Five-Year Plan (1980-85), China's industrial output value increased by 65 percent. Industrial wastes declined in the same period. Moreover, while the energy consumption of Chinese cities rose sharply, the air quality in urban areas has basically remained at the 1980 level. The quality of water in the major rivers, lakes and seas, with some exceptions, has not deteriorated.

While economic developments have not brought a worsening of environmental conditions in the cities, atmospheric, noise, water and solid-waste pollution in urban areas have not shown much improvement over the 1980 level, which was very bad. The Chinese people still face an arduous task to control environmental pollution.

Q: It is said that the developed countries spend a lot of money every year on environmental protection. But, China is still poor, what policy should be adopted?

A: Environmental protection and improvement require a lot of money. The developed countries in the West generally spend 1 to 2 percent of their GNP each year on environmental protection. The

figure is expected to rise to 5 percent in the early years of the next century. Environmental improvement in the West is based on high technology and big investment.

China is a developing country with limited economic strength. The state is not able to immediately boost its investment in environmental protection, which currently totals about 3 billion yuan a year.

Our policy is mainly to focus on strengthening the administration of pollution control. This policy has achieved great progress in recent years.

Q: What measures are needed to strengthen environmental protection in China?

A: First, governments at all levels must pay adequate attention to environmental protection and place it on their agenda. Now, an

increasing number of provincial governors and vice-governors, mayors and vice-mayors, and county magistrates personally take charge of environmental protection. Along with this, environmental conditions have improved rapidly. But, a few leading cadres still underestimate the importance of the environment, with the result that pollution control and ecological protection are neglected.

Secondly, laws and regulations on environmental and natural resources protection must be formulated one by one to give guidance to all trades and professions.

Thirdly, we must strengthen management organs, which should exercise supervisory authority strictly according to the new laws and regulations.

Naturally, the administrative measures required are not limited to these three. But they are the major ones.

(June 4, 1987)

Chinese Characters and Intelligence

"ZIRAN YU REN"

(Nature and Man)

Chinese and foreign psychologists recently gave an IQ test to a group of Chinese and American pupils in Shanghai. The Chinese children scored higher than the Americans on seven of the 12 parts of the test, particularly in arithmetic, vocabulary and picture conception.

Why did the difference of intelligence emerge?

After thorough study and observation of people who have been wounded in different parts of the cerebrum, experts found that a wound in the temporal bone can destroy the written language capacity of Caucasians. A similar wound has only a minor effect on the capacity of Japanese people and no effect at all on the Chinese.

However, a wound in a parietal bone does not reduce the ability of Caucasians to write and understand written language but can seriously impair the Japanese. Chinese patients with such a wound completely lose their ability to cope with written language.

The experts concluded that because the races have different language systems, these differences in cerebral functions do not necessarily reflect differences in the cerebrums of various races.

The Chinese language uses pictographs, which have no direct relations to phonemes and hearing. So, Chinese people who are injured in the temporal bone are still able to write and understand written language. White patients' linguistic abilities suffer a lot because English and

other alphabetic languages are based on phonemes and hearing. The Japanese language combines pictographs and phonemic letters. Therefore, the Japanese patients' degree of impairment falls between that of the Chinese and Caucasians.

As for the Chinese children who scored well in the arithmetic, vocabulary and picture conception sections of the recent intelligence test, experts attributed

their achievements to training in Chinese characters. The Chinese written language creates a unique mode of thinking. Moreover, Chinese children have a good grasp of 3,000 common characters, which can constitute 40,000 to 50,000 words and phrases. So the experts said, the splendid Chinese character system promotes the intellectual development of Chinese people.

(No. 2, 1987)

Scattered Minority People

"MINZU TUANJIE"

(National Unity)

China has a minority nationality population of 67 million. A large proportion—49 million people—live in the minority autonomous areas, while the rest are often referred to as the scattered minority nationalities. Members of minorities live in more than 95 percent of China's prefectures, cities and counties. Some have established compact communities, while others are scattered in the areas inhabited by the Han nationality or in multinational areas.

By the end of 1986, more than 2,900 minority autonomous townships had been set up in multinational areas. They contain about 6 million people, one-third of the scattered minority population.

The scattered minorities are to

be found mainly in Yunnan, Guizhou and the three northeastern provinces of Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang. There are 4 million minority people in Yunnan, 3 million in Guizhou and 5 million in the three northeastern provinces. The remaining 6 million people are scattered in the other provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government.

By the end of last year, 11 minority nationalities, with a total population of 130,000, had not established national autonomous counties or townships. Into this category fall the Achang, Pumi, Jinuo, Benglong, Monba, Loba, Tartar, Russian, Uzbek, Hezhe and Gaoshan minorities.

Minority nationalities with about half their population scattered around the country are the Hui, Manzhou, Korean, Yao, Lisu, She, Dongxiang and Tu.

(No. 4, 1987)

Good Government Needs Fewer Officials

"XUEXI YU YANJIU"

(Study and Research)

Li Shimin (599-649 AD) was the second emperor and real founder of the Tang Dynasty,

which ruled China from 618 to 907. An outstanding statesman and military strategist, Li adopted a series of enlightened measures, such as upgrading his staff and simplifying administration. He appointed people on their merits

to manage the state affairs.

In 627, not long after Li ascended the throne, he declared: "A stable government needs competent but not many officials." At the same time, he adopted relevant measures and regulations.

First, he carried out political reforms in the central and local governments. Under the guidance of a streamlined administration policy, he strictly limited the number of administrative institutions and officials at all levels. For example, the number of civil and military officials in central government departments was cut from about 2,000 to 643. In addition, the country was redivided into 10 circuits. As a result, the number of local officials was reduced greatly.

Secondly, a new penal code was formulated. According to the *Exposition of the Tang Penal Code*, officials who set up institutions without permission or illegal courts were punished severely and without mercy under the code.

Thirdly, an inspection system was established to clarify the nature and methods of inspection. Li often sent imperial commissioners to examine the work of local officials. He also recorded on screens the achievements and errors made by major officials at all levels and used the information in deciding the officials' future.

Fourthly, a retirement system was set up. Li carried out a policy of strictly limiting the age of government officials. For instance, administrative officials had to retire when they were 70 years old.

(No. 4, 1987)



China Expands Machinery Exports

Between January and May, China's National Machinery and Equipment Import and Export Corp. achieved exports worth over US\$200 million, 81.1 percent more than the same period last year.

According to Tian Wenchao, an official of the International Trade Development Department of the corporation, in the Spring Export Commodities Fair in May in Guangzhou, the business transaction of the Chinese machinery and equipment was US\$40 million, surpassing all previous fairs.



XUE CHAO

Electrical machines produced by Heilongjiang Province's Jiamusi ready for export.

This year the corporation has already exported equipment including thermal power and hydro-power generating equipment, ordinary machine tools, bearings, electrical machinery, standard parts and electrical meters to the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, France, Britain, Japan, Pakistan, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong.

The reasons for this increase are that world demand is on the rise and the values of the yen, German mark and the South Korean won are rising. Meanwhile, China has been encouraging the manufacturing of export products.

In May a US company sued China for dumping bearings in the United States. But on May 20, the

US Department of Commerce found China not guilty in this case and the Chinese corporation's reputation improved.

by Liu Jianjun

France Develops Chinese Business

A contract for lending China money for a 300,000 ton ethylene project in Shanghai by a consortium of international banks including the Banque Indosuez of France was signed on June 15 in Shanghai.

The bank's representative office in China is one of more than 180 foreign finance representatives in China. Since its opening in November 1983, it has provided loans to the Beijing International Trading Centre, the Guangdong Nuclear Power Station, and power stations in Hebei's Shijiazhuang and Jiangsu's Nantong.

In 1986, the French bank provided 12 commercial loans to Guangdong for importing equipment and production lines, each valued at US\$100,000 to US\$1 million. In April this year, the bank was helpful in the Bank of China's US\$200 million bond issue in Singapore.

At the beginning of this year, the bank established a joint venture, the Grape Wine Co. Ltd. in Beijing, together with the China Industrial and Commercial Economic Development Corp., the Beijing Grape Wine Factory, the Pernod Ricard of France and the British Caldbecks Macgregor in Hong Kong.

Angus C.W. Chau, deputy general representative of the bank, said that the most glaring problem he saw was that Chinese enterprises knew so little about new international financial business that they could not use international commercial loans boldly.

Mr Chau also said that in spite of this he was confident of the success of Chinese business,

adding that the development of the open foreign policy and the perfecting of China's laws should create better conditions for foreign banks in granting loans and making investment.

At present, the bank's representative office in China is helping five businesses in France, the United States and Northern Europe to negotiate co-operative projects with China. Letters of intent have been signed. If these projects work well for the bank, it is also ready to invest or establish other joint ventures with China.

by Yao JIanguo

Export Commodities Trade Fair in Dalian

Northeastern China and Inner Mongolia Export Commodities Fair will be held from July 24 to August 2 in the Dalian International Exhibition Centre.

The fair, which is the first regional one to be held in China, will be sponsored jointly by the provinces of Heilongjiang, Liaoning and Jilin, Inner Mongolia as well as the cities of Harbin, Shenyang and Dalian. Hebei and Shandong provinces will also be invited to participate.

Northeastern China and the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region cover a vast area and are rich in natural resources, which include petroleum, coal, iron ore, and nonferrous metals, in addition to a solid industrial foundation. In 1985 the area's industrial and agricultural output value totalled 177 billion yuan, 15 percent of the nation's total, and its international trade value reached 10 billion yuan, 27 percent of the nation's total.

On display at the fair will be traditional exports such as machinery, electronics, chemical goods, ships, nonferrous metals, textiles, cereals and oils, and animal by-products, as well as some brand-famous commodities recently developed.

About 100 foreign trade companies, large industrial and mining enterprises which have been given decision-making power in matters of foreign trade and various foreign-funded enterprises will participate in the fair, in which cash, compensatory and barter trade will be adopted. In addition, talks will be held at the fair on import of technology, overseas engineering contracts and labour co-operation.

by Yao Jianguo

France's Group Bull Holds a Symposium

A symposium on information exchange, (Infobull China) was held June 24-26 in Beijing. It was sponsored by Group Bull, a French computer company.

"In helping China use advanced technologies, the major problem is training Chinese technicians," said J.C. Danes, president of the international business department of the group. He added that a symposium on technology exchange is just one way of spreading knowledge.

At the symposium, the company introduced the latest data processing techniques as well as the DPS 7000 computers, which the company developed two months ago, to Chinese specialists.

Group Bull, one of the first Western computer makers to enter the Chinese market, has been providing data processing systems to China since the 1960s. Since then it has concluded various co-operative and technical transfer agreements with Chinese departments, sold over 100 kinds of products in China, and trained about 50 Chinese computer specialists.

The symposium is one and the first of a series of technological forums the company plans to hold in China in an effort to enhance its position in the country in the face of new and extensive competition.

by Yao Jianguo

Beijing Modernizes Transport Control

Beijing is importing advanced foreign technology and equipment to modernize its transport control system. The first computerized signal control system will begin trial operation on October 1.

The system, developed jointly by China, Yugoslavia and Britain, is expected to control lights in 92 crossroads in the city. At present, these junctions often suffer from traffic jams, and the average speed of vehicles is reduced to 11 kilometres an hour.

The new system is a great advance, compared with Beijing's current single-point system where lights at every crossroad are controlled independently. It will be able to respond to changes in the density of the flow of traffic, and co-ordinate with all the lights nearby to help keep the traffic as easy as possible.

So far 45 underground and 10 overhead walkways across busy streets have been built in Beijing.

by Yao Jianguo

Trade News in Brief

■ In order to improve communications between Beijing and the Shantou Special Economic Zone in Guangdong Province for the convenience of compatriots from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, and overseas Chinese as well as foreign tourists, scheduled flights between Beijing and Shantou will begin on July 17 this year. The flights will also carry tourist commodities, including fresh fruit, vegetables and seafood.

The booking office in Beijing is in the Beijing Reliance Travel Agency in Haidian District, and that in Shantou is in the Shantou City Travel Agency.

The flights, which connect with air services from Shantou to Hong Kong, Singapore and Bangkok,

will be another major link between mainland China and Hong Kong, Macao as well as Southeast Asian countries.

■ Sino-French Winery Co. Ltd., the first Sino-foreign joint venture in Tianjin, celebrated its seventh anniversary in late June. Over the past seven years, the company's output has increased 11 times and the varieties of wine have risen to six. The *Dynasty* wine produced by the company has won four quality product awards in China and two gold medals in international fairs. The wine has been sold to more than 10 countries, including the United States, Britain, Japan, France, Australia, Singapore and Malaysia, as well as Hong Kong and Macao.

Last year the company imported a new breed of grapes from France, and both sides have agreed to extend their contract period from 11 to 21 years.

■ The memorandum for jointly developing Channar Iron Mine in Australia, the first large joint venture abroad for the Chinese metallurgical industry, was recently signed in Beijing.

Recoverable reserves of the mine are estimated at 200 million tons. The first phase of the project is expected to be completed by 1990 and produce 5 million tons of high-quality iron ore a year, while the second-phase project should start operation by 1998, with an annual output of 10 million tons. All iron ore produced by the joint venture will be sold to China.

■ The Qingdao General Refrigerator Factory recently beat off foreign competitors and won a bid to export 1,540 Qingdao-Liebherr brand refrigerators, the overseas edition of *Renmin Ribao* (People's Daily) reported. The bidding was invited by the World Health Organization (WHO). Experts said the refrigerators met the requirements specified by the WHO. The refrigerators will be used in rural areas of the developing countries to store vaccine.

ANCIENT ARCHITECTURE

Origin and Evolution of Pagodas in China

Since its introduction into China in the wake of the spreading of Buddhism to the country, the pagoda has evolved through the influence of Chinese traditional culture and aesthetics to become a new type of Chinese architecture.

From Stupa to Dagoba

Before the Wei (220-265) and Jin (265-420) dynasties, there was no such character as *ta* (pagoda) in Han Chinese. Before that, when translating works of Sanskrit the Chinese just transliterated the word *stupa*. Originally, stupa in India just meant a mound for ashes, unconnected with Buddhism. Only after the Nirvana (death) of Sakyamuni was stupa given a special sense. Because Buddhist disciples could no longer pay their respects to Sakyamuni, they turned to the stupa where the Buddha's ashes (*she li* in Chinese,

The wooden pagoda in Yingxian County, Shanxi Province.



XIE JUN

sarira in Sanskrit) lay, making stupa a special Buddhist place where one could pay respects to Sakyamuni. The *sarira* stupa was then called a dagoba.

According to Buddhist legend, Sakyamuni's ashes were buried in eight separate dagobas, too few for the Buddhist disciples' needs. So a number of representative dagobas were built. To facilitate the homage paying, stupas were even carved like shrines into the walls of the small rooms where monks practise their religion.

Dagoba Turned Pagoda

The propagation of Buddhism was carried out along two parallel lines: monks preaching Buddhist

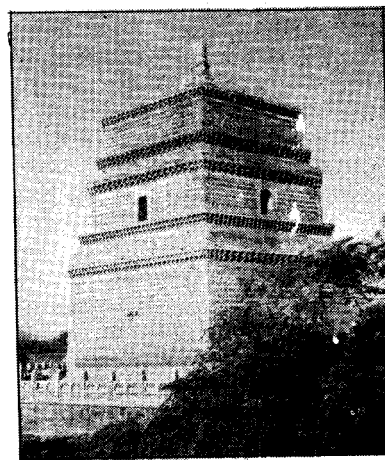


XUE CHAO

The glazed tile pagoda in the Guangsheng Temple in Hongtong County, Shanxi.

sermons and the building of impressive dagobas and display of paintings of Buddha to awe the visitor. When Buddhism was spread to China, stupas followed. However, they changed their shape when modified by ancient Chinese architecture.

When dagobas were first introduced into China, their grave-mound style did not compare well with the high palaces and



Courtesy of HE NANREN

The oldest pagoda in Kaifeng, Henan Province.

tall towers of ancient China. Chinese disciples did not feel right paying homage to Buddha's ashes in such a low building. So when the first dagoba was built in the White Horse Temple in Luoyang during the reign of Emperor Ming of the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220), the builders placed the image of a stupa together with the wheel sign — significant in Buddhism — on top of a tall tower: creating a pagoda. As ostentatious multi-storey buildings were often built by ancient Chinese rulers as the immortals' abode, Chinese Buddhist disciples felt it was only natural to build tall pagodas for the Buddha who is even more sacred than the immortals.

Poorer disciples could not build tall pagodas, so they combined the dagoba with the traditional pavilion to build circular, square or hexagonal pavilion-type pagodas topped with the wheel sign.

By the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), the stupa made a re-entry into inland China through Nepal, engendering a new building phase.

Although these stupas still retained the hemispherical mound shape, they were not quite like the Indian stupa, being taller. The *jin gang*-type pagoda was introduced into China following the emergence of the Esoteric Sect of Buddhism in India. They were often built after the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and retained more or less the Indian style—with one bigger and taller pagoda in the centre and four smaller ones at the four corners, all on pedestals. The Chinese, however, took *jin gang*-type and gave it a much higher pedestal and changed the proportions of the five pagodas.

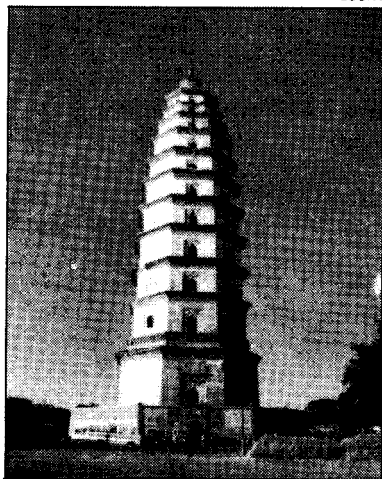
Pagoda's Evolution

Pagodas, be they the towering ones or the pavilion type, all derive from ancient Chinese architecture, the most representative being the towering kind. By the Song Dynasty (960-1279), pavilion type pagodas gradually disappeared, while the towering multi-storey kind multiplied and branched out.

China's early multi-storey pagodas were built of wood, just like all the other traditional buildings. Originally they were square, but then hexagonal,

The highest pagoda in China, this 84-metre-high pagoda in Kaiyuan Temple in Dingxian County, Hebei Province, was built in 1001.

ZHANG HESONG



octagonal or even twelve sided pagodas were built. All were vulnerable to fire and the elements. By the Sui (581-618) and Tang (618-907) dynasties, they were gradually replaced by brick or stone pagodas. Most of them had staircases inside, and had more storey inside than could be discerned from the outside. Built of brick or stone, these pagodas often had imitation wooden doors, windows, pillars, beams and eave-rafters. The underground floor was the most spacious and important one, with all the statues of Buddha and the shrines installed there. By the Liao (907-1125) Dynasty, a number of solid pagoda with no interior space emerged.

Floral pagodas, most of them multi-storey, were very popular during the 10th-12th century. Here lotus flower petal designs, shrines and statues of Buddha, of various Buddhist gods and guardians as well as animals, decorated the upper half of the pagoda. Their emergence shows that China's Buddhist pagodas tended to evolve from simplicity to ornateness, from the practicality of allowing a view to ostentation—evidence that Chinese pagodas were increasingly influenced by the much carved and decorated pagodas in India and other Buddhist countries in Southeast Asia.

The building of pagodas was also influenced by the aesthetics of the time. The wooden pagoda in Yingxian County, Shanxi Province, for example, took getting view as their central purpose; while the vast numbers of pagodas built during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties are nothing but buildings for people to look at, and admire.

Varied Pagoda Types

Wooden pagoda in Yingxian County. Built in 1056 in Shanxi Province, this pagoda is the oldest all wood multi-storey pagoda in

the world. From the second storey up, spacious covered balconies encircled by balustrades line the body of the pagoda and provide an excellent view. A model of this pagoda (one-25th the size) was shipped to Austria in February 1987 to be installed in the Small World Park in Klagenfurt.

Glazed tile pagoda. One in perfect condition is to be seen in Hongtong County, Shanxi Province. The 47-metre-high pagoda is the world's oldest glazed tile pagoda still in good condition. It was built, some 600 years ago, of brick covered with yellow, green and blue glazed tiles on which were carved designs of human figures, birds, animals and flowers. The octagonal pagoda still glitters in the sunshine.

Kaifeng's oldest pagoda.

Located in Kaifeng in central China's Henan Province, this hexagonal brick pagoda has a magnificent pedestal supporting the three remaining original storeys. They are topped in clashing style with a small nine-storeyed pagoda. Why is it so? The story is that the fifth son of the first emperor of the Ming Dynasty

This 1,400-year-old stupa in Jinan, provincial capital of Shandong, has four entrances. It has been designated a key historical site by the state.

TAO JUNFENG



(1368-1644) Zhu Yuanzhang was King of Zhou in Kaifeng. Day and night, he spent in military training, hoping to seize the state power. When the crown prince learnt this, he told his father: Kaifeng is a place where emperors of many dynasties originate. The reason is that the pagoda there is much taller than those in other places. So the top six storeys of the pagoda were ordered to be destroyed. The small nine-storey pagoda was added on in later years.

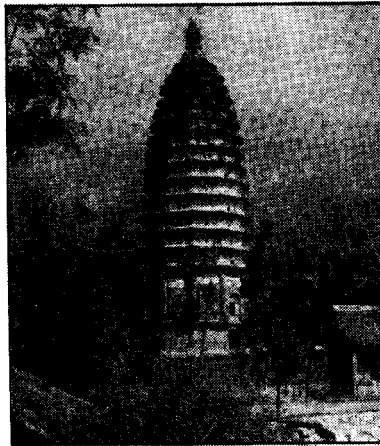
The present pagoda still retains more than 100 kinds of carvings and some 7,000 shrines for Sakyamuni, Bodhisattva, Maitreya and Arhats. They are in very good condition and serve as valuable data for the study of Buddhist art and ancient sculpture.

Pagodas along the Changjiang (Yangtze) River. There are 21 pagodas of different styles, their bases projecting over the water, along the river from Sichuan Province's Chongqing on the upper reaches to Nantong in Jiangsu Province.

In ancient China, pagodas were thought able to prevent floods. In a way, this might be true. The large amounts of rocks and bricks

The octagonal, 13-storey, Iron pagoda in Kaifeng, was built in 1049 and is 55.66 metres high.

YANG LIMING



Courtesy of HE NANREN

China's oldest Buddhist pagoda (built in 520) in the Songyue Temple in Henan province.

needed to build the base of a riverside pagoda which projects

over the water helps make a detour for the river, decreasing the harm done by a flood.

In the city of Zhenjiang by the river, there is a stone pagoda which is rather oddly built. According to Chinese tradition, pagodas are usually built in or near temples. Yet this pagoda is placed on a platform supported by four columns over a pedestrian street. As religious rites may sometimes be simplified from the 10th century onward, it became accepted that just passing under a pagoda meant paying respects to the Buddha. Later when the building of this kind of pagoda was combined with the archway of a city gate, it became known as a "pass."

by Xiao Panbian

Australian Ballet Back in China

Audiences in Beijing and Guangzhou welcomed the Australian ballet's return to China last month. The troupe, which made a big impression at its Chinese debut seven years ago by its performance of *Don Quixote*, again thrilled audiences with its novelty and vitality. The troupe brought a varied repertoire including classic romantic ballets, such as *Giselle* and *Raymonda*, and also contemporary pieces such as the *Webern Opus 5* by Maurice Bejart. Maina Gielgud, artistic director of the troupe, said that he hoped this time there will be something to please differing individual tastes.

Chinese ballet experts have been following the achievements of their Australian counterparts in recent years. Bai Shuxiang, a noted Chinese ballerina, said the Australian troupe has made rapid progress in both the training of main performers and the all-round mastery of the ballet techniques. She also noted that the troupe is full of vigour and freshness and, therefore, holds great promise.

Grande Tarantella, performed by Elizabeth Toohey and David McAllister, was fascinating and exciting for the Chinese audience.

The pas de deux and variations, with their distinctive Italian folk flavour, reflect the liveliness and joyfulness of the young people. The same dancers performed this piece at the 1985 International Ballet Competition in Moscow and again in Moscow in 1986 and earlier this year. Its choreographer Walter Bourke is one of the founders of the visiting troupe.

Other contemporary works, such as *Symphony in D*, also appealed to the audience.

The tour is part of an agreement on cultural exchange between China and Australia. Under the agreement, Chinese ballet dancers Zhang Weiqiang and Tang Min will go to Australia as guest artists with the Australian troupe in November this year. Zhang and Tang have been awarded medals on many occasions at international ballet competitions. Zhang said, "I am very glad that Chinese and Australian ballet dancers can promote friendship between the peoples of their two countries through their art." He hoped that his November performance in Australia will help give the Australian people a better understanding of Chinese ballet.

by Zhang Wei

60 Years of Devoted Friendship

At 90, Memoirs of My China Years

Written by: Rewi Alley

Published by: New World Press, Beijing

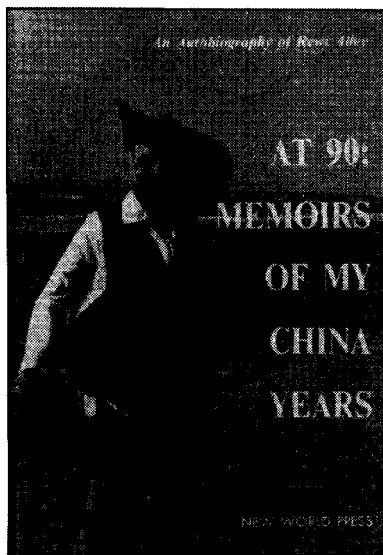
Distributed by: China International Book Trading Corporation (Guoji Shudian), P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China

Price: RMB 7 yuan paperback, 10 yuan hardback.

At 90, *Memoirs of My China Years*, the long-awaited autobiography of Rewi Alley, has just been published by the New World Press.

Now 89 years old, Rewi Alley is admired as a great man in China. He was born on December 2, 1897 in Springfield, New Zealand. He fought in World War I and was wounded twice. In 1927, he came to Shanghai just nine days after April 12th, the day Chiang Kai-shek turned reactionary and saw hundreds of thousands of Communists arrested, tortured and shot. Mr. Alley saw the injustice and was outraged. Later, he became acquainted with Lu Xun, Prof. Joseph Bailie of Nanjing University and other progressives and under their influence, his indignation and resentment turned into a force for change. He has become a great friend of the Chinese people and dedicated his life in China to the cause of the Chinese revolution.

In his book, he tells how in 1929 and 1930 he took part in the relief work of the China International Famine Relief Administration and travelled widely in central and north China. Everywhere, he saw people suffering, and irresponsible officials. On his return trip, he adopted two orphans from the famine areas. He looked after them, sent them to school and college. In 1937, after the Japanese invaded China, he persuaded



both of them to go to Yanan and join the war of resistance. Later, both boys became members of the Communist Party.

In 1938, Rewi Alley with Edgar and Peg Snow and some eminent Chinese patriots such as Hu Yuzhi, Xu Xinliu and Hubert Liang started organizing the movement for Chinese Industrial Co-operatives (Gung Ho). When the National Association for the Advancement of Chinese Industrial Co-operatives (CIC) was established in Hankou, Rewi Alley was appointed its chief technical advisor and also the regional director of its southeast headquarters. Between 1938 and 1942, he threw himself into the CIC movement, organizing thousands of refugees and technicians into over 3,000 industrial co-operatives behind the Japanese lines and also in the Japanese occupied areas. They produced all kinds of basic necessities and small arms to supply the resistance war.

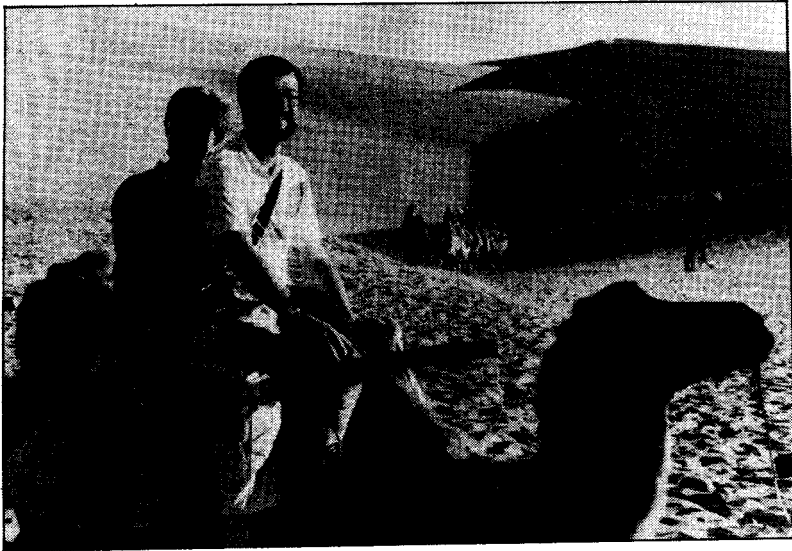
In 1942, he was relieved of his responsibility at CIC and spent the next ten years training and educating young co-operative

engineers in the Bailie School of Shandan in western Gansu. He lived and worked with the students, most of them co-operative apprentices and refugee boys from Henan. His maxim for his students is practicality, "Analyse and Create." Now, hundreds of his boys are directors and engineers in factories and research institutes.

In 1952, at the invitation of Premier Zhou Enlai, Alley came to Beijing and attended the World Peace Conference, since then he has been active in the world peace movement. Meanwhile he devotes most of his time to writing and translating. Altogether, he has published over 70 books and pamphlets in China and abroad, mostly in English. In all these publications, he shares the sorrows and joys of the Chinese people, informing the world of their struggles and accomplishments and pointing out with confidence what a strong and united China can do for safeguarding world peace and furthering international co-operation.

His autobiography recalls mostly his 60 years in China. I have known Rewi Alley for over 40 of those years and had the privilege of working with him for the co-operatives during the War of Resistance Against Japan. He has influenced me a great deal and I have always regarded him as my respected teacher and friend. The Chinese version of the autobiography has been published almost at the same time by the People's Publishing House of Gansu. I am sure readers in China and abroad will enjoy reading the book and derive inspiration and an understanding of true internationalism from this skilled and sympathetic man.

by Lu Guangmian
(Vice-president of CIC)



Tourists visiting sand dunes southeast of Dunhuang County on a camel. LI SHENGCAI

Desert Tour on Camelback

Touring the Tengger Desert on camels and travelling down the Huanghe (Yellow) River on a sheepskin raft are two new tourist programmes offered by the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

One of the five minority nationality autonomous regions, Ningxia is located in northwest China. It is mostly mountains and plateaus. But the Hetao Plain, an alluvial area at the top of the Great Bend of the Huanghe River, is fertile and has abundant water. The plain and the Tengger Desert which it borders offer spectacular natural scenery of hills, desert and villages.

Lei Congkang, deputy head of the tourist bureau of the region, explains that the camel tour covers a 40-km-long narrow section of the Tengger Desert from Gaohu at the foot of the Great Wall to Tonghu. Tourists pass through a shelterbelt and can enjoy the topography of the desert and special sand formations. During the three days of travel, they can dig their own water and eat some meals as picnics in the desert.

Safety is guaranteed with a special car behind.

The raft tour starts from Shapotou in Zhongwei County. It sails 30 kilometres down river accompanied by a boatman in national costume. On the way the ruins of the Great Wall, waterwheels, pottery and rural scenery can be seen along the banks. Further east is a bridge, ancient temples, a bird island and 108 pagodas. The water is not calm but it is safe with a motor boat following. In autumn tours, pears, peaches and grapes can be picked in the orchards on the banks.

The tombs of the emperors of the Western Xia Dynasty (1038-1227) have opened to the public. About 20 kilometres to the west of Yinchuan, capital of the region, the burial area covers an area of 40 square kilometres and includes nine tombs for emperors and 140 tombs for the people and objects buried with the dead. Each tomb consists of a group of grand buildings.

by Han Guojian

New Tourist Spots in Northwest Sichuan

Sichuan Province has developed 40 tourist spots in its northwest and started to receive visitors.

These spots include the famous Qingcheng Mountain, the Dujiang Weir, Jiuzhaigou, a natural reserve park, karst caves and a place with writings by famous ancient scholars. ■

Stone Forest in Yunnan Province

The Lunan Yi Autonomous County in Yunnan Province attracted 850,000 tourists last year with its stone forest, one of the No. 1 state protected places in China.

The stone forest was the sea bed 270 million years ago. According to legend, Ashma falls in love with Ahei but is killed. She becomes a huge stone standing in the stone forest, the place therefore attracts many lovers.

The province has also developed a new spot, the Naigu ("black" in the Yi language) stone forest, 11.5 kilometres away from the Lunan stone forest. A nearby waterfall with a drop of 96 metres will also soon be open to tourists. ■

Roof of World Under Foot

Touring the "Roof of the World" on foot has become popular. Over 50 tourist groups plan to hike on the Tibetan Plateau this year. Last year it was 26 groups. The International Sports Tour Co. of the Tibet Autonomous Region has developed four itineraries for the tours: from Zham, a border city, to Lhasa, the capital of the region, from Tingri County to a camping station for climbers of Qomolangma Peak in Rongbu, from the Nyalam County seat to Xixabangma and from Nyalam to the Qinghai-Tibet Highway. ■

ART PAGE



Spring.



An Oroqen

Woodcuts by Ge Sha

Ge Sha, a Russian born in 1931 in Heilongjiang Province, now works as an artist at Jilin Ribao (Jilin Daily).

Ge Sha, who is fond of sports, literature and drama, has himself acted in a range of roles in several films. His woodcuts are careful yet romantic.



Camel Caravan Through the Woods

The 3rd Shanxi Symposium on International Economic and Technical Co-operation, The 1st Shanxi Import/Export Commodity Fair, The 1st Shanxi Folk Art Festival.

From August 26 to September 5 in Taiyuan, Shanxi

***We would like to see all of our friends from trade,
financial and cultural fields, both at home and abroad.***

Look at the ways you can benefit!

The 3rd Shanxi Symposium on International Economic and Technical Co-operation will announce about 100 projects for economic and technical co-operation and more than 100 projects for technical export and transfer in the fields of machinery, textiles, light industry, chemicals, metallurgy, building materials, coal, electronics, agriculture, animal husbandry and medicine. We will utilize foreign funds, undertake the import and export of technology and handle International economic and technical co-operation in various forms. Some examples are joint ventures, compensation trade, leasing, processing with materials provided by clients, trading on account and by cash purchase. We will offer preferential treatment to investors, partners and clients in economic management, taxes, payment of foreign exchange, procedures for examination and approval, providing places, resources, labour service, building materials, communications and transportation for joint ventures and co-operative enterprises.

To help you make business contacts

The 1st Shanxi Import/Export Commodity Fair will exhibit the industrial and agricultural products of Shanxi Province. More than 3,000 varieties of

products of 50 types in the fields of coal, and other minerals, hardware, nonferrous metals, metallurgy, medicine and handicraft will be exhibited in 16 exhibition halls that cover a total area of 7,500 square metres. The provincial import and export corporations will have business discussions with foreign businessmen on the spot.

Our folk art festival is a guaranteed good time!

Located in the Huanghe River Valley, Shanxi Province is the cradle of China's ancient culture. Shanxi's folk arts have a long history. At our first ever Shanxi Folk Art Festival, well-known artists will perform colourful folk songs, dances and local operas. Among them, "At the Night of the Lantern Festival," "Waters of the River" and "Accompanying Wife to Her Parents' Home" have won prizes from the state. There will also be other art forms such as walking on stilts, a lion dance, bangzi opera, yangge dance, puppet opera and acrobatics. All the performances reflect our local culture. Exhibitions of fine arts, photography and handicrafts will also be held during the festival. Some of the works, such as Jiangzhou Chengni inkslabs, reproductions of calligraphy and steles from different dynasties, folk papercuts, dough models, wood carvings, stone carvings and puppets will be sold at the exhibition.



SHANXI ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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Commodity Fair 441436

Symposium 386695

Festival 227963