

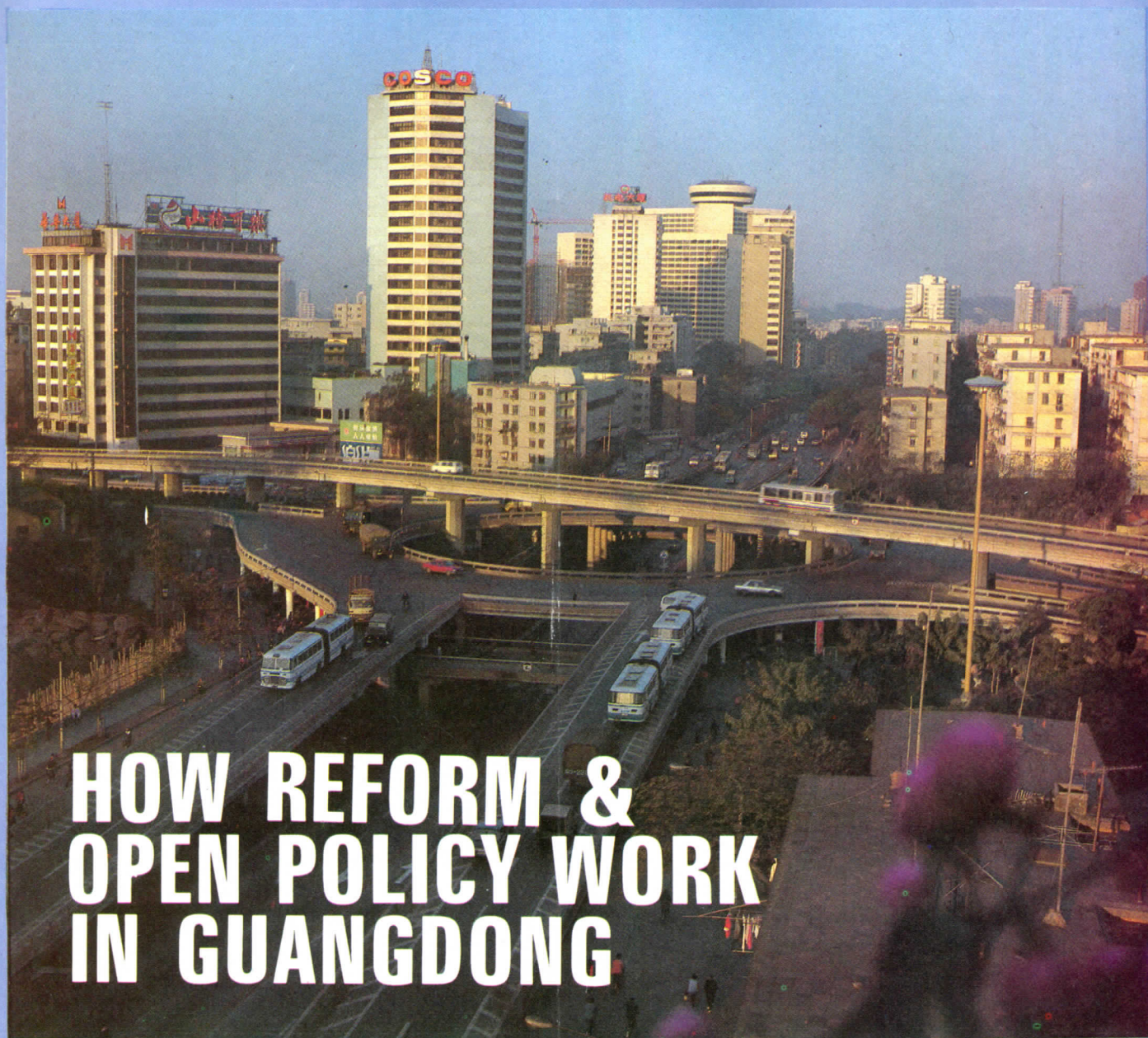
A CHINESE WEEKLY OF NEWS AND VIEWS

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Radio Beijing — Voice of China



HOW REFORM & OPEN POLICY WORK IN GUANGDONG



Children checking wrongly written characters in the street.

by Chen Xuesi

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

How Guangdong Fares Since Price Reform

■ Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province, has seen major price fluctuations since its introduction of price reforms six years ago. The reforms have raised some complaints, but most people are seeing benefits (p. 14).

Simultaneous with the economic changes, Guangzhou has experienced lively, cultural growth in the last few years. The city is now working to build its socialist culture and to absorb cultural elements from abroad to enrich its own (p. 19).

Party Congress Preparations in Full Swing

■ The Chinese Communist Party's 13th Congress is expected to open on October 25. Central topics will be how to accelerate the current reforms. The election of a new central committee will be another major item on the congress agenda. The congress will continue to uphold and develop the Party's line pursued since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee in December 1978 (p. 5).

Radio Beijing: Voice From China

■ Radio Beijing, China's international broadcasting service, celebrated its 40th birthday on September 11. Over the past four decades, the station has provided a great service to the country by enhancing its audience understanding of China and the Chinese people and by publicizing China's viewpoints on important international issues (p. 22).

Protecting Natural Resources & Environment

■ The publication of *Outline on China's Natural Protection* by the State Council Environmental Protection Commission is a major event in the history of the protection of natural resources in China. The work stresses the importance of environmental protection during the country's drive for modernization. The Chinese government has given a great deal of attention to this issue in the last few years, and lists it as a task for the Seventh Five-Year Plan. If the nation as a whole readily embraces the spirit of the outline, the prospect for China's natural resources will be far better than predicted (p. 4).

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Protecting Natural Resources & Environment

by Cui Li

Outline on China's Natural Protection, the country's first programmatic document on environmental protection, has been published by the State Council's Environmental Protection Commission and is now being distributed in large quantities. This constitutes a major landmark in the history of the protection of natural resources in China.

The *Outline* systematically discusses the importance of environmental protection to China's drive for modernization. It looks at major land and water environmental problems and lists measures to be adopted for their control. It also defines the basic principles to be followed in the exploitation and protection of natural resources in various regions. While serving as a guide to working towards natural protection, the document is a valuable teaching tool which can play a positive role in arousing the environmental consciousness of the Chinese people.

China's large population means that the per-capita share of basic natural resources, such as water, timber and land, is far lower than that of most other countries. Yet in the present period of large-scale economic development, natural resources are being consumed at a more rapid rate than before. The general lack of knowledge about natural protection has often resulted in the blind exploitation of natural resources.

Statistics show that destruction of forests, grassland and large areas of vegetation has increased the area of soil erosion to 1.5 million square kilometres, 300,000 square kilometres more than in the

early post-liberation period. This accounts for about one-sixth of China's land area. In addition, 328,000 square kilometres of land, which involves 12 provinces and 207 counties, have been turned into desert or are seriously threatened. More than 26 million hectares of land in 17 provinces, regions and municipalities are under threat of salinization and alkalization. China's forest area decreases by 1.5 million hectares a

Effectively managing China's environment, and rationally exploiting and utilizing natural resources is a basic task in the modernization drive. Natural protection was listed as one task for the Seventh Five-Year Plan period (1986-90).

year and 200 million cubic metres of timber are consumed every year. Only one-third is to meet the state plan. The remaining two-thirds is thoughtlessly cut or destroyed by forest fires.

Scientists estimate that even if the destruction of the natural environment is halted now, the serious consequences resulting from the destruction already done cannot be remedied within a short period of time. For instance, if the present trend continues, China's desert areas will expand at an average annual rate of 666,000 hectares by the year 2000. It goes without saying how urgent it is for China to protect its natural

resources and the *Outline* emerged to meet this pressing need.

A few years earlier, the Chinese government had made clear its standpoint on natural protection. The Law of the People's Republic of China on Environmental Protection promulgated in 1979 clearly defined its task as protecting the natural environment and controlling environmental pollution. In 1981 the State Council's Decision on Stepping up Work Towards Environmental Protection in the Period of National Economic Readjustment pointed out: "Effectively managing China's environment, and rationally exploiting and utilizing natural resources, is a basic task in the modernization drive." Natural protection was listed as one of the tasks in China's Seventh Five-Year Plan (1986-90).

Valuable and far-reaching work in the area of natural protection in China began only a few years ago. It includes:

—Planned development of research on the optimization of an eco-agricultural model and the establishment of a group of different and reasonably distributed pilot units of eco-agriculture.

—Setting up various types of ecological monitoring stations to provide reliable environmental control.

—Publication of China's first rare plant "red book." A second "red book" on plants and the first rare animal "red book" are also in the process of being written. China's Regulations on the Management of Natural Reserves," "The Law on the Protection of Wild Animals"



and other regulations are also being drafted.

—Establishment of a system for reporting on the influence of development and construction projects on the environment to prevent any further damage to the ecology.

—Addition of several dozen more natural reserves to the existing 360 to form a comprehensive and reasonably distributed natural protection network.

The protection of natural resources is an undertaking which will benefit people for many generations to come. Scientists have estimated that as long as China continues to make environmental protection a basic state policy and adopts corresponding policies, economic and legal measures, damages to the ecological environment will gradually be checked by the year 2000. For example, by then, the area of saline-alkaline land will be reduced and 3.3 million hectares of this land will be improved; forested areas will total 169 million hectares and the area covered by trees will reach 17.6 percent of the total, or 5.6 percent more than the present, the area and quality of grassland will also be raised significantly.

Of course, if the spirit of the *Outline on China's Natural Protection* is readily taken up by the whole nation, the prospect for China's natural protection will be much better than the specialists predict. ■

13th Party Congress Plans in Full Swing

The Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee has proposed opening the 13th National Congress on October 25. The proposal will be submitted to the Seventh Plenary Session of the 12th Party Central Committee for approval.

Election of delegates to the congress is basically complete. The draft version of the political report to the congress is being discussed for revision by more than 5,000 people.

These are: members of the 12th CPC Central Committee, the Central Advisory Commission and the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection; delegates to the coming congress; Party members among leaders of the central departments of the government and the People's Liberation Army and of mass organizations; and leaders of provincial, municipal and autonomous regional Party committees.

Suggestions are also being solicited from leaders of non-communist democratic parties and non-party celebrities.

According to recent talks by leading comrades on the CPC Central Committee, how to accelerate the current reforms will be a central topic on the agenda of the congress.

Election of a new Central Committee will be another major item on the congress agenda.

Work will continue to implement the policy of promoting younger people to leading posts. Some aged comrades will withdraw from their leading posts in the Party's central organs, and some young and middle-aged comrades who have made outstanding contributions will be elected to the new Central Committee.

Some aged leaders, including Deng Xiaoping who is 83, have expressed the intention of giving up seats on the Political Bureau or its Standing Committee.

The Party Central Committee's Secretariat, Political Bureau and Political Bureau Standing Committee will have more younger people.

At the 13th Party Congress the average age of those at the very top—members of the Political Bureau Standing Committee—will be reduced considerably. Members of the Political Bureau will also be younger.

The backbone of the Party Central Committee is expected to be people in their 50s. There will still be some people over 60, who are experienced and healthy enough to work, in the Central Committee. To select people around 40 for central leading positions will be more difficult since the "cultural revolution" delayed a whole generation politically and professionally. But this is a goal that must gradually be achieved.

The 13th Party Congress will continue to uphold and develop the Party's line pursued since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee in December 1978, a line which has proved to be correct. The line is taking economic construction as the central task, upholding the four cardinal principles (socialist road, people's democratic dictatorship, leadership of the Communist Party, and Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought), and adhering to the reforms and opening to the world.

The coming Party congress is expected to work out a blueprint for the reform of the political structure to suit the needs of the all-round economic restructuring.

Deng Xiaoping's recently re-

published speech On the Reform of the Party and State Leadership will be the guiding document for the reform of the political structure.

The congress will also discuss and define the fundamental principles for economic construction and restructuring in the future, and the basic principles for strengthening Party building in the course of the reforms and the opening of China to the world.

Problems and difficulties as well as shortcomings and mistakes which have occurred in the course of advance will be reviewed, and ways will be worked out to solve them using the principle of seeking truth from facts. ■

Officials Promoted On Staff's Advice

As a result of a democratic recommendation process, with all the staff participating, 23 former section officials in the Ministry of Urban and Rural Construction and Environmental Protection (MURCEP) were promoted as probationary bureau heads last month.

The democratic recommendation movement started on July 22, as a sequel to the four-month-long democratic evaluation of officials mainly at bureau level, which led to the transfer of 10 incompetent cadres from their positions.

It is the first time in the ministry's history that staff opinion has played a key role in the transfer and promotion of officials. The reform has caused strong repercussions in other government organizations and throughout society.

Traditionally, government officials have been chosen in the following way. The cadre organization in the ministry or department picked a candidate and recommended him or her to the higher leaders or offices. They

would consult some of the employees to show their democratic consciousness before they decide whether the candidate would be promoted. However, only a small proportion of the staff would be consulted, and those consulted might not tell the truth. And since the staff's opinion had minimal or even no importance, many prospective candidates did not feel responsible to the staff, but to the senior officials who would decide on their promotion. This method has not been conducive to overcoming bureaucracy and to democratization.

The MURCEP, like many other government organizations, is breaking this pattern. The ministry started its personnel reform last February by evaluating six ministry-level leaders, including 47-year-old Minister Ye Rutang himself. The democratic assessment of bureau leaders followed, said Chen Liming, an official in the ministry's office of cadre affairs.

First, the ministry's 131 bureau heads were each asked to report on their work to their staff, emphasizing their role in the leadership. Staff discussions followed the reports. All of the staff opinions were written down without the speakers' names to eliminate the possibility of retaliation. Then the ministry issued a questionnaire to all its employees, asking them to judge their bureau heads on 14 aspects including their achievements, ability to work and organize, understanding of the government's policies, reform consciousness, decision-making ability, professional skill and work style. The staff selected one of five answers to each of the 14 questions. Again, the employees were not to identify themselves. Chen said almost all the questionnaires were returned, most of them completed in a serious manner.

The survey showed that the staff

generally thought the majority of bureau heads were "competent" or "fairly competent." However, 12 of them were found to be either incompetent, unqualified, in poor health or holding the jobs without doing any work. Of the 12 bureau heads, 10 were removed from their posts and the other two got what Chen called a "yellow plate warning." (In a soccer game, a player given yellow plate warning by the referee will be out if he violates the rules again.)

Next, the MURCEP expanded its reforms by introducing a mass recommendation movement. Since there had been some vacant bureau leadership posts before the democratic evaluation and there were more after some incompetent leaders were transferred, the ministry decided to promote some cadres from the lower level. This time there were 396 candidates and 1,608 staff members took part in a secret ballot. Generally, staff members preferred the candidates within their own bureaus because they knew them, but they were free to choose others. "The candidates were not limited to those 396 people; you could recommend whoever you thought was qualified," said Chen, adding that the candidates had to be under 55 years old.

The 27 candidates who got one-third or more of the votes from their own bureaus entered the second round. In this round, employees of the bureaus from which the 27 candidates came got a new survey form with 10 questions about the candidates' ability and moral character, and four possible responses to each question. Then, based on the results of further consultation, investigation and the survey, the ministry chose 23 candidates as probationary bureau heads. They will be trained for a short time before they go to the posts late this year or early next year, Chen said.

The MURCEP has been one of the pioneers in governmental personnel reform. Many other

ministries are now following its lead. The Ministry of Commerce, for example, has issued an official evaluation form with 22 questions. "Now my boss is no longer cocky to me. After all, I am one of the examiners," a young worker said in a half-joking way.

Compared with the past method of choosing officials, the new way is more democratic, Chen said. Now, everyone is consulted instead of just a few people, and through a secret ballot, which is more reliable and safer for the voters. Although the senior leading organs still make the final decision on promotions, they must take staff opinion into account. "Not all of those whom the staff approves of are promoted, but no one is promoted if the staff does not approve," he said.

Chen added that democracy should not simply be interpreted as a work style. "It is first of all a system." To systematize democracy, the MURCEP is considering expanding the democratic evaluation and recommendation of officials to the section-head level, meaning more officials will be responsible to their staff.

by Li Haibo

China Cracks Down On Bureaucracy

China is paying more attention to combating bureaucracy since the disastrous forest fire in northeast China last May. For the past few months, the government has intensified its efforts to curb dereliction of duty and abuses of power, which are still causing heavy casualties and economic losses.

So far this year, crimes of negligence have claimed nearly 450 lives and caused losses of 660 million (about US\$180 million). The Chinese Supreme People's Procuratorate handled 1,958 cases of negligence in the first half of this year, about as many as during all of 1986. But this year's losses are

much higher than last year's.

In the past, bureaucratic officials simply made a self-criticism to examine their mistakes when they were held responsible for accidents. But this year, negligent officials in all departments, institutions and enterprises are facing more severe punishment.

Shanghai's labour supervisory organs have made an overall re-examination of recent accidents, especially serious ones. Of 200 accidents, about half were found to be caused by dereliction of duty, irresponsibility, mismanagement and violation of work regulations. To date, 57 factory directors and managers have been punished for their roles in the accidents. Four were dismissed from their posts and the others received disciplinary warnings or had serious mistakes noted on their records.

Recently, the Jiangsu provincial government and Party committee, and the Hubei Provincial Discipline Inspection Commission of the Communist Party of China (CPC) disciplined the officials responsible for a tragic accident that killed 105 people. The tragedy occurred on May 8 when a ferry boat travelling from Nantong to Changshu collided with a tugboat. The wooden ferry capsized, throwing passengers and crew into the river. Besides those killed, nine passengers are still listed as missing.

It was the worst such accident in more than 20 years. Tian Shouguang, captain of the tug, and Wang Jianguo, the acting boatswain, were arrested by Nantong police.

A total of 13 officials were held directly responsible for the tragedy, including Yuan Caizhi, manager of the Wuhan-Changjiang Shipping Company, and He Lifu, secretary of the company's Party committee. Other officials reprimanded include Wu Bingliang, director of the Passenger Transport Department of the Nantong Municipal Shipping Company, who was dismissed

from his Party post; Shao Liqun, who was relieved of his duties as the department's deputy director; and Xue Xunpeng, secretary of the department's Party committee, who was given a severe warning.

In Chongqing, Sichuan Province, officials responsible for a natural gas leak and fire were disciplined. On July 17 last year, a natural gas pipe in the Shapingba District of Chongqing broke because of heavy pressure from rubbish and cars. The subsequent fire affected 150 square metres. As a result of dereliction of duty by some bureaucratic officials who were in charge, the fire burned for 165 days, causing the loss of 2.18 million cubic metres of natural gas worth 580,000 yuan.

Kou Qingxi, manager of Chongqing Natural Gas Company, was given a severe warning within the Party, and Chen Shide who was in charge of safety was dismissed from his post as the company's deputy manager.

In Beijing, 26 officials have been recently disciplined for serious bureaucratic mismanagement and dereliction of duty. They are held to be primarily responsible for nine cases handled earlier this year.

In one case, leading officials in Nanhuqu village in the Chaoyang District of Beijing launched, without previous approval from the municipal planning department, a construction project with five other units on a plot where construction is illegal under Beijing's overall development plan. The project occupied 84 hectares and cost 26 million yuan.

The Beijing Municipal Discipline Inspection Commission of the CPC disciplined eight officials and criticized in a circular the Party's Chaoyang District Committee and the district government for culpable failure to take action against the illegal construction project.

Qu Defa, former secretary of the CPC branch at a cold-storage plant managed by the Chaoyang District Aquatic Products Com-

pany, was held responsible for the loss through spoilage of 7.3 tons of fish valued at 94,100 yuan. He was dismissed from his post.

In another case, Wu Wanrong, deputy director of the Huilongguan Hospital, was disciplined for causing the waste of 170,000 yuan spent on printing medical forms which were enough to last the hospital for 100 years.

In March, Wang Xuecai, secretary of the Party branch at the No.5 Section of the Da'anshan Coal Mine, and Yu Tiansheng, chief of the section, did not take any measures to halt operations in violation of safety rules. As a result, three miners were killed and another was seriously injured in a cave-in. A court sentenced Wang and Yu to imprisonment for dereliction of duty. ■

College Graduates To Be on Probation

All college and university graduates should work at the grass-roots level for a one-year period of probation, according to a regulation issued recently by the State Education Commission and the Ministry of Labour and Personnel.

The regulation, Temporary Provisions on Probation of College and University Graduates, says that during the probation period, graduates can neither take entrance exams for master's degree programmes nor go abroad for further study. They are not allowed to do work unrelated to their probation.

According to the principle of studying for the purpose of practical application, they should be put by their units in the forefront of production, considering the job they will engage in later.

After one year, they will be required to write self-appraisals and their units will submit reports.

Those who pass the probation will be awarded job titles and salaries according to the State

Council's regulations. But those who fail will have to prolong their probation period from six months to one year.

The provisions aim at helping the graduates raise their political and professional level, as well as improve their ability to do real work. The regulation will be put into effect with the 1987-88 graduating class.

Chinese students are selected for their intelligence and diligence, and they generally do well in their studies. But they are less independent than foreign students and lack work experience. Going from school to university with the support of their parents, they need not work to be able to study. Furthermore, since they are considered an honour to their families, they are given special treatment. Parents can be seen at railway stations and on campuses carrying their children's luggage as they escort their sons and daughters to colleges and universities. The parents want to do everything for their children. For this reason, today's students have been called "a generation brought up in their parents' arms."

Most people agree that while parents should love their children, they should not go to extremes. Loving one's children does not mean doing everything for them. Indeed, such behaviour will probably do them harm in the future. Parents should pay attention to cultivating their children's independence and ability to analyse and solve problems. They should let their children temper and train themselves, as one commentator said.

In China, students cannot find jobs to support themselves like students in some foreign countries. But there are many other ways to help students develop an independent spirit.

Universities and colleges are aware of the problem of students' lack of practical ability. They like students to carry out social research during vacations so as to obtain practical knowledge and gain work experience.

Qinhua University has begun to reform its postgraduate admission system. The university requires graduating students who have been accepted as postgraduates to work for two to five years before

Students from the Chuxiong Teacher Training School in Yunnan Province interview some Yi peasants about the changes taking place in the countryside.

by CHOU ZHONGYAO



they start to study for their master's degree. The aim is to give postgraduates a chance to mature and learn something about how society works. For two years, 218 postgraduates have been participating in the programme. They have learnt things they cannot get from books and their ability to analyse and solve problems is expected to improve.

"My greatest achievement is that I have gained a quite objective knowledge of society, of actual work and of the ongoing reform," said Huang Lan who has been working in the Xian Switchgear Plant. ■

10 Million More No Longer Illiterate

Another 10 million people have learned to read and write since some of China's regions launched anti-illiteracy campaigns in 1982, according to an official of the State Education Commission.

About 50 percent of the China's villages have started cultural and technological classes or schools. More than 100 million farmers attend training schools, and 13.37 million can now read and write, he said.

In China, anyone reading fewer than 500 characters is classified illiterate.

The Chinese Government has paid great attention to literacy education from the founding of New China in 1949, the official said.

A total of 155 million people are no longer illiterate and the proportion of illiterates in the country's population dropped from more than 80 percent in the early 1950s to 23 percent in 1982.

Amado-Mahtar M' Bow, director-general of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, told a Beijing news conference that he believes China will eliminate illiteracy before the year 2000. ■

Weekly Chronical (August 31-September 6)

POLITICAL

September 2

■ Lu Peijian, auditor-general of the State Auditing Administration, tells the 22nd meeting of the Standing Committee of the Sixth National People's Congress that since last year, audits have found 4 billion yuan (about US\$1 billion) which should have been turned over to the state earlier.

The figure pertains to 1,569 cases, he says. Most of the problems uncovered, such as taking advantage of the reforms or using fraud to further personal or group interests, have been dealt with in accordance with the relevant policies, laws and regulations.

September 5

■ Chinese senior leader Deng Xiaoping tells Susumu Nikaido, the visiting former vice-president of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party, that in the past few years, some bad things have taken place between China and Japan. He attributes these incidents to a small number of Japanese.

Deng says there is no reason for China and Japan not to be friendly: These problems are not difficult to solve so long as the principles of the 1972 China-Japan Joint Statement and the 1978 China-Japan Treaty of Peace and Friendship are observed. But he says "minor troubles, once accumulated, could also bring harm to our principles."

ECONOMIC

August 31

■ The Jianbi thermal power plant in Zhenjiang, Jiangsu Province, has become the largest in China after being expanded.

It will generate 8 billion kwh of electricity a year to alleviate the power shortage in highly industrialized east China.

September 2

■ China produced 31.79 million tons of steel during the first seven months of this year, 1.89 million more than in the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Metallurgy.

China is producing 149,900 tons of steel daily and is expected to surpass the target of 54.5 million tons set for this year, a ministry official says.

CULTURAL

September 3

■ An eight-day international seminar on the Dunhuang Grottoes will be held later this month at the grottoes in northwest China's Gansu Province, Xinhua reports.

More than 80 foreign experts and scholars will attend the meeting. Dunhuang was constructed intermittently over a 1,000-year period from the 4th to the 14th century. It is China's biggest surviving example of grottoes of Buddhist art.

SOCIAL

September 1

■ China's first Tibetan Buddhism Institute officially opens in Beijing with Bainqen Erdini Qoigy Gyaincain as its president.

Bainqen, who is also honorary president of the Chinese Buddhist Association, says at the opening ceremony that "the founding of the institute is a milestone in the history of Chinese Buddhism, and marks the historical reform of Tibetan Buddhism by organizing 'living Buddhas' to study religion, politics and other related subjects."

"Living Buddhas" are said to be the reincarnation of Buddha.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

September 3

■ China and Democratic Germany sign in Berlin protocol on co-operation in construction and environmental protection.

PHILIPPINES

Aquino's Army Crushes Coup Attempt

A 30-hour mutiny, the most dangerous and bloodiest since Corazon Aquino came to power 18 months ago, was put down by forces loyal to the president. Many countries reiterated their support to the Aquino government.

At 1:30 am (local time) on August 28, the sound of gunfire from the vicinity of the presidential palace in Manila shattered the night's tranquility.

People who hurried to the scene, including local and foreign reporters, saw some 300 soldiers in full battle gear about 500 metres from the gate of the palace. The soldiers were trading fire with presidential security guards inside the compound. Each soldier wore on his arm an insignia showing the Philippine flag upside down: in local custom, a symbol of war or rebellion. It was a sign that a mutiny had begun.

The mutinous soldiers tried to storm the palace and shot point-blank two security guards manning a checkpoint. But the guards put up a valiant defence despite being outnumbered.

Civilian bystanders gathered at a crossing near the palace and jeered at the mutineers, shouting, "Go home, go home." Unexpectedly, the rebels fired at them, killing at least five people and wounding dozens of others. Two journalists, one Filipino and one from New Zealand, fell dead while the others stampeded for cover.

Hundreds of government troops rushed to the palace to reinforce the palace guards. They repelled the mutineers after intense fighting.

By afternoon, some 1,000 rebel troops were concentrated in front of Camp Aguinaldo, the armed forces general staff headquarters. The rebels' capture of the camp forced Chief of Staff General Fidel Ramos and the military high

command to move to the Philippine constabulary headquarters at nearby Camp Crame.

After the capture of Camp Aguinaldo, Colonel Gregorio Honasan, a well-known leader of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement of disgruntled young officers, made his appearance in the camp as the leader of the uprising.

The mutiny scored early successes. Rebel soldiers seized almost simultaneously several strategic targets—the Villamor air base, Manila television and radio stations and a centrally located hotel. Radio reports said soldiers in at least six provinces defected to the rebels.

Rebel officers appeared on television and one lieutenant demanded the resignation of President Aquino and General Ramos.

At 3:30 pm, Aquino, looking grim, appeared on nationwide television to announce she had ordered government troops to terminate the mutiny as soon as possible. Ramos directed other parts of the country to provide the capital with combat support, and the tide began to turn. Four pro-government battalions, backed by tanks and armoured personnel on Camp Aguinaldo. Bursts of automatic gunfire and explosions shook windows and walls on the streets around the camp and sent pieces of concrete hurtling into the air.

Fighter planes fired rockets at the mutineers positioned behind the general headquarters building. The building burst into flames and huge columns of black smoke rose high into the sky.

Before nightfall, loyal troops retook the headquarters, winning a decisive victory over the mutineers. Group after group of rebels waved white strips of cloth around their rifles to surrender. At 7 am the next morning all the remaining rebels at the camp surrendered.

At least 50 people were killed in the mutiny and more than 200 were wounded. An influential newspaper in Manila said in a

Troops loyal to Aquino guarding the presidential palace.



commentary that the coup attempt was the bloodiest and strongest yet and that it came very close to toppling the government. It also showed that Aquino can still mobilize popular support.

Although the mutiny was put down, rebel leader Honasan and some supporters fled to central Luzon island, north of Manila, where, reports say, they proclaimed a provisional military government led by Honasan. A statement issued by the junta pledged allegiance to the 1935 constitution and called for new presidential elections. But an armed forces spokesman dismissed reports that a provisional government had been set up. He said the junta's statement was prepared before the coup attempt. The Philippine military gave the rebels a 90-day ultimatum to surrender.

In the wake of the failed coup, the Aquino government received many messages of solidarity from foreign governments. Chinese

President Li Xiannian sent a message of support to President Aquino on August 29, the day after the mutiny. On the same day, a spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry said China wants to see a stable situation in the Philippines. The US embassy in Manila released a statement by President Ronald Reagan on August 30 in which he reiterated unswerving support to the Aquino government and said he was relieved that the government had survived the coup attempt. Japanese Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari said on August 29 that Japan hopes to see stability in the Philippines.

Among the other foreign governments that have voiced their support are Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Singapore, the Soviet Union, Sweden, Thailand, Uruguay and the 12 states of the European Community.

by Zhai Shuyao

Murphy, it is in conflict with the interest of the United States and the free world to let the Soviet Union enlarge its impact and strength in the area.

The superpowers are both contending for the crucially positioned Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. As the Gulf tension heightened last year, Kuwait simultaneously called on the United States and the Soviet Union to escort its oil tankers. Moscow responded to the request in April this year by offering three oil tankers to Kuwait and dispatching navy escort vessels. Washington, which hesitated at first, then agreed to escort Kuwaiti-owned tankers flying the US flag. This is the origin of the current superpower interference in the Gulf.

The Soviet Union has sent only six warships in addition to its three oil tankers to the Gulf. But it is engaged in bustling diplomatic activities in the region. While keeping up its relations with Iraq on the one hand, the Soviet Union has intensified its contact with Iran on the other, sending its vice-foreign minister to Tehran to discuss the export of Iranian oil via Soviet territory. At the same time, Moscow rebuked Washington for its military presence in the Gulf, demanding that all non-Gulf countries' vessels leave the region as soon as possible. By this policy, Moscow hopes to gain the edge on the Americans in the struggle for the Gulf.

Despite the US military buildup, both Washington and Tehran are showing restraint. Iran says it is trying to avoid military conflicts in the Gulf region, but that it will do its best to dominate the waters of the Gulf. The United States, which has worked out various plans against Iran, also is avoiding impulsive actions. The danger of military conflicts in the Gulf still exists, however.

The gunboat policy of the White House has prompted uneasiness among many Americans, includ-

THE GULF

Hot Spot Draws Superpowers

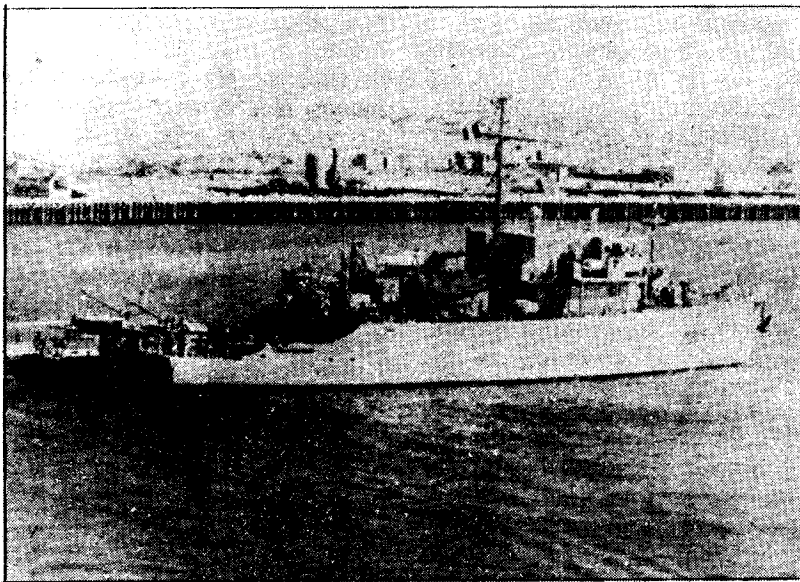
Tension is flaring in the Persian Gulf region as the United States strengthens its military presence and the Soviet Union intensifies its diplomatic activities, both with the aim of getting the better of the other in the area.

The United States is conducting its largest military buildup in the Persian Gulf area since the later 1960s. It has established a united Middle East task force command to co-ordinate its military activities in the region. And reports say that 41 US navy vessels and more than 20,000 Americans are gathering in the Gulf while several cruisers are heading towards the area.

The growing US military activities were spurred by the mines in the Gulf, which threaten

US warships. One US escort vessel has been damaged since the United States began escorting Kuwaiti tankers on July 22.

However, the ultimate reason for the US presence is not merely to sweep mines or escort tankers but, more importantly, to strengthen its position in the area. Washington intends to halt the expansion of Soviet influence and forces in the Gulf region, because, in the words of US Assistant Secretary for the Near East and South Asian Affairs Richard



by ZHANG XUN

A French mine-sweeping vessel passing by the city of Suez, at the southern tip of the Suez Canal.

ing some congressmen, who fear that the United States might be involved in another Viet Nam War. Pentagon officials are also worried that the United States has got itself into an endless, dangerous and costly trouble.

Reports say the US military presence in the Gulf is costing the country US\$1 million a day.

The current tension in the Gulf is not likely to ease soon, with the number of the vessels from the United States, the Soviet Union,

Britain and France totalling 70. Iran seems to be planning to plant mines in the Gulf waters since this seems to be the most efficient way to deal with the United States. Iranian-made mines are sophisticated and hard to handle even with advanced mine-sweeping devices.

A Chinese spokesman recently said China is closely following the worsening situation in the Gulf and sincerely hopes that the parties concerned will exercise restraint instead of further aggravating matters. On August 25 and 26, Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Qi Huaiyuan visited Iran as a special envoy of the Chinese government and had a friendly exchange of views with Iranian leaders on relaxing Gulf tension and ending the Iran-Iraq war. The visit complemented the mediation efforts of United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and helped promote the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 598, which calls for a ceasefire between Iran and Iraq.

by Zhang Liang

NAMIBIA

Pretoria Must Be Forced to Get Out

Namibia is still fighting for its independence because South Africa obstinately and illegally refuses to leave.

On August 26, Namibia Day, the justice-upholding countries and people of the world strongly condemned the racist regime of South Africa for its occupation of Namibia.

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) issued a statement stressing the urgent need to intensify political, diplomatic, military and material support to the Namibian people and their

liberation movement, the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO). The statement reaffirmed the determination of African leaders, as expressed in the declaration of the 23rd OAU summit, to foil attempts to perpetuate the illegal rule of South Africa over Namibia.

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar reiterated the Security Council's

call for South Africa to end its occupation of Namibia. He told a special meeting of the UN Council for Namibia that the question of independence is a priority on the international agenda.

Namibia was a colony of Germany before World War I. In 1915 South Africa occupied the colony in the name of joining the Entente countries to fight against Germany. In 1920 the League of Nations gave South Africa a mandate to administer Namibia (then South West Africa). The UN General Assembly voted to terminate the mandate in October 1966, but Pretoria refused to comply. The General Assembly has subsequently adopted many resolutions asking South Africa to

end its illegal occupation, but the South African authorities have refused to implement them.

Namibia has waged a long struggle against South Africa's occupation and for independence. On August 26, 1966, the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO resorted to arms and the first shots were fired in northwest Namibia. Since then SWAPO has organized people both in the cities and the countryside and has launched various forms of mass movements. For more than 20 years, the people's armed forces have been growing stronger. They have dealt a serious blow to the occupation authorities.

Internationally, there have been many appeals against South Africa's illegal occupation and in support of the Namibian struggle. In 1978 the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 435, demanding a UN-supervised election to realize Namibian independence. But Pretoria has created pretexts to reject this resolution in order to permanently occupy Namibia. One of the pretexts is to link Namibian independence with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. These are two entirely different matters.

Another pretext is to deny SWAPO's status as the legal representative of the Namibian people. South African President Pieter Botha has said that as long as the United Nations supports SWAPO, South Africa will not permit Namibian independence. This unreasonable stand has interrupted peaceful negotiations on the Namibian issue.

For years, Pretoria has been plotting to create a sham independence and install a puppet regime. But its attempts have been strongly opposed and condemned by the Namibian people and world opinion. In June, South African Foreign Minister Pick Botha said Pretoria would discuss a "new constitution" with the so-called "transitional government." Public opinion exposed this trick to

impose a neo-colonialist puppet government on the Namibian people.

The South African authorities have also tried to hold ethnic elections in Namibia. The UN Council for Namibia pointed out in an August 3 statement that all unilateral measures taken by the Pretoria regime in relation to the electoral process in Namibia are "illegal, null and void." The statement demands that South Africa abandon its electoral scheme and co-operate in the implementation of Resolution 435.

BURUNDI

31-Member Military Council Formed

A military coup took place in Burundi on September 3, while President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza was in Canada attending a summit of the Francophone nations.

Burundi President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza has been overthrown by military leaders of the country. He was relieved of his posts as head of state, party chairman and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. The coup was led by Major Pierre Buyoya, member of the Central Committee of the National Union for Progress, the country's sole legal political party. Radio Bujumbura announced that the constitution had been suspended and power seized by a Military Committee for National Redemption.

The new regime accused Bagaza of religious persecution and promised to guarantee freedom of religious belief. The former government had declared Burundi a secular state and ordered the arrest of some Catholic clergymen and the confiscation of some missionary schools. The new

The South African authorities have militarily suppressed the Namibian people and have provoked neighbouring countries which support Namibia's struggle. These actions, which seriously threaten the peace and stability in southern Africa, have aroused the indignation of the international community. But it is clear that Pretoria, with its powerful military strength and US backing, does not intend to bow out of Namibia. The Namibian people's struggle for independence will remain tortuous and rough.

by Xu Dewen

regime also said the former government's economic policy was "incoherent" and triggered economic difficulties.

Buyoya said the foreign policy of his government would be based on "good neighbourliness, non-interference in other countries' affairs, non-alignment and support for authentic liberation movements." He also announced the composition of his 31-member ruling military council, which includes 11 majors in addition to himself, 11 commanders and seven lieutenant-colonels.

Burundi, a former Belgian colony wedged between Tanzania and Zaire in east Africa, achieved its independence in 1962. The country has a population of 4.7 million and a territory of 27,800 square kilometres. President Bagaza came to power in 1976 in a military coup.

by Chang Qing

Price Reform Makes Its Impact Felt

Guangdong Province's capital city Guangzhou was chosen six years ago as a testing ground for China's price reform policy — part of its economic restructuring programme. Some people say the results have been positive; others say no.

by Our Correspondent Li Rongxia

Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province, has pioneered price reform in China. Over the past six years, the province has weathered major price fluctuations, about which a few people have complained, but most people benefit.

Guangzhou residents who were seldom able to buy fish are now offered a good choice of fish at fair prices. The average annual fish consumption of Guangzhou's urban dwellers is 39.5 kg, 2.6 times the world average and 6.7 times the Chinese average. In the 1985-86 period, there were 100 million kg of fish in Guangzhou markets each year, which was four times more than in 1979, and the retail price averaged 3.6 yuan per kg (about US\$1).

Where's the Fish?

Guangzhou is located in the Zhujiang (Pearl) River Delta where the soil is fertile and water abundant. It has long been known as a "land of fish and rice." But for many years fish became very scarce. Every resident was given a 0.1 kg fish ration per month but sometimes even that was unobtainable.

Where were the fish? It appears the rigid price system was keeping the fish off the market. At that time the government's purchasing price of fish was only 0.8 yuan per kg, and the retail price was 1.2 yuan. This amount hardly covered

the production cost, so no one wanted to raise fish. In 1981, the local government decided to lift the price controls on consumer goods and let prices react to supply and demand. They did this for fish. As demand far outstripped supply, the price of fish shot up. Grass carp, for example, went from 2 yuan to 8 yuan per kg, startling the consumers who were used to stationary prices. Many of them, complained to the provincial, municipal and Central authorities, but the Guangzhou government continued to relax price controls.

Meanwhile, more and more farmers in the Zhujiang River Delta began to raise fish. After 1981, fish ponds were dug and expanded and the output of fish increased rapidly. Freshwater fish, seafood and prawns from nearby provinces also made their way into Guangzhou's markets. The supply increased, the price dropped, and both consumers and producers now benefit from fish farming.

In Guangzhou, meat, poultry, eggs, vegetable, fruit and household goods have seen their prices undergo a similar process. The cost of living index in Guangzhou rose at 22.5 percent in 1985, but in 1986 it dropped to 3.4 percent, the lowest rate in the country's big cities.

Most Guangzhou residents agree that price reform is necessary and think it worthwhile to endure occasional price hikes for certain products in the process.

Price Reform: A Must

In the 30 years after the founding of the People's Republic, China set the development of commodity production against the planned economy, and neglected the regulatory role of the law of value (that the price of a good will reflect its value and the change in supply and demand) in production, circulation and consumption. Prices of most commodities were strictly controlled by the government, especially central government, and became less realistic as all economic activities were propelled by state plan and administrative means.

Under China's old price structure, prices reflected neither the true value of the goods nor the relationship between their supply and demand. The Guangzhou price control authorities identified the following four points:

—The purchasing prices for farm and sideline products were unduly low, and selling prices were still lower than the purchasing prices. The state had to subsidize them.

—The prices of manufactured goods were high, but the prices of minerals, energy and raw materials were too low. For example, the 1978 profit rate for state-owned industrial enterprises was 21 percent, 43.19 percent for light industry, 47.68 percent for the textile industry, and only 0.46 percent for coal. Due to their low

prices and meagre profits, household goods like soap, matches and toilet paper were often out of stock.

—The price of commodities bore no relation to quality. For a long time the state set a unified price for every kind of commodity.

—Charges for transport, urban public utilities and services were unduly low. For example, it cost just five to 20 *fen* to ride a bus. Every year the municipal transportation and communications company lost 1 million yuan.

In the past, under the policy of the state monopoly on purchase and allocation with "everyone eating from the same big pot," the people were used to the unreasonable price structure. After 1980, the state began to accept that the socialist economy was still a kind of commodity economy. At the same time, the state began to practise commodity exchange at equal value, distribution according to work, and the means of economic readjustment. All this made the reform of the distorted price structure imperative. Since Guangzhou is near Hong Kong and Macao and directly influenced by international market prices, it was felt that the city should reform its price structure first.

Gradual Readjustment

The price reform is all encompassing and will lead to a redistribution of the national income. While taking into full account the capacity of the state, enterprises and the people to cope with the repercussions of the reform, the Guangzhou authorities have been proceeding steadily with it.

Since 1981, the Guangzhou government has narrowed the range of unified state prices (fixed prices), and enlarged the scope of other prices. At the same time the municipal government devolved the power to set prices to lower levels. Now there are three kinds of prices — the fixed, the floating and the free market prices.

Fixed Price. The proportion of items with fixed prices decreased from 98 percent in 1978 to 20 percent in 1986. Now only some important commodities (including grain, oil, fuel and medicines), and some charges (such as transport fares, rent, water rates, electricity, tuition and postage) still have fixed prices.

The fixed prices are controlled by various government departments. The prices of grain, oil, civil aviation, and train transport are

set by central government departments and approved by the State Price Bureau, while the prices of local train and ship transport and the charges for water and electricity are set by local government departments and ratified by the provincial price bureaus.

Floating Price. It is based on the state's planned prices but is allowed to fluctuate according to supply and demand and quality within limits set by the price bureau and controlled by the industries themselves. The charges for services and recreational activities such as hotel rooms, concerts and plays also have floating prices. Now a third of all prices in Guangzhou are floating.

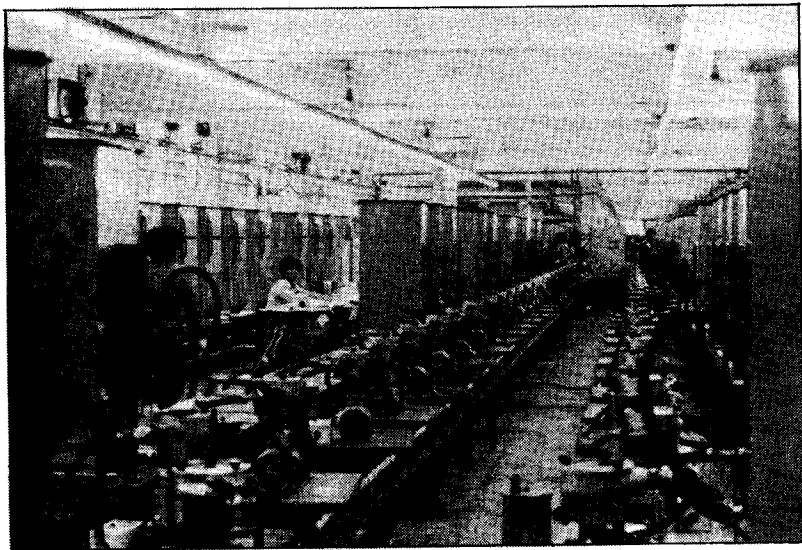
Some important raw materials such as steel, cement, coal and timber have both fixed and floating prices, with those produced under the state plan sold at fixed prices.

Free Market Price. A full half of prices in Guangzhou are free. Fish is one example. But they are susceptible to adjustment by economic levers enforced by the municipal government. For example, to keep state commerce predominant and the prices of vegetables reasonable in off seasons, every year the Vegetable Company buys vegetables from other places and sells them at low prices. This does entail high expenditure on the part of the government, but such subsidies have been decreasing year by year. In 1984, the local government spent 16 million yuan on subsidies, but in 1986, it only spent 5 million yuan.

In Guangdong Province the three special economic zones (Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Shantou), the two open cities (Guangzhou and Zhanjiang) and the open area (Hainan Island), all conduct their reforms slightly differently. For example, in the Shenzhen SEZ, the proportion of free market prices is 85 percent, fixed prices 6 percent, and floating prices make up 9 percent.

Scene in a workshop of the Wanbao Refrigerator Factory.

LI RONGXIA



Initial Achievements of Reform

A reasonable price structure will exert positive influence on commodity production, circulation, distribution and consumption. To establish a rational price system based on the principle that prices are close to the value of goods and can basically reflect the changes in supply and demand is one of the goals for China's current economic structural reform, and should be an important economic lever in promoting and co-ordinating economic development. Guangdong Province has taken the first step in this respect and has for the most part reformed irrational price ratios, so that every trade is nearer equalization of profit rates (see tables 1 and 2). This helps adjust the industrial structure along market lines and redistribute social labour in a planned way.

Table 1: Pre-tax Profits in State-Owned Industrial Enterprises

Year	Profit rate for every 100 yuan invested	
	1978	1985
Average	21	22.68
Metallurgy	7.68	17.78
Chemicals	12.13	15.33
Building materials	9.64	20.57
Machinery	9.12	19.3
Farm machinery	3.25	10.47
Medicine	45.34	38.41
Light industry	52.55	35.99
Textiles	39.32	25.69

Table 2: After-Tax Profits of State-Owned Industrial Enterprises on Every 100 Yuan Investment

Year	1978	1985
Average	11.99	10.29
Metallurgy	4.31	17.11
Chemicals	3.52	6.84
Building materials	1.31	14.2
Machinery	5.92	12.9
Farm machinery	-4	8.1
Medicine	33.42	25.49
Light industry	17.88	12.16
Textiles	21.31	15.38

After decontrolling prices, items given subsidies were reduced and the total amount of subsidies dropped after 1985. There were 26 items that had subsidies in 1979, and only 12 in 1985, consisting mainly of grain and fuel (see table 3).

Liang Zhiliang, director of the Price Bureau in Guangzhou said: "These two commodities are still a problem. Each year, 96 million yuan of subsidies are needed for 450,000 tons of rationed grain,

and household coal takes up 10 yuan for every 100 kg, while the market retail price is 4 yuan. Thus, we end up spending over 30 million yuan on subsidies for coal. The prices of these things will directly affect people's lives, and if we cancel the subsidies, it will produce serious consequences, so we reckon the time is not ripe to change this."

Price reform has already had good effects. Guan Chongan, manager of the Guangzhou Nanfang Daxia (South Mansions) Department Store, said, "Now we adjust prices according to demand. At the beginning of 1981, our store overstocked several thousand electric fans. We recouped the money by selling them at a discount. The store's turnover increased from 65 million yuan in 1978 to 300 million yuan in 1985."

Guangdong Province introduced allowances to compensate for price rises. The monthly allowance for each employee is nearly 40 yuan, including the subsidies for grain, oil, coal and meat, so that together with wage rises, the average annual income of each employee in the province's cities and towns increased from 611 yuan in 1978 to 1,300 yuan in 1985 (see table 4).

Table 3: Commodity Subsidies Given by Guangdong Provincial Government

Year	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Total amount of subsidies (million yuan)	880	1,040	1,110	1,260	1,560	1,650
Subsidies as percentage of province revenue	23.75	25.73	26.59	28.26	32.05	24
Grain as percentage of subsidies	58	59.6	60.3	68.6	74.2	68.4

Table 4: Retail Price Index Rises and People's Income

Year	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Province's retail price index rises %	3	8.5	9.3	2.3	0.7	1.2	13.6	
Guangzhou's retail price index rises %	4.5	12.9	5.9	0.3	0.6	1.2	22.5	3.3
Average income of Guangzhou Workers (yuan)	824	931	1,008	1,083	1,144	1,318	1,596	1,759

Farmers' incomes have also risen. The average per-capita income of farmers in the province rose from 193.25 yuan in 1978 to 495 yuan in 1985.

Some people complain that the increase in their incomes has been offset by price rises. For retired people and employees in low-profit enterprises, this is true.

So the city government gives various subsidies to retired workers as it did working employees, and also increased pensions.

Results of a Poll

Recently the Price Bureau of Guangdong Province asked 21 typical families (six cadres, 10 intellectuals and five workers) about prices. Answers are as follows:

1. On price reform.

The price reform is beneficial to the economy, the markets and our living standards: 95.2 percent.

It does little good to economic development or people's living standards: 0 percent.

It does no good to economic development, and causes hardship to the masses: 4.8 percent.

2. On price rises.

Increase in incomes is greater than price rises: 48 percent.

Increased incomes equal price rises: 9.2 percent.

Increased incomes are lower than price rises: 42.8 percent.

3. About multiple prices.

Favour fixed prices and rationed goods: 0 percent.

Favour fixed prices coexisting with floating and free market prices: 76.2 percent.

Favour free market prices instead of fixed prices for non-staple foods: 23.8 percent.

4. Relations between prices and wages.

Favour keeping wages and prices low: 4.8 percent.

Favour keeping wages and price rises up with each other: 95.2 percent.

5. Measure for controlling prices.

Favour the state intervening when prices rise too sharply: 47.8 percent.

Favour maximum prices being set on all commodities: 42.8 percent.

Favour complete price freedom: 9.4 percent.

floating prices should be the basis because they relate directly to state plans but are flexible. They represent a better way to combine regulation by planning with regulation by the market, and are helpful in exercising effective macroeconomic control while allowing a certain amount of price fluctuations.

Then there are those who think that in the long term free prices should be the key, and before free prices are fully applied, floating prices should be used. As the socialist economy is planned commodity economy, it is imperative to bring market forces more into the forefront.

Market Mechanism

Chen Zhaobin, a professor at Jinan University, says that price reform is aimed at introducing market forces into economic activity, and that market forces are at the core of regulating the commodity economy. Market regulation works through changes in supply and demand as well as related price fluctuations. Price fluctuations have a regulatory function as they feed back into commodity production and circulation. Therefore, the market mechanism is in fact price mechanism, and the role it plays is in fact the role of the law of value. The spontaneous regulatory role of the price mechanism is conducive to the development of the productive forces, because it facilitates the rational use of the various production factors and resources, promotes technological progress and satisfies demand.

But, under certain conditions, the spontaneous role of the price mechanism can hinder or even undermine economic development. To give it a completely free rein can stimulate enterprises to seek their own interests to the exclusion of the interests of the

Future Price Patterns

He Jie, director of the Guangdong Price Association, thinks the price pattern for Guangdong should be an open, multi-tiered and pluralistic one that is under the guidance of the socialist planned economy and can bring into full play the regulatory role of the market. It should also be linked to the prices in the Hong Kong and Macao markets to a certain degree.

Opinions vary as to what kind of prices should be taken as the basis for this price pattern.

Some people hold that planned prices (state-set prices) should occupy the dominant position, taking floating prices as auxiliaries and market prices as supplementary. They demand that planned prices be affixed to basic means of livelihood, important means of production and items which have a close bearing on the national economy and people's livelihood.

Most members of the Guangdong Price Association, however, are of the opinion that



Fresh flowers! The joy of Guangzhou shoppers.

LI RONGXIA

state or of the long term, resulting in waste of resources. Therefore, when the market is allowed to regulate, it is extremely important to stress overall control and guidance through state plans, so as to prevent or alleviate the negative effects of the price mechanism.

Control of the Price Index

One view holds that when China's economy enters a stage of rapid development, price hikes are inevitable as demand exceeds supply. Coupled with the structural reforms of the price system, the annual rate of price rises might be in two-figure number. There is nothing to be afraid of here and no need to control the rises.

Most members of the price association believe that efforts should be made to achieve a balance between demand and supply, effectively control the price index and keep prices basically stable. They think this is necessary for sustained and well co-ordinated economic growth, for the smooth unfolding of the reform of the economic structure and for the successful unleashing of market forces. They believe that big price rises will cause discontent and affect social stability, and encourage some people to seek

profit while neglecting normal production. Also, they fear wage rises might be followed by more price rises, leading to an inflationary vicious circle. Therefore, during the reform, the annual price rise should be kept at 2-3 percent as this will not lead to dire consequences.

Wen Wuhan, deputy director of the Guangdong Price Research Institute, thinks that 7.2-percent interest rate on fixed one-year bank deposits should be taken as the warning line for inflation. If this is exceeded and there is a danger of savings losing value, there would be panic buying, which would plunge the banking system into confusion. Therefore, price rises must be lower than interest rate on fixed one-year deposits.

Price Reform and Wages

Economists in Guangdong all believe that price reform should be linked with a readjustment of wages. In conducting price reform, it is necessary to take into account the state's financial resources, enterprises' ability to absorb the repercussions and the financial situation of the consumers. To make the reform a success, one must make sure that the interests of none of the three—the state, the enterprises and

individual—will suffer. As wages are determined by the level of productivity, the following priorities should be used in price reform: The increase in labour productivity should be the highest; wage rises, second; price rises should take the last place. Only in this way, can the economy develop beneficially.

Home and External Prices

Hu Youqing, a lecturer at Jinan University, thinks the price reform in Guangdong should take into account international prices—those of Guangdong's neighbours Hong Kong and Macao are appropriate here. With the implementation of the open policy and the expansion of economic exchanges with other countries, the prices in the world market will affect the prices in the domestic market. When the open policy was first adopted, the big gap between prices in the domestic and international market gave rise to problems, such as some units competing to purchase agricultural products for export and importing industrial products, which adversely affected the development of China's industry. Smuggling thrived on the colossal profits from the price difference. Therefore, it is necessary to narrow the gap between them, though Hu believes it is impossible to achieve complete parity.

The way to begin the progress, some people think, is that different areas (special economic zones, open coastal cities, areas open to foreign economic exchanges, inland mountainous areas) should adopt different price systems relative to international prices to form a staircase buffer to the possible repercussions. Others believe that the pricing should vary from product to product. There are still others who think that the solution to the problem should take a double track and work according to area and product. ■

An Open City's Cultural Life

by Our Correspondent Ling Yang

As one of China's first cities opened to the outside in recent years, Guangzhou has witnessed a series of economic changes as well as lively, flourishing cultural activities.

Once I lingered around several news stalls at a street corner in the downtown area. On display were dailies, evening papers and other publications put out in Guangzhou and its neighbouring cities and provinces, as well as some published in cities of the northeast and northwest. Apart from the comprehensive coverage by city or provincial papers, specialized papers bring out topics ranging from youth, business, economic information, tourism, football, chess, TV programmes, and folk literature to story-telling and personal profiles of newsworthy figures. I came across a pictorial entitled *Weekend*, a monthly entitled *Window of Southern Breezes* and pamphlets on Guangdong legality and daily life, displayed alongside *Life and Beauty* and *Hong Kong Customs*, both purporting to have special appeal by featuring articles signed by Hong Kong writers. Off and on, passers-by were attracted to the stalls by the large variety of publications, hoping to satisfy curiosity, find amusement, further a hobby or satisfy some personal interest.

Next to the stalls is a cinema with its current monthly programme posted outside. The titles include *Battle of Taierzhuang* (a battle fought in the early days of China's anti-Japanese war), *Strange Circle* (about today's intellectuals), some foreign films, old Chinese films, and Hong Kong videotapes.

The cinema's lounge serves as a dance-hall, while its ante-room is filled with youngsters plying game machines. I learnt that a dozen or



ZHANG DONG

Wang Yue, a student of the Guangzhou Conservatory of Music, during a competition featuring Chinese works held in Shenzhen in March. She teaches a dozen or so students during her spare time.

so cinemas, while they still show moving pictures, have been turned into amusement centres like this.

At dusk all the dance-halls, theatres, cinemas, amusement centres and tea houses with orchestras, are crowded with pleasure-seekers.

After the diners of the Green Garden Palace—a restaurant inside the luxury Dong Fang Hotel—left at 9:00 pm, the hall was turned within half an hour into a tea house with orchestral music entertainment. A ten-person band with synthesizers struck up one strain of pop music after another, their pieces interspersed with performances by a few singers, both male and female. I myself found it neither relaxing nor enjoyable to listen to those vocalists who shout themselves hoarse and clumsily swing amidst blinking lights, but the tea-sippers there, numbering around 100 or so, appeared to be enjoying themselves immensely.

A visiting Hong Kong ballet troupe was performing to a full house at the nearby Friendship Theatre, although the entrance-fee was higher than that set for ordinary cultural troupes of inland China.

Not far from the railway station, I found several book-stalls still doing business in the small hours. Their make-shift shelves held a number of full-length novels: *A Living Hell* on the life of prostitutes by the Russian writer A.E. Kuprin (1870-1938), spy-centred *Women in a Secret War*, books by S. Freud, *Sons and Lovers* by D. H. Lawrence, *If Tomorrow Comes* by S. Sheldon, *Bathing in a Desert*, a collection of prose writings by the Taiwanese woman writer San Mao, a compilation of materials related to China's classical novel *Jin Ping Mei* (Gold Vase Plum), and others.

My cursory overview convinced me of the fullness and variety of the people's cultural and recreational life in Guangzhou. In recent years, more than 400 units (state-owned, jointly managed, collectively or individually owned) started to run amusement centres in the city. They opened 56 tea houses providing orchestral music, 21 dance-halls, three large amusement centres, organized a group of professional light music orchestras and dance bands, and set up several hundred book stalls, billiard rooms and centres for showing videotapes and playing electronic games. Another study reveals that in Guangzhou, almost every family has a TV set (one-third of them colour), 92 percent of the households has cassette-recorders, and some of the families have videotape machines. These figures are much greater than those for Beijing and other big cities in China.

New Task

Guangzhou, China's south gate neighbouring Hong Kong and Macao, not only has a long-standing history of traditional music, painting and theatrical performing arts, but stands at the forefront of taking in imported culture. Since China opened to the outside at the end of the 70s, an



by Courtesy of the China Hotel

Fan-maker Li Yangzhi's five children. The family has become well-to-do and happy since the open policy. Photography is one of the children's favourite pastimes.

average of several hours a day of overseas programmes has been broadcast over local TV stations. In the past few years, the city has witnessed several hundred performances by overseas singers, artists and art troupes as well as numerous exhibitions, videotape shows and lectures by visiting professors.

Naturally there is both treasure and trash in imported cultural products from the West, Hong Kong and Macao. Some of the pop songs, TV programmes and videotapes are of low level morally and artistically. They propagate, to different degrees, the ideology and life-style of money first, "me first" and pleasure first. However, for a time, some people (especially the youth) worshipped these entertainments indiscriminately and readily imitated undesirable facets of Western life-style. Influenced by decadent ideas, some young people degenerated into juvenile delinquents, causing the city's crime rate to spiral.

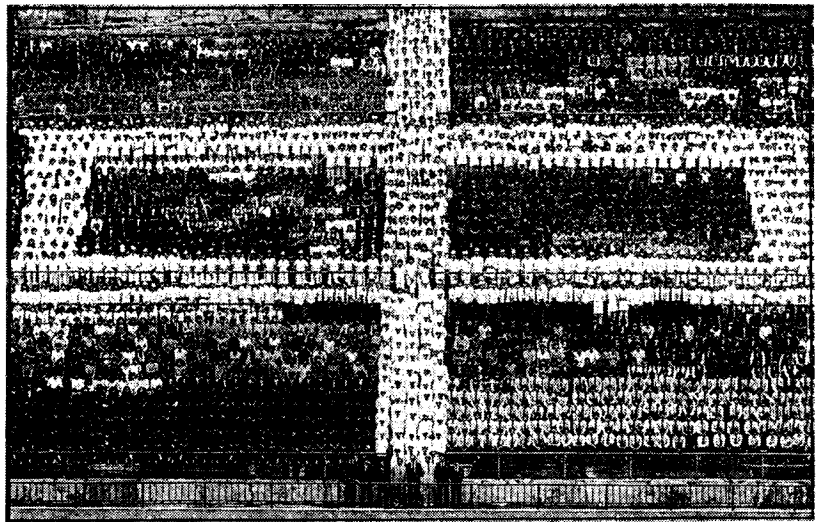
Obviously, proper management and guidance are indispensable under the set policy of opening to the outside.

The Party's 12th National Congress held in September 1982 set forth the task of strengthening

the construction of socialist culture and ethics. Deng Xiaoping pointed out in his opening speech to the congress: "We will unswervingly follow a policy of opening to the outside world. . . . At the same time, we will keep a clear head, firmly resist corrosion by decadent ideas from abroad and never permit the bourgeois way of life to spread in our country."

The 3,000 employees of the China Hotel on the hotel's first anniversary in June 1985. The hotel has 1,200 rooms, 18 restaurants, an attached commercial centre and an apartment building.

by Courtesy of China Hotel



At the initial stage of the open policy, Guangdong Province, where Guangzhou is situated, put forward the principle of "removing the dirt, but not anti-foreign." Its general policy towards the socialist cultural undertaking is: foster the beneficial, permit the harmless, resist the harmful, ban the unlawful, and crack down on criminal offence. On this basis, the city's cultural departments are trying to provide a multi-level, multi-functional, healthy, flourishing, open cultural environment in keeping with the growing cultural needs of the local people.

Take the tea house with music for instance. People's opinions on pop music differ. Some say, why interfere—ordinary city people enjoy it and so do quite a few young people. Not a few intellectuals and personages in the musical world feel it is apt to be "low level and vulgar," and should not be encouraged. Still the city government's attitude is to help it run a healthy course instead of blocking it.

Early in the 1980s, when foreign businessmen began to pour into the city, they complained of the monotony, to say nothing of the dearth, of recreational activities.

So the city government permitted a luxury hotel in the downtown area to run Guangzhou's first tea house providing orchestral music. A professional light music band composed of some 20 artists and singers was on hand to perform. Gradually tea houses like this began to appear in other parts of the city. Now the leading cultural units raise the quality of performances by providing the musicians and singers with opportunities for training, testing, competitions and academic study. Many of them have learnt how to choose better music from among the multitude of works they are confronted with.

Once a guest wanted to hear a pop song entitled *Bad Girl*. The request went unanswered. When the singer finished the other songs requested by listeners, he explained: *Bad Girl* is not a good song. True it was popular for a time overseas, but now it is no longer being sung. I will not sing it, either. His polite, friendly answer was accepted by the audience.

Another example concerned *The Full Moon*, about a woman yearning for her husband, a soldier fighting aggressors at the frontier. The song, melodious and full of deep sentiments, was soon acclaimed across the land as an excellent new folk song. Before long it was introduced into the tea houses of Guangzhou, where it was generally well received. However, some people thought that a revolutionary song like that should not be treated as a pop song to be sung just anywhere, and the composer was also not happy about it. But tea-sippers like the song and many people from overseas are fond of it too. Now it has become one of the most popular songs in Guangzhou's tea houses. When I first heard it sung to the accompaniment of synthesizers by a pop singer, my feeling was it was neither fish nor fowl. But seeing the warm response of the audience, I can not but admit there is some truth in the saying that opening to the outside

helps protect and spread the excellent culture of the Chinese nation. In Guangzhou in the field of popular music, the trend is that works from Hong Kong and Taiwan are gradually giving way to native and exotic folk songs, lyrics, artistic songs, Chinese traditional music and light music of various descriptions.

It should be admitted that Guangzhou's cultural mainstream is still that of popular culture. But people's powers of appreciation are becoming more enhanced. I learnt that about two years ago, a concert by a singer who has won an international academic prize was poorly attended, even with tickets selling at discount. However today, a set of classical music tapes costing as much as 280 yuan sells like hot cakes. Once when Beijing's Central Philharmonic Society performed in Guangzhou, about 100 people were outside still trying to buy tickets long after the concert had begun. Symphonic music has gradually begun to reach wider audiences. Listeners to concerts of classic music or popularization forums on symphony music usually number over a thousand. More and more people flock to a cinema which advertises films of high artistic quality. At another cinema which features "Famous Film Sunday" every week 80 percent of the seats are occupied on an average, and not a few films play to a full house. The manager of the newly built large-scale Dongfang Amusement Centre told me that recreational activities designed for pure amusement no longer satisfy the needs of Guangzhou people who are getting more and more sophisticated in their tastes. He and his colleagues are doing their best to organize recreational activities which involve more knowledge and cultivation, so as to attract more people.

Traditional Arts at Stake

I found that not a few singers and performers in tea houses are

well trained or experienced. In fact members of the Red Peony Orchestra come from the city's distinguished Guangdong Music Ensemble. Guangdong music, a kind of folk music with roots in the local *yueju* opera, emerged as a branch of traditional Chinese music in the 20s of this century. It includes melodies from string, plucked, wind and percussion instruments and is combined with folk singing. Some of the pieces are graceful, some elegant, light and fresh, while others are fast and vigorous. All of them are quite different from the strong-beat, high-decibel music of the tea houses. Such being the case, the Guangzhou music fares not so well in its own native place. For several years, the Guangdong Music Ensemble has put on fewer than ten performances a year.

Encouraged by the city's stirring night life, the ensemble instrumentalists have learnt to play the electronic organ, guitar and electric bass. They have organized themselves into small bands each comprising a dozen or so musicians to play in tea houses, at a rate of pay more than double their basic monthly salary. Thus it seems that the ensemble and its members have extricated themselves from the plight, but Guangdong music, as a form of art has been pushed to the brink of crisis. Will it survive? This question also confronts the local *yueju* opera which enjoyed fame at home and abroad for so long, and also the vivid local folk songs and dances.

Faced with the severe challenge of imported culture, Chinese artists have assumed the new task of maintaining and developing national culture, as well as of helping people to acquire cultural tastes on a higher plane.

Take Guangdong music for instance. Since 1984 the city cultural department has sponsored two competitions of Guangdong music participated in by both professional and spare-time performers. At an eight-day music

festival held earlier this year, many a popular Guangdong music classical piece was warmly received because of its subtropical melody. Some newly composed or revised pieces were also acclaimed. A new piece entitled "Poetic Fiddle," a concerto of *gaohu* (a string instrument played with a horizontal bow) and orchestra, was widely applauded by musicians and audiences because of its thoughtful content and its harmonious combining of the expressive power of various musical instruments, while displaying the musical arrangement characteristic of Guangdong music and absorbing the techniques of Western composition.

The above-mentioned examples may serve to emphasize that so long as Guangdong music strikes deep root among the people and

continues to bring out fresh creations in this ever-changing world, it can retain its vitality. A *gaohu* player puts it well: "The immortality of an art lies in finding renewal."

At a Guangzhou forum held last year on the strategy of cultural development, participants unanimously agreed that the culture of a nation can continuously enrich itself and strengthen its own vitality only by contact with the trends of world culture and flexibly assimilating cultures of other nations. Therefore, while building our socialist culture, we must be daring and broad-minded in absorbing foreign cultural attainments.

During my last few days in Guangzhou, I had some chats with several young men and women, a

few of them pedlars. Although they were not particularly well educated, they expressed their opinions quite readily and naturally, often coming up with an English word or two in the course of our conversation. I asked them if they thought there were more good things in the West than here. They answered: "Of course not. As for things from the West, if they are good, then good; if they are bad, then bad." One of them added: "We can compare, we know how to choose!"

This, in general, is what Guangzhou people have concluded from their experience in opening to the outside since the late 70s. This also indicates their attitude as they press forward amidst their cultural exchanges with foreign countries. ■

China's Voice Heard All Over the World

—The 40th anniversary of the founding of Radio Beijing

by Li Li

I regard the voice of Radio Beijing as the voice of the Chinese people, as it offers us a chance to learn about a strange nation. Turning on the radio at home, people will be able to hear news from this remote country, news that will soon arouse their interest in learning all developments there. This will not only enrich their knowledge but also strengthen their understanding of China. Radio Beijing is a friend trusted by the audience."

This is an excerpt from a letter written by Manfred Steinauer, an Austrian listener to Radio Beijing, on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese international broadcasting station, which falls on September 11, 1987, as his contribution to the station-sponsored programme "Radio Beijing and Me."

In his letter to Radio Beijing, E. Mariata of Tanzania said, "I love

Radio Beijing because it is doing its best to make its programmes enlightening, educational and entertaining for people the world over."

In concluding his letter, Salim Reza from Bangladesh said, "Bangladesh is a small country and China is a big country. By running a Bengali programme, Radio Beijing has paid due attention to our small country. This fills us with pride."

A British listener, J.H. Savage, wrote to say that he has been listening to radio programmes from various countries for some time and considered Radio Beijing's programmes among the best.

The "Radio Beijing and Me" programme was first aired in March this year, and has so far drawn some 4,000 letters from more than 40 countries. They all sing the praises of the 38 language

programmes, warmly expressing their friendly feelings for the Chinese people and Radio Beijing. At the same time, they express their congratulations on the 40th anniversary of the station's founding.

At 20:40 on the evening of September 11, 1947, the Xinhua Broadcasting Station in northern China's Taihang Mountains launched its English programme. Wei Ling, the only regular English language announcer then, said with a soft voice on the air, "We plan to broadcast to English-speaking audiences around the world reports on the progress made by China and on how the Chinese people, who make up one-fifth of the world's population, are overcoming difficulties and moving towards democratic life. This will exert far-reaching influences on the progress towards the world's development. We aim to



Wei Lin, the first English language programme announcer in 1950.

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serve you. We sincerely hope you will voice your suggestions and criticisms." The opening speech thus stated the aim of the English programme, which is "serving the world's peoples."

Located in a cave dwelling, the English broadcasting studio was very simply equipped, with only a renovated radio transmitter of a few hundred watts from an aircraft captured from the Kuomintang army. A blanket served as the door to the cave.

As the radio transmitter was not powerful enough, the programme was heard only in a small area. The news broadcast by the station were made known to the outside world through China-based foreign news agencies. This situation did not change until 1949, when New China was born, and the external broadcasting station moved to Beijing.

The Chinese government attached great importance to the development of the external broadcasting service. In capital construction, of the investment to go to Chinese broadcasting during the First Five-Year Plan (1953-57), 50 percent went to external broadcasting, compared with 30 percent to radio stations of various provinces, municipalities

and autonomous regions, and 20 percent to the central broadcasting station, the domestic service.

In 1959 China built two powerful radio transmitters, considered to be of first class in the world then, and began broadcasting to the whole world. In the meantime, Radio Beijing extended its broadcasting time to 40 hours a day, compared to only 20 minutes

initially. Its programmes were broadcast in 16 languages, including French, Japanese, Persian, Hindi, Spanish, Arabic, Malay and Turkish. Staff members increased from only a dozen in 1947 to 300. Special programmes for overseas Chinese are broadcast not only in Mandarin, but also in the four local dialects—Guangzhou, Xiamen, Hakka and Chaozhou.

In 1965, the station received a record 286,000 letters from its audience. In that year, Radio Beijing broadcast in 26 languages, including the newly added Russian, German, Swahili, Hausa, Italian, Portuguese and Esperanto.

The "cultural revolution" wrought havoc to Radio Beijing. Programmes were dry in content and news items were very long, crammed with political jargon. Features were almost totally scrapped. Although the programmes were broadcast in 38 languages, an average of only 20,000 letters were sent to Radio Beijing each year.

With the end of the decade of chaos in 1976, the Chinese Party and government adopted a series of correct domestic and foreign

Ye Zhimei of Radio Beijing's English Department with visiting Australian Listeners.

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Staff of the Japanese department record their own performance for a programme.

policies. Radio Beijing's programmes took on a new look. The fine tradition of seeking truth from facts was restored and boring preaching made way for factual reports. Feature programmes increased in variety and were enriched in content.

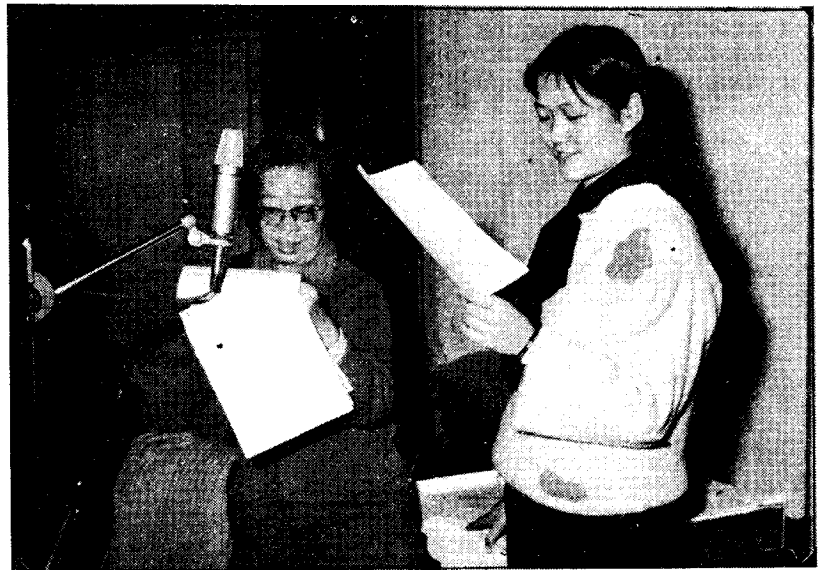
Closer contacts were maintained with the audience.

In January 1984, Radio Beijing started an English programme specially for foreigners in the Beijing area, which is broadcast five hours a day. The programme is relayed to the Shanghai, Tianjin and Guangzhou areas. In October 1986, Radio Beijing started a one-hour-a-day Spanish programme for the Beijing area. Now, the station's 43 programmes totalled about 1,000 hours a week. Its staff increased to 1,400 people.

Thanks to the joint efforts of all the staff at Radio Beijing, the international broadcasting service has in recent years extended its name the world over and an increasing number of listeners have gained a better understanding of its aims and highly value its contributions.

In 1979 after a public poll by the *Review of International Broadcasting*, shortwave radio listeners in

the United States selected Radio Beijing as the most improved station for the previous year. In



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Staff of the Overseas Chinese Department record programmes for the New Year.

the same year, the Japanese monthly magazine *Shortwave*, published by the Japanese Radio Fans Association, organized a public poll to choose the best radio stations in the world. The Japanese broadcast of Radio

Beijing was placed fourth among 30 foreign radio stations. In 1983, it gained the second place. In 1981, in a poll sponsored by a DX club in Saar of Federal Germany and the radio station Deutsche Welle, Radio Beijing's German language broadcast was chosen as the fifth best among the German transmissions of 28 foreign radio stations. In 1985, Radio Beijing's English programme "V.J. Day, 40 Years Ago" won the Pater Award in Australia and the station was named the most outstanding radio station in Asia. And in 1986, it again won the Pater Award. In 1986, the Spanish National Radio Station organized a poll in which Radio Beijing's Spanish programme was chosen as the most enjoyable in Asia and rated second in the world. And in July 1986, the Swedish Shortwave Radio Listeners' Association organized a poll to select the best radio stations in 1985, and Radio Beijing was among the top ten.

In 1986 Radio Beijing received more than 140,000 letters from some 140 countries, almost 50,000 more than in 1985. In the first half of 1987, 75,000 letters were sent in, 10,000 more than for the corresponding period last year.

Aerial Bridge

Radio Beijing is the only external broadcasting service in China. The presentation of news and information about China in an objective and authentic way to foster audience understanding and improve relations between the audience and the Chinese people is a main concern for the radio station. Particularly in the last ten years, since the adoption of the open policy, Radio Beijing has redoubled its effort in this regard.

In order to give a detailed, overall impression of China which goes beyond mere news and commentary, Radio Beijing has in the last few years added regular programmes in various languages. Its English Department has increased its broadcasting programmes to 20, double what it had in the 1960s. They include "Economic Horizons," "Culture in China," "Cooking Show" and "Learn to Speak Chinese." The Japanese Department has seven special programmes featuring on music alone: "Young People's Songs," "Songs Carry Friendship," "Music and Talks," "Music Chosen by Listeners," "Folk Songs," "Introduction to Folk

Musical Instruments" and "Radio Concert." Other special programmes include "Friendship Saloon" in Italian, "Kaleidoscope" in Romanian, "Women and Children" in Urdu and "China in the Eyes of the Turkish People" in Turkish. All language departments have a regular programme called "Listeners' Letterbox," "A Summary of Listeners' Letters" or "Topics of the Listeners," to answer questions raised by the listeners. These special programmes show what the real China is to the audience. The Chinese international broadcasting service is seen by foreign listeners as an "aerial bridge" linking China with the rest of the world.

The English programme "Economic Horizons," which began in 1984, is broadcast once a week to cover new developments in joint ventures since China adopted the open policy. This programme often features interviews with overseas businessmen. In a recorded report entitled "Foreign Commercial Experts on Investing in China," Chairman of the US-China Trading Committee William Clark, the commercial

councillor of the British Embassy in China and chief representative of the British Barclays Bank in Beijing all discussed their experiences and understanding, and concluded that the Chinese government works to protect foreign investment in China. They suggested that there was no need for foreign investors to worry about their investments in the country.

Senior citizens pose a major social problem for most countries in the world. The question of how old people fare in socialist China is of great interest to the listeners of Radio Beijing. In 1985, Radio Beijing broadcast a recorded report entitled "Old People Happy With Drawing and Writing." It presented an old couple, who served in the army and took up drawing and calligraphy after their retirement. The report shows their pursuit of a happy life in their late years, full and meaningful, happy and at peace.

"China Holds First Shakespearean Festival," a report which won the 1986 Pater Award in Australia was one of the highlights in the English programme "Culture in China." The report tells of the Shakespearean plays performed in Chinese local operas, such as the Beijing, Kunqu and Henan operas, and of the mixing of Western and Chinese cultures. The programme lasted only 12 minutes, but covered how Shakespearean plays came to China and characteristics of the Chinese performance of his plays and included famous Chinese playwright Cao Yu's analysis of the Chinese Shakespearean audience. The report featured seven speakers, including the announcer, players and a British teacher in China. The good quality sound effects from local operas contributed to the programme's success. An American woman wrote to say that she was very pleased to see the interesting experiment.

On two occasions in 1985 the English Department of Radio

A Radio Beijing reporter interviews the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

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Beijing joined with a US radio station to sponsor talk-back programmes. The two radio stations were linked through an international communication satellite line and American listeners simply had to dial the phone number of that radio station and direct their questions to Radio Beijing. Guest speakers answered questions on a variety of topics. Both programmes were highly successful. In fact the second programme had to be extended from the originally scheduled one hour to one hour and forty minutes due to enormous audience response.

Voice From China

Apart from accurately presenting China to the world, Radio Beijing also offers timely reports on major international events and represents the views of the Chinese government on world affairs. Its firm stance in opposing hegemonism, sympathizing with and protecting the interests of the third world countries, and safeguarding world peace has won it the confidence and respect of its listeners.

In 1986, the International Year of Peace, Radio Beijing launched for the first time an essay contest under the title "Peace and Me" which met with warm response from listeners all over the world. In a few months, 5,388 articles, paintings, poems and recordings were collected from listeners in over 60 countries. The contributors included workers, farmers, business people, government officials, celebrities, professors, monks, servicemen, housewives and children. Enrique, a Spanish listener, thanked the station for providing a platform for listeners to speak out for peace. A Bangladesh listener wrote: "Your broadcast of articles on the International Year of Peace has expressed the wishes of the whole of mankind. Your programmes are a mirror reflecting the rising

voice of peace at a time when the world arms race is becoming more fierce." B. Sameli, a Tanzanian listener, praised Radio Beijing as the gospel of world peace.

In the essay contest, the poem entitled "Pray for Peace" contributed by Thai monk Maha Montree Munirat won a special prize. He wrote: "I wish everybody understands the true meaning of peace; I wish the world achieves great harmony so that all people can live in fraternity. To seek the road leading to peace, I'd like to fight tirelessly."

During its transmission, Radio Beijing devotes much of its time to reporting the development and problems in third world countries. Most of the 38 foreign language programmes broadcast by the station are for third world countries.

Since 1977, "In the Third World" has become a regular special programme on Radio Beijing, gaining wide popularity among listeners in both developing and developed English-speaking countries. L. Isaac from Great Britain wrote to the station: "I like the third world programme best. It provides much information about third world countries which we never hear from British radio broadcasts."

In 1983, Radio Beijing broadcast such a spot coverage with its announcement: "The opening ceremony of the 19th Summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) will be postponed." This was the third time the OAU postponed the meeting which was originally scheduled for August 1982 in Tripoli and many speculations and rumours began to surface. Some people predicted that the summit would be aborted. But Radio Beijing then reported that "the agenda of the summit has been discussed and it is only the date for the opening ceremony that has been postponed." The report explained the reason for the meeting's postponement and quoted many people's predictions for the success of the summit. It

not only helped clear up the facts but also voiced China's support for the summit meeting.

At the end of 1983, the United States notified the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) that it would withdraw from the organization from January 1, 1985. A day after this announcement, Radio Beijing broadcast a news analysis from its correspondent in Paris. It gave an account of the whole course of the event, its background, and the world's reactions. It analysed and exposed the essence of the United States' action and criticized the hegemonic stand of the United States. This news analysis was welcomed by many listeners. A Tanzanian listener wrote to the station: "There are only a few countries in the world which dare to openly and justly denounce the rule of hegemonic powers. China is one of them." A Lao listener commented: "I want to know the facts and I think China's radio station fairly reports major events in the world."

In 1985, Africa was hit by a prolonged drought, which roused much concern and sympathy from other parts of the world. Radio Beijing compiled a timely sound recording "Stretch Our Hands of Help to African People" which was broadcast in all its 38 foreign languages. The report covered the collection of donations from the Chinese people for the African victims and related many touching stories of generosity and concern—medical workers attending patients free of charge; artists selling their paintings to solicit donations; martial art troupes giving benefit performances; primary school students donating their pocket money; and monks praying collectively for the African victims. The report displayed to the world the humanism cherished by the Chinese people and their sympathy for and assistance to the African people.

Listeners' Intimate Friends

Over the past 40 years Radio Beijing has received 2.8 million letters from listeners in more than 180 countries and regions throughout the world. Almost all these letters are answered either with detailed explanations, frank expressions of opinion or warm-hearted greetings.

One British listener wrote: "It took only two weeks to receive a reply after I wrote to you. I was amazed by your prompt response."

Robin Chase, a Canadian listener, wrote: "Your letter is the most intimate one I've ever received from a foreign radio station. Replies from most foreign radio stations today are simply programme sheets and publications in praise of their own countries, and they rarely have the personal greetings in your letters. I am very pleased to continue this kind of friendly correspondence with Radio Beijing."

A letter from FRG listener Kurt Schut reads: "I wrote to you earlier in the hope that your station could do a piece on Chinese tea, and you arranged broadcasts on the topic on four occasions. My suggestion about allowing listeners to choose novels was also accepted. This attention to audience needs stimulates me to recommend more listeners to you."

When the staff of the Japanese department learnt from a letter from its listeners Ishikawa Yuichi and Eriko that they would soon be married, they sent greetings to them during the "Listeners' Letterbox" programme. The couple was so moved that they again wrote: "We were very glad to hear the greetings on your broadcast. We first planned to spend our honeymoon in Europe. Now we have changed our mind and decided to go to China."

Ranasinh is a Sri Lankan doctor interested in traditional Chinese herbal medicine. He

mailed a list of directions on the use of Chinese mugwort to Radio Beijing's English Department, asking for help with the translation from Chinese into English. Although this was not within the department's field of work, the staff translated the directions and mailed them to the doctor after consulting with a specialist on the translation.

Medekor Amina, 23, a Moroccan disabled girl, for a time was very worried and pessimistic about her future. She began to listen to Radio Beijing's Arabic programmes a few years ago and came to know something about China. She wrote a letter to the station requesting some material about the manufacture and embroidery of Chinese clothes so that she could acquire a new means of living. Staff of the Arabic group immediately wrote back to her about the lives of disabled people in China and the story of Zhang Haidi, a disabled Chinese girl who overcame many difficulties and did her best to help others. They encouraged her to pluck up her courage and mailed her three dress-making books in Arabic. In addition, they broadcast a message for her in the "Listeners' Letterbox," praising her courage in fighting against difficulties and illness. After this response, Amina was very excited and wrote again, "China's radio station—my home, please allow me to call you this, because you have shown your noble kindness, sympathy and concern for me, and this kind of feelings can only come from the kindness of parents and the fraternity of brothers and sisters."

Listeners' Club. With the growing ranks of Radio Beijing listeners, a large number of spontaneously organized listeners' clubs have emerged. There are now 562 such clubs which maintain relations with Radio Beijing's 19 language departments. Bangladesh boasts the largest number of such clubs with

120. There are 123 in North America and Western Europe, and 95 in Africa. The clubs are composed of people from all strata, although a large percentage of the members are students. The club memberships range from a dozen to 4,000. Most of the clubs have fixed places and timetables for meetings. They organize their members to listen to and comment on China's broadcasts, hold activities related to Radio Beijing programmes and exhibitions about China, and publish magazines on the radio station. These clubs have promoted friendly exchanges between Radio Beijing and its listeners.

Official's Comment

Liu Xiliang, a graduate of the Spanish Department of the Beijing Foreign Languages Institute in the late 1950s, became Radio Beijing's acting director in June 1986. Alert and efficient, Liu now concentrates on the station's future development.

Liu sees Radio Beijing's biggest weakness as its limited transmission capacity which makes it difficult to hear its broadcasts in remote regions. The government plans to build a larger transmitting station for Radio Beijing to overcome this problem.

As it will be some time before the new transmitting station is built, Radio Beijing is meanwhile adopting a series of remedial measures. It has made efforts to secure co-operation with some foreign radio and transmitting stations, which include relaying one another's programmes and leasing broadcasting time. It also mails its programmes to 43 other countries and is preparing to further expand this work. In addition, it has tried to transmit its programmes abroad through international long-distance telephone links and organize joint programmes with foreign radio stations. ■

The Nature of China's Reforms

"RENMIN RIBAO"

(People's Daily)

Are China's reforms socialist or capitalist? Clearly, they are socialist. This can be seen in three aspects of the reforms.

Objectives. Based on the socialist system, China's reforms are spreading step by step in a planned way under the leadership of the Communist Party of China. The aim of the reforms is not to change the socialist system, but to eliminate the disadvantages of China's current economic and political structures, to further liberate and develop the productive forces and to build a vigorous socialist country.

Economic construction during the period from 1949 to 1978 demonstrated the superiority of the socialist system. But it also became apparent that there were drawbacks in the rigid economic system, which prevented the country from absorbing the world's latest scientific and technological achievements and increasing productivity. The introduction of reforms since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee in 1978 has started to make the economic system more flexible. The reforms, which were first introduced in rural areas and later the cities, have enabled the socialist system to operate to advantage. Anyone who is objective must admit that China's reforms have accelerated the country's construction, invigorated socialism and narrowed the economic gap between China and capitalist countries.

Ownership and distribution.

The nature of an economic system must be judged mainly in the light of the ownership and distribution systems. The two basic characteristics of the socialist economic system—public ownership of the means of production and the principle of distribution according to one's work—will be preserved

no matter how fast the reforms progress. This clearly distinguishes between China and capitalism. As China is now in the initial stage of socialism and productivity as a whole is not high, other forms of ownership—private, collective, Chinese-foreign joint ventures and even foreign ownership—are allowed as ways to boost productivity, for they only represent a small proportion in the national economy.

Based on the principle of distribution according to one's work, various kinds of distribution have been adopted. For instance, some people and regions are allowed to become better-off financially to spur their initiative. Social polarization is prevented through taxation and various regulations.

The reforms initiated by the Party and government are all intended to better demonstrate the superiority of socialism and to promote productivity. The essential criterion in judging if socialism is successful is whether it can effectively promote productivity and improve people's standard of living.

Management methods.

Since the implementation of reforms in all fields and the adoption of the open policy, some advanced management methods from capitalist countries have been used. Some people mistook this for capitalism. Although some management methods popular in capitalist countries are inherent in the capitalist system, most of them are not, but rather were worked out to meet the needs of modern mass production. Old conventions taught us that some non-socialist practices were characteristic of socialism, while those that can be adopted under different economic systems and can accelerate the growth of productivity were capitalist. There is no point getting enmeshed in a web of our own spinning.

China's reforms are unprecedented. Mistakes, the influence of an out-moded system and ideas, negative side effects and the influence of decadent bourgeois ideology are inevitable. Therefore, we must be firm and careful. What is important is to analyse the negative phenomena instead letting our determination and confidence in the reforms be shaken.

(June 10, 1987)

China Builds 4 Types of Parks

DONGBEI LINYE DAXUE XUE BAO

(Journal of Northeast Forestry Institute)

China has a vast territory with beautiful landscapes. Many kinds of animals and plants, as well as attractive scenic spots are seen everywhere. State parks should be established to make the most of various areas' natural beauty.

Currently more than 360 natural reserve areas, or 2 percent of China's territory, are under state protection. In recent years every province and autonomous region assessed its natural resources,

environment and related problems. Efforts have been made to conduct 23 programmes on species protection and domestication of imported species. More than 200 experimental centres were set up throughout China, which obtained notable economic and environmental results.

Wild animals and areas of vegetation (including forests) account for more than 95 percent of the established protected areas, while places of historic interest and natural phenomena (such as grasslands and bodies of water) account for nearly 5 percent.

Considering conditions in

China, the following four types of parks should be built by the state.

1. State natural parks should be established in areas with famous historical sites and cultural relics, unusual ecology or great natural beauty. These areas, which should be protected, are also attractions for sight-seers and travellers. Examples of such areas include picturesque Huangshan Mountain in Anhui Province, Mount Lushan in Jiangxi Province, Mount Taishan in Shandong Province, Wutai Mountain in Shanxi Province and Wuyi Mountain in Fujian Province.

2. Specialized natural parks should be set up in naturally beautiful areas which are of scientific as well as touristic interest. These areas include the Lijiang River in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the Stone Forest in Yunnan Province, the Qingdao seaside in Shandong

Province, the volcanoes in Yitong County, Jilin Province, and Jingbo Lake and the Five Big Lotus Pools in Heilongjiang Province.

3. Natural reserve areas with special functions and scientific research value include the panda protection areas in Sichuan Province, red-crested crane area in Heilongjiang Province and the desert vegetation area in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

4. State parks should be set up in the areas with points of general and historical interest and beautiful scenery. These areas are for tourists, and people who need a rest, and help teach children about their heritage. They include Shaoshan in Hunan Province, Panshan Mountain near Tianjin City and West Lake in Hangzhou City.

(No. 3, 1987)

Times Change for Female Students

"ZHONGGUO FUNU"

(Women of China)

Of the college and university students in Shanghai, 35,400 or 32.8 percent are women. A study of 1,146 female students from 16 institutions of higher learning showed the following:

■ Strengthened desire for self-improvement competes with female inferiority complex.

The reforms in China and the openness to the outside world have awakened in female students a desire for self-improvement. Breaking through the psychological barrier of "male supremacy" and casting aside the traditional idea that incompetence in women is a virtue, they boldly pursue their ideals and self-accomplishment.

But the feudal idea of male supremacy still affects female

students. Most of them see the female inferiority complex as the main obstacle to further emancipation, while some cited the related myth of "physiological factors" and the idea of incompetence as a virtue. These views were expressed by 62.6 percent of the women in the study.

■ The conflict between independent thinking and passive obedience and dependency.

Women students today are paying increasing attention to developing an independent outlook on political, economic and cultural life. Their picture of what makes a good student has changed: 68.8 percent think that a good student should be competent in social activities, should possess organizational ability and should approach her academic work in a creative way. More than half of the students see things such as clothing and hairstyle as totally

private matters and entirely up to the individual.

Many female students have part-time jobs, for example, in libraries. "We have grown up and should win our own bread," they said. But an obedient and dependent mentality still exists. Compared with the male students, they worry more about marks and are likely to rely too much on teachers and textbooks. As a result, they find it difficult to broaden their views and to think independently, and they are weak in creativity.

Female students have a variety of outside interests: 59 percent would like to learn knitting, sewing, cooking etc; 57 percent like to go to parks, films, parties and exhibitions, as well as activities sponsored by various student organizations; and 30 percent want to learn painting, how to play musical instruments, ball games, calligraphy or similar skills.

They are willing to make friends with boys and disgust people's sensitivity to getting in touch with the opposite sex. They will never let love go by without catching it.

■ Breaking with old ethical thinking to search for the new.

Female students are trying to construct a new ethical and moral system by comparing and contrasting various existing systems. They are starting to shake off the yoke of tradition and form a new moral system according to their own principles. On the question of premarital sexual relations, they all agree with the idea of being "lenient on others but strict on oneself."

(No. 5, 1987)

CORRECTION

Tang Longbin ("China Simplifies Protocol Formalities," in the Events and Trends column p.8, issue No.36, 1987) is China's assistant foreign minister.

Measures to Attract Foreign Investment

In mid-August this year, the Fuzhou Customs House issued measures on the encouragement of foreign investment. To date, a dozen customs houses in China's major cities, including Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Xiamen, Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin have issued similar provisions. They were all formulated according to the Provisions on the Encouragement of Foreign Investment promulgated by the State Council in October 1986 and the November 1986 Regulations of the PRC Customs Concerning Import of Materials by Foreign-Funded Enterprises in Implementing Product Export Contracts.

According to Qian Chiyu, director of the Customs General Administration Publicity Section, the main measures are as follows:

- Granting preferential tariffs to foreign-funded enterprises. For instance, when Sino-foreign joint ventures and co-operative enterprises import machinery and other requisite materials stipulated in their contracts, equipment imported with registered capital for the establishment of the ventures, equipment not produced in China, and raw materials imported for export-oriented production, they will be exempt from import duties. This also applies to wholly foreign-owned enterprises.

Tax exemptions apply to certain household electrical appliances and furniture imported for use by resident representatives of foreign businesses stationed in the special economic zones, and foreign business personnel including managerial staff and technicians who live and work in the zones.

- Simplifying procedures for higher efficiency. The Fuzhou Customs House has stipulated that efforts will be made to handle consultancies and reports from foreign enterprises in one day; if

their documents are complete, the Customs House will check and send import goods within 24 hours of tax payment. Customs Houses in Shenzhen and other places have opened special channels for imports. The Shantou Customs House has adopted Investor Certificates so that overseas business people may leave or enter China by simply presenting their cards.

Liu Yansheng, the Customs General Administration official in charge of the special economic zones, said that in addition to the above preferential measures, customs houses in various localities have also provided foreign-funded enterprises with consultancy and checking-to-the-doorstep services. He also said that tariff rates have been readjusted in favour of foreign-funded enterprises. For instance, the Fuzhou Customs House reduced its duty rate from 70 percent to 40 percent for spare parts and components imported by Fujian-Hitachi TV Co., a Sino-Japanese joint venture.

by Liu Jianjun

Shoes Exports Make US\$300 m.

The export value of Chinese shoes for 1986 totalled US\$300 million, a 25 percent increase over the 1985 figure. In the first half of this year, exports were up 40 percent from the corresponding period last year. It is estimated that the total value for 1987 will again increase by a large margin.

China's shoe industry began in the early 50s with an average annual export value of only a few million US dollars. Less than ten port cities were engaged in shoe export at that time and now more than 40 ports are involved. The

initial standard product has now been replaced by more than 1,000 varieties, ranging from cloth, leather and imitation leather shoes, to cloth-rubber overshoes, plastic slippers, sport shoes and sandals. The market extended correspondingly from Hong Kong, Macao and Eastern Europe to more than 150 countries and regions.

With the recent import of advanced foreign technology, the shoe-making industry in China has greatly improved. It can now turn out not only vulcanized rubber shoes, but also high-grade moulded shoes, cold-glued shoes, and varieties of everyday shoes made from compound materials. China has co-operated with overseas contractors, notably the United States, for the export of internationally recognized sport shoes such as Nike and Reebok.

An official from the China National Light Industry Import and Export Corp. indicated that to expand the production and export of Chinese shoes, China is ready to accept brand-designated orders and produce with materials supplied by clients. China would also like to co-ordinate and communicate with foreign contractors for technological developments, and particularly welcomes investment from recognized overseas firms. ■

Hubei Exporting Welding Rods

The output of *Jinhou* brand electric welding rods produced by the Electrical Welding Rod Factory in Yichang, Hubei Province, increased at an average rate of 82.75 percent annually between 1982 and 1986. Exports this year are expected to reach 1,500 tons, almost double last year's amount.

As the factory imported advanced technology and equipment during the Sixth Five-Year Plan

period (1981-85), the export of its products increased rapidly. Newly imported advanced technology and production equipment make up 85.43 percent of the factory's fixed assets. In 1985, the factory brought in a low-hydrogen welding rod production line of the most advanced kind from Switzerland, and some testing equipment. Now the factory can produce 5,000 tons of welding rods annually.

Since 1982, five of the factory's products have been recognized as superior quality electric welding rods by the ship societies in the United States (ABS), Norway (DNV), Federal Germany (GL), Britain (LR) and China (ZC).

The 170 metre-high Jingcheng Mansions to be built in Beijing, was expected to use Japanese welding rods. But following the design unit's approval, two kinds of Yichang's welding rods will be substituted for the Japanese products. This will help save US\$243,000 in foreign exchange.

During the Seventh Five-Year Plan period (1986-90), the factory will continue to import advanced technology and equipment to enable it to produce 50,000 tons of welding rods annually. Meanwhile, it plans to become a comprehensive enterprise which can produce welding materials, equipment and packaging.

by Han Baocheng

Heart Pacemaker Available on Market

Adurapulse programmable heart pacemaker produced by the Qinming Medical Inc., a Sino-US joint venture in Baoji, Shaanxi Province, has recently been released on the domestic market.

Strict tests on quality and functions proved the device to be better than that produced by the US Cardio-Pace Medical, said Gary M. Andersen, general manager of the company.

The pacemaker measures 22 cubic centimetres and weighs 47 grammes and has a duration of seven years. Used together with a duct and a durapulse programmer it can be adjusted to individual patient's conditions. Once fitted inside the body it can also be adjusted through an external programmer. The pacemaker is effective for heart block, sinoatrial node, bradycardia and arrhythmia.

The Baoji company started to produce the product in March this year after a one-year preparation and trial production period. Mr. Andersen said his company plans to produce 1,000 pacemakers this year. All products have been ordered for their low price and high reliability. Customers are not only from China but also from Thailand, Australia, India and other countries and regions.

The 40-year-old general manager told our correspondent he was very glad he could co-operate with Chinese counterparts to produce such an advanced heart pacemaker. He hopes the product will attract much attention from Chinese and international users and customers. ■

News in Brief

■ Statistics from China's Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade show that in the first seven months of this year, China's exports reached US\$20.251 billion (a 35.3 percent increase over the same period of last year). The exports of small metals and mining products, crafts and machinery went up by 40 percent or more; of textiles, light industrial goods and silk increased by more than 30 percent. Exports to Japan, the United States, Hong Kong and Macao and the European Economic Community registered a big increase compared with the same period of last year, while exports to the Soviet Union and five East European countries

remained the same, and to the third world countries showed a slight increase.

■ The China National Offshore Oil Corp. and the British Petroleum Development Ltd. on August 18 in Beijing concluded a contract for exploiting offshore oil in the 05/08 co-operative zone in the South China Sea, and also a contract for drilling the first wildcat well there. According to the contracts, the British company will drill the test well. The success of the test well will be followed by implementation of the first contract.

The 05/08 zone, covering an area of 4,745 square kilometres, is in the Zhujiang River Mouth Basin 100 kilometres from Shantou, Guangdong Province.

■ The China National Silk Corp. and a Singaporean company will co-sponsor an exhibition of Chinese silk in Singapore on September 8-12. It will feature a fashion show at which 16 Chinese and Singaporean models will bring out the newest apparel.

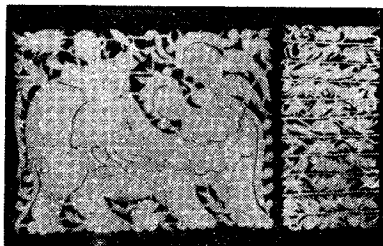
On display will be 200 fashion items made by the two sides, including overcoats, knitted woolen overcoats, Western-style skirts, traditional batik dresses and hand-painted gowns. Dresses with sequins made in Guangdong Province will also be highlighted.

During the exhibition, groups in the silk and garments trade from Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Shanghai and Guangdong branches of the China National Silk Corp. will carry on business consultations with clients from Singapore.

■ On August 21 the Guangdong International Trust and Investment Co. signed agreements in Hong Kong with many foreign banks and is expected to issue US\$50 million in bonds in Luxembourg.

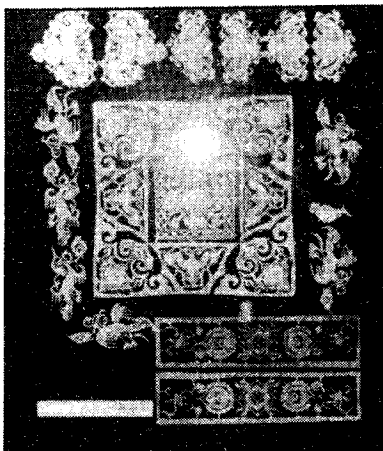
Issued after the bond question left from the past was settled by China and Britain, the Chinese bond has for the first time entered the European bond market according to British law.

Guizhou Papercuts Attract Spectators



Miao patterns for decorating sleeves.

Guizhou Province, on China's southwest plateau, is famous for Maotai wine, batik and a unique landscape with weird rock formations, beautiful waterfalls and fantastic karst caves. This

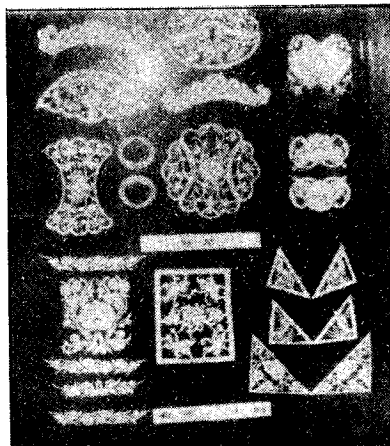


Bouyei baby carrier patterns.

treasure land to be exploited is also the home of colourful folk arts from various ethnic groups.

Papercutting is one of the most popular traditional arts among the people of Guizhou. Young girls cut paper patterns as stencils for embroidery. As they grow older, some become experts at papercutting. The papercuts, drawn from everyday life, vividly reflect the spirit and style of different regions and nationalities. And many folk artists have evolved a style of their own.

From August 18 to September 9, Guizhou held its papercut exhibition in Beijing's Cultural Palace of Nationalities. On display were 700 masterpieces by people from nine nationalities, aged 15 to 88. The designs were mostly drawn for garments, head-



Flowers for Dong children's caps.

wear, footwear, pillowcases, bedspreads, cloth carriers for babies, curtains, small bags and quilt covers.

While anyone can appreciate Guizhou papercuts for their varied style, skill, and easy and simple designs, in the eyes of the local people the works are an expression of their national traditions.

Yi patterns for collars.

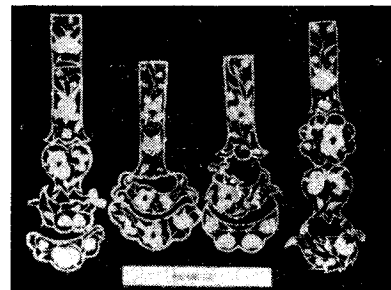


Shui butterfly-like flower design.

The Miao nationality uses knives as well as scissors to make papercuts. The patterns for embroidering clothing and baby carriers are very graceful. The most distinctive patterns for decorating sleeves involve flowers, animals and human figures. The outline is simple.

Among the papercuts of the Bouyei nationality, patterns for baby carriers are particularly rich,

Hui papercuts.



with flowers in the centre, at the four corners and along the borders. Bouyei papercuts are plain and elegant, particularly the green leaf and circle designs.

Dong nationality papercuts are known for their fine lines and beautiful composition. The flowers for baby carriers and childrens' caps are particularly delicate.

The Yi people use neat and exquisite lines to make papercuts of charming simplicity. The patterns for collar are unique in style.

Shui nationality papercuts are characterized by well-organized designs with classic beauty. Shui baby carriers feature



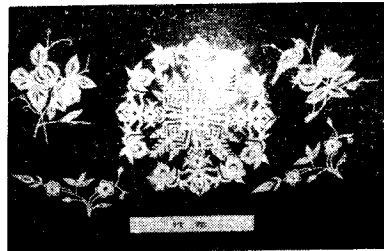
Patterns for Mulao quilt covers.

butterfly-like composition.

■ Hui people created clear and lively works with beautiful rhythm in the lines.

■ The Mulao, Tujia and Zhuang nationalities each has distinctive flower patterns for curtains, pillowcases, caps and shoes.

Guizhou papercuts have a rural flavour and a simple style. In other parts of China, papercuts have changed over the years as people brought new ideas to their work.



Flower design for pillowcases.

But Guizhou folk artists have preserved the designs of their ancestors because most of their work is used as patterns for embroidering traditional clothing, which has undergone little change.

Workers at the Guizhou Cultural Palace of Nationalities travelled to remote areas of the province to collect works for the exhibition. They invited two young women to demonstrate their cutting skills at the show. Wei Wanlan, a 19-year-old

all by Courtesy of Guizhou Provincial Cultural Palace of Nationalities

Bouyei, studied papercuts from the age of 9. With a 6- or 7-cm-long pair of scissors, she cut a symmetrical pattern out of a folded sheet of paper in a dozen minutes without drawing any outlines.

The other artist was 19-year-old Yang Yinghui, who began to teach herself papercutting when she was only 8. In the exhibition hall, she pasted papercuts on cloth and then embroidered with coloured threads. The skills of the two artists impressed visitors from China and abroad.

"Guizhou's papercuts are novel and unique in style," said Zhang Fenggao, president of the 400-member Chinese Folk Papercut Research Society. Zhang, who is familiar with the papercuts of many regions and nationalities, said, "This is the first papercut exhibition I have seen with so many designs and such strong local flavour." ■

Graphic Art Reflects Spirit of Yunnan

A recent exhibition of Yunnan graphic art works at the China Museum of Fine Arts in Beijing gave a glimpse of the character of China's southwestern border province.

On display were 105 works by 45 artists, eight of them from six minorities—the Dai, Va, Lisu, Lahu, Yi and Bai—and the rest of Han nationality.

With members of 23 nationalities, Yunnan is the most ethnically diverse province in the country. The many peoples of this warm, green land have joined together to create a splendid culture and art with unique characteristics. Yunnan's ancient cliff paintings, antique bronze ware, carved murals in temples, folk papercuts and pottery, as well as clothing and personal adornments, all provide the province's artists with inspiration for their woodcuts.

The artists, who also draw on modern techniques from foreign countries, have created their own style. Strong colour is one of its characteristics. The young artist He Kun's work *Meeting on the Way* depicts two Va girls, in ethnic clothing and earrings. The artist uses colour to great effect—the red of the girls' head scarves, skirts and lips, the blue of the sky and the green of the trees.



Woodcut by LI Hulming (Dai nationality).

Some Yunnan woodcuts capture the mystery of local legends and fairy tales. Another young artist, Guo You, portrayed the legendary *Princess of Nanhe River*, using irregular white lines against a blue background. Although the artist does not give a complete and clear outline of the princess, the woodcut arouses people's imagination, and makes them see a female figure coming out of the surface of water on a quiet night.

The works of artist Zeng Xiaofeng reflect the influence of ancient art and traditional folk paintings. His *Ancient Yunnan People* (one of a series) portrays a group of warriors fighting with long spears and shields in hands. The picture, which is 1 metre high and 2 metres wide, resembles the centuries-old rock paintings on the cliffs of Yunnan.

Graphic art exhibitions are held every year in Yunnan Province and works by the province's artists have won many prizes at national painting exhibitions. In 1985, Yunnan woodcuts were well received at exhibitions in Japan and Australia.

by Wei Liming

Profiles of PLA Marshals and Generals

Published by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Publishing House, the three-volume book entitled *Profiles of PLA Marshals and Generals* (in Chinese) is among China's bestsellers this year, and one of the best publications to come from the PLA Publishing House in recent years.

The book provides readers with brief profiles and photos of 10 marshals, 10 senior-generals, 57 generals, 177 lieutenant-generals and 1,359 major-generals who were assigned their positions when the ranking system was implemented between 1955 and 1965.

The publication is the first listing in China of all marshals and generals, especially with the designations of their military units. So the book is of great value to researchers studying the history of the Chinese Communist Party, the history of the PLA, and the history of revolutionary struggles in local areas.

Most of the marshals and generals listed are still living, and many such as State Councillor and Minister of National Defence Zhang Aiping, the PLA Chief of General Staff Yang Dezhi and

Director of the PLA General Political Department Yu Qiuli (the three are also deputy secretaries-general of the Military Commission of the Central Committee), occupy high ranking posts in the army. In 1955, Zhang and Yang were honoured with the title of generals and Yu, lieutenant-general.

The book provides profiles which mention the following information. Zhang Aiping was born in 1910 in Daxian County, Sichuan Province. He joined the Communist Youth League of China in 1924 and became a member of the Communist Party of China in 1928. He took part in the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army in 1929, and served as director of the division political department during the Long March in the 1930s. After the founding of New China in 1949, he was a minister in charge of the Commission of Science and Technology for National Defence, and vice-premier of the State Council. Zhang is currently a member of the 12th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

Yang Dezhi, born in 1910 in

Liling County, Hunan Province, joined the Workers' and Peasants' Revolutionary Army in 1928 and became a Party member in the same year. He served as division commander in the later period of the Long March. He was once a commander of the Chinese People's Volunteers, director of the campaign department of the PLA Military Academy, Commander of the Wuhan Military Area, and vice-minister of National Defence. Now he is a member of the Political Bureau of the 12th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

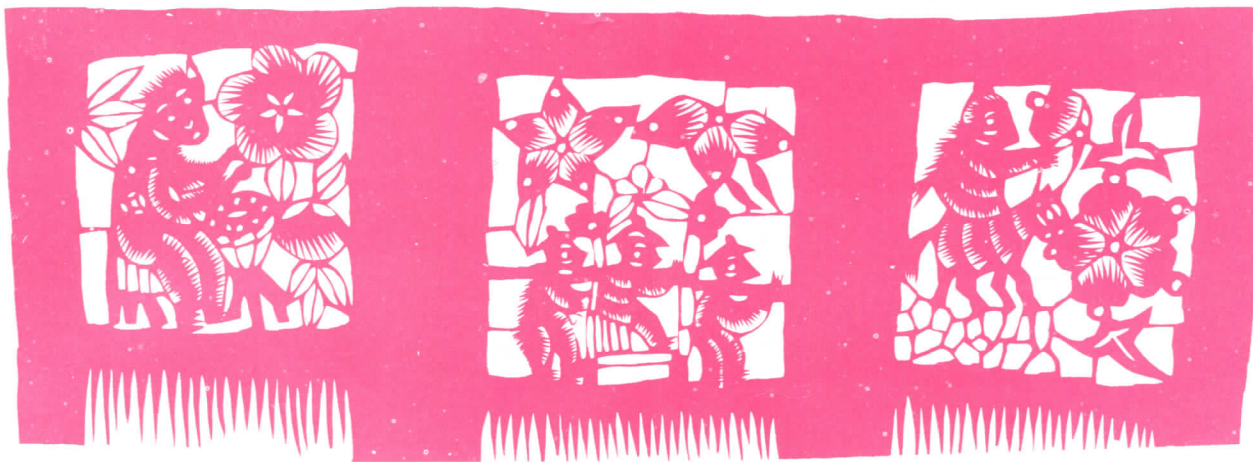
Yu Qiuli was born in Jian County, Jiangxi Province, in 1914. In 1929 he joined the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, and became a member of the Communist Youth League in the same year. He was admitted into the Chinese Communist Party in 1930, and served as regimental political commissar during the Long March. With the founding of the New China, he served as political commissar of the PLA's General Logistics Department, vice-premier of the State Council, minister of Petroleum Industry, and Minister in Charge of the State Energy Resources Commission. He is now a member of the Political Bureau of the 12th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

In compiling this book, the editorial department adhered to a practical and realistic formula: every profile had to be based on accurate historical facts.

As for those marshals and generals who have earned good reputations at home and abroad, the book objectively provides brief profiles including the posts they held in different historical periods, and avoids such laurels as "great strategist" and "invincible general."

by Yu Wentao





ART PAGE

Papercuts by Fan Zuoxin and Fan Zuolan

Fan Zuoxin, born in 1944 and his sister Zuolan, born in 1966, are both peasants in Gaomi County, Shandong Province.

Brought up with folk papercuts, which their mother enjoyed, the two have taken to the art. Here are some of their animal papercut sketches, imbued with a rural flavour.



China: A Statistical Survey in 1987

Compiled by the State Statistical Bureau, People's Republic of China

After the publication of *China: A Statistical Survey in 1985* and *1986*, *China: A Statistical Survey in 1987* is the third one in the series. This book offers a comprehensive picture of China's economic and social development. Its nine sections deal with population and the labour force; agriculture; industry; transport, post and telecommunications; investment in fixed assets; finance; trade and price; the people's livelihood; education, science and culture; public health and sports. In key section, comparisons are made between certain years after 1949 and all the years following 1978 in order to indicate trends of development.

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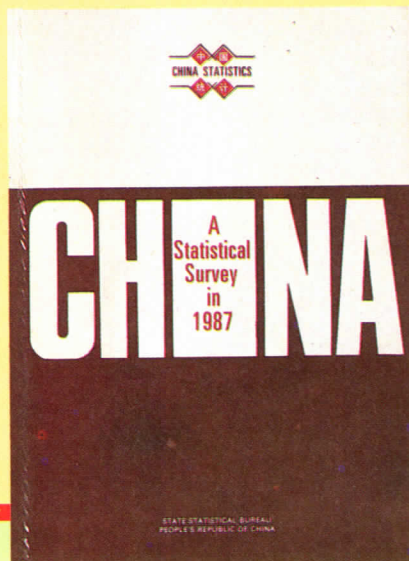
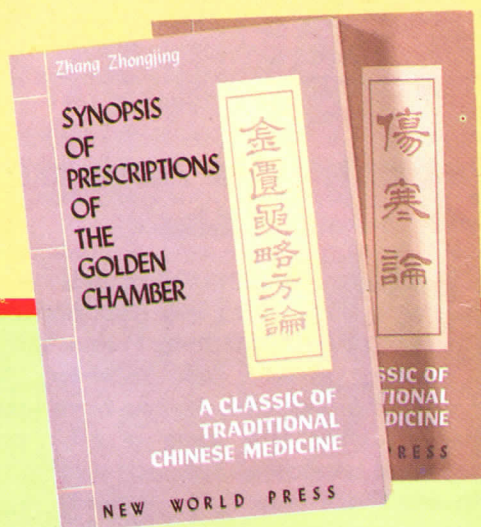
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Two Important Classics of Traditional Chinese Medicine

Treatise on Febrile Diseases Caused by Cold (152 x 222 mm, 442 pages)

Synopsis of Prescriptions of the Golden Chamber (152 x 222 mm, 366 pages)

Both are English translations of the most important classics of traditional Chinese medicine *Treatise on Febrile Diseases Caused by Cold* and *Synopsis of Prescriptions of the Golden Chamber*, written some 1,700 years ago by Zhang Zhongjing, a great medical scholar and doctor of the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220 AD).

Zhang Zhongjing's original work, *Treatise on Febrile Disease Caused by Cold and Miscellaneous Diseases*, consists of sixteen fascicles, the first ten of which were compiled separately by Wang Shuhe, Commissioner of the Imperial Academy of Medicine during the Jin Dynasty (265-420) as the *Treatise on Febrile Diseases Caused by Cold* (Shanghan Lun). The remaining six fascicles were edited by Lin Yi and other members of the Institute of Medical Literature Revision during the Song Dynasty (960-1279) and compiled as the present *Synopsis of Prescriptions of the Golden Chamber*. Zhang Zhongjing's work has been regarded by all doctors and medical scholars of ensuing periods as a "sacred medical text." Dr. Joseph Needham of Great Britain wrote an introduction to the English translation of the book.

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