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Bishop Ting on Protestantism in China

A GALA
SPORTS MEET
IN CHINA





Xinjiang-style kebabs on a street corner.

by Sun Yi

Beijing Review

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Developing Democracy at the Grass Roots

■ The Village Law, approved by the NPC Standing Committee and promulgated last November, launches the 800 million Chinese farmers on the road to exercising their democratic rights according to law, and helps them raise their ability to run village, township, county and finally state affairs so that China's socialist democracy can develop (p. 4).

Records at 6th National Games

■ At the 6th National Games which ended earlier in December, 17 world and 48 Asian records were broken, proving that China is becoming a force to be reckoned with (p. 23).

National Music Thriving

■ China's traditional music has gone beyond standard playing techniques and traditional folk tunes. Chinese composers are returning to the traditions for inspiration — producing modern music with a strong Chinese flavour. Traditional instruments, too, feature widely in their old and modified forms (p. 27).

Religious Belief Is Free in China

■ There are three to four million Protestant Christians in China, says Bishop K.H. Ting. In this interview the Bishop discusses the work of the China Christian Council and the future relations between churches in Hong Kong and on the mainland (p. 14). A report on religious activities at Wutai Mountain (p. 16); and a report on a Roman Catholic church in Wuhan (p. 21).

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Developing Democracy at Basic Units

by Li Li

According to the Village Committee Law (for trial implementation) of the People's Republic of China, approved by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) and promulgated in late November, village committees, self-managing mass organizations, will be established throughout rural China. This is a major event in the development of democracy in the countryside.

In his report to the 13th Party Congress, Party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang said, "The essence of socialist democracy is that the people are masters of the country." This is expressed on two important levels: one is the NPC and the local people's congresses elected by the people, which exercise state power; the second is direct democracy at the grass-roots level, which will help the masses handle their own affairs according to law. Promulgation of the Village Committee Law launches the 800 million Chinese farmers on the road to exercising their democratic rights according to law.

Since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, the rural grass-roots organizations have been an administrative organ subordinate to the next level up. For example, the administrative villages in the early post-liberation days and the production brigades administrative committees set up after the establishment of the people's communes in 1958 were usually charged with transmitting the higher level's instructions down to the villagers. The committees led the villagers in fulfilling these tasks. They had little autonomy and were not instruments for the villagers to exercise their democratic rights.

In 1982 the Chinese government promulgated the new Constitution

which decided to abolish the production brigades and establish village committees whose self-management is clearly defined. Over 900,000 such village committees have since been established in many rural areas. Experience over the last five years has proved that the village committee is indeed a good tool for grass-roots units to exercise direct democratic rights.

The Village Committee Law, promulgated in late November, specifies the major tasks for these committees as: handling the public affairs of the village, mediating in disputes, helping maintain public order, and serving as a channel between the government and the masses by conveying the people's feelings to the higher levels.

The Village Committee Law specifies the major tasks for these committees:

- Handling the public affairs and utilities of the village (rebuilding bridges, repairing roads, operating nurseries and homes for the aged, improving public hygiene, and organizing mass cultural and recreational activities);
- Mediating in disputes among villagers, promoting unity and family harmony;
- Helping the people's government and the public security organizations with maintaining public order and security;
- Serving as a channel between the government and the masses by

conveying the masses' opinions and demands to the government and offering suggestions.

In order to ensure that the villagers effectively exercise their democratic rights, the Village Committee Law stipulates:

1. The village conference, which includes villagers over 18, enjoys the highest status and power. Anything concerning the village's interests should be discussed by the village conference. On the basis of majority rule, the conference will decide what should be done, what should not be done and what should be postponed. It will also decide how to deploy the workforce, and how to raise funds. These things must not be decided by members of the village committee or by any other small grouping.

2. The village committee will be responsible to the village conference. In line with the village conference's decisions, the village committee works for the interests of the villagers and accepts the village conference's supervision.

3. In making a decision, the village committee must accept majority rule, overcome bureaucratism and the tendency to use administrative decree; the committee must not use coercion and commandism or become revengeful.

Feudal influences are deeply rooted in China and there is not much democratic tradition. When the village committee is well run, the farmers, through the practice of self-management, will heighten their sense of democracy, cultivate democratic habits, learn the skills of democratic management and gradually raise their ability to administer the affairs of a village, a township, a county and finally the affairs of the state so that China's socialist democracy can develop.

Time Is Ripe for Press Reform

The Chinese media have covered a lot of stories about the reforms taking place in every sector of society, but the reform of the press itself has lagged far behind. The time has come to catch up, leading journalists say.

"The present period is the best one for press reform since such reform was first proposed in 1956," said Fan Jingyi, editor-in-chief of *Economic Daily*. His opinion was echoed by other veteran journalists who attended recent seminars held in Beijing and Shanghai to discuss the question of media reform.

The 13th Congress of the Communist Party of China, which took place at the end of October, called for political reform, including more discussion of key issues among the people. The congress seemed to pave the way for press reform, and the immediate and detailed information provided about the congress itself was seen as a successful trial move into the area.

Gong Xueping, director of the Shanghai Broadcasting and TV Bureau, said it is obvious that the pace of press reform has been slow. One of the major reasons, he said, is that the specific policies for the reform are unclear. It did not come up when other reform policies were being formulated.

Now, Chinese journalists are considering what direction the press reform should take and what it should involve. According to Zeng Jianhui, deputy head of Xinhua News Agency, the reform should advance towards the goal of openness.

Du Daozheng, chairman of the Media and Publications Office, said one aim of the press reform is to inform people about vital issues, act as a forum for discussion, and communicate people's opinions, proposals and complaints to the authorities. This would lead to popular particip-

ation in an open press. Fan expanded on this idea, saying that the press should also let the world know more about China and China know more about the world.

In the past, the openness of the Chinese press has been limited. At times, ordinary people could learn about some big decisions by the central authorities or what Party and government leaders told foreign visitors only by listening to foreign radio stations or reading the foreign press. The Chinese even have a saying to describe this odd phenomenon. It is known as "selling exports in the domestic market." It was common in the 1960s and 1970s for people to learn that a meeting of the central authorities was being held only when the meeting wound up.

Today's media should help heighten people's consciousness about participating in political life and enhance their ability to do so, said Hu Jiwei, president of the Capital Journalism Society and former director of *People's Daily*. He criticized some top leaders' past practice of giving more interviews to foreign reporters than to local ones, thus forcing Chinese people to get their news from abroad. He suggested that the state should provide more and faster information about political affairs, except in cases where secrecy is necessary. Hu also advocated more on-the-spot coverage of important events so that they are subject to public scrutiny.

Newspapers should speak for both the leadership and the people, Hu said. "This is one of the basic principles of proletarian journalism." But because of some specific historical factors, especially the influence of the "left" line, the emphasis in the past has been on speaking for the leaders; and the press has been regarded as a "textbook" for the people, the

veteran journalist said.

Li Ji, editor-in-chief of *Workers' Daily*, said the main task of press reform is to satisfy the demands of readers and produce newspapers that are "readable and reliable." Li said the old idea that the press should be tightly controlled should be broken down. A senior editor at the Shanghai seminar said the old view of the press as purely a propaganda tool should be changed too.

Li Pu, former deputy head of Xinhua News Agency, said that the reform of techniques of news writing and reporting, which was discussed in the past, involves only technical improvements. "We should focus now on the reform of press systems and press legislation." Many journalists agreed that a press law is needed as part of the media reform, saying that without a press law, journalists cannot protect their rights.

Li Senhua, deputy director of the Shanghai People's Radio Station, said that when mass media play their role of supervision, administrative interference must be prevented. "Passing a press law can contribute to that," Li said. ■

Shoddy Goods Cause a Stir

The unexpected cancellation of the country's first exhibition of shoddy light industrial products—originally scheduled for mid-December in Beijing—was a shock to many consumers but a relief to several producers, Beijing newspapers reported.

Xinhua reporter Wu Jincai said in a highly critical commentary on December 13 that the cancellation of the exhibition is a significant event in the history of the Ministry of Light Industry and the endeavour to build up a planned commodity economy in China through reforms.

According to Wu, 4,000 letters of complaint about the poor

quality of light industrial products, which poured into the ministry in the four months prior to the date of the show, have been kept secret.

A department of the ministry even tried to ferret out the "informer" after television reporters filmed a warehouse where shoddy and inferior goods were kept, Wu said.

Zeng Xianlin, minister of Light Industry, has admitted that some people at the ministry were resentful of the exhibition. To protect their favourite factories, Zeng said, they deleted letters of complaint about the factories' products from the computerized files.

Chinese consumers lack legal protection and officials are under no legal obligation to pay attention to letters of complaint from consumers. As a result, officials often regard the handling of a complaint letter as bestowing a favour on the sender, Wu said. The ministry's original decision to hold the exhibition reflected its desire to protect consumer interests, he added.

On December 16 *Economic Daily* reported on a press conference held by the Ministry of Light Industry to explain the cancellation of the show. The ministry said that after consumers were told to hand in their letters of complaint and the shoddy items they had purchased three months before the scheduled exhibition, the factories concerned sent hordes of repair teams to Beijing to try to remedy the consumers' problems. Fearing that these teams would be withdrawn, the ministry cancelled the exhibition.

Leaders of the ministry also said that as long as the markets are in the hands of the producers, supervision over product quality should be a lengthy and careful process. The officials also explained that China's light industry has just started to gather momentum and the reputation of products that may be destined for export must be protected.

Still, it is clear that some factory directors put pressure on the ministry. They said, "let Zeng Xianlin be the director of the factory and have a try," *Economic Daily* reported. ■

Actress Assailed For Tax Evasion

Tax evasion by show business celebrities has drawn severe criticism recently and China is implementing nationwide inspection in a bid to eliminate the problem.

Economic Daily, a leading Beijing-based newspaper, criticized several film stars—including one by name—in a front-page story on November 26 headlined, "Comrades, you cannot ignore your duty to pay tax."

The star mentioned in the article is Hong Xuemin, an actress who rose to fame for her roles in several award-winning features including *Legends of Tianyun Mountain* and *Happiness Knocks at the Door*.

According to a rule introduced at the beginning of this year, individuals with monthly incomes exceeding 400 yuan (about US\$108) must pay personal income tax. But most people ignore this rule, intentionally evading tax payments without realizing it is illegal.

The state collected 13 million yuan in personal income tax in the first 10 months of this year, far below the expected amount. According to *Economic Daily*, much of the shortfall was due to tax evasion.

It was verified that from February 4-15, Hong earned at least 8,400 yuan from musical productions in Sichuan Province. Not only did she fail to pay any taxes on her return to Beijing but she also denied she had received the money when, three months later, the Beijing Revenue Bureau made enquiries after receiving documents from Sichuan report-

ing her income from the shows. "If you think I've received the money, show me the evidence, otherwise I won't pay any taxes," she said.

It was not until recently, after her studio's authorities applied pressure, that Hong reluctantly admitted to earning some money from the shows and paid 1,400 yuan in taxes and fines for tax evasion.

Economic Daily commented that it is not a bad thing for show business personalities to become rich quickly by charging higher fees for their professional services, but their incomes must be legal. State law should not be ignored, the paper said.

Hong is not the only tax evader in show business. Others, including two stand-up comics who enjoy a nationwide reputation, a famous female singer with the China Broadcasting Art Troupe and an actress in the Nanjing Modern Drama Troupe, have created problems for the Revenue Bureau by refusing to pay income tax.

"Actors and celebrities in show business are expected to play an important role in raising social morality," *Economic Daily* said. "They should set a good example for observing the law."

There are people who pay their income tax on their own initiative. Dong Wenhua, a famous singer with the Shengyang Military Region Song and Dance Troupe, reported her income as soon as she discovered she should pay personal tax, and paid 3,200 yuan. Jiang Kun, a stand-up comic with the China Broadcasting Art Troupe, regularly pays his income tax.

From January to September, high-ranking Party, state and army leaders living in Beijing, with a monthly income of over 400 yuan, paid tax.

"Laws embody the will of the state with authority and solemnity. Once put into effect, they should be followed strictly by all citizens without exception," *Economic Daily* said. "The

concept that citizens pay taxes according to the rule and that it is glorious to pay tax, should be fostered." ■

Acupuncture Link To AIDS Denied

Chinese doctors defended acupuncture safety procedures and criticized as "medically unsound" foreign press reports alleging that a case of AIDS was transmitted through acupuncture.

In a story on December 1, the R uter news agency quoted the Canadian Embassy in Beijing as saying that a Canadian woman, who died as a result of acquired immune deficiency syndrome soon after recently returning home from Beijing, appeared to have caught AIDS from acupuncture treatment 20 months before in the Chinese capital.

The Associated Press carried a similar report on December 2.

Officials from the Administration Bureau of Chinese Medicine said they were shocked by these reports and had never heard of similar cases before. Acupuncture needles and other skin-penetrating injectors are strictly sterilized under high pressure as ordered by China's Ministry of Public Health, they said. Foreigners are urged to have acupuncture treatment in designated hospitals and clinics in Beijing which abandon used needles and injectors to prevent cross infection.

Zhang Ruxin, a senior doctor at Beijing's Hospital of Chinese Medicine, said that all doctors in his hospital observe these rules, and in his 34 years of practice, he has never encountered a case of cross infection caused by unsterilized acupuncture needles.

According to the Reuter report, the Canadian Embassy distributed a circular to Canadian citizens in the Chinese capital on December 1 and cited the AIDS case to warn of the dangers of acupuncture in

places where sterile conditions are not assured.

It also quoted the Canadian Health Ministry as saying the woman "did not belong to any of the known high risk groups" for AIDS, which include homosexuals, drug addicts and haemophiliacs.

"Although we cannot be absolutely sure about the exact source of the infection, circumstantial evidence tends to incriminate acupuncture procedure undertaken about 20 months before," the circular said.

The Canadian Embassy refused to disclose the name of the woman, where she worked or where she received treatment in Beijing.

It said, however, that the Canadian Health Ministry statement was issued to all overseas embassies to warn against all unsafe skin penetrations including ear-piercing and tattooing. It does not exclude the possibility that the woman might have contracted AIDS elsewhere, before coming to China.

Prof. Hong Jiping, an expert in infectious diseases at the Beijing-based Sino-Japanese Friendship Hospital, said a person can be an AIDS virus carrier for five or six years before AIDS is detected. He said his hospital offers AIDS virus tests for foreigners who wish to stay in China for a year or more. Such tests are required under Chinese law.

He said the report of the acupuncture-transmitted AIDS case is medically unsound, adding that the first AIDS case in China, an Argentine tourist, was only discovered in the summer of 1985. Other cases of AIDS found in China have mainly involved foreigners and overseas Chinese who lived in the United States for many years. A few haemophiliacs were infected with the AIDS virus after treatment with blood products imported from the United States. ■

Peace Campaign Moves Forward

The past two years have seen achievements in launching a peace movement in China and further efforts will be made to safeguard world peace, said Ou Tangliang, vice-president of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament.

The comments were made at a meeting of the association's member organizations held on December 17 in Beijing. The meeting was called to exchange information and experience gained in the course of peace and disarmament work and to encourage Chinese people to take initiative in the global peace movement.

"Peace and development are the most vital and urgent issues facing the world today," Ou said. "Safeguarding world peace is the fundamental goal of our independent foreign policy."

Referring to the current international situation, Ou said that the treaty to scrap intermediate-range nuclear forces recently signed by Soviet Union and the United States has eased to some degree the tensions between East and West. But she pointed out that the pact is only the first step on a long and tortuous road to nuclear disarmament. The achievement of this goal will require unremitting efforts by people all over the world.

Hegemonism must be opposed to effectively maintain world peace, Ou said. "Encroaching on a nation's independence and sovereignty means jeopardizing world peace. Therefore, the struggle to maintain world peace must be closely integrated with the struggle to eliminate regional conflicts."

The international peace movement reflects the global trend towards opposing war. Ou said, "It is clear that people are the basic safeguard for world peace."

The Chinese People's Associ-

ation for Peace and Disarmament, established in 1985, is a non-governmental organization sponsored by and composed of 24 organizations and prominent public figures from various nationalities and sectors. These include the Chinese Association for International Understanding, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, the All-China Federation of Youth, the All-China Women's Federation, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the China Association for Science and Technology, the Chinese Red Cross Society, the Soong Ching Ling Foundation, the Chinese Buddhist Association and the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association.

The group's objective is to work together with people from other countries in a joint effort to safeguard world peace, strive for total disarmament and prevent a new world war. Its activities have included holding an exhibition showing the horrors of the atom bomb explosions in Japan; sponsoring a forum entitled Talking Peace in the Year of Peace, at which representatives from every sector in Beijing spoke out on the issue; publishing a magazine in English called *Peace* as a medium for exchanging information and developing links with non-governmental peace and disarmament groups and spokesmen in other countries; and holding a Peace Cup youth football match, jointly sponsored by the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission.

The association has established friendly ties with 170 peace organizations in more than 40 countries.

China is committed to disarmament. The country's top leaders stress that the Chinese people's interest lies in peace and that China opposes and will never take part in the arms race. China has always made it clear that it will not be the first to use nuclear weapons under any

circumstances.

China has fulfilled the promise it made in 1985 to reduce its armed forces by 1 million troops. The country's cuts in military spending, the transfer of some military facilities to civilian use and the training of servicemen in a variety of skills are also conducive to economic development.

The Chinese are a peace-loving people. The association receives many letters from ordinary citizens expressing their longing for peace.

A young worker in Tianjin wrote a play called *Save Mankind*. In a letter to the association, he said, "Although at the age of 23 I haven't experienced war, I know all the same the destruction that war wreaks on mankind and the value of a peaceful life. I want to use my pen to express my views on war, peace, life and development, and to describe people's hopes for peace."

The association will continue to encourage its member organizations to carry out various domestic peace actions and to develop international exchanges, Ou said. The group will also pay more attention to research and to improving the quality of its leaders.

by Chen Qiuping

Township Products Hit World Market

Millions of China's township enterprises with their high-quality products have entered world economic and trade markets. A total of US\$4.5 billion in foreign exchange was earned by exports from township enterprises in 1986. It is estimated that 1987 export earnings will reach US\$5 billion.

Since 1978, the number of township enterprises in China has increased dramatically at an average rate of 20 percent each year. By the end of 1986, a total of

15 million village and township enterprises were employing 80 million people. Annual output reached 354 billion yuan 1986, accounting for 19.1 percent of the total output for the country and 48 percent for rural areas. In Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces, where village and township enterprises are more developed, the annual output amounts to half the total industrial output value of the two provinces.

As their production capabilities increase, village and township enterprises are looking to the world market. There were 11,000 export-oriented enterprises in 1986, compared with 8,500 in 1985 and 1,500 in 1980.

Exports from rural enterprises have changed from the handicrafts and low-grade garments of the past to products such as high- and medium-grade garments, machinery and household electrical appliances. In the past three years, 16 exports products have won gold or silver awards, and a large number of products enjoy inspection-free privileges.

He Kang, minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery, said the state will adopt a series of new policies, including priority loan approvals, to encourage rural enterprises to become export-oriented. He said that export-oriented rural enterprises can play an active role in China's foreign trade, and efforts should be geared towards earning the targeted US\$8 billion from exports in 1990. ■

Student Found Guilty

The Shanghai Intermediate People's Court on December 21 sentenced Yang Wei, a student who has returned from the United States, to a fixed prison term of two years and deprived him of his

political rights for one year for conducting "demagogical propaganda for counter-revolutionary ends."

Yang was tried in open court.

Court investigations showed that Yang went to study in the United States in 1983, and in 1985 joined the Chinese Alliance of Democracy, an organization aimed at "abolishing the 'Four Cardinal Principles' in the Chinese Constitution" and "fundamentally changing the present autocratic system in China."

The Four Cardinal Principles in the Constitution refer to adherence to the socialist road, the people's democratic dictatorship, Communist Party leadership, and Marxism, Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought.

The court heard that Yang wrote articles for the organization's journal *China Spring* in which he attacked the people's democratic dictatorship and the socialist system.

After he returned to Shanghai in May 1986, the court was told, Yang was active in collecting information about student unrest at the end of 1986 and secretly sent material back to the headquarters of the alliance. He was found to have put up reactionary slogans on the campus of Fudan University on December 22, 1986.

Yang sent letters from the alliance to students in Beijing and Guangzhou which called on students to expand the disturbances. He also incited others to publicize the letters and to defy government decrees, the court was told.

Yang was represented by lawyers Li Guoji and Song Xiaohong. Yang's parents were present at the trial. The court ruling was the first under Articles 102 and 52 of the Chinese Criminal Law.

Meanwhile, an official of the Shanghai Public Security Bureau denounced the Chinese Alliance for Democracy as a reactionary organization. ■

Weekly Chronicle

(December 14-20)

POLITICAL

December 16

■ The second plenary meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee is held in Beijing.

Members discuss and approve in principle plans for the reform of the departments under the CPC Central Committee and State Council. The plan for the reform of departments under the State Council will be implemented by the council after it is approved by the National People's Congress.

■ At the closing meeting of the sixth session of the Hong Kong Basic Law Drafting Committee, Ji Pengfei, the committee chairman, says, "We've made a lot of progress, but the committee still faces some hard work."

He calls on subcommittees to revise drafts of chapters and articles, drawing on the opinions of members, the advisory committee and other individuals and groups.

The committee decides to hold its seventh session in April.

■ At a weekly news briefing, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman says the Chinese government and people greatly appreciate the efforts of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to urge Viet Nam to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea so as to achieve a political settlement of the Kampuchean conflict.

ECONOMIC

December 14

■ China will set up special offices in provincial capitals and other major cities in the coming year to handle the transfer of technical personnel.

Guo Shuyan, vice-minister of the State Science and Technology Commission, says the state will adopt preferential policies to

encourage technical personnel to contract, lease or launch rural enterprises and other economic entities in remote areas, areas and impoverished areas.

December 15

■ China's steel production for 1987 is expected to exceed 55 million tons, about 70 percent higher than in 1978.

CULTURAL

December 16

■ More than 400 tourists from Hong Kong, Macao and foreign countries have visited the Shenzhou Canine Park, the first of its kind in China, which opened recently in the city of Linfen, Shanxi Province.

The 93-hectare park features 400 dogs of various fine breeds.

SOCIAL

December 14

■ Two suns are seen side by side over the sea in the early morning near Laoshan Mountain, a tourist resort in the port city of Qingdao, Shandong Province.

The two suns are similar in size and about 10 metres apart. One minute later, the sun on the right gradually dwindles and dims. Witnesses say the phenomenon lasts for about five minutes.

Similar unusual phenomena have appeared before, but only at the South Pole, Chinese meteorologists say.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

December 18

■ At a meeting in Beijing, Chinese President Li Xiannian and Vanuatu President Ati George Sokomanu express satisfaction with the development of bilateral ties since 1982, when the countries established diplomatic relations. Sokomanu is on an official goodwill visit to China.

ASEAN SUMMIT

Regional Co-operation Further Strengthened

The most obvious objective of the recent ASEAN summit was to strengthen solidarity and co-operation among its members.

The two-day third summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which ended in Manila on December 15, adopted the Manila Declaration of 1987. Described by ASEAN leaders as a declaration of ASEAN's resolve, the document states that ASEAN shall pursue regional solidarity and co-operation under all circumstances, especially when pressures and tension of any kind, arising from within or outside the region, challenge the capacities, resourcefulness and goodwill of the ASEAN nations.

In closed-door sessions the participants in the summit also approved four documents drafted by their economic ministers to promote economic co-operation. The achievements of the summit in the economic field, which are characterized by new directions and initiatives for closer economic co-operation, are embodied in the four documents:

- a protocol on the tariff scheme under the ASEAN preferential trading arrangement;
- an agreement on halting and lifting of non-tariff barriers;
- the revised basic agreement

on ASEAN industrial joint ventures; and

— an agreement for the promotion and protection of intra-ASEAN investments.

The agreements call for higher tariff discounts, the phasing-out and eventual elimination of non-tariff restrictions, and protection and promotion of investments.

Economically, ASEAN as a whole has registered one of the fastest annual economic growth rates by world standards, ranging from 5 to 7 percent a year. ASEAN countries, which exported mainly raw materials two decades ago, now account for 22.5 percent of manufactured exports from developing countries. With a combined population of almost 300 million, ASEAN countries produce about 95 percent of the world's abaca (Manila hemp), 77 percent of its natural rubber, 83 percent of its palm oil, 44 percent of its tin, 59 percent of its coconut

The six ASEAN leaders at the opening of the Manila summit.

ASEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING

DECEMBER 1987

MANILA,



and 64 percent of its copper. They also produce substantial quantities of sugar, coffee, timber, tropical fruits and minerals. But progress in regional economic co-operation has nevertheless been slow. Intra-ASEAN trade, for example, constitutes only 18 percent of the group's total trade. The new agreements are expected to increase regional co-operation.

In the political field, the summit participants only discussed major issues affecting peace and stability in the region. The heads of member governments all agreed that the peace and stability of the region had been disturbed by the Vietnamese invasion and occupation of Kampuchea since 1978. They urged the Vietnamese government to hold "serious discussions" on the Kampuchean problem and demanded the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops. In the Manila declaration, they stressed the need for "a durable comprehensive political solution" to the problem. The issue of Indochinese refugees, which has placed a heavy burden on some ASEAN countries, was also underlined.

The summit leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the realization of Southeast Asia as a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality despite obstacles presented by the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea.

Born out of the Bangkok Declaration or ASEAN Constitution on August 8, 1967, ASEAN expanded its original membership of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand to include Brunei as its sixth member in 1984.

Founded in Bangkok with the principal objective of accelerating economic growth in the region, ASEAN has grown into the most stable and united regional group in the third world and one of the most successful examples of South-South co-operation among developing countries.

The heads of government of the

six member countries constitute the highest authority in ASEAN. They meet as and when necessary to give policy directions to the various ASEAN organs. So far there have been three summit meetings hosted in rotation according to the alphabetical order of the member countries. The summits have been held in Bali, Indonesia, Kuala Lumpur and Manila.

At the recent meeting differences arose between summit participants on thorny regional security issues such as the

declaration of Southeast Asia as a nuclear-free zone. They failed to sign a resolution on the issue as expected and decided to hold further discussions and conduct a thorough study on the proposal.

The fruits of the summit mainly hinge on how the declaration and agreements will be carried out. As Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda pointed out in his closing statement: "Much remains to be done to translate these agreed objectives into actions, and herein lies the challenge ahead of us."

by Zhai Shuyao

SOUTH KOREA

Violence, Cries of Fraud Follow Election

The victory of Roh Tae Woo in South Korea's first direct presidential election in 16 years is greeted by riots and allegations of electoral irregularities.

Roh Tae Woo, candidate of the Ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP), has been elected South Korea's 13th president. Roh won 36.4 percent of the votes cast in South Korea's first direct presidential election in 16 years, which was held on December 16.

The outcome of the voting, which had been expected by many analysts, was immediately challenged by opposition parties. They accused the regime of rigging the election and hiring thugs to beat up neutral observers. The two major opposition leaders, Kim Young Sam of the Reunification Democratic Party and Kim Dae Jung of the Party for Peace and Democracy, vowed that they would unite against Roh.

Meanwhile, on December 18 hundreds of people, protesting against the alleged rigging of the election fought pitched battles with a huge force of riot police in central Seoul. Clashes erupted after police evicted some 2,000 protesters from a voting centre.

The protesters said they were holding fake ballot papers to stop election workers destroying evidence of fraud. The police made more than 900 arrests. The day before, some 1,000 students and others in Kwangju staged a rally demanding nullification of the election.

Roh, a 55-year-old former army man, took part in the military coup led by Chun Doo Hwan after Park Chung Hee was killed in 1979. Roh also had a hand in putting down the Kwangju people's uprising in 1980.

For eight years, Roh has been an important supporter of President Chun, serving as minister of home affairs, minister of sports, and chairman of the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee. In 1985, he was appointed as a representative of the DJP. His power within the party was second only to that of Chun. Chun named Roh the DJP's presidential candidate last June 10.

Because of Roh's military

background, especially his role in backing the future military dictator Chun in the 1979 coup, Roh was unpopular among students and many potential voters. The two Kims, long-time fighters for freedom and democracy, seemed to have an edge over Roh. It is widely believed that if the two Kims had settled their differences and chosen one of them as the sole opposition candidate, the results of the election would have been in the opposition's favour. Together, two Kims won a higher percentage of the votes than Roh, with Kim Young Sam taking 27.1 percent and Kim Dae Jung 26.3 percent.

Apart from the split between the two Kims, Roh's advantages as the candidate of the ruling party played an important role in his victory. Reports say the government-controlled media deliberately slighted the opposition candidates while treating Roh as major news. An aide to Kim Dae Jung complained, "We never see a picture of Kim Dae Jung smiling."

There were also many alleged incidents of fraud in the election. An 18-member US delegation of academics and congressional aides, who went to Seoul to monitor the election, said, "We believe there were abuses. There were violations. We believe they should be investigated." Members of the delegation said they had interviewed people who claimed they had received, or were offered, money and other gifts to buy or withhold their votes.

The question in South Korea is whether the legitimacy of Roh's election will be recognized by South Koreans and whether he can form a cabinet that will have the support of the majority of the people. It also remains to be seen whether Roh will keep his election promise to replace the military dictatorship with democracy.

Another thorny issue facing Roh is the relations between South Korea and the United States. Roh promised in his campaign that he will readjust the relationship and

will strive to gain independence in commanding South Korean troops. This, however, involves the strategic interests of the United States in the Far East. It will be difficult for Roh to keep his promise without hurting the interests of the United States.

It is also a big question whether Roh can calm down the political situation in South Korea before

the opening of the Olympic Games, which are scheduled to take place in Seoul this summer. The Olympic Games are viewed by South Koreans as an important opportunity to expand the influence of South Korea and to boost the tourist industry of the region. In a word, it is clear that a bumpy road lies before Roh.

by She Duanzhi

FEDERAL GERMANY

Economic Moves Get Mixed Welcome

Yielding to both internal and external pressure, Federal Germany's cabinet has adopted a plan to stimulate the country's economy.

The state-owned Credit Reconstruction Bank of Federal Germany will provide low-interest loans totalling 21 billion marks (US\$12.6 billion) between 1988 and 1990 to finance urban and township reconstruction projects and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises.

The decision, adopted by the Kohl government on December 2, was followed on December 4 by a 0.5 percentage point cut in the central bank's discount rate—from 3 to 2.5 percent. The move was quickly matched by interest rate cuts in Britain, France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland.

The West German moves triggered strong reactions both inside and outside the country. US Treasury Secretary James Baker welcomed the interest rate cut, although he could not say much because of the failure of his own country to take action to stabilize the world economy. The *New York Times* was critical of the move, calling it snail-paced. This criticism corresponds to remarks voiced by its opponents inside Federal Germany.

Franz Josef Strauss, chairman of the Christian Social Union, while calling for an expansion of

federal debt, said the discount rate cut should be larger and should have been adopted much earlier. Several economic research institutes said the measures will be ineffective in boosting the economy, with rich towns already suffering no lack of funds and others unable to borrow because of their straitened circumstances.

A leading member of the Bonn government's five-member economic advisory council said the group does not think a recession is coming, and believes that boosts are needed only when a recession is on the way.

These opposing views reflect the predicament the government was in before deciding to act. The question was whether there was a need to stimulate the economy and, if so, how big the interest rate cut should be.

The Federal German economy is faring well, as evidenced by booming sales as Christmas approaches. But the forecast of a slower growth rate of 1.5 percent next year and the rising unemployment suggested that stimulative measures could be needed.

The principal pressure, however, came from abroad, particularly the United States. Washington holds Federal Germany

responsible for the stock market crash in October and has been urging Germany to contribute more to the world economy by serving as its "locomotive." France also joined in that call.

Domestically, the Bonn government is gripped by the fear that the plunge of the US dollar, if not halted, will upset the European financial system and thus affect its trade. Trade with the rest of Europe absorbs half of West Germany's exports. Some analysts think the dollar could drop below 1.6 marks.

Since the government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl took office, it has done a fine job in fighting inflation, reducing the 7 percent inflation rate in the days of the former government to zero inflation today. Radical stimulative measures could revive inflation. Moreover, Federal Germany does not want to be

Washington's scapegoat and take the blame for fluctuations in the stock markets and the weakening of the US dollar.

Stabilizing the dollar and the stock markets cries out for joint actions by the major Western countries and the United States in particular. But so far such actions have been few and ineffective. The Louvre agreement signed in February, which called for joint efforts to stabilize the US dollar and boost economic growth, is today little more than a useless scrap of paper.

Given the lack of energetic measures by the other six industrial powers that signed it, the current moves by the Federal German government, if not accompanied by international collaboration, will do little to quell the storms plaguing the stock markets.

by Hu Yongzhen

strategies of trying to persuade the African debtor countries to cooperate to improve their economies, and at the same time calling on the developed countries to increase aid to the third world.

An earlier suggestion by some French leaders that part of the debts of the poorest African countries be forgiven was not followed up at the meeting. Mitterrand emphasized that France prefers united action by all developed countries to independent action. He noted that among the seven major industrialized countries, France is the only one whose aid to developing countries is close to 0.7 percent of its gross national product, a target set by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 1983. Mitterrand said he believes that most of the problems could be settled if other developed countries follow France's example and set aside more money for the third world.

Exports of primary products are African's main source of income. Statistics show that prices for these products have dropped an average of 2 percent a year for the past 25 years, while the prices of manufactured products have been steadily mounting. Today the prices of many African exports are at their lowest levels in the past 50 years. Mitterrand noted that the nosedive in prices for primary products between 1980 and 1986 deprived African countries of US\$90 billion.

President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire pointed out that the plunge in primary product prices on world markets and the accumulating debt of African countries are closely related problems. He said the rich countries are indebted to the poor countries because the benefits rich countries get from the low prices of raw materials far exceed the benefits they offer poor countries in return.

The summit participants agreed that an international conference on Africa's debt problems should be held in the near future. ■

FRANCE-AFRICA

Debt Problems Dominate Talks

Debt problems and the drop in prices for primary products were high on the agenda of the 14th French-African summit.

Delegations from France and 37 French-speaking African countries met for their annual summit in the southern French town of Antibes from December 10-12. The meeting, which was attended by 14 heads of state including French President Francois Mitterrand, discussed the situation in southern Africa and Chad and other problems. High on the agenda was the African participants' biggest headache—external debt and the drop in primary product prices in the international markets.

African nations are plagued by US\$200 billion in debt. Relative to its total gross national product, Africa is burdened with the most

serious debt problem in the world. The enormous maturing debts and stagnating economies of African countries have drawn worldwide attention and many special meetings have been held to discuss the problems. A recent extraordinary session of the Organization of African Unity demanded the deferral of some debt payments and the conversion of some loans into grants.

France is among the countries which have tried to help find a solution to Africa's debt problems. The former colonial power maintains extensive political and economic interests in the continent. The French delegation at the summit pursued the parallel

Growth of Protestant Church in China

—Interview with Bishop K.H. Ting by Rev. Ewing W. Carroll, Jr.

Question: How many Protestant Christians are there in China today?

Answer: There are three to four million. They include baptized Protestants who worship in over 4,000 church buildings and tens of thousands of homes or meeting points—frequently, inaccurately referred to abroad as “house churches.”

Q: How have these figures been derived?

A: The national China Christian Council office receives figures from provincial Christian councils who in turn collect their figures from local councils. Some local figures also include inquirers.

Q: How does this national total compare with that of 1949 when the People's Republic of China was founded?

A: A growth at least twice as fast as our nation's population growth. But we are still fewer than half of 1 percent of the total population.

Q: What comments have you regarding those abroad who claim that there are 30-100 million Protestant Christians who form an underground force in China?

A: Our work of Christian witness tells us that a gospel which convicts women and men of sin and demands their repentance is not so easy to accept as a TV programme; an increase at least twice that of the population growth is already a huge miracle for which we humbly thank God.

It is highly unlikely for someone looking at China through a



Bishop K. H. Ting.

distant telescope to do accurate counting. These big figures must have been derived by choosing a small area with a large concentration of Protestants and then projecting this high proportion onto the whole of China.

If there are indeed 100 million Protestants in China, it means their numbers have been doubling every four to five years for 38 consecutive years. If the total is 50 million, it means the numbers doubling every six years over the same period. I find it interesting that those statisticians far away stick to using the same old figures for so many years. In giving figures, I think we should be sober and honest, resist sensationalism and exaggeration, and shun all political considerations.

Q: Some critics suggest the China Christian Council and the Three-Self Movement represent only what they call “government-registered churches.” Is this true?

A: Certainly not. Our work

includes and serves all non-Roman Catholic Christians in China no matter where they meet and worship. Church buildings and ordinary houses are different only in locality, without spiritual, theological or political significance. The structure and style of Chinese government and society neither requires nor provides any process whereby Christian groups must be registered.

Q: How do you react to the label “government-approved churches?”

A: Our churches in China are certainly not any more government-approved than churches in North America or many other places. The church's work aims at the proper maintenance of Christian worship and witness and the nurturing of the spirituality of its members in the Body of Christ. It is not our aim either to win the government's approval or its disapproval. I find it highly dangerous to use government approval or disapproval as a criterion for the nature and existence of the church of Jesus Christ.

Q: What then is the task of the government's Religious Affairs Bureau?

A: It handles only state affairs regarding religion. Mainly, the implementation of the principle of religious freedom. It is not permissible for the Religious Affairs Bureau to meddle in our church affairs. As I have just said, China has no system whereby Christians must register with any government agency or any other organization.

Q: Are there not many Christian groups and individuals within China who oppose the Protest-

K.H. Ting is Principal of Nanjing Union Theological Seminary. Rev. Carroll, Executive Secretary for China Related Areas and General Board of Global Ministries, interviewed him last October in New York. *Beijing Review* publishes this interview with the agreement of both.

ant Three-Self Patriotic Movement?

A: Three-Self (self-government, self-support and self-propagation) is such an obviously good principle that those who oppose it are bound to be few in number. When established in the early 1950s it was a new thing in China and not everything it did was good or welcomed by all Chinese Christians. I suspect that is true of all human organizations. But Chinese Christians are not so unloving and so unforgiving as to want to stand against Three-Self Movement even to this day. Of course there are those who are very active in the movement and others not particularly enthusiastic over it. That, to me, seems quite normal.

Q: Can Bibles be secured by Christians not actively supportive of the China Christian Council and the Three-Self Movement?

A: Certainly. We serve all Christians. Why should we discriminate on ground such as the place where Christians meet? We Chinese Christians know better than anyone the problem of insufficient availability of God's written word. We are pleased that in addition to the 2.5 million copies of scripture we have printed over the past few years, the recent opening of the Amity Printing Press in Nanjing enables approximately 200,000 more copies of the Bible to be printed by the end of 1987.

Q: What is the policy of the China

Christian Council and the Three-Self Movement as regards the future of the churches and Christian groups in Hong Kong?

A: It is not up to us to adopt any policy for churches and Christian groups in Hong Kong because, according to the "one country, two systems" principle, religious groups on both sides should not interfere with the life and work of one another.

We respect the jurisdiction and integrity of the churches and Christian groups in Hong Kong and their right to do evangelistic, educational, medical and social welfare work in their own society and under their own system.

We hope we may be able to strengthen our bonds of fellowship with Hong Kong Christians

The Shanghai International Church.

Photos by ZHENG ZHENSUN



so that we can learn from their faith and witness. Membership in the China Christian Council and the Three-Self Movement, however, is not open to individuals and groups in Hong K'ong.

Q: Do Christians on the mainland object to the treatment of China's mainland as a mission field for groups in Hong Kong?

A: Yes, very much so. Pre-1949 missionary history in China has amply shown how counter-productive outside-based efforts were for church-building and evangelism. On the other hand, the history of the church in China since 1949 has shown how important self-government, self-support and self-propagation are to church growth.

The church is alive and well in China. Under God's care it has grown phenomenally in the last 38 years without outside help. It is more united than ever. It sees the evangelization of the Chinese people on the mainland as its own responsibility, and ministry in

China as under its own jurisdiction.

Q: Do you see any place for undercover missionaries who are Hong Kong Chinese or foreigners?

A: Certainly not. Christian work must be open and above-board, have the full support of Christians within China and enjoy the favour and goodwill of the people in general. We do not want anything resembling religious colonialism in China. We do not see why Christian evangelism should be done in a secretive or underhand way. The China Christian Council and the Three-Self Movement should not be expected to give persons or groups from Hong Kong or elsewhere any protection under the guise of religious freedom. We refrain from exporting a Three-Self Movement to Hong Kong.

Why do those persons in Hong Kong, Chinese or foreigners, engaged in "China ministries" wish to impose their will and ways

on us? Missionary work directed at the mainland from groups in Hong Kong would be in violation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration which stipulates that, in matters concerning religion, the two sides are to adhere to the principles of nonsubordination, non-interference and mutual respect.

Q: How do you visualize the future state of relationships between the churches in Hong Kong and on the mainland?

A: Relationships will be maintained within the framework of the "one country, two systems" formula. I hope there will be a lot of mutual exchange. I prefer to see things done openly, honestly and above-board for all to see, so that it is a witness to Christ and not a stumbling block. The result will then be the strengthening of the work God calls each of us to do, with heightened praise and more thanksgiving. Secret infiltration, Bible smuggling and the like are harmful to the work and witness of the church in China. ■

Mt. Wutai — Symbol of Religious Freedom

by Our Correspondent Yang Xiaobin

The first thing one notices on arriving in Taihuai Town in central Shanxi Province would have to be the many Buddhist temples and the monks attired in grey kasayas and lamas in purple kasayas wandering amidst the crowds on the streets.

Buddhist Centre

Taihuai Town rests in a small basin flanked on all sides by five platform-shaped peaks, after which Wutai Mountain was named. The area covers a total of 250 square kilometres; the tallest peak, the Northern Platform, is 3,058 metres above sea level (the

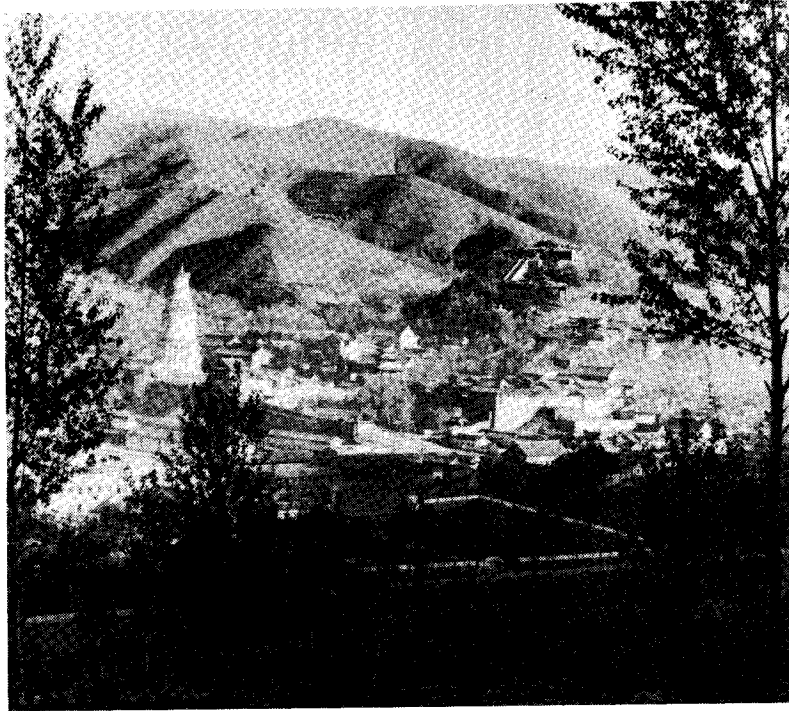
town is at an altitude of 1,700 metres), making Wutai Mountain the "roof of northern China." Due to the high altitude, the climate of the area is cool and pleasant even in summer, so Wutai Mountain is also called Qingliang (Cool and Pleasant) Mountain.

According to records in the Avastamsaka Sutra, Manjusri, known to the Chinese Buddhists as the Bodhisattva of Wisdom, began to preach Buddhism in Wutai Mountain early in the first century. This association with the place made Wutai Mountain one of the four most famous Buddhist shrines in China (the other three are the Emei Mountain in Sichuan Province, the Jiuhua Mountain in

Anhui Province and the Putuo Mountain in Zhejiang Province).

Buddhist temples started to appear on Wutai Mountain in the middle of the first century. One of them, the Xiantong Temple, still stands after quite a few renovations and reconstructions. The Nanchan Temple became well known for its Tang Dynasty style Hall of the Great Buddha built in the eighth century. The hall is one of the oldest, most magnificent wooden structures still well preserved in the country.

Despite some changes through history, Wutai Mountain has been worshipped by faithful Buddhists for more than 1,900 years. In its heyday, the mountain boasted



A bird's-eye view of Wutai Mountain.

more than 200 temples and over 10,000 monks and nuns. The temples hosted exchanges in Buddhism with Japan, Indonesia, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

After the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, Wutai Mountain came under the protection of the government's religious freedom policy, a few dozen of the temples were named historic relics under state protection and due respect was accorded to the monks and nuns. However, during the chaotic ten years of the "cultural revolution," religious life on Wutai Mountain was severely affected. It was not until 1979 that Buddhist ceremonies were gradually restored. Two years ago, Wutai Mountain was listed as a key tourist attraction and one of the cities and places open to foreign economic and cultural exchanges.

Religious Activities

During the "cultural revolution," monks and lamas on

Wutai Mountain were driven from their temples and monasteries which were either turned into warehouses or allowed to fall into disrepair. Buddhist statues were pulled down and smashed.

It was no easy task to completely restore religious life in all the 47 temples. Take the Xiantong Temple for example. It covers an area of eight hectares and has some 400 halls and rooms in perfect symmetry. Most of the rooms had been totally neglected for years.

The Shanxi Provincial Administration of Nationalities and Religious Affairs and the Wutai Mountain Bureau, an agency of the provincial government, repeatedly stressed state decrees to eliminate vandalism and damage to the temples and monasteries. Short of funds as it is, the provincial government has appropriated 12 million yuan for their renovation and reconstruction. Including the investments in bridge and road construction and other projects, more than 30 million yuan has been spent in the

area. By the end of 1985, all existing temples and monasteries on Wutai Mountain had been restored.

According to Liu Zhimin, an official from the Shanxi Provincial Administration of Nationalities and Religious Affairs, most monks and nuns who had turned to secular lives initially adopted a wait-and-see attitude to the state's policy on religious freedom. The vast changes that were later brought about persuaded them to cast aside all doubt. In 1980, the local government called a memorial meeting for the eminent Wutai Monk Nenghai, former vice-president of the Chinese Buddhist Association, and other monks who were hounded to death during the "cultural revolution." A wooden pagoda was erected in their memory. The meeting had strong repercussions among Buddhist followers. Since the government openly declared that monks and nuns could once again take up their calling, over 200 former Wutai monks have returned. This number includes 93 monks over the age of 60. The provincial government issues monthly allowances to cover their food and clothing.

Master Monk Qingfo, president of the Wutai Mountain Buddhist Association, said monks and nuns at Wutai are now satisfied that they can conduct regular Buddhist activities. During the prayer gatherings, drums, *qing* (a suspended metal chime with a definite pitch) and wooden fish are used to beat out the rhythm for the monks' incantations. Every fortnight, each temple holds a congregation at which Buddhist sutras are recited and the behaviours of all the monks are scrutinized, either through self-examination or mutual assistance. When Buddhist festivals are celebrated or when new temples and pagodas are built, several temples will hold joint gatherings. This year five such gatherings have taken place, each with an attendance of more than 100

monks and nuns.

Now, more than 300 monks and nuns live in Wutai Mountain in winter and some 600 in summer. Apart from the returned monks, there are also those who used to wander about and recruit novices. When asked why he wanted to become a monk at Wutai Mountain, Wang Jianyong, a Buddhist novice, replied, "I was told that the monks here are well behaved." When asked whether he was satisfied with the implementation of the government's religious policy, he nodded affirmatively.

Free to Return

Every year many people journey to Wutai Mountain hoping to become monks. But, at the same time, each year sees the return of some monks to secular lives as they cannot stand the hardships of monastery life.

Senior monk and deputy president of the Wutai Mountain Buddhist Association Hong Yi said, "One is free to become a monk or return to secular life; this is also part of religious freedom." However, not all applicants are accepted. Hong Yi said, apart from their devotion to Buddhism, those applying to become monks must have the consent of their families, bring with them letters of introduction from their local authorities and pass a probationary period. Wang Jianyong showed me his letter of introduction issued by a villagers' committee in Fuyang County, Anhui Province. The letter said Wang wanted to be a monk of his own volition and had no responsibilities at home. Wang said he could not take a monk's oaths immediately because he was placed under probation for several months by the Nanshan Temple where he would stay and be assigned sundry duties. The trial period aims to determine whether he is sincere and can stand hardship.

According to Chi Jihuai, head of the Religious Department of the Wutai Mountain Bureau, although most Buddhist novices become monks under the influence of their Buddhist families, a considerable number do so because they are tired of secular lives due to bad family relations. Novices who enter monasteries to escape family disputes are likely to waver. In fact, a considerable number later return to secular lives.

Yi Fo, a nun in Jifu Nunnery, is one such case. Her former husband treated her badly and often beat her. Although she was later divorced, she could not forget her suffering. So when she learned from her mother that Buddhism could help free people of their daily worries, she left Dongliao County of Jilin Province in northeast China and went to Wutai Mountain, leaving behind three children.

Master Monk Gui Fa, another deputy president of the Wutai Mountain Buddhist Association, said that the new recruits included graduates of senior middle schools, secondary technical schools and even universities. Most of them knew little about Buddhism before coming to

Wutai, and only a small number were familiar with the Buddhist classics. Monk Zang Zhong, who formerly served as a middle school teacher, was from a well-known old Buddhist family. Soon after he became a monk at Wutai, he was recognized as a strong talent in Buddhist circles. He has been transferred to work as an editor for *Fa Yin*, the magazine published by the Chinese Buddhist Association.

Self-Management

The Religious Department of the Wutai Mountain Bureau is responsible for co-ordinating relations between Buddhist circles and other sectors of the community and supervising the implementation of the state policies on religion. Internal affairs in the Buddhist community are managed with no outside interference.

Ordinary Buddhist ceremonies, such as sutra teaching and preaching, are usually presided over by the abbots of each temple. Major activities, such as prayer and Buddhist scripture readings to expiate the sins of the dead, are decided upon amongst all the monks. On the 15th day of every

Buddhist ceremony in procession.



month, the abbots hold regular meetings attended by all monks during which new jobs are assigned.

Every temple has a management committee composed of three to seven monks who take care of the temple's administrative affairs, such as financing, security and hygiene. Members of the committee are elected by all the monks. Incompetent members of the committee can be removed at any time with the presentation of demand by monks and nuns to other members or the Wutai Mountain Buddhist Association.

The Wutai Mountain Buddhist Association is an organization of all the monks and nuns at the mountain. Its director, deputy directors and executive members are elected by the monks and nuns. A subsidiary under the national and provincial Buddhist associations, the association is responsible for the planning of the development of Buddhism at Wutai Mountain and is also empowered to supervise the various temples in implementing the Buddhist disciplines. Every year, the association organizes elections and the commendation of outstanding monks and nuns.

The individual temples have the right to punish monks who violate the Buddhist disciplines. For instance, the abbots and senior monks can criticize offenders or ask them to perform sundry duties and carry out self-examination through reciting sutras. However, in accordance with state policies on religion, capital punishment has been abolished in the temples. Serious violations of the Buddhist disciplines may be punished by expulsion from the temples and the return to secular life.

There are now obvious differences of opinion between the veteran and young monks and nuns with regard to temple management. For example, the senior monks and nuns strictly adhere to Buddhist disciplines while the young ones are more careless and undisciplined. The young monks and nuns want to buy some sofas and TV sets to make their lives a little more comfortable, but their elders consider this an extravagance. The old monks in temples which have bought TV sets think it would be better to spend less time watching TV programmes while the young people want more time for this recreation.

Self-Sufficient

The Buddhist monks and nuns at Wutai Mountain, in solving their economic problems, have adopted the principle called "from the temple to the temple." The 68-year-old Abbot Ci Yin of Nanshan Temple said that they had a very good life and ate rice and wheat flour all year around.

Electricity has been introduced to the temples. Candle-like bulbs have replaced real candles in the niches housing Buddhist statues. Abbot Ci Yin attributed their improved living standards to the monthly allowances issued by the government and the hard work of the temple's monks. Pointing at the terraced fields on the mountain slopes behind his temple, Ci Yin said that he and his fellow monks had planted spinach and Chinese cabbage there. In addition, Ci Yin also led the monks in the planting of more than 10,000 almond trees, for which he was elected a model tree planter in the Wutai district.

The Puhuachan Temple has had outstanding success in its economic development. In 1985, the temple set up a 150-bed hostel for tourists and pilgrims. The hostel, simple and tidy, provides convenient boarding and lodging services to people and has been widely appreciated. When the hostel was first opened, some people held that it was improper for monks to engage in such a business. However, the temple's abbot Zang Ming said, "Personally, I don't think there is anything wrong in it. We monks want to make our own contribution to the development of tourism. In addition, Buddha teaches us to serve all living creatures and we operate the business in his favour, as the income raised through running the hostel goes mainly to renovating the temple."

Zang Ming also knows traditional Chinese medicine, in particular treatments for diseases of the nervous system and fractures. He receives no payment

A grand summons.



from the patients he treats and only asks that they donate some money for the renovation of his temple.

The living standards at Zang Ming's temple are now quite high. The temple has a clean and tidy canteen and a spacious bathroom.

Temples derive their income from three main sources: tickets, incense and candles sold to pilgrims and alms. With the development of tourism, more and more people visit Wutai Mountain, which in turn brings a considerable income through tickets sold. In 1986, some 248,160 domestic visitors and 481 foreign tourists went to Wutai Mountain. Pilgrims do not have to buy tickets but they must pay for incense and candles. In addition, five of the larger temples at Wutai Mountain sell Buddhist books and replicas of Buddhist instruments and statues. It is said that another temple plans to set up a restaurant to serve vegetarian meals.

Lack of Successors

Although Master Monk Hong Yi held that developing tourist undertakings would not affect Buddhist practices, he admitted that the fact that monks were kept busy running hotels and restaurants was not conducive to tackling the problem of the lack of monks and nuns well versed in Buddhist classics.

Liu Zhimin also said that the serious problem now facing the temples in Wutai Mountain is the lack of qualified monks. In the past, these temples relied on veteran monks to teach young ones. Today most veteran monks were among those forced to leave the temples during the "cultural revolution" and are advanced in age. As they may forget some of the Buddhist scriptures, it is difficult for them to train younger monks.

The government and the Chinese Buddhist Association have adopted some measures to remedy this situation. For in-



Three nuns pray before beginning their meal.

Photos by XUE CHAO

stance, the Wutai Mountain Buddhist Association has sent some outstanding young monks to study in the Nanjing Qixia Buddhist College. As only a limited number of monks have such an opportunity, actual needs are still far from being met. Therefore, short-term training classes have been set up to teach young monks and nuns the rudimentary knowledge of Buddhism, state religious policies and protocol for social exchanges. As expected, the teaching programme is not very systematic.

The government and the Buddhist association are preparing to establish a Buddhist college at Wutai Mountain. The only difficulty will be to find qualified teachers. The Wutai Buddhist Association is contacting research workers in religion and inviting them to take up teaching posts at the college. The plan for this year is to open two classes for the intake of 40 students.

Many Buddhist pilgrims travelling to Wutai Mountain hail from as far away as Guangdong, Heilongjiang and Gansu. Some are even from Japan, the United States and Southeast Asia. What is interesting is that although the monks and nuns communicate

with locals, only a small proportion of the population at Wutai Mountain accept Buddhism.

Recently more than 1,000 Tibetan pilgrims gathered in Taihuai Town, which has a population of only 5,700. A young Tibetan from Qinghai Province said that he had heard of Wutai Mountain a long time ago, but had never had the chance to visit it. This year when he heard that a Living Buddha would pay a visit to Wutai, he went together with his family of six. He said they would stay in Wutai Mountain for sometime. Though the trip cost the lion's share of their savings, they were happy because the visit settled a matter which had weighed on their minds for some time.



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A Roman Catholic Church in Wuhan

by Our Correspondent Han Baocheng

In a solemn hall of a Catholic church in central China's Wuhan city, believers piously say Mass against the background hymns from a choir. Most of them are old and middle-aged people but there are also the young.

A girl in a red dress sitting in the back row, though ill at ease at first, finally answered my questions. Du Fang, 24 years old this year, is a student of the Wuhan Workers Medical College. "Religion is idealistic," she admitted, "but it

gives us spiritual sustenance." She said, "Everybody makes mistakes and feels sorry at times, and it is then that they look for a bosom friend; if such a friend is not available in real life, they can speak their minds to God." Du's 60-year-old aunt is a sister at the church and obviously an influence in her attendance of Mass. But Du said she has not yet decided about accepting baptism.

Twenty-four-year-old Wu Quanping, now a student at the Central-South China Theological

Seminary, is another young man who became a Catholic through the influence of his family. Wu said his parents are noble-minded Catholics who are on good terms with the people around them because they embody the spirit of Christ's love. He said that he hoped he would continue to have compassion for other people. He said, "I can set my mind towards cultivating myself according to the Catholic doctrine; I owe this opportunity to the state policy on religious freedom." All 82 stu-

A church Mass.

LI YANG



dents were accepted to the seminary after passing an examination.

Among the congregation, only 28-year-old Liu Running comes from a non-religious family. He is a student of the library information department of Wuhan University. His parents, brothers and sisters are all Communist Party members. He said he previously knew little about religion. By chance, he came across a Bible at the university and had a keen interest in its content. He started attending Mass frequently and contacted clergy and fellow believers at the church. Moved by the fraternity between believers, he was baptised in the Easter of 1985. His choice had not been obstructed, though it puzzled his schoolmates and family members. When his schoolmates asked why he had developed a religious belief, he answered: "I know spirit is not a solid thing. I believe in religion because I want to rely on my own thought and soul for guidance." Liu believes that the Catholic creed teaches people to be helpful and treat one another with love, so it does not conflict with the culture and ethics advocated by the Communist Party. Both doctrines aim towards a better society.

Li Jun, a clergyman with the church, said that young people in the Hankou parish currently make up about a quarter of the total baptised believers. Most of them come from religious families, others are university or secondary school students or young workers who have an interest in religion or suffer setbacks in daily life. Li said he himself is from a religious family. Before he came to the church in 1983 he worked at a state-owned housing construction company. He said, "In that work unit, I was free to take part in religious activities and nobody restricted me or discriminated against me. I was allowed holidays on Christmas Day and during other religious festivals."

After the Mass, I met Dong

Guangqing, a 70-year-old bishop, who showed me around the century-old, Italian-style church. Bishop Dong's family has been Catholic for many generations. He was baptised three days after he was born, attended a missionary school at four and was ordained to be a priest at 24. Before New China was born in 1949, Dong was the principal of a middle school. He did not enter the church until after the founding of the People's Republic. In 1955 Dong served as an acting bishop; in 1958 he became a self-chosen and self-consecrated bishop, the first in China to break away from the Vatican.

During the "cultural revolution," Dong said he and all other clergy were persecuted. The church was turned into a warehouse and he was ordered to grow trees in a garden. It was rumoured among religious circles abroad that he had died. After religious activities resumed in China in 1979, a French priest of Chinese origin paid a special visit to China and inquired about Dong's whereabouts. He was very surprised to find Dong still living and in good health; Dong said that after repairing in 1980 the church was re-opened. By now, most of the property, including church real estate confiscated during the "cultural revolution," has been returned. The money expended on religious activities can be raised totally by the church itself. Funds mainly come from rent and some social welfare undertakings, such as foreign-languages training classes and remedial classes.

Since the implementation of China's open policy, exchanges between the Wuhan Roman Catholic Church and its foreign counterparts have increased. Over the last few years there have been regular religious delegations and friendly visits. When Bishop Dong visited the United States last year, he was given a warm reception everywhere he went. During prayers at a church in New York City, a local bishop gave up his

seat to Dong Guangqing while he himself knelt on the ground. At a reception, the local bishop played the piano to add fun to the occasion. Dong found that foreign religious believers knew little about China's Catholics. When he told them that China now has 50 bishops, over 1,000 Catholic churches and 11 monasteries and convents, they were very much moved.

Speaking about the tremendous changes to the church, Dong said that churches in old China were of a colonial nature; church property and religious affairs were placed in the hands of foreigners. The church is now independent and rightfully administers its own affairs. It has been proven that self-administered churches not only can be well managed but are flourishing. Each day a continuous stream of believers comes to the church from 5:30 in the morning to 11:00 at night. On Christmas Day and during Easter, the church is packed with worshippers. This indicates that the state's policy on religious freedom is real and has taken root in the hearts of the people. Dong said, "The state protects the believers' legal rights and interests and does not interfere in legitimate religious activities; religious believers in their respective posts have also contributed to China's socialist modernization."

Since 1979 the Vatican has sent many representatives to China. They admitted what they did to Chinese Catholic churches was wrong and hoped to restore relations with the churches and even provide financial aid. "The Vatican is still trying to create 'two Chinas' though," Dong stressed, "This rules out any possibility for contact. But it will not affect our efforts to develop friendly exchanges on an equal footing with Catholic organizations around the world. On the contrary, such exchanges will grow with the further implementation of China's policy of opening to the outside world."

National Games, a Show of Sports Muscle

by Our Correspondent Zhang Wei

The month-long 6th National Games which ended in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, on December 5 saw 12,400 athletes competing in 44 events and three exhibition matches, undoubtedly the largest of its kind in China both in number of competitions and of participants.

Altogether 17 world and 48 Asian records were broken at the games, proving that China is becoming a sports force to be reckoned with. The performances in China's traditionally strong events—table tennis, badminton, diving and gymnastics—were easily up to standards. Much progress was also seen in the Olympic events of *judo*, wrestling, rowing and synchronized swimming. Football, basketball and volleyball are growing stronger, while China is catching up in the track and field and swimming events, where its showing has traditionally been poor. "The 6th National Games," said Yuan

Weimin, vice-minister of the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission, "has produced excellent results, representing new improvements in China's sports."

President of the International Olympic Committee Juan Antonio Samaranch who attended the games said, "I see sports have already become an important part of Chinese people's lives. China has become the No.1 sports nation in Asia. Your sports are top class, and so are your people and your organizers."

Shooting and Weightlifting

Highlights of the 6th National Games were the shooting and weightlifting events in which three people broke three world records, four people chalked up eight new Asian records and 15 people set 20 new national records.

Commenting on these new achievements, Chen Jingkai, for-

mer world weightlifting gold medalist, said, "We've not seen in previous national games so many world and Asian records set in such quick succession."

He Zhuoqiang, a 20-year-old lifter from the host province of Guangdong, broke the 52 kg-class world record in a snatch of 117.5 kg, and with a jerk of 147.5 kg he topped the world record of 262.5 kg with his total of 265 kg. In the 56 kg weightlifting class, his teammate, He Yingqiang, broke the 133 kg world record in a snatch of 133.5 kg.

Chinese 75 kg-class weightlifters lifted their way into the world's top six. Others in the 52 kg to 75 kg categories did well. For example, Zhang Shoulie from Guangxi, Liu Shoubin and Qiu Yuanfu from Sichuan, Cai Yanshu from the People's Liberation Army, and Li Jinhe from the host province made powerful assaults on the world and Asian records. China is clearly rising to become one of the world's weightlifting powers.

Chief coach of the China National Weightlifting Team, Huang Qianghui, attributed these new successes to the way the team has drawn on foreign experience and the improvements in training methods. He said that China began training teenagers late in the 1970s, a break with the old practice of starting to train lifters only in their twenties. China also adopted some of the methods of East European countries by training lifters in "tenacity and strength." Training in the uncomfortable conditions of high altitudes is imposed on some lifters.

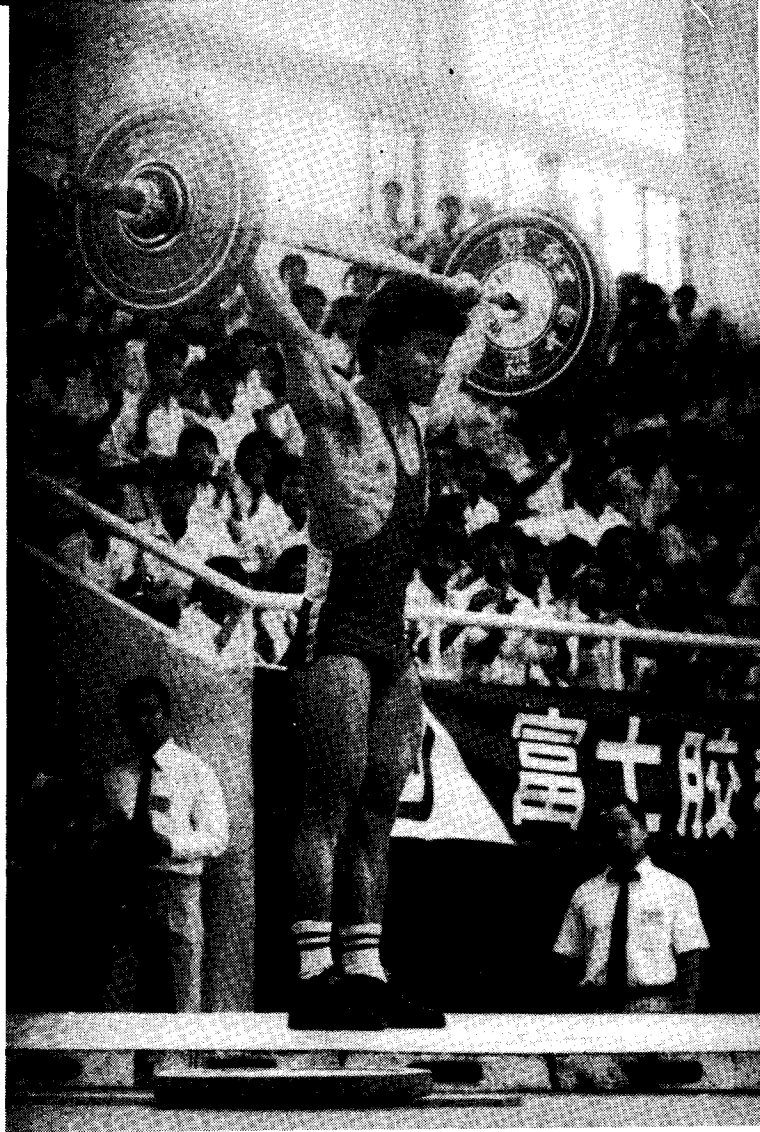
Huang added that for the present China is better in the lightweight brackets than in heavyweights, better in the

Ma Xiangjun, China's first world champion archer.

CHEN XIAOYING

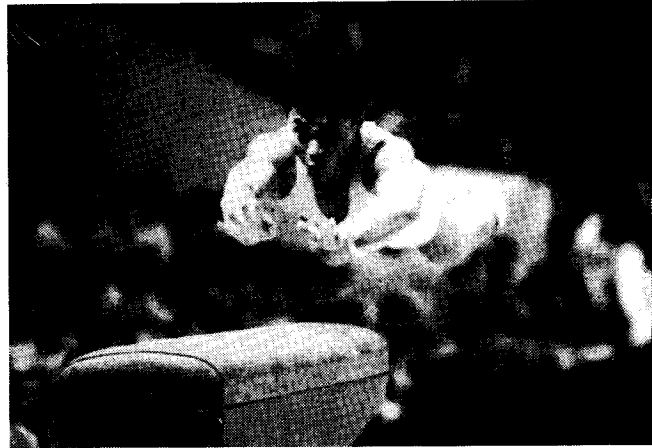


China's 6th National Games



HUANG ZHENZHONG

Guangdong's weightlifter, He Yingqiang, breaks a world record.



CHENG ZHISHAN

Gymnast Lou Yun from Zhejiang Province wins four gold medals in the individual all-round events.



HUANG JINGDA

Huang Xiaomin from Heilongjiang Province sets a new Asian record in the 200-m breaststroke finals, putting her second in the world.



Liu Huajin from Fujian (in front) breaks the Asian record in the women's 100-m hurdles.

JIANG ENYU

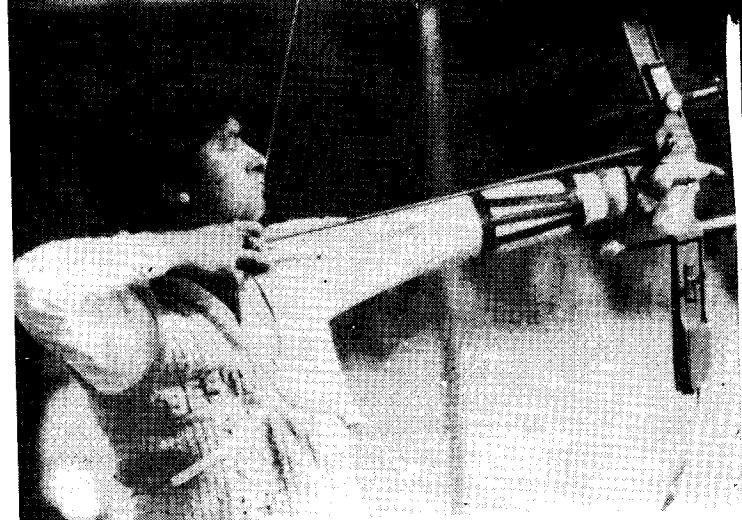


Li Chaoyang from Shaanxi sets a new world shooting record.

ZHANG LIUREN

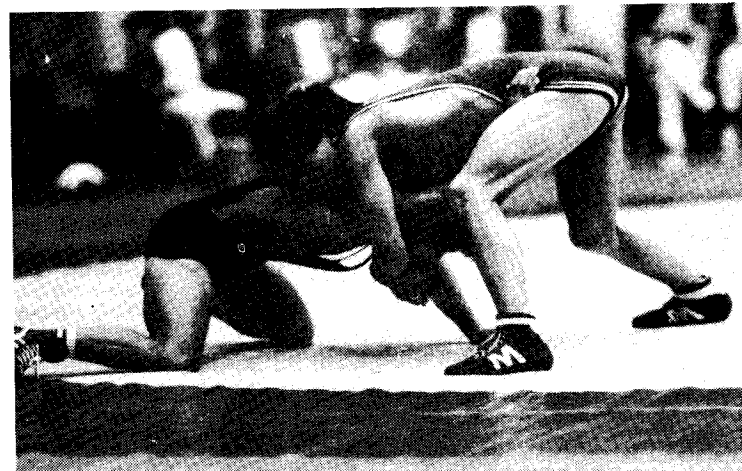
Henan's Liu Yan wins the horse-riding competition.

ZHANG YANHUI



Duoji Qiuyun from Tibet wins the men's individual all-round archery events.

CHEN XIAOYING



A wrestling match.

WANG DAZHAO

A closely fought game.

WANG DAZHAO



snatches than the jerks. In the future attention should be focused on improving the heavyweight lifters in China.

In the shooting event, one marksman broke a world record, 17 broke 12 Asian records, and two set two new national records.

In the men's small-bore 60-shot prone rifle shooting, a Chinese shooter set the national record with the maximum score of 600, equalling the world record set in 1983. This time Shaanxi marksman Li Zhaoyang not only met national and world records but topped the world final-stage record of 704.9 with 705.3 points. All the top six marksmen surpassed 700 points, thereby coming ever closer to the world record.

In the normal-run 60-shot pistol event, Anhui's marksman Tang Qingao secured top place with a score of 556 out of a possible 600, equalling Xu Haifeng, the Los Angeles Olympic gold medalist. Liaoning's shooter Wang Yifu beat the world record with a total of 665 after a tie-breaker. In the rapid-fire pistol event, Liaoning's Zhang Xiaodong broke the Asian record of 595 by one point.

Since Xu Haifeng took the gold medal in the free pistol event at the 1984 Olympics, shooting has become much more prominent in China, and many provinces in western China have chosen to put shooting at the vanguard of an all-round development of their sports. At this 6th National Games, many new shooters from Shaanxi, Guizhou, Gansu and Qinghai outdid their rivals, posing a threat to shooting veterans. For example, PLA markswoman Su Lin ranked 17th in the June preliminaries. This time, only several months later, she finished top, winning two firsts and one second place and breaking three world records.

Swimming, Track and Field

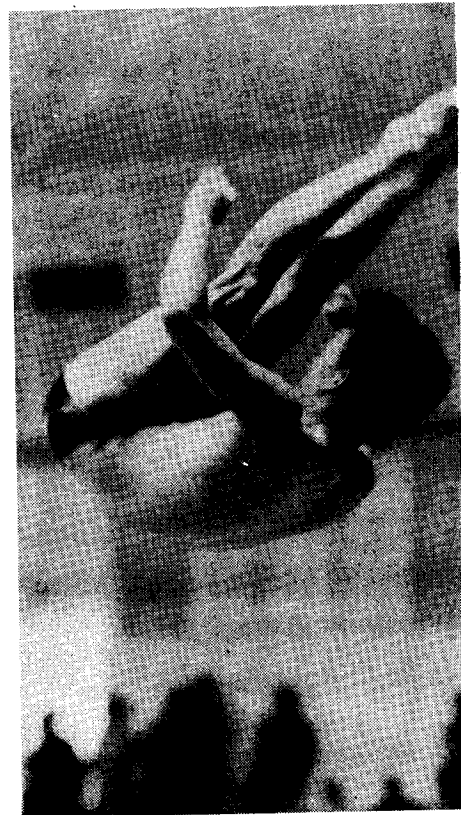
The track and field and

swimming events have traditionally brought poor results for China. At the 6th National Games, performances were much improved, breaking many national and Asian records. Nine swimmers set 12 new Asian records, and 29 new national records were also set. Huang Xiaomin, from Heilongjiang Province, set Asia's new 200-metre women's breaststroke record at 2 minutes 28.39 seconds, a time only 0.38 seconds behind the world record. Two other women set new Asian records. Yan Ming broke the Asian 400-metre mixed-style record and Zhuang Yong the Asian 100-metre free-style time. Tianjin's Zhan Jiang set a new national record in the men's butterfly. Shanghai's Shen Jianqiang gave the swimming event a touch of international standards by pocketing seven golds.

Mei Zhenyao, executive member of the International Swimming Association and vice-chairman of the China Swimming Association, sees these achievements as "a giant step forward," putting China in the top 25 in 12 swimming events. Two years ago, China hardly figured in the top 50.

Mu Xianghao, chief coach of the China Swimming Team, said that Japan's domination of the swimming events would be soon brought to an end by Chinese swimmers. He attributed the progress to the application of scientific methods in strength training. But he warned Chinese swimmers of the gap which still remains between them and the world's top swimmers.

China leads Asia but lags far behind the world's best in track and field. However, China's athletes may soon be catching up. Chen Yaoling and Xu Yongjiu beat the world record in the women's 10,000-metre walk. Li Meisu set a new Asian women's shotput record with a put of 20.79 metres, putting China seventh in the world shotputting ranking. Fujian's Liu Huajin broke the Asian record for the women's 100-



HUANG JINGDA

Guangdong Province's Tan Liangde wins the gold medal in men's springboard diving with 715.83 points.

metre hurdles, a record which has been held by Taiwanese runner Ji Zheng for 17 years. Wang Xiuting outran her rivals to make three new Asian best times in the 3,000-metre, 5,000-metre and 10,000-metre events.

At the 6th National Games, regional distinctions became more obvious. For example, Shandong and Yunnan provinces dominated the long- and medium-distance running for both men and women, Guangxi the women's sprints and Jiangxi the men's discus event. Sports experts believe that if this trend continues, these specialized regions will become good "breeding grounds" for China's breakthroughs in track and field.

The men's performances were less accomplished than the women's, and no man set new Asian records.

Hopefuls Wanted

It is heartening to see young talent emerging in weightlifting, shooting, diving and high jump. However, it is discouraging to find little of it in other events, where the veterans continue to dominate.

In gymnastics, for example, the first three all-rounders were still Lou Yun, Li Ning and Xu Zhiqiang who were top at the 5th National Games four years ago. They met no match this time. Their performances are perfect but lack novelty. Few of their movements improve on the world level, while the other gymnasts suffered too many faults.

The shortage of new arrivals forced many sports veterans, some even in their thirties, once again to don their team colours in competition. The Jiangsu Men's Volleyball Team, for example, has

five members who are married and have toddlers at their knees. With this in mind, coaches have put out the call that the most pressing need is to accelerate the training of future talent. Xu Jifa, chief coach of the China Table Tennis Team, said his team will not be able to keep its top position but would slip unless China begins right now to train new blood for the team.

Coaches Hou Jiachang and Chen Fushou of the Chinese Badminton Team also present a worrying picture, saying they have no contingent of top quality youngsters to pin their hopes on. Zhang Jian, a famous gymnastics coach, said watching the gymnastics finals, "The lack of young talent is more acute among boys than the girls. We should devote everything possible to training young talent."

As was demonstrated at the 6th National Games, China is still far

from being a world-level sporting power despite its prominence in certain events especially women's volleyball. If China wishes to achieve such a status, say the experts, it is necessary to make a clear analysis of the strong and weak points, and put a great deal into such Olympic events as track and field, swimming, rowing and yachting even though China has already made its mark in some of these events. In addition, China should work harder to improve its basketball and football teams even though these two teams have already qualified for the 1988 Olympic Games.

"Breaking out of Asia and going world-wide," said Li Menghua, minister of the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission, "is the long-term goal of Chinese sports." He hopes Chinese athletes will strive harder to win more in international matches. ■

Traditional Music Thriving With the Reform

by Our Correspondent Hong Lanxing

As the famous conductor Peng Xiuwen lifts his baton, the powerful chords of the *Mass Ensemble of Traditional Instruments* rise to open the first China Art Festival.

This grand piece performed by over 1,000 players is made up of three pieces of famous Chinese music: the first *A General's Orders*; the second, a tune adapted from a folk song by the modern composer Nie Er; and the third is *Looking Into the Distance* from the *Great Wall Capriccio*, a new work by Liu Wenjin.

This gigantic opening event demonstrates the main purpose of the first China Art Festival—to review the achievements of China's national music (i.e. all recognizably Chinese music produced in China). It also reflects China's constant efforts to

preserve, and develop its national music.

During the art festival, a galaxy of artists gathered in Beijing and presented 44 shows. Seven of them were national music concerts.

A Japanese reporter said, "My impression of the art festival is that for China, 1987 is the year of orthodox national music."

Creation

The various national music performances at the festival showed that this music has gone beyond standard playing techniques and traditional folk tunes. In the past, the creation of traditional music was confined to instrumentalists and folk artists. But now many professional composers are showing an interest in creating

works with a strong Chinese flavour. They go out among the people to collect folk music. The variety and authenticity of these influences come out in the composers' new works.

This is particularly true of the *erhu* (two-stringed fiddle) music of the *Great Wall Capriccio* which has impressed audiences with its power and grandeur. The music begins with the unfolding of a vigorous *erhu* melody, accompanied by the gong and drum, drawing the listener, as it were, to the top of the Great Wall. Then the theme tune is sounded in lively rhythm, praising the springtime scenes on either side of the wall. The mood of the piece should give the audience a feeling of pride in our nation and stir up faith in the prospects of our motherland.

This work was the top prize



Liu Dehai performs on the "pipa."

winner at the 1984 Third National Musical Works (Traditional Music) Competition. It is now the most popular and influential *erhu* work.

Peng Xiuwen's fantasia, — *the Terracotta Warriors*, is another good example. Peng incorporates modern composing techniques into his programme music (the

kind that depicts a scene or a story), but the forms of expression are not the same as in Western music, and so Peng creates an unmistakably Chinese sound, but one that is, nonetheless, new.

In recent years, China has seen the emergence of a number of young composers who use modern techniques to write modern music with national characteristics. One example is *Mountain God*, a concerto for winds which was written by the fledgling composer Li Bingyang, a 1985 graduate of the Central Conservatory of Music. Based on folk music it uses modern intervals and achieves a richness which was impossible in the pentatonic scale of traditional wind music. Wang Guotong, director of the conservatory's National Music Department, says that experimentation is helpful to the development of national music, and enriches instrumental musical creation.

Composer Tian Feng, who works with the Central Philharmonic Orchestra, created a whole new style of vocal music in his *Legend of Love*, where he blends Chinese style with Western style coloratura singing accompanied behind the scenes by a

chorus. The story is an ancient ethnic legend. The soloists' music is in fact complex and demanding, but retains a folk flavour of remarkable purity.

Performance

The tenor Wu Yanze, of the Wuhan Theatre of Opera and Dance Drama is a very popular artist, and at the end of his performances must always expect to return for repeated curtain calls to the sound of deafening applause. This happened at the art festival too.

Audiences were overcome with admiration not only for his bright, resonant voice, but also because of his technique which incorporates the ingenious use of *bel canto*. This gives his singing and thus the songs a welcome freshness. He has taken his voice to a peak of expressiveness and musicality, and has mastered faultless dynamics, rhythm and emotion, making all the music he sings his own.

During the festival, singers from all over the country gathered in Beijing to perform. They presented a variety of styles; some remaining within their natural

"Liuqin" player Wang Hongyi from Shandong Province.



Inner Mongolian soloist playing the "matouqin," the scroll is always carved in a horse's head. Photos by YANG LIMING



voice; some deceptively clever in their use of techniques, such as breath control and *bel canto*; others combining sophistication, passion and a natural ease in both spoken voice and falsetto singing. Simple traditional singing techniques have given way to a variety of singing arts enchanting their local flavour.

Li Huanzhi, chairman of the China Association of Musicians, says that the development of Chinese vocal music calls for more difficult techniques and varied styles without losing its special pleasing quality.

The development of national orchestras started after 1949. They only use traditional instruments. Each instrument has its own history, its repertoire and playing techniques. So far, more than 10 national music ensembles and about 100 traditional music orchestras with various specialities have been set up.

The Central National Music Ensemble, enjoys a high reputation. It was the organizer of the mass orchestra at the art festival opening ceremony and its 100 musicians were the ones who played the *erhu* concerto of the *Great Wall Capriccio*.

Whether Chinese traditional music should be played in symphony form has been a controversy for some time. Some people believe that traditional instrumental music should follow the characteristic monophony of Chinese traditional music, that it is inadvisable to force national music into a large-scale symphonic form. However, the Vanguard Song and Dance Ensemble has successfully performed seven symphonies using traditional instruments after overcoming the problems of opaque tone colour, lack of volume of stringed instruments, and the uncompromising idiosyncrasy of plucked instruments.

Liu Dehai, vice-president of the China Conservatory of Music, is well known for his *pipa* playing.



Jilin Province players on the "suona" (chinese cornet).

The conductor Seiji Ozawa has called him "China's Paganini." At the art festival, he performed his *pipa* piece *Spring Silkworms*, the title taken from a line of an ancient poetry, saying that "silkworms spin silk until they die." The *pipa* music eulogizes the fortitude of the people in pursuit of their ideals. Based on his long experience, he developed his *pipa* playing, to a level unseen by any of his colleagues hitherto.

Ancient Music

China is an ancient country with a 5,000 year-old cultural tradition. A great deal of folk music has come down the generations, but much of it is in danger of being lost. Since the People's Republic was founded, musicians have devoted great efforts to exploring, collecting and collating this great musical legacy. Now many pieces of traditional music which were under threat have been written down, performed, and recorded. The revival of ancient and folk music was clearly evident through many and varied performances at the art festival.

In a programme of 22 pieces of music presented at one concert, five were from the traditional repertoire, and eight others were adapted from traditional music. Famous *erhu* instrumentalist Wang Guotong performed *The Moon Over a Fountain* and *The Wind Sighing in the Pines*, both by Hua Yanjun (1893-1950), who made outstanding contributions to China's folk music.

Some years ago, a series of performances and linked studies entitled "The Voice of China" was sponsored by the China Conservatory of Music, with the aim of displaying the conservatory's achievements in carrying forward traditional music. For example, the first performance was of pieces based on classic poems including *ci**. Another focused on instrumental music recorded in the ancient music notation system involving characters and other symbols. At the end of last year, the conservatory introduced a part

**ci* is poetry written to certain tunes. It has strict tonal patterns and rhyme schemes, and a fixed number of lines and words. It originated in the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and reached a peak in the Song Dynasty (960-1279).

of the great folk masterpiece, *Twelve Mukam*, which is popular in the northwest of the Xinjiang Autonomous Region, to Beijing audiences. In June this year, they re-staged Xian's ancient Tang Dynasty style drum music.

Music workers, veteran musicians, folk singers and instrumentalists throughout the country are being encouraged to collect materials for two monumental books: *A Complete Collection of China's National Music Played on Traditional Instruments* and *A Complete Collection of China's Folk Songs*. The compilation of the songs is almost complete. The publication of the two books is seen as very significant in the retaining of China's musical legacy.

Traditional Instruments

Enthusiasm for improved and modified traditional instruments was revealed in the art festival.

When the Central National Music Ensemble presented *A Glimpse of Taklimakan Desert*,

audiences were highly impressed by a new tone quality produced by the *erhu*, *gaohu* and *zhonghu*, all two-stringed fiddles, which are regarded as the soul of traditional music. The effect was achieved by changing the sound-board's front from skin to wood. The result is a much improved sound projection, and brighter, richer tones. Without losing the character of traditional instruments, these reinvented instruments are opening up a whole new playing realm.

The Ministry of Culture held an exhibition of 25 prize winning improved musical instruments in Shenzhen last March.

Five months later, the ministry and the State Nationalities Affairs Commission also convened a national working meeting on minority nationality musical instruments in Chifeng in Inner Mongolia. At the meeting, more than 60 newly discovered and reinvented traditional instruments from 17 minority nationalities were exhibited, many of them after being improved are manifestly superior to their originals in tone quality or expressiveness.

According to the book, *History of Musical Instruments of China's Minority Nationalities* published early this year, the 55 minorities have 502 kinds of instruments. They are divided into five categories—wind, bowed-string, plucked-string, percussed string, and percussion instruments.

The first China Art Festival's musical content shows that the development of national music has entered a new positive stage.

The depressing state of national music before the reform has made people doubly aware that it is worth the effort to rejuvenate national music. The last few years have borne the fruits of the labours of musicians in the field of traditional music.

Traditional Chinese instruments have found markets abroad. The sales of instruments at home are also up. National music ensembles throughout the country are constantly producing new works with rich modern flavour. Their audiences are growing and diversifying.

The first China art festival is a good beginning for a great new flowering of national music. ■

Old-Age Care in Reform

by Our Correspondent Wu Naitao

According to international convention, if 7 percent of a country's population is over 65 years old, or 10 percent over 60, the country is considered an "old-age society."

Although only 5 percent of the Chinese population is over 65 today, it is predicted that by the end of this century, the number of people of 60 or older will have reached 130 million, or 10.7 percent.

With the ageing of the population, the number of retired employees increases. During the Sixth Five-Year Plan period (1981-85), the number of retired

workers in the urban areas increased at an average annual rate of 1.63 million. In 1990 it will have increased by 8 million and early next century the average increase will be about 130 million people a year.

Number of Retired Employees

Year	Number of retired employees (millions)
1957	2.8
1978	3.14
1980	8.16
1984	14.58
1986	16.37

China's welfare can not meet the needs of an "old-age society." Therefore, China is reforming the existing retirement welfare system and is working hard to introduce a new one. The reform aims at a new form of social security and is concentrated on state enterprises.

Present Policy

After the establishment of the retirement system in 1951, every state enterprise was given the money to pay its retired employees' pensions, medical expenses, heating allowances, food

subsidies and funeral expenses. The money, called the "retirement fund" in China, was about 3 percent of the labour expenses and controlled centrally by the All-China Federation of Trade Unions.

This system lasted until 1966 when the "cultural revolution" paralysed the federation. In 1969 it was decided that state enterprises should support their own retired employees. With the ageing of their workforce, however, most of them saw double-digit increases in these expenses.

Unfair Enterprise Burden

Since 1979, the number of China's retired employees has increased rapidly.

In 1957, the total cost of the retirement fund was less than 1.4 billion yuan, but in 1986, it was 14.6 billion yuan. By the year 2000 there will be 40 million retired employees and the funds will top 50 billion yuan.

There are places where the unfair burden is very obvious. In Shanghai in 1985, the retirement fund accounted for 19.3 percent of the wages. But in Gansu, it accounted for only 6.8 percent. In Shanghai's No.21 Cotton Mill, the 1985 retirement fund accounted for 79.2 percent of its total wages bill; but the new Baoshan Iron and Steel Co.'s retirement fund accounted for only 0.4 percent. Generally, the ratio of retirement fund to total wages in coastal areas is higher than in mountain areas, in commerce higher than in industry and in light industry it is higher than in heavy industry.

The unfair burden affects an enterprise's development. In some old enterprises and those working at a loss, there are delays of several months in pension payments. This is bad not only for the life of the old people, but for society's stability as well.

As some enterprises need a very large retirement fund, their retained profits, bonuses and

other welfare funds suffer. This causes resentment among the working part of the workforce, while the retirees, having devoted a lifetime of their labour, do not feel properly rewarded.

Social Insurance

In February 1985, Zhao Ziyang, then premier of the State Council, said that social security should be part of the economic structural reform. So the state departments concerned got together to discuss the problem and put forward their preliminary programmes. The government has written social insurance into the Seventh Five-Year Plan (1986-90).

The Economic Research Centre affiliated to the State Council is working on social security, its function and its administration. The Ministry of Labour and Personnel, the China Labour Institute, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and some universities have held discussions on social security at home and abroad.

In fact, the reform of the social security system began in 1983, when the Ministry of Labour and Personnel tried a pilot system in 17 provinces and municipalities. Under the system, each enterprise pays a certain percentage of its employees' wages before taxes to the local labour insurance department, which will then pay out pensions for all retirees at local enterprises. Today, nearly 200 cities and counties have implemented this new system, the majority of provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions have worked out and made public their own methods for the implementation of this new system.

Under the new system, the retirement fund should cover all the expenses for the retirees. The system, however, is implemented in a different way in different places. In most places, labour insurance companies were orga-

nized to provide retirees of state enterprises with allowances in accordance with state stipulations, including pensions, severance pay, subsidies for rises in food prices; subsidies for heating and other living expenses, nursing fees, funeral expenses, pensions for the disabled and for the families of the deceased, and relief payments for employees' dependents. Meanwhile, medical expenses and lump-sum relief payments are still paid out by the original units.

The amount of money the local insurance company takes from state enterprises is fixed by the local government in accordance with local conditions and the enterprise's tax payments.

In Anyang, Henan Province, each state enterprise contributes the equivalent of 10.5 percent of its total wages bill to the municipal insurance company as well as an additional 30 percent of the sum.

These payments amount to 14 percent of the city's total wages bill: 11.67 percent is for pensions and related expenses; 0.83 percent for necessary adjustments accounts; 0.5 percent as management fees; and 1 percent as the accumulation fund of the insurance company. This level of contribution is fixed on a yearly basis, when it is reconsidered and adjusted.

The policy of enterprises giving the money for the retirement fund to the local labour insurance company helps the enterprises to compete and is more efficient. Since 1985, 1,997 enterprises in Fujian Province have carried out the policy, 660 have found their pension burden has lightened.

Although the pensions are now the responsibility of the labour insurance companies of local governments there are still many problems to be settled. Since it involves many sectors, financial policy and the local government's economic considerations, the Ministry of Labour and Personnel is working out interim regulations governing the work. ■

Changing Agricultural Investment

In order to make better use of the funds allotted to agriculture by the Chinese government and the international funding for agriculture, the Chinese government and its agricultural experts are opening the China Agricultural Construction Investment Co.

The new company, which has been approved by the State Council, like the China International Trust and Investment Corp., (CITIC), the Everbright Industrial Corp., the China Industry and Commerce Development Corp., and Kanghua Development Corp., enjoys a ministry-level status. Acting Premier of the State Council Li Peng recently allocated 200 million yuan from the central government funds for the company's registered capital.

The president of the company's board is Du Runsheng who is also chief advisor to Deng Xiaoping on agricultural policy, director of the rural policy research office under the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee and director of the rural policy development research centre of the State Council.

The company is beginning with a trial period. Its job is to handle the administration of the state's agricultural investments and project targets, organize relevant research and regional administration, attract international investment and loans, and participate in all agriculture-related economic activities. The company is expected to play an important role in the transformation of the state's agricultural investment from financial allocations to loans with interest.

In the last five years the Chinese government spent 15,000 million yuan annually on developing agriculture. Of this sum, 3,000 million yuan goes to irrigation.

This kind of investment is low in efficiency; the investors do not bear risks and the users bear no responsibility. This has also inhibited the use of international loans.

The prospects of the company have aroused great interest among international financial organizations and agricultural investment groups. At present, the World Bank is holding talks on a long-term low-interest loan of US\$300 million with the company.

Opening special investment companies is a part of the reform of the Chinese investment system. China expects in the future to establish three state investment companies for energy, raw materials and communications in order to strengthen control of investment.

Yue Haitao

New Economic Laws Pending

China is perfecting its legislation on foreign economic affairs in order further to protect the legal rights and interests of foreign investors.

According to Liu Chu, deputy director of the legislation department of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, China will enact more than 150 sets of laws and regulations concerning foreign economic affairs in the next five years. Some are now being formulated, including a foreign trade law, a copyright law, a Sino-foreign co-operation law, a company law, a commercial paper law, a maritime law and an insurance law.

Since it promulgated its first provisions on utilizing foreign investment in 1979, China has enacted more than 200 laws and regulations covering foreign

economic affairs. They consisted mostly of the provisions on Sino-foreign joint ventures, wholly foreign-owned enterprises, cooperative offshore oil exploitation, taxation, contracts, technology imports, customs, foreign exchange control and bank credit.

The promulgation and implementation of these laws and regulations have protected the rights and interests of foreign investors in China and promoted international economic cooperation.

In addition, China has concluded bilateral investment protection agreements with Sweden, Romania, Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and 13 other countries, and signed agreements on avoiding double taxation and preventing tax evasion with the United States, Japan and 16 other countries. ■

Johnson and Johnson in China

Early this month, Johnson and Johnson, the American health care products company, opened a joint venture, Shanghai-Johnson and Johnson, in Shanghai's Minhang development zone.

The company, which involves US\$5 million in investments, will manufacture sterilized plasters for medical use. Its products will be sold in China and abroad with the Johnson and Johnson trademark.

Ralph B. Larson, deputy president of the board of the US company, said at the opening ceremony that his company put in 60 percent of the total investment and will provide the technology, equipment and management skills which it has gained over 100 years of manufacturing and marketing health care products. The high-quality products which the venture will market will benefit Chinese people greatly, he said.

This company is the first joint venture in China to use the name "Johnson." Earlier, two Johnson

and Johnson subsidiaries set up two joint ventures in China which use different names. One is the Xian-Janssen Pharmaceutical funded jointly by Janssen Pharmaceutical N.V. of Belgium, the Shanxi Pharmaceutical Industry Co., and the Hanjiang Pharmaceutical Factory. This venture will soon go into operation and produce over 30 kinds of Janssen pharmaceutical products.

The other is between Johnson and Johnson in Federal Germany and the Beijing No. 3 Textile Mill which will co-operate in producing o.b. tampons.

US Johnson and Johnson also plans to set up a plant in Tianjin for manufacturing Tylenol anti-pyretic products. The feasibility study is being made at present.

Liu Jianjun

Co-operation Among Smaller Enterprises

The Foreign Co-operation and Co-ordination Centre for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises under the State Economic Commission recently offered 52 possible co-operative projects to smaller Italian businesses. These projects are being discussed at present. Agreements and contracts are expected to be signed soon.

Before this, the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg in the Federal Republic of Germany, through this centre, established long-term co-operative ties with the cities of Suzhou, Wuxi and Changzhou. Co-operative contracts for about a dozen projects in machinery and electronics have been signed so far.

Zheng Zhaoqiao, who heads the centre, said that 90 percent of China's 400,000 industrial and communications enterprises are smaller businesses. With many different technologies and more managerial flexibility, they have a great potential for technological co-operation. Most of the 9,300

foreign-funded enterprises in China are also small or medium-sized and have all been performing satisfactorily.

The centre, since it was established in 1986, has dealt with enterprises, governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations from over 20 countries and regions including the United States, Japan, Britain, France, Federal Germany, Italy, Canada and Hong Kong. It has arranged visits, information and personnel exchanges, economic co-operation and trade talks.

Other Chinese departments and enterprises such as CITIC have also established special sections providing services for Sino-foreign small and medium-sized enterprises. Special legislation and business terms for such ventures are in the offing.

Yao Jianguo

New Investment Corporation Opens

China's first financial organization for handling foreign funds subordinate to the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade (MFERT), opened in Beijing last December.

The China Trust and Investment Corp. for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade was set up to meet the needs of the reform of the financial system and international business and trade. It has 150 million yuan and US\$15 million in registered capital. The corporation's ability to raise funds is considerable.

There are already over 60 trust and investment corporations in China. Deputy general manager Wang Wenli says that his corporation had two distinguishing features: funds raised will be used mainly in China's export-oriented enterprises and foreign-funded enterprises, foreign currency investment, loans, leasing

and foreign exchange guarantees; the corporation will act for MFERT in handling transfer loan, and management and repayments on loans supplied by foreign governments to China.

With time, says Wang, the corporation will set up branches in China and abroad to meet any expansion in the scope of its business.

The new corporation has aroused a great deal of interest in foreign financial circles. Already some foreign financial organizations have signed co-operative agreements with the corporation. Talks are also being held with companies from France, Federal Germany and Switzerland.

Yao Jianguo

News in Brief

■ Another four subsidiaries of the China International Trust and Investment Corp. (CITIC) went into operation on December 5: CITIC Trading Inc., Technology Inc., Tianjin Industrial Development Inc., and Travel Inc. To date the corporation has 16 branch companies and enterprises and has a combined registered capital of 3 billion yuan. It is soon to be renamed "CITIC (Holdings)."

■ Eleven Sino-foreign joint ventures in Beijing held their first "Rainbow" fashion show on December 10 at the Great Wall Hotel. On show were over 200 suits and other pieces from their latest collections.

These companies have been funded by knitwear and clothing firms from the Federal Republic of Germany, Spain, Japan, Singapore, the United States, Italy and Hong Kong. The garments, jewelry, shoes and other products made by these joint ventures are exported to a dozen countries and regions.

China International Acrobatics Festival

China's first International Acrobatics Festival was held in Shijiazhuang, a city south of Beijing, between October 25 and November 1. Artists from six foreign countries and 15 Chinese troupes presented their best force to appreciative audiences and representatives of acrobatic circles.

Li Wenshan, chairman for the festival's organization committee, said the aim of the festival was to "promote communication between artists and deepen the understanding and friendship between peoples all over the world. We hope the festival will contribute to the development and prosperity of acrobatics," he said.

Chinese acrobatics date back about 2000 years. Since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, China has sent scores of acrobatic troupes to perform in more than 100 countries and regions and Chinese acrobatics has been praised as the "pearl of Oriental arts." Since 1982, Chinese acrobats have taken part in 13 international competitions and won 23 gold medals. In 1982, China entered the Circus of Tomorrow Festival for the first time in Paris and since that Chinese acrobats have won the Award of the President of France five consecutive times. As one westerner commented, "In terms of acrobatics only, China is worthy of the title of a great country."

Home of Acrobatics

Wuqiao County in Hebei Province is located 173 kilometres east of Shijiazhuang, the capital city of the province. The county is well-known for its acrobatics and this festival is named after the county. The murals on the walls of an Eastern Wei Dynasty tomb (about 1,500 years ago) excavated

in the county, show a variety of acrobatic tricks such as "hand-stands," "belly-supports," "horsemanship" and so on.

Acrobatics is very popular in Wuqiao County. Every town and village has acrobats. In some villages, all the villagers, young and old, can perform amazing acrobatic skills. The Wuqiao people love acrobatics and consider it a great ancestral treasure. It is a part of their everyday life. Tables, chairs, jars, dishes, ropes — anything available at hand can be their props. It is not unusual to see a peasant carrying a wheel-barrow to the field on his lower jaw or a pupil balancing an umbrella on his nose to shelter himself from the rain on the way to school. When small boys go to the shop for a bottle of vinegar or cooking oil, they like to balance the bottle upside down on their little finger and try to go back home without spilling any of the contents. Turning somersaults or forming human pyramids are as easy as pie for the local people.

Since the founding of New China, Wuqiao has provided more than 1,600 acrobats for troupes all over the country. Even before liberation, Wuqiao acrobats had visited more than 30 countries and regions to give performances. In some parts of the world, there are still many popular acrobats who are descendants of Wuqiao people.

There are some 3,000 acrobats in Wuqiao County today. Apart from a county-run acrobatic troupe and an acrobatics school, there are 58 private amateur acrobatic troupes scattered around its 20 townships.

A Meeting of the Elites

During the festival, artists from both China and abroad performed 30 programmes in an exhibition of the recent developments in world acrobatics.

The act called "High Bar Swing" was devised by Zhou

Balancing on a unicycle

LAI HAILONG



Liqing, a young acrobat from the Shenyang Acrobatic Troupe. It features combined acrobatics and gymnastics. On a horizontal bar ten metres above the ground, three performers — one female and two males — each uses rubber bands to form giant swinging arcs. Under the stage lights, the acrobats are like shooting stars in the sky. Such feats are extremely difficult and hair-raising and require not only skill but also courage.

"Balancing on a Plank," performed by the Wujiao Acrobatics School, displays the potential of the students aged between 9 and 13 years. On a pyramid of three planks, they adopt various postures. The act received one of the five Golden Lion Awards presented at the festival.

"Jumping Through Hoops" is a traditional piece in the Heilongjiang Acrobatic Troupe's repertoire. Precisely and skilfully, seven acrobats jump through stacked hoops. One even somersaults through the highest hoop, 2.42 metres above the ground.

Fu Xiuyu, a young acrobat with the Changchun Acrobatic Troupe, captivated the audience with her difficult balancing feats. She rides on a 1.7-metre-high unicycle on a red wooden ball 1.06 metres in diameter. She has to use one foot to keep the unicycle balancing on the moving ball and the other to throw bowls onto her head. With apparent ease she kicks one tea pot on top of the bowls on her head and then kicks its lid into place.

In January 1987, Fu Xiuyu's performance of this act won her the Award of Monaco City and a Monte Carlo TV station award in the 12th Monte Carlo International Acrobatics competition held in Monaco.

"Handtricks," performed by the Xinjing Acrobatics Troupe is a vivid and lively act. Two Uygur nationality acrobats play musical pieces on their traditional percussion instruments — the *sabayi* and hand-drum — while performing acrobatic acts and movements to the rhythm of their folk tunes.

The act displays the optimistic and humorous character of the Xinjiang people.

One act which deserves a special mention is "Feet Juggling" by two sisters of the Jiang family, an acrobatic family from Wujiao County. The elder sister displays her "tossing" skills with a big jar spinning at very high speed. The younger sister sits, crawls, stands, handstands on top of the jar as her elder sister tosses it. Her lovely poses and gestures greatly impress the audience. The act won first prize in an acrobatics competition in Hebei Province in 1985.

During the festival, foreign artists also exhibited their talents and skills. An actress from the Soviet Union showed off the talents of her performing dogs. The end of this act is especially interesting: all the dogs walk off the stage, except one who is still busy performing. He is so deeply lost in his artistic presentation that he simply refuses to heed the orders given by his master to leave the stage. The audience applauds for him once more and he seems a little satisfied and walks off the stage in a rather elegant and proud manner, leaving the audience in fits of laughter.

"Rope Callisthenics" performed by an Australian acrobatic troupe also attracted the audience. On a rope suspended from the ceiling, a ten-year-old girl forms various acrobatic poses and ends in a high speed spin on the rope.

The Pyongyang Acrobatic Troupe of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea presented an act with strong national flavour, "Springboard." In one act, the performers leap from the springboard and fall to form a four-man deep human pyramid. One performer then makes a triple backward somersault keeping a perfectly straight posture and landing squarely on his feet. This won high praise from the audience.

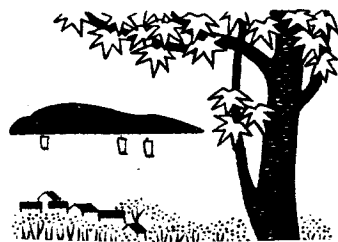
The Experts' View

Experts spoke highly of the festival. Lu Yi, manager of the Nanjing Acrobatic Troupe and vice-chairman of the China Acrobats' Association said: "The six acts performed by the overseas artists have one common characteristic — the pursuit of difficulty, rhythm, entertainment and national character. The dexterity of the Russians, the level of difficulty in the Mexican acts such as "Ball Tricks," and the rhythmic skills of the performers from the DPRK, are an example to us all." Xia Juhua, chairwoman of the China Acrobats' Association said: "Compared to the overseas artists, we have much room for improvement in acts like animal taming and high-air acrobatics."

The art director of the Sun Acrobatic Troupe of Canada, Mr. G. Caron, and some other foreign experts said that Chinese acrobatics should attach more importance to the comprehensive artistic beauty of stage lighting, costume, props and music as a whole.

The first China International Acrobatic Festival set a new target for China's acrobat. It is true that Chinese acrobatics are at an advanced level in world terms. However, it is important to look to new ideas and skills as world acrobatics develops at a rapid pace. Xu Shue, an official from the Ministry of Culture who is responsible for acrobatics, said: "To create new concepts and new skills on the basis of our national characteristics is the key to advancing our acrobatic art."

by Hong Lanxing



Individual & Private Enterprises Encouraged

"NONGMIN RIBAO"

(Farmers' Daily)

Under the socialist system, individual and private enterprises are closely tied to the mighty socialist economy. They are legal and allowed to exist in our country, and can certainly play a role in developing China's socialist commodity economy.

These comments were made by Zhao Ziyang, general secretary of the Communist Party of China and the country's former premier, during a discussion with a group of farming entrepreneurs. They sum up the legal status and the positive role of individual and private enterprises in China today.

China is in the primary stage of socialism. Its productive forces are backward. To quickly accomplish the objective of making our country prosperous and powerful and the people well-off and to satisfy the people's ever-increasing material and cultural needs, no one or two single types of ownership will do. In the primary stage of socialism, the initiative of diverse sectors of the economy including individual and private enterprises should be encouraged, provided that public ownership remains dominant. Experience in Wenzhou City, Zhejiang Province, and Fuyang Prefecture, Anhui Province, has proved that the development of individual and private enterprises to a certain degree is conducive to promoting production, stimulating the market, providing more jobs and helping to meet people's needs. Thus, these enterprises provide a necessary and useful supplement to the public sector of the economy, although individual and private enterprises run counter to

the publicly owned sector. It would have been impossible for Wenzhou to provide jobs for 800,000 additional labourers in only eight years and quadruple the gross value of industrial and agricultural output if it did not develop family industry and seek to provide about 0.027 hectares of cultivated area per capita. Similarly, Fuyang Prefecture, which used to be poor and backward, could never have increased its annual output value from 30 million yuan in 1978 to 1.5 billion yuan in 1986 if it did not make great efforts to develop village- and township-run enterprises.

Although the rationale for individual and private enterprises has been explained in recent years, some people still have reservations or even adopt a negative attitude towards them. Apart from not knowing the advantages outweigh the disadvantages in developing individual and private enterprises, these people do not understand that in a socialist country, private enterprises are controllable and adaptable. The predominant role of publicly owned enterprises has been established in China. The private sector can not but develop economic relations with the public sector. The state can use economic and administrative means to exert its influence on individual and private enterprises and to promote what is beneficial and eliminate what is harmful so that the private sector will be developed in a way that is advantageous to the national economy and people's well-being.

Some naive people think China may stop at developing individual enterprises. In the process of developing the commodity economy, some individual households are bound to expand their

business with their growing funds. Co-operative organization is a good solution for them. But, the alignment of the co-operative sector of the economy requires the balancing of different interests and establishing of standardized contract relations. It is difficult to cover all regions and all fields in a short period of time because the co-operative economy needs a process of preparation under the given conditions. Therefore, the current emergence of private enterprises based on the individual ones is impossible to avoid. It would get us nowhere to develop individual enterprises and not permit private ones to exist.

In some areas, individual and private enterprises account for a large proportion of the total. Many people who agree with the development of such enterprises still consider that this is not in the spirit of maintaining the predominance of public ownership. This poses the question of what is meant by public ownership remaining predominant. The concept applies to the whole country and the departments that are important to the national economy. In specific economic fields and localities, the proportions of different types of ownership should be allowed to vary.

Considering the rural areas of the country as a whole, especially the predominantly agricultural regions, individual and private enterprises are far from adequately developed. So we should work on the principle of continuing development. This is not counterposed to strengthening management and guidance, for the aims of management and guidance are to help individual and private enterprises develop in a healthy way, not to make things difficult for them.

Besides eliminating what is harmful, different methods of management and guidance will promote what is beneficial. From this point of view, management should include providing service.

The departments concerned should add services for individual and private enterprises to their list of responsibilities to strengthen

the ties between the socialist economy and individual and private enterprises.

(September 18, 1987)

New Vistas Open Up for Cinemas

"JINGJI RIBAO"

(Economic Daily)

Of 15 cinemas in Guangzhou on China's southern coast, 12 have been reconstructed to varying degrees to provide added facilities and services. These include video tape projection studios, dance halls, art and music rooms, billiard rooms, electronic games rooms, shops, restaurants and small cafes. While continuing to centre on film showing, these cinemas provide varied and comprehensive services which appeal strongly to a range of audiences.

With the growing popularity of television, the number of people going to the movies decreased in recent years, resulting in a decline in business for cinemas. If the cinemas continue to simply show films, they will not attract many people. By adding facilities for other recreational activities, the cinemas will become multi-purpose places of entertainment. This innovation may be intro-

duced to small and medium-sized cities and towns, where people need more public places of entertainment, even though many cinemas are left unused except when films are being shown. With slight alterations, the cinema can become the recreational centre of a locality. Thus, its business will take a favourable turn and the local residents, especially the young people, will have a place for their spare-time activities.

Additional services attract new audiences and bring in more income for the cinemas. In Guangzhou, for example, cinema incomes from showing films alone increased by 29.8 percent last year compared with 1984.

Of course, turning cinemas into multi-purpose centres does not mean allowing them to develop in a haphazard way. Cinemas should still give priority to showing films. The cinema authorities should do their best to promote diversification suited to current needs and trends in the development of cinemas.

(October 4, 1987)

women's further liberation. It is pushing the women's movement to a new level.

2. More and more Chinese women take an interest in the affairs of state and are conscious of the need to discuss and participate in government and political affairs. They are concerned with the Party's general and specific policies, and the construction of the legal system and socialist democracy, as well as with reform. They often report their opinions on various matters to the relevant departments of the women's federations at all levels and they support the Party and government in the reform and open policies.

3. Under today's conditions of reform and competition, Chinese women in both rural and urban areas realize that only by raising their educational level can they meet the needs of social development. The reform, economic development and social progress have shaken women out of their quiet life and spurred them to increase their educational standards and learn work and management skills.

4. The dull and backward way of life of women is changing. Not only women in urban areas, but also an increasing number of women in rural areas are seeking healthy cultural and scientific ways of life. Since the reform started, and especially in the past few years since they no longer have to worry about having enough food to eat and warm clothing, women have been expanding their knowledge and participating in various kinds of cultural activities. They are being lifted out of ignorance and backwardness, and are putting their faith in science, paying attention to hygiene, transforming social traditions and finding new ways of doing things.

5. Women's sense of inferiority and dependence is changing and new ideas about women, marriage and the family are being developed.

(October 26, 1987)

Chinese Women Are Changing

"ZHONGGUO FUNU BAO"

(Chinese Women's News)

Zhang Guoying, vice-president of the All-China Women's Federation, recently spoke on the great changes that women have undergone in the past nine years.

1. Large numbers of Chinese women have entered the arena of commodity production and have become a vital new force in its development. The development of the commodity economy has helped raise women's economic status and social position, and lay the material foundation for



HAN GUOJIAN

Beijing Tourist Information Centre offers foreign tourists information service.

Providing Consulting Services to Tourists

The things one is most concerned about when getting off a plane in a strange country are how to organize food, and find lodging and transportation. The Beijing Tourist Information Centre on the first floor of the Beijing Airport provides this information.

The centre was set up last November and mainly serves foreign tourists, overseas Chinese and compatriots from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.

According to Bo Xicheng, head of the Beijing Travel Service, in its search for staff the centre invited applications from people with a good command of English and a wide range of knowledge. The centre is equipped with two sets of micro-computer systems, providing the following information on the Beijing area.

— Names, addresses, telephone numbers, number of available rooms and prices for various travel services and hotels.

— Names, addresses, telephone numbers and business features of major restaurants and department stores.

— Addresses, telephone numbers and brief introductions to scenic spots and recreational centres.

— Names, addresses and telephone numbers of government departments, the press, higher learning institutions and hospitals.

— Names, addresses and telephone numbers of foreign embassies, consulates, and business and trade, news, aviation and tourism organizations stationed in Beijing.

— Addresses and telephone numbers of taxi companies; scheduled flights and arrival times at the Beijing Airport, and main train numbers and arrival and departure times at the Beijing Railway Station.

Anyone requiring the above information will be given a list containing the data printed in English or Chinese.

Bo said 1988, the year of dragon, is designated by the Beijing Travel Service as the

Beijing Year of International Travel. The centre will gladly offer tourists with the times, places and relevant information on various celebration activities.

by Han Guojian

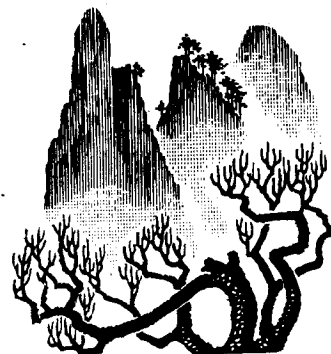
Ancient Rock Paintings Found

A large painting called "ghost shadow" was found on a sheer precipice along the Mingjiang tributary of the Zuojiang River, more than 100 kilometres away from Nanning City (capital of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region). The painting, 40 metres high and 220 metres long, dates back to about 200 BC. It features over 1,800 clear brown drawings of people, animals and utensils.

There are 178 such rock paintings on the banks of the Zuojiang River, which stretches for more than 200 kilometres. These paintings are mostly between 50 and 120 metres above ground or water level. How the ancient people painted on the cliffs near the river is still an unsolved riddle, and it is amazing that the colours still survive after being exposed to the elements for 2,000 years.

The Guangxi Travel Service has now started guided tours enabling foreign travellers to see the paintings.

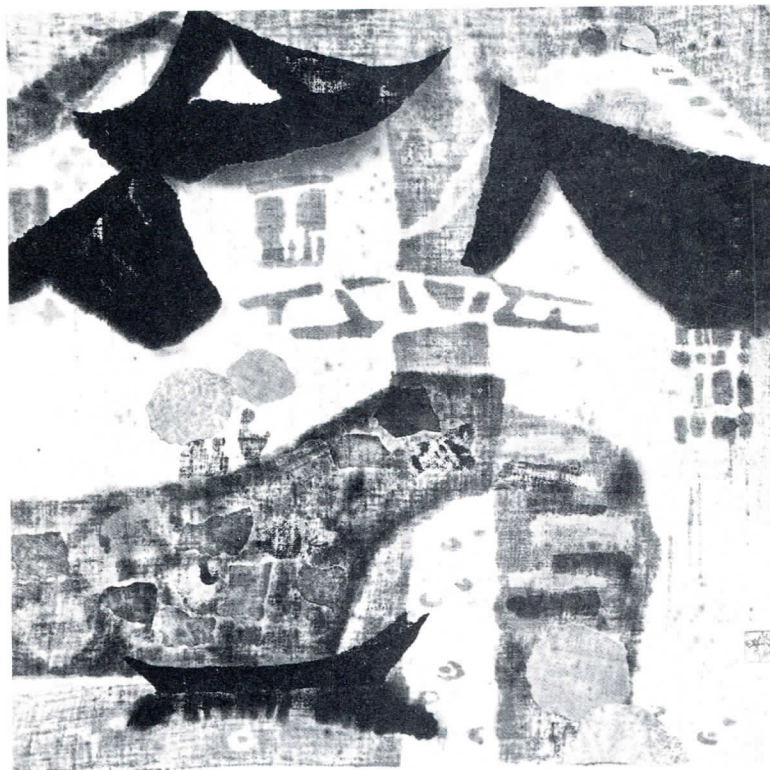
by Yang Xiaobing



A peasant household.



Raining in town.



Engravings by Zhao Xiaomo

Zhao Xiaomo, born in Zhejiang Province in 1949, now works at the Beijing People's Fine Arts Publishing House.

Her intricate engravings seek to unite folk style with modern art.

ART PAGE

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