

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF NEWS AND VIEWS

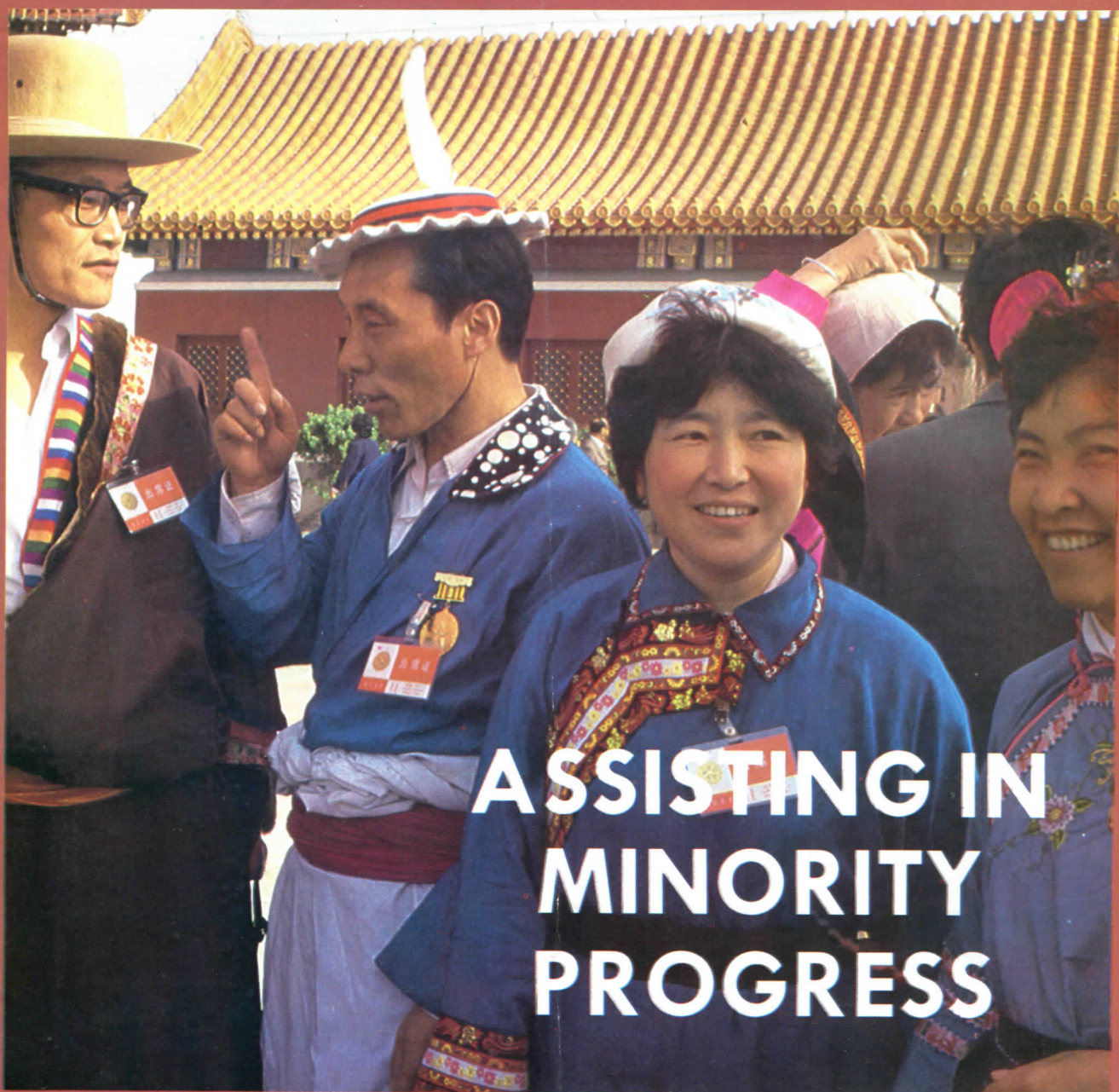
Beijing Review

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How Will US-Soviet Summit Fare?



**ASSISTING IN
MINORITY
PROGRESS**



Members of the Yi nationality.

Photos by Xue Chao



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COVER: Minority people at the Tiananmen Tower Gate.

Xue Chao

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

A Look at the Coming US-Soviet Summit

■ Speculation is rife about the upcoming US-Soviet summit in Moscow. In the article, the author, an expert of international studies, offers his views on what the talks will produce, how much influence the meeting will have and many other related questions of widespread interest and world impact (p. 24).

Soviet Troops Begin to Withdraw

■ The Soviet Union has officially started troop withdrawal from Afghanistan in accordance with the Geneva agreement on Afghanistan. This highlights the might of the spirit of the present era, and shows that truth is bound to defeat power politics. And now people are focusing their attention on how the situation in the country will develop following the Soviet withdrawal (p. 10).

For the Sake of Tomorrow

■ More and more attention is being paid to child development. Child care and health services have made great headway, the cultural life of children is being enriched, the importance of family education stressed and a set of national laws on child protection enacted (p. 4).

Ethnic Minorities Make Rapid Progress

■ The Jinuo people have made remarkable progress in the past few years with the implementation of the policy of unity and equality, and common prosperity for all nationalities (p. 14). The Hongguang Middle School in Tianjin offers special classes for Tibetan students (p. 17).

Anniversary of Theoretical Debate Marked

■ Ten years ago, the publication of an article entitled "Practice Is the Sole Criterion for Judging Truth" touched off a nationwide discussion on the principle of "seeking truth from facts." The debate helped bring an end to "Leftist" practices which were common before and during the "cultural revolution" and helped people put aside their old view that whatever Mao Zedong said had to be followed (p. 7).

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For the Sake of Tomorrow

by Yang Xiaobing

Children are the hope of tomorrow. In China children are receiving increasing attention and their training is seen as an important part of the modernization drive. The All-China Women's Federation, the State Education Commission, the Chinese People's National Committee in Defence of Children and 14 other public organizations and government departments called upon adults to nurture an idea of caring and educating children, and setting a good example for them.

Childcare and health services have made great headway in China. Scientific delivery procedures have been popularized throughout the country, and the child mortality rate has dropped to 34.68 per thousand to reach advanced world level in cities and some rural areas. Free smallpox vaccinations, BCG injections and vaccinations against measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, infantile paralysis and epidemic encephalitis have kept common childhood diseases under control. In the past, children usually took adult medicines in reduced doses, but the availability of specific medicines for children has rapidly improved. According to a 1987 survey conducted by health departments, the average weight for children has increased by 2 kg and average height by 5 cm from 1949. The surveys conducted in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and six other large cities indicate that the average weight for children in these cities increased by 0.5 kg and the average height rose 1.5 cm in the past 10 years.

Child care and education has developed on a fairly large scale: the country now has 170,000

government-run and a large number of individually operated nurseries and kindergartens. Altogether 810,000 middle and primary schools are scattered all over the country, in addition to 170,000 teaching centres in border areas. Larger cities have special schools for deaf, mute and blind children; middle and primary schools employ 7.5 million full-time teachers and staff, and universities and colleges offer 50 teacher-training classes.

The attendance rate for school-aged children has reached 97 percent and 100 percent in cities; handicapped children also attend school. However, educational funding falls short of actual needs. According to CCTV's May 19 broadcast, 570,000 school-aged children in Shaanxi Province are unable to go to school because of shortages of school facilities, this problem has attracted government attention. Despite the state's insufficient financial resources, an average increase of 10 percent to annual educational funding is guaranteed. In areas distinguishing themselves in children's work, educational funding accounts for about 50 percent of government operation funds. The Law for Nine-Year Compulsory Education is being implemented by stages in different areas.

The importance of training children has been widely stressed across the society. However, the influence of outdated thinking on education and talent and of having a preference of boys over girls has allowed the following problems to emerge: pursuing academic record, the rate of admission into higher schools,

stressing intellectual development and neglecting moral education.

Sociologists are stressing the need to train children and teach them to distinguish right from wrong so that they may grow up as talented, upstanding people. The government and educational departments are looking into the education of children in social and moral conduct and patriotism, to produce ideologically and morally sound citizens. The practice of showing concern for the younger generation as was done by the association formed by retirees in Anyang City is being popularized in various parts of the country.

Family education levels also need to be raised. Most of the parents of today's younger generation grew up during the chaotic "cultural revolution" (1966-76) under the influence of the ultra-leftist guidelines, and their cultural and moral ideas still have the vestiges of those times. Since 1982, family education research institutes and 130,000 parents' spare-time schools have sprung up in various parts of the country. Despite these efforts, varying cases still emerge. Last December, a mother beat her son to death because he failed to score 90 points in his examination. The mass media and publishers have done a great deal to eliminate such problems. Last year, the All-China Women's Federation and some other units commended 100 outstanding parents. Through these organizations, a sound idea of family education is gradually being established in many households.

With the recent progress in constructing the country's legal system, legislation on child protection has been placed on the agenda. After the new set of laws and regulations drawn up in Shanghai and other cities, a set of national laws is now being enacted. ■

Deng on Current Price Reform

China's current price reform is bold, yet risky, but the country's leadership is confident of good results, Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping said in Beijing on May 19.

Deng, chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remark in a meeting with a Korean government military delegation led by Vice-Marshal O Jin U, Korean minister of the People's Armed Forces.

Deng told the Korean guests, "Price reform, which started in the capital four days ago on four non-staple food items, has been a common topic of discussion, especially among those who are not satisfied. But most of the people understand why the leadership had to make this decision."

The old price system did not tally with the law of value, he said, so over the years China had had to allocate a large proportion of the annual state revenue in the form of food subsidies which placed a heavy burden on the country's economy.

The price problem must be resolved to create a situation conducive to economic progress, Deng said, otherwise China would fail to reach developed-country status by the middle of the next century.

"China's leadership knows every step the country takes involves risks and could encounter difficulties," Deng said. "The Party and the masses have to understand this is a demanding task."

According to Deng, China is now a big testing ground, with new problems to be solved and experiences to be gained; and this calls for hard work and bold, painstaking efforts in making

decisions. "I often tell my colleagues to be brave and not be afraid of risks, because otherwise, no progress will be made."

He said, "Over the past 10 years, China has developed soundly, the people have enjoyed a better life, and we have also increased our ability to shoulder risks."

After the successful completion of the food price reform, China is looking forward to solving the raw materials price problem, Deng added, and in the years to come, China's economy will develop rapidly in spite of risks.

During the two-hour meeting, Deng told the Korean guests that China has succeeded in making the country's leadership younger, and will continue the reform and open policy as stated at last year's 13th national congress of the Communist Party of China and this year's first session of the Seventh National People's Congress.

He said, "Making the leadership younger was not easy, but was carried out smoothly thanks to the whole Party's understanding."

"Such an arrangement is very important in guaranteeing China's stability and the continuation of its policies," Deng added. ■

Chissano Accorded Chinese Support

Chinese Premier Li Peng reiterated that the Chinese government and people resolutely oppose the South African racist policies and support the South African and Namibian peoples and the frontline states and their

peoples in southern Africa in their just struggle.

The Chinese leader made the statement when holding talks with visiting Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano in Beijing on May 17.

Chissano paid an official, friendly visit to China May 16-20 after taking office some one and a half years ago.

Premier Li expressed appreciation for the important role played by Mozambique in the struggle against the South African racist regime.

Li said he was delighted to see the increasing unity of the frontline states. "Unity is strength," he added.

When briefing the Chinese leader on Mozambique's domestic situation, Chissano said that in the past year Mozambique has carried out effective readjustment and reform, made various efforts to combat natural calamities and expand the national economy, and resolutely resisted invasion, harassment and disruption by South African authorities and rebels backed by the South African racist regime.

As a result, Chissano said, the situation in Mozambique has become more peaceful and stable and the national economy is on the track of steady improvement.

The president said that his country has experienced some very hard times and is now carrying out a plan for economic rehabilitation, intensifying its reform efforts and increasing its economic ties with various countries.

Li Peng expressed his admiration for Mozambique's efforts in these respects in light of the difficult conditions. "Mozambique is full of promise," he



WANG JINGDE

Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping talks with Mozambican President Chissano.

added.

Li and Chissano had an exchange of views on expanding friendly relations of co-operation between China and Mozambique.

During his visit, Chissano and other Chinese leaders exchanged experiences regarding their respective courses of development.

In his talk with Chissano, Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping said that he was fairly satisfied with China's development over the past 10 years.

Deng said since last year's 13th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, China has furthered the reform and open policy.

"There are still some problems. For example, the problem of price increases," Deng said, "but we have to stick with the reform."

"Once problems crop up they should be handled promptly and properly," he said. "We cannot stand still, otherwise there would be no way out."

"It's impossible for a country to shut itself off from the outside world while engaged in construction," Deng said, adding that China needs to maintain contacts all over the world and be open domestically as well.

He pointed out that socialism

by no means implies poverty, and said, "We advocate emancipation of our ideology and draw up economic and political policies according to the country's actual conditions."

Chissano said the Mozambique Liberation Front Party would hold its 5th congress next year and that Deng's words greatly inspired him.

During Chissano's visit to China the Chinese government and the Mozambican government signed an agreement on economic and technological co-operation. An agreement on the transfer of a multi-purpose passenger-cargo ship offered by China to Mozambique was also signed. ■

Water Conservancy Given Top Priority

The State Council has decided to give priority to water and soil conservation in areas on the upper reaches of the Yangtze River.

The work will be carried out in areas totalling 1 million square kilometres in Tibet and Qinghai, Yunnan, Guizhou, Sichuan, Gansu, Shaanxi and Hubei provinces, according to a report

from the National Co-ordination Group for Water and Soil Conservation.

The report has been approved by the State Council, China's highest governing body.

Water loss and soil erosion have gone from bad to worse in recent years due to excessive felling of trees as well as poorly planned mining, road building and other capital construction projects.

The report called attention to the fact that in some counties, large tracts of farmland are being stripped of top soil and turned into rock-strewn waste.

Meanwhile, China's newly-organized Water Resources Ministry said it would tackle the country's serious water shortage problems and intensify flood prevention programmes.

Vice-Minister Niu Maosheng said this at the opening of a "Photos of the Huaihe River" exhibition.

Niu said China's flood prevention network is stronger than ever before, but the danger of floods still exists, especially large-scale ones involving the country's big rivers. Losses from flooding could become even heavier as the economy develops, he said.

"North China has been suffering from a shortage of water," he said. "The country's industry and agriculture have to use water more efficiently and the whole society needs to use less water."

Niu said the ministry will continue reforms to make better use of the country's water resources and use limited state investment, to meet national economic and social development needs.

"Managing the country's big rivers is only one of the ministry's responsibilities," he said. It also handles overall management, the protection of water resources, the construction of irrigation projects, and the construction and management of rural hydraulic power

stations—including those mainly designed for flood prevention, irrigation, and water supply.

The ministry plans to expand technological exchanges with foreign counterparts, use more foreign investment, and get involved in building more irrigation projects overseas, Niu said.

In a related matter, it has been revealed that lower ground water levels are making more than 20 Chinese cities, including Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin slowly sink.

Experts attending a national meeting in Tianjin blamed the problem on overuse of ground water, resulting in a drop of the water level.

The earth subsidence has hindered river drainage and has caused buildings to crack, the experts were told. Some cities have adopted measures to control the drop in ground water level.

In Wuhan, Hubei Province, houses on an area of more than 2,000 square metres collapsed last week due to excessive pumping of ground water. No one was hurt.

Shanghai was sinking at a rate of 110 millimetres a year 23 years ago. But since the city began to pump water back into the ground during winter the rate has slowed to 3.4 millimetres a year.

A national commission to study earth subsidence and its prevention was set up at the meeting.

Delegates agreed to hold another national symposium next year. ■

Theoretical Debate Of 1978 Marked

On May 14 *Guangming Daily*, one of China's leading newspapers, published an inscription "practice is the sole criterion for judging truth"—written by China's top leader Deng Xiaoping. This was in commemoration of an article of the same title released exactly 10 years ago.

At the time, its publication launched a nationwide discussion on the principle of "seeking truth from facts." Reprinting the title, the paper said, signified continued application of this principle.

"Practice is the sole criterion for judging truth," a philosophical formula that helped bring an end to ultra-left practices which were common before and during the "cultural revolution" (1966-76), is still valid today. This is the opinion of Hu Fuming, president of the Jiangsu Provincial Party School, who wrote the article of 10 years ago which was published in the paper.

"I wrote the article entirely of my own accord, but its revision and publication was an organized endeavour in which many comrades participated," he said. The subsequent debate helped people emancipate their thinking and determine to repudiate "leftist" practices.

Thanks to the debate, he said, "The Party has rectified the errors made by the late Chairman Mao Zedong in his later years." Before the debate, some people held the view that whatever revolutionary leaders said was true.

"We are also breaking away from the old model of socialist construction which was copied from the Soviet Union and shaped by our own 'leftist' ideas," Hu added.

The publishing house of the *Guangming Daily* will also put out articles, including some published 10 years ago, to mark the 10th anniversary of the theoretical debate. ■

Fujian Isles Open to Taiwan

South China's coastal Fujian Province has decided to open three islands facing Taiwan to attract more business and visitors

from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao and other regions and countries.

The three islands are Meizhou, Pingtan and Dongshan.

Provincial leaders Chen Guangyi, the Party secretary, and Wang Zhaoguo, the governor, have been to Meizhou to help local leaders plan for the opening, a provincial official said.

A reception centre, a hotel and other buildings especially for people from Taiwan will be built on the island which faces Xinzhu City in north Taiwan, he added.

In addition, a joint venture between local and Taiwan businessmen will be set up.

Pingtan, 73 nautical miles from Xinzhu, has been frequented by Taiwan fishermen for years.

Fishermen from both sides of the strait have fished side by side and traded harmoniously.

The official said last year more than 180 trading boats anchored at the island. Transactions totalled \$230,000.

The same number of boats have anchored there in just the first four months of this year, he said.

The island government will offer out-of-town business people, especially those from Taiwan, ample trading facilities. It has invited mainland traders to participate in the local market, too.

In addition, it has bought three boats to carry out trade at sea with Taiwan businessmen who are not willing to stop over.

A dock capable of handling ships up to 5,000 tons also is planned for the island, he said.

The third island, Dongshan, administered by Longxi Prefecture, has set aside a 51-hectare area for Taiwan-oriented industry.

"Local leaders promised to give preferential treatment to Taiwan businessmen and foreign investors," the official said. ■

VD Spread Causes Public Concern

Venereal diseases have been spreading in China since 1984 at an alarming annual average increase of 3.7 times.

After the founding of the People's Republic, it had taken 15 years for China to eradicate venereal diseases. But less than 20 years later, these diseases, almost forgotten by all, began quietly to re-occur.

In 1984, the first few Chinese patients afflicted with venereal diseases were discovered in Beijing and some other parts of the country. And now tens of thousands of such cases have been reported, said Professor Li Hongjiong of the Union Hospital in the capital.

People from abroad were obviously the initial source of infection. A report from the Beijing Sanitation and Anti-Epidemic Station states that the incidence of venereal diseases among foreigners and people from Hong Kong and Macao coming to China is estimated at 25 per 100,000. Since 1980 when the Union Hospital first found foreign patients with venereal disease, foreign cases treated at the hospital have been increasing each year.

The increase in venereal diseases can also be accounted for by the spread of prostitution and by tendencies towards sexual freedom. The State Council has issued a circular placing a strict ban on prostitution.

It is also imperative to educate people in matters of sexual morality. Sex education courses have been widely introduced at middle schools since the beginning of this year. Venereal disease courses are being re-instituted at medical colleges. Medical treatment has also been stepped up among prostitutes and their

clients.

The cases occur most frequently in the country's coastal areas, such as Guangdong, Guangxi and Fujian provinces. Cases have also been reported in Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Harbin and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. In Shanghai, the incidence of venereal diseases has risen sharply since 1984. In 1987, the number of patients seeking medical help was 4.2 times that in 1985.

More than 70 percent of the patients are male, according to a survey by the National Research and Consultancy Committee for Prevention and Treatment of Venereal Diseases.

The affliction is especially prevalent among criminal gangs and prostitutes. Venereal disease also occurs among purchasing agents and salesmen who have relatively high incomes and often travel alone around the country.

The most common venereal disease is gonorrhoea, followed by syphilis and pointed condyloma, according to Ye Ganyun, head of the VD prevention committee.

He said the spread of venereal disease is not only a medical concern but also a social problem. It arises from the re-emergence of prostitution, the increased activities of "sex gangs", as well as changing attitudes toward sex on the part of some young people seeking sex freedom.

In 1986, the state established a national centre for the prevention and treatment of venereal disease and 16 VD monitoring stations around the country. Similar local organizations have also been set up in provinces, cities and autonomous regions. Shanghai has recently opened a comprehensive centre for the prevention and treatment of venereal disease, the largest on the Chinese mainland. Hospitals in the city's districts and counties have set up 32 monitoring stations.

As the disease had once been

virtually eradicated between the early 1960s and late 1970s, young people, including many doctors and nurses, know little about it or nothing, Ye said. The national VD prevention centre has decided to hold several professional training classes for medical workers and to publish a professional magazine about the prevention and treatment of venereal diseases.

A documentary educational film also will be made to publicize the dangers of the disease. ■

More Leeway for Foreign Ventures

The State Council, China's highest governing body, has approved and issued new regulations granting foreign-funded enterprises more freedom to hire and fire employees.

These regulations, which stem from a report from the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Personnel, make it possible for foreign-funded enterprises to openly recruit workers, technicians and managerial personnel outside their own areas.

The regulations state that successful applicants should not be hindered by any unreasonable interference from going to work at foreign-funded enterprises. If their current work units arbitrarily prevent them from leaving, they may resign, and their work before resignation will be counted in their favour.

In case of dispute, those concerned can apply to the local labour department for arbitration.

Foreign-funded enterprises, when recruiting workers from outside the areas in which they are located, will no longer have to ask for permission from the local departments of labour and personnel. Accordingly, departments of labour and personnel in the areas concerned will have to adjust to the changes.

When a Chinese enterprise and a foreign one are joined, the Chinese workers who are not kept on the payroll will have to be re-allocated by the Chinese side and the local government.

Foreign-funded enterprises are also entitled, under the regulations, to fire any worker according to the contract and relevant regulations without incurring outside intervention.

Sacked workers may be assigned new jobs by the work units they formerly belonged to, or should find new jobs with the help of local labour service organizations.

Chinese of the board of directors or working as managers for foreign-funded enterprises should not be transferred without permission from the board and the general manager. ■

Job Markets Challenge Systems

The rapid development of China's job markets is challenging the country's existing labour and personnel set-ups.

A Ministry of Labour survey of 44 job markets in Beijing, Xi'an, Shenyang and Guiyang showed more than 1 million individuals have found suitable jobs through the markets over the past three years. Of them, 560,000—or 52 percent—were surplus rural labourers who found work in urban areas.

Of the job markets surveyed, some specialize in exchanging technicians, while others find jobs for household service and child care personnel.

According to the survey, because of too much government control, only 92,000 technicians,—8.7 percent of those who found suitable job opportunities at the markets,—actually have been able to change or exchange jobs.

Weekly Chronicle (May 16-22) POLITICAL

May 16

■ At a welcoming banquet hosted by the south California Chinese community in Los Angeles, Chinese Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun, who is now visiting the United States, expresses his hope that Chinese-Americans will continue to work for China's peaceful reunification.

He says that the relations between the two sides of the Taiwan strait have been easing steadily in recent years, adding that some breakthroughs have been made in establishing trade, mail service and air and shipping services across the strait.

May 18

■ Chinese President Yang Shangkun reiterates China's support for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea when meeting with a Korean government military delegation led by Vice-Marshal O Jin U, minister of the people's armed forces.

During their discussion, both sides agree to joint efforts to strengthen and further develop the traditional friendship between the peoples and armed forces of the two countries.

ECONOMIC

May 17

■ This year's efforts to reform China's foreign trade management have resulted in boosted exports, an official of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade says.

According to statistics, the country's total export volume in the first four months of this year was 16.8 percent higher as compared with the same period last year.

Under the new foreign trade system, local governments have more autonomy in their foreign trade planning and management.

■ The ACB International Ltd., a new joint venture between China and the United States, is inaugurated in Beijing.

The Los Angeles-based company, formed by five powerful firms from China, the United States and Hong Kong, is designed to promote Sino-US trade and economic co-operation and try to help China expand its exports and raise funds from overseas.

CULTURAL

May 17

■ More than 15 women journalists from 12 Asian countries gather in Beijing to discuss their role in social progress, as well as their own problems and status.

Initiated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the five-day seminar was organized by the Beijing Women Journalists Association.

SOCIAL

May 18

■ Distinguished journalist and patriot, Fei Yiming, died in Hong Kong early this morning after a lengthy illness.

Fei, who was 80, was director of the Hong Kong-based newspaper *Ta Kung Pao* and a vice-chairman of the Law Committee of the National People's Congress. He was also vice-chairman of the Hong Kong Basic Law Drafting Committee.

May 20

■ The ashes of Bijay Kumar Basu, an Indian doctor who helped the Chinese during the Anti-Japanese War and who died of December 12, 1986 are interred at the North China Revolutionary Martyrs' Mausoleum in Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province.

Dr. Basu came to China with a medical group he and another famous Indian doctor, Dr. D. S. Kotnis, organized in 1938.

AFGHANISTAN

Soviet Troops Begin to Withdraw

Now that the Soviet Union has officially started troop withdrawals from Afghanistan in accordance with the Geneva agreement on Afghanistan, the situation in the country following the Soviet withdrawal has become a matter of common concern.

Some 1,200 Soviet troops along with 300 tanks and military vehicles began leaving Kabul for home on May 16 after their arrival there on May 15 from Jalalabad, an important strategic township in eastern Afghanistan. This is the first batch of 115,000 Soviet troops to leave after over eight years of occupation.

The start of Soviet troop withdrawals under the terms of the Geneva accord is a welcome move. It signifies the failure of a superpower to defeat a weak nation militarily in a war of aggression. Truth is bound to defeat power politics. This is a historical lesson for a superpower to learn.

During the war, the Afghan people, despite extremely difficult conditions, put up valiant resistance to foreign aggression to safeguard their country's sovereignty and national independence. The Soviet aggressors are finally forced to get out and go home.

The Afghan people's struggle has enjoyed widespread support from the whole world. The Soviet Union has been condemned by the international community politically and diplomatically since its invasion of Afghanistan started in December 1979. The United Nations has adopted nine resolutions by an overwhelming majority of votes demanding that the Soviet Union withdraw its troops from Afghanistan totally and unconditionally. This shows that a just cause enjoys abundant

support, an oppressed nation cannot be bullied, and foreign aggression is never popular.

The eight-and-a-half years' occupation of Afghanistan has cost the Soviet Union US\$20 billion and tens of thousands of casualties. The cost and casualties have aroused dissatisfaction within the Soviet Union. The Soviet people wrote to the authorities, wanting to know "how long this war will last" and "why my son has died."

The grave situation has made the Soviet leadership realize that their aggression against Afghanistan is wrong. They realize that getting out of Afghanistan and casting off such a heavy political and economic burden will benefit not only the Soviet domestic reform but also suit the "new

thinking" in the field of diplomacy. Obviously, withdrawal from Afghanistan is essential for carrying out the Soviet Union's internal and external policy.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan ran counter to the trend of the times—peace and development. In today's world, gone are the days when a big country could annex a small one and the strong subjugate the weak. The Soviet pullout from Afghanistan has proved the might of the spirit of the present era.

Soviet troops quitting Afghanistan makes the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea an outstanding issue deserving even more attention. So long as the Soviet Union adapts itself to the trend of the times and respects the right to self-determination of the people of various countries, it can certainly play a useful part in helping settle the Kampuchean problem.

It should be pointed out that the beginning of Soviet troop withdrawals does not mean the ultimate solution to the Afghan problem. Firstly, the Soviet Union should remove all its troops from Afghanistan within a nine-month deadline as laid down in the Geneva agreement. Secondly, it

An Afghan soldier guarding a gun after the Soviet pullout.



should fulfil its responsibilities in regard to the restoration of peace in Afghanistan and guaranteeing the neutral status of Afghanistan, and in the eradication of the severe consequences of the war.

As of now, the bloody conflict in Afghanistan is not ended. There has been no indication that the five million Afghan refugees in foreign lands will return home in large numbers. On the eve of its troop withdrawal, the Soviet Union kept busy shipping large quantities of military supplies, including hundreds of air-to-ground missiles, to the Kabul regime. Moreover, Soviet military advisers will stay in Afghanistan for a long time.

Meanwhile, on its part, the United States has provided the Afghan guerrillas with large numbers of "stinger" missiles and other military hardware. It has declared its intention to continue supplying weaponry to the guerrillas if the Soviet Union does not cease its military assistance to Kabul.

The Afghan guerrillas are not a signatory to the Geneva agreement and are therefore not bound by the agreement. Leaders of the resistance forces have vowed to continue their struggle until the last Soviet military pullout, and to overthrow the Kabul regime.

Under the circumstances, Afghanistan is likely to be plagued by continued turbulence in view of the superpowers' interference. It may take a long time to ultimately achieve real peace in Afghanistan.

It is hoped that the two superpowers will stop assisting the contending parties and interfering in other ways in Afghanistan. Instead, they should make a positive contribution to the proposed formation of a broad-based government acceptable to all parties. Only by so doing can Afghanistan's independence, neutrality and non-aligned status be restored; then only, can peace and development be brought about in that country.

by Ma Guang/Zhang Zhinian

realistic peace in Kampuchea will come about only when all Vietnamese troops are withdrawn from Kampuchea and the Kampuchean people are allowed to exercise their right of self-determination. He also said that a constructive contribution by the Soviet government to the process of bringing about a realistic peace in Kampuchea would definitely replenish the reservoirs of good will of the ASEAN countries towards the Soviet Union.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said that settlement of the Kampuchean problem "should be based on recognition of realities, and on the participation of all forces entangled in one way or another in the conflict." "A balance of interests is required here. If that approach prevails, the conflict could be settled sooner," the Soviet leader said. But he evaded the crucial issue that Viet Nam should pull all its troops out of Kampuchea as soon as possible.

The Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea has directly threatened the security of Thailand. In the past 10 years, Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea have never ceased bombarding Thailand and intruding across its borders. This has brought enormous losses to the life and property of the Thai people living along the border between Kampuchea and Thailand and has seriously interfered with normal everyday life and production. In addition, several hundred thousand Kampuchean refugees long encamped in Thailand are a heavy burden.

Since Viet Nam invaded Kampuchea 10 years ago, it has continually received support and military aid from the Soviet Union. In the course of the Sixth National Congress of the Vietnamese Communist Party, the government of the Soviet Union disclosed that its economic aid to Viet Nam from 1986 to 1990 would reach US\$11.7-13.2 billion,

THAILAND

Prem Tinsulanonda Visits Soviet Union

The Thai Prime Minister's recent visit to the Soviet Union is seen by observers as a further effort on the part of Thailand and other countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to find ways to solve the Kampuchean issue as soon as possible.

From May 16 to 22, Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda, during his first official visit to the Soviet Union, mainly discussed the Kampuchean issue and bilateral relations with the Soviet leaders. In their talks, Prem demanded that the Soviet Union assume a greater role in the political settlement of the Kampuchean issue, stop its military aid to Viet Nam and persuade Viet Nam to withdraw its troops from

Kampuchea early, and hold direct talks with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, President of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea. This would make for an early solution to the Kampuchean question and remove the rift in the relations between the Soviet Union and Thailand, he said.

At a dinner given in his honour by Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov, Tinsulanonda said that a

while its military aid would be more. This shows that Viet Nam can not sustain the Kampuchean war without the support of the Soviet Union. So it is natural that Thailand and the other ASEAN countries have repeatedly, directly and indirectly, demanded that the Soviet Union play a role in the settlement of the Kampuchean issue.

Since last year, high Soviet officials successively visited Thailand and other ASEAN countries in order to allay their criticism and pressure against support for the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea. But there has been no substantive change in the attitude or actions of the Soviet Union.

After the signing of the Geneva agreement on Afghanistan in mid-April this year, people began to divert their attention to the Kampuchean issue, hoping that the Soviet Union would take some initiative towards its solution. Prime Minister Prem Tinsulan-

onda wrote to President Reagan immediately urging him to persuade the Soviet leaders to participate in settling the issue when he takes part in the superpower summit to be held at the end of May in Moscow. But about the same time, in a move to avoid playing a role in settlement of the Kampuchean issue, the vice-foreign minister of the Soviet Union explained to reporters in Bangkok and Paris that although the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan has set a good example for the resolution of other regional conflicts including the Kampuchean problem, nevertheless the Soviet Union has no right to force Viet Nam to withdraw from Kampuchea since Viet Nam is a sovereign state.

The visit of Tinsulanonda represents just one more effort on the part of Thailand and other ASEAN countries to persuade the Soviet Union to participate in solving the Kampuchean issue.

by Li Wen

Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), had been demanding cancellation of a regional election in New Caledonia for fear that French loyalists would gain control of the new 48-seat territorial assembly.

Attempts to break up the stalemate have been made since the outbreak of the violence. The head of the gendarmes in New Caledonia, who had been captured and later released, acted as the first mediator between the FLNKS and the former French government. After his mediation failed, a Roman Catholic Archbishop took over the task only to meet with the same result. Three local politicians offered themselves in exchange for the hostages, but this was also rejected by the FLNKS.

A turning point was reached on May 5, right before the French presidential election, when the 23 hostages were freed in a raid by French security forces. In the words of former French Overseas Minister Bernard Pons, the operation was launched after all means, by normal methods according to humanitarian principles, to obtain the hostages' release had been tried. The attack which freed them had been ordered by former Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and approved by President Francois Mitterrand. Fifteen Melanesian separatists were killed in the raid.

New Caledonia was made an overseas territory of France in 1946 against the wishes of the Melanesian Kanak people, who formed about 46 percent of the territory's 145,000 population and who demand independence. According to reports, they have been protesting against pro-French white settlers holding a disproportionate share of the territory's wealth. They boycotted the referendum last September during which over 50 percent of the residents, mainly French settlers,

NEW CALEDONIA

New Government Set to Ease Tension

There is no end in sight as yet to the tension brought on by the bloody conflict which broke out between French soldiers and native Kanaks in New Caledonia. The new French government is setting about to solve the problem.

France's new Prime Minister Michel Rocard has decided to send a six-man delegation to New Caledonia for a month-long investigation and negotiations with the Kanaks. The decision was made after consultation with President Francois Mitterrand and at the proposal of Deputy Minister of Overseas Territories Olivier Stirn. The new government intends to deal with the issue promptly, but not hastily, with determination. The delegation is expected to provide Rocard with

an investigative report within a month on the situation in the French Pacific territory, with suggestions for its future.

The stalemate between the militant Kanaks of New Caledonia and the French gendarmes on the island came about after April 22 when the island's indigenous Kanak militants stormed a police station on the island. They took 23 hostages on the atoll after killing four gendarmes. The Kanaks, who belong to the pro-independence

voted to maintain the territory's status as a French possession as stipulated in 1946.

At present, tension still grips the island. Militant white settlers in New Caledonia, who are loyal to France, recently threatened to start a full-scale civil war against pro-independence ethnic Kanaks. They have organized self-defense groups to prepare to meet fire with fire.

The situation in New Caledonia threatens the security and stability of the entire South Pacific region. The leaders of Papua New Guinea, Fiji and New Zealand have expressed concern about the island's instability. New Zealand

Foreign Minister Russell Marshall pointed out that last year's UN resolution on New Caledonia had given a clear signal to France that its "intransigence" in failing to promote the political rights of the territory's indigenous people was unacceptable to the countries of the region. The Fijian Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara urged the French government to show understanding and restraint in its handling of the crisis. He expressed hope that the French authorities would listen to the Kanaks' views and work out a solution satisfactory to all communities in New Caledonia.

by Zong Dao

ALGERIA-MOROCCO

Normal Ties Good for Arab Unity

The restoration of diplomatic relations between Algeria and Morocco will contribute to peace, stability and development in the Maghrib region.

On May 16, Algeria and Morocco issued a joint communique announcing their decision to restore diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level immediately, thus ending their 12-year-long estrangement. The two countries severed relations on March 7, 1976 because of a dispute over the West Sahara.

The move is an encouraging sign of growing solidarity within the Arab world. Geographically, Algeria and Morocco are neighbours in the Maghrib region in northern Africa. They are of the same nationality and have undergone similar historical experiences. In their common, prolonged struggle against colonialism, the peoples of the two countries supported each other and developed a deep friendship. The 12 years of hostility have proved detrimental not only to the

development of the two countries directly involved but also to the overall situation in the Maghrib region. Therefore, the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Algeria and Morocco will further the interests of the two nations as well as provide a healthy atmosphere for a peaceful solution to the question of the West Sahara.

Today, the situation in the Middle East is unstable and the peace process is deadlocked by Israeli obstinacy. The Shamir regime is stepping up its oppression of the Palestinians in the occupied territories. This grave situation requires that the Arab world unite in their struggle.

The resumption of relations came on the eve of an extraordinary Arab summit meeting that will be devoted to discussing the anti-Israeli uprising

in the Israeli-occupied territories. Therefore, it will exert a positive influence on enhancing Arab unity and promoting the peace process in the Middle East. Naturally it is welcomed by the Arab world and the international community.

The fact that Algeria and Morocco laid aside their long-standing hostility and resumed diplomatic relations proves once again that Arab countries and third world countries in general, despite misunderstandings, disagreements or even confrontations arising from various causes, can resolve their disputes and internal problems as long as they proceed from the desire for solidarity and unity and adopt methods of consultation and dialogue.

Public opinion welcomes the resumed relations between Algeria and Morocco. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said on May 18, both Algeria and Morocco are China's friends and China congratulates them on their decision to restore diplomatic relations.

Foreign Minister of "the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic" Mansur Omar welcomed the resumption of diplomatic relations between Morocco and Algeria, calling it "an important step towards a peaceful settlement of conflicts." He expressed the hope that Algeria, which has supported the Polisario Front of West Sahara, would contribute to negotiations between the two warring parties. The Front also welcomed all efforts to promote confidence, end the expansionist war and revive efforts to build the grand Arab Maghrib.

by Ren Yan



Ethnic Minority Enters Modern World

by Our Correspondent Lu Yun

At the national conference commending outstanding contributions to the unity and development of nationalities held last April, all eyes were drawn to a representative from the Jinuo nationality inhabiting China's southwestern border area. Attired in his colourful striped, lace-trimmed national costume of homespun cloth, Luo Abao never let the smile leave his sun-tanned face.

The Jinuo nationality, living in the Jinuo Mountains and surrounding areas in Yunnan Province, is one of the smallest of China's 55 minority ethnic groups, with a population of 12,000. By the end of the 1940s, they were still living in primitive communes. But recently, they managed to shake off poverty through cultivating tropical cash crops. The per-capita income for the people rose to exceed the national average for farmers. Television sets, refrigerators and washing machines have found their way into the homes of Jinuo farmers and some farmers have even been able to afford tractors.

The historical leap forward from primitive commune to modern community is the result of China's implementation of the policy of national unity and equality and common prosperity for all nationalities. For many years, the Jinuos have not only enjoyed preferential treatment from the government, but also received much support from Han experts, teachers and the masses. Zhou Qingnian, a Han medicinal herb specialist, was commended at the meeting for his outstanding work in helping the Jinuos

overcome poverty through popularizing his research in Jinuo-inhabited Xishuangbanna.

Technological Aid

Jinuo Township is in Jinghong County, the capital of the Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture. Its 45 villages are scattered across the Jinuo Mountains, more than 800 metres above sea level.

According to an ancient legend of the Jinuo nationality, the forefathers of the Jinuos followed Zhuge Liang, the prime minister of the State of Shu during the Three Kingdoms Period (220-280 AD), in an expedition to the south. One day they overslept and fell behind. Although they later caught up, they were not allowed

to rejoin their ranks. Zhuge Liang gave them some tea seeds and told them to settle there and earn their living growing tea. The legend says that the term "Jinuo" was a slightly mispronounced transliteration of the Chinese word "dropout."

The story is not necessarily true, but the Jinuos did fall well behind the rest of the country in the long course of history. Until only a few years ago, the Jinuos were basically using a slash-and-burn method of cultivation. Their primary tools were axes, sickles and small hoes; and their animals all freely grazed on the mountains. Their oxen were not used to till the land but as sacrificial offerings or as a symbol of family prosperity. In the late 1950s, when agricultural co-operatives were set up, the Jinuos were still keeping accounts by cutting notches in bamboo.

Luo Abao (left) and Zhou Qingnian pose for a picture atop the Tiananmen Gate Tower.

LU YUN



Xishuangbanna lies on the fringe of the northern tropical belt and abounds in plant resources. In the 1950s when Zhou Qingnian, a research fellow and director of the Yunnan branch of the Institute of Medicinal Herb Resource Development under the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, went there to conduct research into tropical medicinal herbs, he immediately fell in love with the land. He and his colleagues erected thatched cottages in primitive forest land and cleared 40 hectares of land to grow medicinal herbs. They succeeded in growing several dozen types of medicinal herbs, including eight precious ones, and through hard work they very quickly formed a sound herbal medicine research and development centre.

In 1964, Zhou and his colleagues went to the Jinuo Mountains to experiment with the cultivation of fructus amomi. They lived in the cottages of the Jinuos and travelled the mountain every day to persuade the Jinuos to take on the industry. The fertility of the land, plentiful rain and pollinating insects ensured quick success for their experiment. However, the area sown with fructus amomi remained limited.

In the late 1970s, the central government called on the various localities to adopt their own measures for economic development in light of their actual conditions. After careful investigation, the local government decided to give priority to the production of fructus amomi, rubber and tropical fruits in the Jinuo Mountains.

Scientific research institutions in Xishuangbanna sent people to provide technical support, and Zhou's institute offers guidance on the cultivation of fructus amomi. In only a few years, all 45 villages in the Jinuo Mountains had planted some 800 hectares of fructus amomi, more than half of



LU YUN

Representatives from various minority nationalities at the meeting exchange autographs.

which have borne fruit. Last year, the township produced 37,500 kilogrammes of the fruit.

In recent years, scientific research institutions and governments at prefectural and county levels have sponsored more than 20 training classes attended by more than 500 Jinuos. Seven village committees have appointed technical personnel to guide farmers with grain, fructus amomi, rubber, tea and tropical fruit cultivation.

The cultivation of fructus amomi and other cash crops has greatly helped raise the incomes of

the Jinuos, who fondly dubbed Zhou "the lord of fructus amomi." One old man, with a large bundle of money in hand, said, "I have never seen so much money in all my life. I am very grateful to the "lord of fructus amomi." Pointing to a new brick-and-tile house, another man, Che Qie, explained that the money for every brick and tile in the house came from fructus amomi.

Since 1984, Zhou Qingnian has been elected vice-chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Xishuangbanna prefectural branch, and

awarded second- and first-class prizes for his work.

Now, at 60, Zhou has turned his attention to helping other minority ethnic groups establish production centres of fructus amomi and round cardamom, another herbal medicine. He also put forward a comprehensive plan to help people of the Blang nationality overcome poverty. The old scientist told this correspondent, "I have let the Blangs down by coming to their aid so late. If I had helped them five years ago, they would now be living as well as the Jinuos."

Primary Education

The massive changes in the lives of the Jinuos have a direct relationship with their efforts to extend their knowledge. From their experience, they have learnt the lesson: one can only receive education by going to school; educated people are intelligent and intelligent people can achieve prosperity.

Forty-one-year-old Luo Abao, deputy head of the Jinuo township in Jinghong County, received a formal education. In 1956, five young Han graduates of a normal school were assigned to set up schools in three Jinuo villages. Luo was one of the 68 Jinuo children from over 800 families to be taught by these graduates.

The Jinuos showed great eagerness to learn. They quickly built thatched cottages to serve as school houses and made bamboo desks and stools. With the aid of a Jinuo interpreter, the Han teachers slowly taught the children to write and make mathematical calculations. The children studied very hard, often staying at the schools till late in the night. Luo himself became a teacher in the 1960s and then in the 1970s he became an employee of the local government.

The 45 Jinuo villages now have 43 primary schools. Except for one which was built with government allocations, all the schools were set up with funds pooled by the Jinuos. The first school buildings were all thatched cottages. But now 22 are brick-and-tile buildings. All the schools have organized pupils to plant fructus

The Jinuos showed great eagerness to learn. They quickly built thatched cottages to serve as school houses and made bamboo desks and stools. With the aid of a Jinuo interpreter, the Han teachers slowly taught the children to write and make mathematical calculations. The children studied very hard, often staying at the schools till late in the night.

amomi, and the money made from this endeavour goes towards buying desks, chairs and colour televisions. Of all teachers and staff at these schools, 78 percent are Jinuos.

Last year, with the popularization of primary school education, 99.3 percent of all school-age children went to school. The township now has 1,035 middle school graduates and 34 university students, far more than the provincial average and the percentage for other minority ethnic groups. The first Jinuos to receive a proper education feel a strong sense of gratitude towards those young people who brought them knowledge in the 1950s. Whenever they celebrate a festival, they always extend their invit-

tions to these people to join them.

Many Jinuos have become local government officials, doctors and technicians. Of all the 59 officials in the township government, 58 are Jinuos. Some Jinuos have been elected deputies to the National People's Congress and chairmen of the prefectural people's congress standing committee; some have been elected to leading posts in Jinghong County.

Economic and cultural development has brought tremendous changes to the Jinuo lifestyle. In 1987, the per-capita income for the Jinuos reached 566 yuan, and bank savings came to 122 yuan per person. One-third of Jinuo families have moved into new brick-and-tile houses. They no longer use bamboo utensils for eating and drinking, nor do they need to fetch water from the foot of the mountain. Power cables, water pipes and highways have been extended to service most Jinuo villages. More than 300 Han people have gone to the Jinuo Mountains to help with the construction of houses and highways, and the laying of water pipes.

Individual farmers have bought a total of 136 tractors and four trucks. Wristwatches, radios, tape recorders, sewing machines and bicycles are popular commodities. The number of cameras, motorcycles and high-grade household electrical appliances sold has been on the rise.

Considering future development, Luo Abao said his township is currently holding discussions on establishing joint tea processing workshops and small rubber plants, as part of the efforts to develop township-run enterprises. He added that it is necessary for the Jinuos themselves to try to throw off long-held notions of self-sufficiency and contempt for commerce to succeed in building a prosperous and advanced Jinuo community. ■

Training Qualified Personnel for Tibet

by Our Correspondent Lu Yun

Cirenquji is a chauffeur's daughter from the Nagqu area on Tibet's northern plain. She has been studying at the Hongguang Middle School in coastal city Tianjin in north China, for three years. In February this year, her parents, taking an opportunity to tour Beijing, took a roundabout route and visited their daughter in Tianjin. They found her taller than when she left Tibet and more than ten kilogrammes heavier. Like their daughter, Cirenquji's parents were pleased with both the education and the living environment provided by the school.

Cirenquji is one of 4,000 lucky children from Tibet chosen in 1985 to study at middle schools in other parts of the country. The students, whose parents are Tibetan farmers, herders, workers, intellectuals or government functionaries, are scattered across 17 provinces and municipalities from Liaoyang city in northeast China's Liaoning Province to Kunming of

southwest China's border province Yunnan. Most of them will return to work in Tibet after graduating from junior middle schools and secondary technical schools. Some are expected to continue on to higher education.

Before the peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1951, the region had only one middle school and 13 primary schools. But there are now 2,388 primary schools, 64 middle schools, 14 secondary technical schools and three institutions of higher learning with enrolments of 148,000 students. The development of education in Tibet has created a sound base for training qualified personnel. The aim of Tibetan middle schools or Tibetan classes in cities where education facilities are fairly well-developed is to accelerate the training of qualified personnel for Tibet. The Hongguang Middle School recently won the commendation of the State Council for its outstanding contribution to national unity and progress.

Teacher-Student Ties

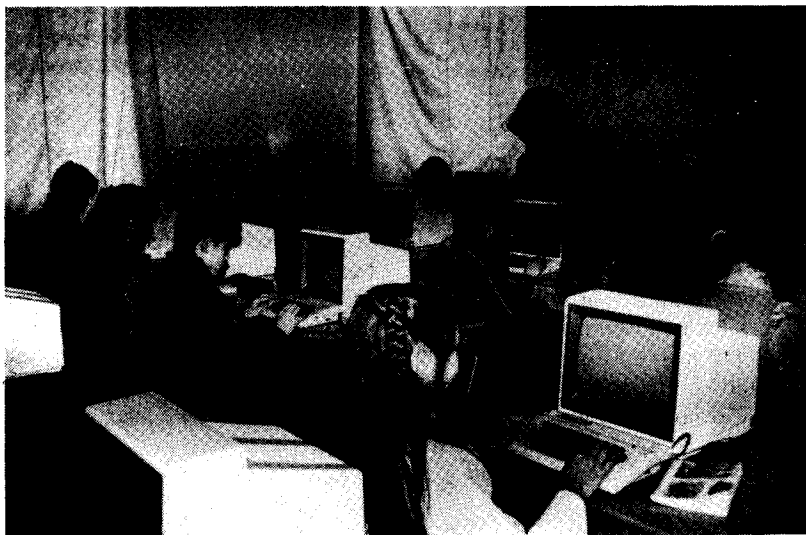
There are three grades with 214 students in the Tibetan classes at Hongguang Middle School. The Tianjin municipal government and the school's teachers and staff members have created good study and living conditions for the students. The school has a spacious dining room, a meeting hall, dormitories and a football playing field. A building with lecture theatres, a computer classroom and a linguistic classroom have been set up and valuable laboratory equipment installed.

On entering the school, they are given all the articles they need for daily use such as toothbrushes, washbasins, dinner services, woolen blankets, quilts and garments and textbooks. Their meals and medical expenses are covered by the state. During vacations they can tour local scenic spots, the feudal emperors' summer palaces in Chengde and Beijing, and Xian, with its life-sized terra cotta warriors and horses of the Qin Dynasty (221-207 BC).

The students, far away from their homes and families, cannot help but feel homesick and the teachers try to make up for the things they miss. One teacher, Gao Guoxun, invited his students to his home to celebrate the traditional Han Lantern Festival (15th of the 1st lunar month). Teachers in charge of the classes also organize extracurricular activities for the Tibetan students. The teachers always exercise patience and pay careful attention to their students' needs, and this leaves a deep impression on their students.

Tibetan students during a language class.





Students learning to use computers.

Mutual Help

The harmonious campus life has enabled the teachers and Tibetan students to establish relationships based on sincere friendship. The teachers strive to give their utmost and cultivate the students' ability to analyse and understand problems. The students respond to this with hard study and they have already made much progress. A second year student said that he felt highly elated when all the students improved on their academic records. In the Chinese language examination last term, the average score achieved by the 48 Tibetan students was slightly higher than that of students of Han nationality. Mathematics scores of the Tibetan students ranked 13th out of the 34 middle schools in Tianjin's Hebei District.

The students can not only speak fluent Mandarin, but have also attached great importance to the study of the Tibetan language. A student named Tongzhu explained that any failure to study the Tibetan language would mean that one didn't really love one's parents. One student once complained that she could not keep up

with the Tibetan language so the school introduced a continuation class in Tibetan for these students weak in that subject.

Some students would like to study English to be able to talk to foreign business people and tourists who will one day come to Tibet. Another student hopes to work in a Chinese embassy overseas to give foreign people a better understanding of the changes and progress made in Tibet. Still others said that after

coming to Tianjin, they have become more concerned with world affairs.

The recent riots in Lhasa form a sensitive topic of discussion for the Tibetan students. Many said they would like very much to hear more of the good news of unity and progress in Tibet. The actions of the separatists and rioters deeply upset many students. One girl named An Xueying, who is determined to become a correspondent, interviewed 12 Tibetan students who all condemned the riots and opposed the separatist activities.

The students have a special affection for the Hongguang Middle School and for Tianjin. They show this through their interest in local issues. Some conduct regular social service activities after class in the nearby park. Many have forwarded suggestions to the school authorities for improvements such as the organization of more interesting activities and excursions after class.

Strong Local Support

The Tibetan classes operating in 17 provinces and municipalities

A Tibetan dance.



photos by LU YUN

have won support from all sides. The state invested 53 million yuan in running these classes, and earmarked 3.07 million for the Hongguang Middle School. The Tianjin municipal government provided the classes with medical personnel, assigned them a good hospital and supplied beef and mutton requirements. Some institutions and factories in Tianjin have, on their own initiative, presented the school with medical apparatus and gifts, and provided repair services for electrical appliances. Tourism departments have also hosted the Tibetan students free of charge. A worker of the Han nationality from a nearby factory spent his own bonus on 15 transistors for the Tibetan students.

Bainqen Erdini Qoigyi Gyaincain and Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme, vice-chairmen of the NPC Stand-

ing Committee, and Li Ruihuan, mayor of Tianjin, have met separately with teachers and students of the Tibetan classes. Pintso-Wongje, vice-chairman of the Nationalities Committee of the NPC Standing Committee, Zhang Zaiwang, chairman of the Tianjin NPC Standing Committee, Wu Jinghua and Dantzen, secretary and deputy secretary of the Party committee of the Tibet Autonomous Region, also visited the teachers and students. They thanked the teachers for their hard work and encouraged the students to study hard so they could later contribute to the construction of their native land.

During the Tibetan new year in February this year, leaders of the Nagqu area of Tibet headed a delegation to visit Hongguang Middle School and conveyed their greetings to teachers and students.

Students were able to see their parents on a video recording and also record their own greetings to be sent home. Teachers and students alike celebrated the Tibetan new year, the largest festival for Tibetans.

The visiting group of Tibetan compatriots returned from abroad headed by Lhalu, vice-chairman of the Tibet Autonomous Regional Committee of the CPPCC, visited Hongguang Middle School in September 1986. In his speech Lhalu said that the Tibetan classes are very well run. Another Tibetan compatriot in the group expressed his heartfelt thanks for the respect shown for the minority nationalities. Deputy secretary Dantzen praised Hongguang Middle School and secretary Wu Jinghua said that the Tibetan classes will add a glorious page to the history of national unity in China. ■

A Special Mission History Entrusted to Me

This is the second part of an eye-witness account by the author, a former Chinese ambassador to Mongolia, of events surrounding the plane crash 17 years ago in which Lin Biao, former vice-chairman of the Chinese Communist Party and defence minister, died in his attempt to flee the country. Xu's reminiscences of the incident, which include an account of an inspection tour to the area of the crash and subsequent diplomatic negotiations with Mongolia, shed much light on the once mystery-shrouded death of Lin Biao.

by Xu Wenyi

The Dispute About "Military" or "Civilian"

It was past 5 pm when we returned to Ondor Haan after burying the dead. After several days' continuous great strain and work, we all felt so tired out that we wanted to have a good sleep. But at 10 o'clock that evening, the Mongolians sent us the Summary of the On-the-Spot Investigation

of the Crash of the Aeroplane of the People's Republic of China in the Territory of the Mongolian People's Republic and asked for an immediate discussion. While Comrades Shen Qingyi and Wang Zhongyuan were translating the document, I sank down in the sofa thinking over the happenings of the past two days. The translation was finished at 1 am on September 17 and we at once settled down to

talk and prepare a plan.

The official meeting between China and Mongolia began at 4:25 am in the hotel. I spoke first, offering China's thanks for the help that had been provided by the Mongolian government and the friendly co-operation of the Mongolians concerned. Then I suggested 10 amendments to the Summary of the On-the-Spot Investigation. The three major

proposals were as follows:

First, to change the statement in the preface that "The aeroplane of the People's Republic of China crossed the border of the Mongolian People's Republic at about 2 am on September 13, 1971" to "The aeroplane of the China Administration of Civil Aviation lost its way and went astray over the border of the Mongolian People's Republic";

Second, since the first item of the summary only mentions a Chinese flag and the aeroplane tail marked "256" in the plane wreckage and does not specify the aircraft wing fragments marked "Zhongguo Min Hang" (CAAC), I proposed to add that the wreckage also contained a damaged aeroplane wing more than 20 metres to the east of the plane's nose bearing the two Chinese characters for "Civil Aviation";

Third, since the seventh item of the summary concluded, after describing the personal effects of the dead, that the plane was used by the People's Liberation Army of China and all the dead were military personnel, I proposed replacing that deduction with the statement that the No. 256 CAAC aeroplane carried Chinese military personnel as well as non-military personnel.

I also proposed some amendments to the preface of the Summary of the Burial drawn up by the Mongolians to make it read, "With the friendly help of the government and concerned departments of the Mongolian People's Republic, the nine people in the crashed No. 256 Chinese civil plane are buried as follows." There followed an account of when, where and how the burial was conducted.

The Mongolians suggested a 10-minute recess after my speech. They did not return after the break. While waiting for them, I heard over the radio a foreign

report that China had closed all its airports and prohibited aeroplanes from taking off. I immediately associated the news with the plane crash and sensed the complexity and gravity of the matter. Then Comrade Shen Qingyi saw the Mongolians go to the telegraph office and guessed that they were requesting instructions from their leaders. Realizing that the situation was urgent and that we could not afford to linger on there, I decided to leave for the embassy to report to Beijing on the investigation of the crash site and the ongoing negotiations and obtain instructions. I told Comrade Sun Yixian to tell the Mongolians that since China's 22nd National Day (October 1) was approaching, the Chinese ambassador had to return to Ulan Bator to tend to the affairs of the embassy. Our suggestion was to continue the negotiations in Ulan Bator and if the Mongolians did not agree, we would continue the talks in Ondor Haan with Sun Yixian as our representative.

The meeting resumed at 10:15 in the morning. Colonel Sanzhaa responded to my amendments, rejecting each of them almost entirely. First, he said that since there was no evidence to prove that the Chinese civil aeroplane crossed the Mongolian border because it had lost its way, "there was no need and no basis to say so." Second, "If the Chinese characters 'Civil Aviation' on the wing 20 metres to the east of the plane's nose must be included in the summary, everything should be put into it." Third, "Because all the dead were in army uniform, the paragraph describing them as military personnel should be retained." The negotiations were deadlocked. Gotov interjected to try to break the stalemate. He said, "We came here for the purpose of inspecting and analysing the site. It is the desire of both sides to finish this task as soon as possible. We understand that Mr. Am-

bassador is busy and must go back today and Mr. Ambassador also understands that we are busy. If Mr. Ambassador and Comrade Sanzhaa agree, I propose to finish the task today and return together."

I noted that it was quite natural for the two sides to disagree since they had met only a few times and they viewed the case from different angles. I continued that I was confident the issue could be resolved through mutual understanding and friendly consultation based on the facts. Then I reiterated my position. First, as instructed by my government, I delivered a formal explanation of the reasons of the plane crash to Vice-Foreign Minister Erdenebileg at 8:30 pm on September 14 and he did not disagree with my account. This should be written down in the summary. Second, the Chinese characters for "China" and "Civil Aviation" and the number 256 were clearly marked on the crashed plane and should be put into the summary.

The meeting reconvened at 3:20 pm. Knowing that agreement on the Summary of the On-the-Spot Investigation was unlikely, the Mongolians turned the discussion to the Summary of the Burial, which was easier to deal with. Gotov spoke first. He said his superiors, who had been informed of the ambassador's desire to leave for Ulan Bator, had instructed him and his people to finish the Summary of the Burial as soon as possible and then go back with the Chinese. I agreed to the idea but persuaded them to face the facts by depicting the plane crash clearly. I did not object to admitting the presence of military personnel on board plane No. 256. But the on-the-spot investigation pointed to the fact that the plane carried both military and non-military personnel, and this should be reported in the summary. Following my speech, Colonel Sanzhaa expressed his

agreement to changing "the No. 256 Trident 1-E piloted by military personnel of the People's Liberation Army of China" to "No. 256 Trident 1-E of the People's Republic of China." I immediately approved the shift towards our suggestion but still insisted that the summary must point out that the plane belonged to the Chinese civil aviation administration and carried both military and non-military personnel. Neither side gave in and as the dispute intensified, Gotov announced a five-minute recess.

When the meeting resumed, Gotov said he and his people valued China's opinions and the Summary of the Burial was open to amendment. Then Sanzhaa read the preface of the Summary of the Burial as they had revised it. It read, "The nine citizens (eight men and one woman) of the People's Republic of China on board the crashed No. 256 Trident 1-E jet plane driven by military personnel of the People's Republic of China are buried in the following way." I regarded as a step forward the change from "military personnel" to "citizens." Since the preface still said the crashed plane was piloted by military personnel and did not mention the key words—China Civil Aviation—I thought it would be hopeless to continue to argue in this way. I suggested returning to Ulan Bator to continue the discussion. Then Gotov, who sensed that we were not to be easily persuaded, showed his hand. He said that in order to show respect for the dead, a report must be made; if the Chinese held different views about the report, Mongolia would unilaterally sign it. Sanzhaa said that the Chinese were welcome to attend the signing ceremony and the fact that China refused to sign would be indicated. Sun Yixian responded by saying that it was not necessary for us to be present because the unilateral signing

would be ineffective. To ease the tensions, I warned against acting hastily and proposed returning to Ulan Bator to go on with the talks. I said the Summary of the Burial would be easily settled after the Summary of the On-the-Spot Investigation was completed. But Gotov turned down my suggestion and insisted on signing the Summary of the Burial at once. I said I was sorry about this undesirable outcome. The talks, which had gone on day and night, ended in dismay. All the participants left for Ulan Bator by plane.

Soon after our people got back to the embassy, I briefed the Foreign Ministry, which had already called several times asking for news, on the special telephone line about the negotiations. The Foreign Ministry had decided that the embassy should send one person home to report in detail. Although exhausted, we sat up all night preparing reports on the jet crash, the on-the-spot investigation, the burying of the dead and the negotiations. On September 20, Comrade Sun Yixian got on the Sino-Soviet international train with all four reports. When he arrived at Beijing Station at 3 pm on September 21 and was looking around for his relatives, he was surprised to find that Fu Hao, director of the Foreign Ministry's general office, had come to meet him. To his even greater surprise, he was received the same night by Premier Zhou Enlai in the Fujian Hall of the Great Hall of the People. The meeting lasted from late that night until the early hours of the next morning. As Premier Zhou listened to his report, they shared a midnight snack of hot noodles.

Other Negotiations

For quite a few days after I returned from the scene of the incident to Ulan Bator the

Mongolian authorities kept silent. At 3:30 pm on September 22, Tserentsotal, head of the second department of the Mongolian Foreign Ministry, informed me that he wanted to see me immediately. He said that on orders from his government he was demanding a formal explanation from the Chinese government—to be made before September 25—about the penetration of the crashed plane into Mongolian airspace. To this I replied that I had already given a formal explanation to Vice-Foreign Minister Erdenebileg on September 14. He said that was insufficient, adding that in order to prevent anything untoward from happening between the countries, the Chinese government was required to give a written formal explanation before September 25. He said all this in a very tough tone of voice and mentioned no further meetings with me. It struck me that there must have been some changes in the situation.

At dawn on September 23, instructions came through from my government that I should immediately request a meeting with a Mongolian vice-foreign minister, to whom I should make clear the following two points:

First, the No. 256 CAAC Trident had entered by mistake the territorial airspace of the People's Republic of Mongolia because it was lost, and had crashed without external influence at about 2 am on September 13. The Chinese government expressed its regret over the incident. The Chinese government was also extremely grateful for the assistance offered by the Mongolian government in searching for the wreckage of the plane, burying the victims' bodies and sorting out their effects.

Second, the Chinese government had decided, at the request of the victims' families, to bring the bodies of the dead back to China

for a formal burial or to cremate them at the crash site and send the ashes back to China. In this task, the Chinese government respectfully requested the assistance of the Mongolian government. It also hoped that the Mongolian side would turn over the effects of the dead, which had been collected on the spot, to the Chinese government.

All the Mongolian vice-foreign minister were out of Ulan Bator. So instead I asked for an urgent meeting with Tserentsotal and informed him of the Chinese government's position. Tserentsotal said he would report the position to his superiors. Two days later I called on Tserentsotal again and urged the Mongolian government to reply to the requests of the Chinese government. He said he had not received any instructions from his government. He added that it was September 25 and the Chinese government had failed to give a formal explanation about the plane's incursion into Mongolian airspace. He expressed his regret over China's failure to respond to Mongolia's request. He also said that since the victims had been identified, he hoped the Chinese government would provide their names, ages, occupations and photographs to the Mongolian government. Finally he said the Mongolian government could not consider what it should do about the Chinese government's requests until it had studied its formal explanation about the incident. He expressed concern that something untoward could happen if the Chinese government delayed its reply. From Tserentsotal's tough words, I felt that the situation must have changed again. And the change undoubtedly had something to do with the rumours that had been circulating around the world since the incident happened.

China's National Day was coming, and the embassy in

Mongolia was busy preparing for it. I also was involved with visits which I had had to postpone. At 3:30 pm on September 29, Tserentsotal called me on another urgent matter. He expressed his regret over the Chinese government's failure to offer a formal explanation about the causes of the plane crash, and said there had been rumours and much discussion about the accident among the Mongolian people. The Mongolian government had decided to publish a news release to outline what had happened. I pointed out at once that the Chinese government, which had twice offered timely explanations about the accident, had adopted a serious attitude towards the demand of the Mongolian government. I expressed my hope that the Mongolian government would not do anything that would run counter to the recent normalization process of Sino-Mongolian relations. Tserentsotal stressed that what was to be published was not a government statement but only an ordinary news brief.

At 5 pm that day, the Mongolian Radio newscast included an item headlined About the Chinese Plane Crash. It said, "A jet plane of the People's Republic of China violated the territorial airspace of the People's Republic of Mongolia at 1:55 am on September 13 and crashed at 2:25 in Mongolia's Khentei Province as a result of unknown causes. The nine seriously burnt and broken bodies, firearms, documents and other articles found at the scene of the accident proved that the plane belongs to the Chinese Air Force. Delegates from the embassy of the People's Republic of China in the People's Republic of Mongolia have been allowed to inspect the accident scene. Mongolia has lodged a protest against the violation of Mongolia's territorial airspace by the Chinese plane, and has demanded a formal explanation

from the Chinese government." The next day the news was repeated in all Mongolian newspapers and Mongolia's foreign-language broadcasts.

Mongolia's move to publish the news on the eve of China's National Day would clearly have an unfavourable effect on Sino-Mongolian relations which had just started to improve. But viewed from all aspects, it seemed that the Mongolian authorities had no intention to make a fuss about the incident. The Mongolians held a reception to celebrate China's National Day. They also arranged several important meetings for me. There were more Mongolian leaders at the embassy's National Day reception than the previous year. On instructions from my government, I took the opportunity of Vice-Foreign Minister D. Endon's presence at the reception to express China's regret over the Mongolian news report of the plane crash, for it had hurt the normalization of Sino-Mongolian relations. Endon said, "We felt that we should inform the public of this, so we published the news brief." He also said that the Mongolian government would reply to the requests of the Chinese government at the proper time.

Just before and after the National Day, the documents of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party concerning Lin Biao's hurried escape, his betrayal of the country and the Party and the plane crash were made public. The whole truth of the so-called "political riddle of China" had come out. Having fulfilled the special mission entrusted to me by history, I ended my representations to the Mongolian authorities at the order of my government.

Cause of the Plane Crash

The news of Lin Biao's death and the Trident accident led to

widespread rumours and speculation. Some rumours said that the plane was shot down by missiles and others that there had been a fight inside the plane. What, then, is the truth of the matter?

The Mongolian authorities believed that for unknown reasons but without external influence, the plane tried to belly-land, but failed. Its right wing hit the ground and broke off, and it exploded and burst into flames. According to the meteorological data provided by the Mongolian authorities, around 2 am on September 13, 1971, there was no wind nor fog near the accident site in Khentei Province, only light cloud, and visibility was 50 kilometres. This can rule out the weather as the cause of the crash.

The Chinese embassy's report to the Chinese government said the plane seemed to have exploded after landing instead of in the air. Evidence for this includes the facts that there were no tall buildings in the area, the landing site was well chosen, the landing point was dozens of metres away from the spot where the plane was on fire, the bodies of the people on board were not badly burnt and they showed no signs of fracture usually seen in a plane tumbling accident.

In May 1972, the Special Case Group of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party invited experts to make systematic analysis of the causes of the crash. They reached the conclusion that the plane "crashed and burnt after failing to land under control in open country."

What were the reasons for this conclusion? First, the landing site, a rather smooth grassland, was apparently deliberately chosen since the plane turned around to the south before landing after having been headed for the northwest.

Second, the pilot was prepared for the landing. The photos of the plane's wreckage show that he had

taken some necessary steps for landing and that the main wheels and the undercarriage's wheel hub had remained undamaged, indicating that the pilot had not lowered the landing gear, but rather had brought the plane's tail down first. The 30-metre-long skid mark at the crash site was apparently made by the plane's tail sliding on the ground. The first parts detached from the plane included the lower part of the middle engine and the nozzle, both at the plane's tail. Since there was no deep groove at the crash site, the plane obviously did not hit the ground at a steep angle.

Third, all those on board were found to have taken off their wristwatches and shoes, steps generally taken to avoid injury in crash landings.

The landing failed for various reasons. The pilot did not complete all the steps required. For instance, the deceleration flaps and some other speed reducers were not used to slow the plane down. These are usually controlled by the assistant pilot, who was not aboard the plane because the plane took off too hurriedly.

As a low-wing monoplane—one whose wings are beneath its belly—the Trident was not suited to belly-landing in open country. When the wings and belly hit the ground at the same time, the wings easily get damaged, and the fuel tanks in both the wings and the belly are likely to be broken and burst into flames.

Generally smooth as it was, the landing site still had some bumps and holes, which would make a plane landing at high speed jump up and down.

Fuel shortage is believed to have been a major reason why the plane had to land suddenly. Calculations based on the plane's altitude and flying time indicate that its tanks held only 2.5 tons of fuel before the crash, which could allow it to fly for only 20 minutes.

The pilot also had to land because it was hard for him to tell his exact location, since there was no navigator on board, no ground guidance was available, and the plane was flying at night. The pilot could have landed in Ondor Haan's airport, which was only 70 kilometres to the southeast, had he known where he was.

The plane certainly did not blow up in the air since there was the skid mark on the ground and the wreckage was scattered in a narrow strip. If it had exploded in the air, the area would have been much larger, for pieces of wreckage would have been thrown as far as 10 kilometres away, and when it dropped to the ground, there would not have been much fuel left to enable the plane to burn fiercely.

Nor was the plane shot down. A hole 40 centimetres in diameter on the plane's right wing was thought at first to be the place where a missile had hit. But it later proved to have been caused by an explosion from inside since the wing was not penetrated, the hole was irregular in shape and the hole's rim went outward.

No sign of fighting was found through technical analysis and forensic medicine. Nor were there any bullet holes in any of the nine corpses. The blood on the heads of some of the bodies turned out to be from wounds caused after the people were injured during the landing and thrown out of the plane during the explosion. A foreign press report that Lin's head was "honeycombed" with bullet holes was sheer nonsense.



How Will US-Soviet Summit Fare in Moscow?

■ The Moscow summit will cover a wide range of topics including arms control, regional issues, human rights and bilateral relations. But the core of the talks will no doubt be an agreement on a 50 percent cut in strategic nuclear weapons.

■ Judging by all the developments to date, it appears unlikely that the two sides will sign the accord during their Moscow talks, as originally planned.

■ However, the summit will probably make some progress in other areas of arms control, and the trends towards improvement and relaxation in the US-Soviet relations will continue, although it will not be a smooth process.

by Zhuang Qubing*

The coming fourth summit meeting in Moscow between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev is attracting world-wide attention. What will ensue from their talks? How should the meeting be viewed and what can be predicted about it? Speculation is rife.

My guess is that the Moscow summit will cover a wide range of topics including arms control, regional issues, human rights and bilateral relations. But the core of the talks will no doubt be an agreement on a 50 percent cut in strategic nuclear weapons.

The treaty on the elimination of intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF), signed by the United States and the Soviet Union last December, was aimed at destroying only 3-4 percent of their nuclear arsenals. The proposed strategic arms reduction treaty (START) would slash a huge number of long-distance nuclear weapons and thus would be far more important and influential than the INF pact.

Judging by all the developments

to date, however, it appears unlikely that the two sides will sign the accord during their Moscow talks, as originally planned. But negotiations will continue and the signing could come before the end of the year. The summit will probably make some progress in other areas of arms control, and the trends towards improvement and relaxation in US-Soviet relations will continue, although it will not be a smooth process.

I

Soviet arms control policy has changed significantly since Gorbachev came to power. The Reagan administration has also made some adjustments to its policy. Both superpowers need to reach some arms control agreements, but relatively speaking, the Soviet need is greater.

The Kremlin sees lessening the burden of huge military expenditure and improving relations with the United States as necessary to the success of its domestic reform programme and its accelerated-development strategy. The protracted and intense arms race and regional conflicts involving the

Soviet Union and the United States must be alleviated.

The Reagan administration has also come to feel a heavy burden after several consecutive years of large-scale arms increases. Large financial and trade deficits have seriously affected the development of the US economy. The US empire has declined, leaving the United States the world's largest debtor nation. Demand for policy adjustments has been rising. A new arms control agreement would help Washington get out of its predicament and better its image.

Since arms control talks were resumed in 1985, the Soviet Union has mainly focused on three aims. First, it wants to hinder the implementation of the US Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), particularly the deployment of a strategic defence system, which could give Washington a military advantage and force the Soviet Union to exhaust its national strength in a stepped-up arms race. Second, it seeks a deep cut in strategic nuclear weapons, but that should not jeopardize the strategic balance between the two sides. Third, it wants to drive US

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nuclear forces out of Europe and gradually denuclearize Europe, thus reinforcing its own strategic position while at the same time deepening the conflicts between the United States and its West European allies. The Soviet Union has paid a price for the INF treaty but has also benefited a great deal from it.

The Reagan administration maintains that the United States can establish a dual-deterrence strength (strategic offence and defence) and a capacity to choose among multiple war methods, as well as an advantageous military posture over the Soviet Union. As a result, Soviet expansion could be effectively contained. Moreover, to reduce the Soviet offensive capability is also essential in upgrading the power of US ballistic missile defence. Thus, Washington insists on implementing SDI while demanding that Moscow make large-scale cuts in its arsenal of long-range nuclear weapons, particularly the heavy ICBMs, which pose the biggest threat to the United States.

II

By the end of last year, the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States had signed the agreement to eliminate all their intermediate-range missiles, and negotiations on reducing strategic nuclear weapons by 50 percent had also made some progress. The two sides had agreed that the Soviet Union should cut a bit more than 50 percent of its long-range missiles and reduce more launching vehicles than the United States, while the United States should scrap more nuclear warheads than the Soviet Union. But many problems remained unresolved, and they decided to sign the treaty at their next summit after further negotiations.

However, the negotiations progressed slowly. The late-April visit

of US Secretary of State George Shultz to Moscow brought no breakthrough on major disputed issues. Agreement had not been reached on 1,200 points contained in the proposed treaty which was drafted by both sides.

It seems very unlikely that Reagan and Gorbachev will sign the START treaty at their coming meeting. But with hard bargaining, it could still be signed by the end of this year. The major outstanding disputes focus on the anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty, methods of calculating limitations on certain weapons and questions relating to verification.

Moscow insists that both sides must agree to abide by the ABM treaty of 1972 for a set period before there can be a treaty halving strategic nuclear weapons. Moscow demands that the period be 10 years, but Washington has only agreed to seven. Furthermore, Washington maintains that the ABM treaty can be "broadly" interpreted and therefore the United States can test any anti-missile defensive device in space. Moscow, for its part, holds that the treaty must be interpreted strictly. Initially, the Soviets said that all tests must be conducted on the ground, but last year they conceded that the two sides can work out jointly a list of items that can be tested in space. Subsequently, they again changed their tune, returning to the call for "strict compliance" with the treaty. In March Washington presented a new proposal, which would permit the deployment of remote-sensing devices in space and the testing of limited space weapons in designated "space testing zones."

On the question of calculating limits, the method to calculate air-based cruise missiles and to limit sea-based cruise missiles—which are not included in the START treaty—and the limitation on mobile intercontinental missiles

remain in dispute.

For Moscow, linking SDI with the reduction in strategic nuclear weapons is a strategic consideration. But lately, Soviet worries about the programme seem to be dwindling, and it now appears likely that Moscow will make further concessions. A senior Soviet official told reporters in February that the Soviet Union realizes that a highly effective US strategic defensive system could not be deployed before the year 2000 and that cuts by the US Congress in funding for the programme have already delayed the original plan mapped out by Reagan. The United States may not see its proposition on the period for observing the ABM treaty as differing vastly from the demand of the Soviet Union. Reports say that some US officials, including senior military officers, admit that the Soviet proposal to limit space testing is negotiable. Reports also say that the Pentagon is planning to confine the SDI to a limited defence system. Under these circumstances, it seems likely that some agreement might be reached in the field of space weapons.

Despite the importance of the cruise missile, mobile intercontinental missile and verification issues to the security of both sides, they are nevertheless subordinate to the issue of strategic defence. And in general, both sides' strategic nuclear arsenals have over-expanded, while many nuclear warheads have been growing old. Francois Haisbourg, director of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, thinks that the United States and the Soviet Union could each reduce their nuclear weapons by 80 percent.

But extra-political needs are outweighed by political considerations. A long-range nuclear weapons agreement in the near future would help raise the

prestige both of President Reagan and the Republican Party as they move into a general election and of Soviet leader Gorbachev, who is facing domestic obstruction to his reform programme. If the agreement cannot be reached this year, it will be put off for the new US president, who will take office next year.

Verification and monitoring of an agreement to reduce strategic nuclear weapons by 50 percent are more complex than for the INF treaty. Kenneth Adelman, former director of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, said last December before leaving his post that it would be amazing if an agreement could be arrived at in a short time because it must involve at least nine missile systems—on the Soviet side only—various aircrafts and quality issues, while the INF treaty involved much lesser missile systems.

Although it is unlikely that the full agreement to reduce strategic nuclear weapons by 50 percent will be reached at the coming US-Soviet summit, the meeting may bring out a joint statement illuminating their intentions in this regard. The two sides could also make progress in other areas of arms control and in bilateral relations. They are ready to put into effect the 1976 Treaty on Underground Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes.

The agreement on Afghanistan signed by the two countries in Geneva will improve the atmosphere at the summit meeting. The Soviet decision to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan within nine months has created the conditions for the political settlement of the Afghanistan problem.

Regional conflicts are an important factor in US-Soviet tensions. The late-April talks between the two countries' foreign ministers failed to make headway on a wide range of regional issues including the Iran-Iraq war, Arab-

Israeli conflicts and the proposed international Middle East peace conference. It will not be easy for Reagan and Gorbachev to accomplish much in this area at their Moscow meeting.

III

Several points are worth noting about the summit, which will be held May 29-June 2.

First, although it may not see a major breakthrough, its role should not be underestimated. The INF treaty—the first evidence that the two sides are ready to try to reduce nuclear weapons—has a definite influence. If an agreement to reduce strategic nuclear weapons by 50 percent is reached, it will undoubtedly have far more notable repercussions on US-Soviet relations and the international situation. Otherwise, the momentum of improving their relations would become weaker. The Moscow summit will be only one chapter in the lengthy US-Soviet arms control negotiations. After long-range nuclear weapons, there are many other issues to discuss and resolve. One of the roles of this summit is to serve as a link between the past and the future.

Second, since 1985 the Soviet Union has played the active role in the arms control talks while the United States has been relatively passive. Recently the Reagan administration has been taking a somewhat flexible attitude towards the talks, but is still acting from strength and trying to exert heavy pressure on the Soviet Union to make compromises. The Soviet Union has increasingly made concessions when they do not interfere with its vital interests, thus demonstrating its flexibility. At the same time it has launched frequent peace offensives. Earlier this year Moscow put forward, among others, a 12-point proposal

for guaranteeing European security and a suggestion for establishing an international monitoring system to prevent the militarization of space. At the summit, it is highly possible that the Soviet Union will issue some new proposals that would be worthy of close attention.

Third, the elimination of intermediate-range missiles, the large-scale reduction of long-range nuclear weapons and the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan will eventually be realized, and this will play a welcome and positive role in improving US-Soviet relations and defusing international tension.

But there are some negative factors that must not be ignored. The basis for better US-Soviet relations is not firm and the need for arms control talks and coexistence will not change the nature of confrontation and competition. A period of detente is emerging; in the future relations between the two countries will probably be up and down because the arms race has not and will not stop, although its nature may alter from a stress on quantity to quality, and from nuclear weapons to space weapons. Meanwhile conventional weapon technology has been up-graded remarkably. Furthermore, the contradictions which lead to regional conflicts cannot be entirely eliminated. On the Afghanistan question, for example, thorny issues remain unresolved.

The contradictions between the United States and the Soviet Union are many and deep. People everywhere hope that the two countries can sum up historical experience, find the practical and feasible methods they seek and arrive, through negotiations, at an effective agreement that will further improve their relations, and promote international peace and security. ■

Farmers Run Holiday Village

More than 1 million Chinese and foreign tourists from 13 countries have stayed at the Farmer-Run Holiday Village at Baiteng Lake, Guangdong Province, since it opened in December 1984. About 17 percent of the guests were Hong Kong and Macao compatriots, overseas Chinese and foreign visitors and 30 percent were Chinese farmers. The farmer-run resort gives farmers a 20 percent discount on its fees.

The region's climate is mild and the trees are green year-round. The village covers an area of 80,000 square metres and is surrounded by a 10-square-kilometre lake. Tourists can relax on the shore, eat fresh seafood and enjoy themselves in the water.

The modern villas come in both Chinese- and Western-style. Tourists can enjoy the lake scenery and fishing from the verandas. The rooms have automatic curtains, remote-controlled TV sets, warm-water showers, air conditioning and other up-to-date features.

Baiteng Lake is rich in seafood

and has many kinds of tasty fish, which can be found on the menu of the seafood restaurant. On the lake, pleasure boats and motor boats are available for tourists to skim over the water or cruise at a leisurely pace. In summer as many as 10,000 people can sunbathe on the long sandy beach.

The village offers a wide variety of recreational facilities which cannot be found in cities and organizes special tourist programmes. These include:

Fruit-Picking. Tourists are invited to take photos, pick and purchase fresh fruit from vineyards, lichee orchards and tangerine and orange groves.

Camping. Guests can sit around a campfire and cook fresh fish and other seafood which they catch or buy.

Fishing. Tourists can fish in a special fish pond or go angling with rented gear.

At the end of last year, the foundation stone was laid for a 20-square-kilometre tourist city to be built at Baiteng Lake. By the end of this century, the city will be

divided into 13 areas with holiday resorts and other tourist facilities, a sanatorium and health care centre, flower gardens and a recreational garden on the water, and "villages" for cultural activities, sports, film showings, and shows and displays by different nationalities from China and around the world. The buildings will cover 460,000 square metres of floor space. The plans include providing 12,000 beds for holiday-makers. The city will also have industry, commerce, financial services and a residential area, with farms and fishing villages nearby.

by LI RONGXIA

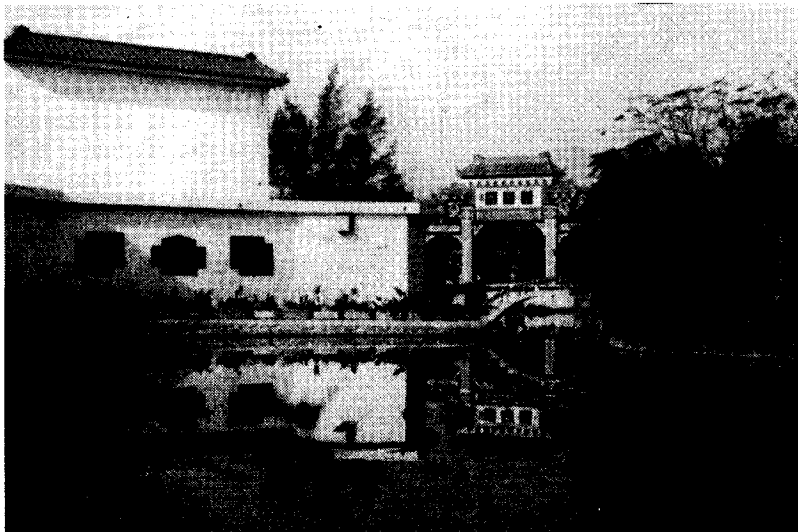
News in Briefs

Activities for Beijing International Tourist Year will include two special events. From May 25-30, Beijing Hotel will celebrate its 88th anniversary. The restaurant will feature local foods and delicacies prepared by famous chefs from different parts of China. A variety of cultural events will be held in the hotel too, including *qigong* (deep breathing exercises) performances and costume and fashion shows. Guests will have a chance to have their photos taken dressed in ancient Chinese costume. Handicraft and folk artists will display their talents—painting Beijing opera faces, making dough figures and kites, and carving seals. Other painters and calligraphers will also be at work.

Between June 10 and July 10 the Beihai Lantern Fair will be held in Beihai Park. Glass and porcelain lanterns will be displayed, mainly Zigong dragon lanterns from Sichuan. Lanterns of a peacock spreading its feathers and a musical fountain will be featured, along with a lantern of a nine-dragon wall and other dragon lanterns.

Glimpse of the Farmer-Run Village by the Baiteng Lake, Doumen County, Guangdong.

XUE CHAO



Taiwan Dwellers' Families Prosper

"LIAO WANG"

(Outlook Weekly, Overseas Edition)

For historical and political reasons, 437 Kuomintang (KMT) officers and soldiers born in the town of Haicheng, Liaoning Province, moved to Taiwan before 1949. Today their families, with more than 1,000 members, have been lifted out of poverty and backwardness as the result of a six-year effort. More than 300 families each have more than 1,000 yuan in bank deposits; 30 families with more than 10,000 yuan; and five families have several hundred thousand yuan in the bank.

Zhou Shimin is an outstanding example. He has earned hundreds of thousands of yuan in profits repairing motor vehicles and has become a famous entrepreneur. Every day, he goes to work in an imported sedan which cost him more than 40,000 yuan.

Zhou used to be a highly skilled worker at the Anshan Motor Repair and Assembly Plant and later at the Haicheng Motor Repair and Assembly Plant. His wife was a temporary worker. The eight members of his family depended for support on his monthly wage of about 80 yuan and his wife's meagre income. They lived in straitened circumstances.

In 1983, with the help of the departments concerned, Zhou and his wife established a motor repair shop and hired as apprentices six young people who were waiting for jobs. Business has always been brisk and Zhou has become one of the richest people in Haicheng. He has built a four-room house and purchased various high-quality goods such as a colour television, a

refrigerator, a washing machine, a radio-cassette recorder, an electric fan, armchairs and carpets.

The parents of Yu Yongbo of Xiafangshen Village withdrew with the KMT from the mainland to Taiwan in the late 1940s. Yu returned to his home town and became involved in farming after he graduated from the Lanzhou Industrial Machinery School in Gansu Province in the 1950s. Later he worked as a technician in the village-run machinery plant, earning just over 50 yuan a month. His family of seven depended on him for support and was often short of money. With the support of the local departments concerned, he signed a contract to manage the village-run stone-processing plant, which was on the brink of bankruptcy. Yu proved to be good at management and have a solid grasp of technology. Over the past five years the plant has produced an output value of 5 million yuan, of which 300,000 yuan has gone to Yu, under the terms of the contract.

In 1984, Yu spent more than 20,000 yuan to build a four-room house. Like Zhou, he also bought various high-grade consumer goods. His three children have all been assigned jobs and his wife takes care of the home and family. They live a happy life. To get the full benefit of his managerial talent and specialized technological abilities, Yu and the township committee have entered into another contract for the joint operation of a big stone-processing plant.

Li Wenhua, a woman of over 50, lives with her family in Wushi Town. Before liberation, her parents-in-law went to Taiwan with the KMT's army. Her

husband was persecuted to death during China's ten-year turmoil (1966-76) because of his parents' background. In 1982 Li began to make clothes. She designed and sewed them herself and found pedlars to sell them. In the past five years she has made hundreds of thousands of yuan in profit and become a rich woman in her locality. Now, eight of her family members—including her sons, daughters and daughters-in-law—are engaged in producing garments.

In 1985 Li made a trip to Hong Kong for a reunion with her parents-in-law. They bought some clothing for her and also planned to give her a colour television, a radio-cassette recorder and some money because they thought she must be living in straitened circumstances. Li accepted nothing. She told them that her family had money, colour televisions, refrigerators, radio-cassette recorders and everything. The old man and woman were not convinced. Later, when Li learned that her mother-in-law was critically ill and had to be hospitalized, she offered to pay the medical expenses. This convinced her father-in-law of her prosperity.

Since 1982, the Haicheng city government has held three meetings at which the families of people who moved away to Taiwan exchanged their experiences of becoming prosperous. This broadened other people's outlooks. For instance, one woman began to operate a family clothing production business after she attended the meetings. In only three years, her family has become well-off, with 90,000 yuan of bank savings.

(Issue No. 7, 1988)

Comments on Ma Shengli

"JINGJI RIBAO"

(Economic Daily)

Ma Shengli, the director of the Shijiazhuang Paper Mill, is well known for his successful contract management of the mill. Many people nickname him "Contract Ma."

Not long ago, Ma made two moves which attracted quite a bit of attention. He signed contracts for the management of more than 20 enterprises in other parts of the country and set up the China Ma Shengli Paper Making Group; and he also raised a huge sign bearing the words "Director Ma Shengli" over the gate of the paper mill. It is said that the eight-metre-long, two-metre-wide board cost more than 1,000 yuan. The two moves had wide repercussions in China's industrial circles and everyone was talking about "Contract Ma's phenomenon."

Attitudes to the "phenomenon" differed. Some people saw Ma as an entrepreneur with great success behind him and thought the new contracts would enable him to pass on his experience; even if the factories were unsuccessful, some lessons would be learned from his attempts. Others said, it was unnecessary for local governments to invite Ma Shengli to contract work because there are enough capable people to fill the needs in their own areas. Ma Shengli is the director of the Shijiazhuang Paper Mill. If he sets up contracts with another 100 factories, he must act as the legal representative for all of them. But is it possible for him to do so?

As for the sign Ma mounted over his factory's gateway, some people thought it showed boldness and strength. Some saw it as an exercise in public image building

and thought Ma had no right to place his name over the entrance of a state-owned factory.

Ma Shengli is very open to receiving any comments from people, but draws the line at administrative interference.

(January 26, 1988)

Prisoner's Inventions Win Patent Rights

"ZHONGGUO QINGNIAN BAO"

(China Youth News)

Ren Huimin, a 26-year-old prisoner in one of Ningxia's reform-through-labour farms, has invented a TV control switch which automatically switches the television set on or off depending on whether or not someone is sitting in front of the set.

Ren Huimin has loved radios since childhood. By the time he was in senior middle school, he could skilfully repair radios and televisions. The only problem was that electronic components cost a great deal of money and Ren always worried about this. He began to borrow money from other people or defrauded others of money and belongings. Later, he began secretly selling radios and televisions people had asked him to repair. By the autumn of 1985, Ren had run into debts of more than 13,900 yuan and in that year he was sentenced to nine years' imprisonment for swindling.

He was sent to a reform-through-labour farm in Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in March 1986. There he began to study the law and judged himself by the regulations. He realized the errors of his way and how much others must have suffered by his actions, and he made up his mind to turn over a new leaf.

Farm leaders and policemen discovered his special talent in electronics and asked him to teach

other prisoners about radios and electrical equipment. Ren prepared lessons carefully and taught earnestly, and his efforts were rewarded many times.

The distance between the reform-through-labour farm and the TV station is quite large and reception at the farm was very poor. A set of rebroadcast equipment would require about 10,000 yuan, which the farm couldn't afford. When Ren Huimin asked the farm authority if he could trial-produce the equipment, the policemen warmly accepted and helped him with buying parts and instruments, and carrying electronic devices from the testing room in his home.

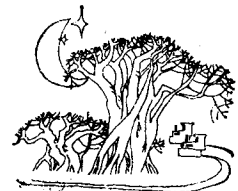
Ren Huimin worked day and night on the electrical equipment and after a year of testing, he successfully produced a set of open- and closed-circuit TV transmission equipment at a cost of only about 300 yuan. Now television reception in the farm area is very clear.

Soon after this success, Ren completed another two projects: one is the automatic warning device fitted to the outside walls of the prison, and the other is a popular low-cost satellite TV set.

In 1987, Ren Huimin submitted three inventions to the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region's Patent Office for patent rights. He also participated in the Ningxia 1987 Technology Trade Fair in a special capacity. During the fair, one factory from Yinchuan, capital of the autonomous region, paid about 10,000 yuan for one of Ren's inventions.

Now Ren Huimin is devoting himself to the invention of a new type of low-cost picture phone.

(March 9, 1988)



New Measures to Lure Investment

Reliable sources reveal that China is considering new measures to further improve the foreign investment environment. The measures include perfecting foreign economic law, reducing taxes for foreign-funded enterprises, encouraging direct foreign management over enterprises and respecting their management rights.

To perfect foreign economic law, China will form new rules and regulations on investment, foreign exchange, taxes and financial matters, and put them into effect as soon as possible. In the light of the State Council's call last March to develop an export-oriented economy in coastal areas, China will also review and revise laws and regulations now in force, or enact new ones.

Regarding taxes, China plans to reduce the interest rates of loans to and enact a unified income tax law for foreign-invested enterprises. China will also unify the industrial and commercial consolidated tax paid by foreign-invested enterprises with the product, value-added and business taxes paid by domestic enterprises.

China plans to reform foreign exchange control to create a more balanced system of exchange. According to Lin Zheti, deputy head of the State Administration of Exchange Control, Sino-foreign joint ventures and co-operative enterprises in China have basically formed their own balance of exchange. In future China will adopt more flexible policies, simplify procedures, and use economic and legal means to control foreign exchange and strengthen the market mechanism. Lin also said China will allow the establishment of foreign investment banks. Prior to this,

domestic banks will be given more decision-making power to deal with foreign exchange.

There is also a proposal to auction off enterprises which have run at a loss for a long period of time. Investors would thus be spared the cost of buying land, building workshops, and applying for water, electricity, coal and gas supplies. These foreign-invested enterprises would be able to begin operations soon after installing the necessary equipment. ■

Investment Service Set up in Beijing

Information received from the Beijing Economic and Trade Commission indicates that Beijing will soon follow the examples of Guangzhou, Shanghai and Fuzhou to set up a foreign investment service centre.

Its main tasks will be:

To provide consultancy services for foreign and Chinese investors, point them towards investment

opportunities and introduce them to co-operative partners;

To write letters recommending construction projects, reports on feasibility studies, contracts and other documents, and to act as an agent for overseas firms by handling co-operation and technical exchange in China; and

To assess foreign-invested projects and conduct foreign economic activities on behalf of Beijing's municipal government.

The centre will implement the chairman responsibility system under the leadership of a board of management. Ms Wu Yi, vice-mayor of Beijing in charge of foreign economic and trade work, will be chairman. The board of management will include representatives from the Beijing municipal planning commission, economic commission, financial bureau and tax office.

Preparatory work has been finished and the centre is expected to begin operations in June or July.

by Zhang Zhiping

Shandong Peninsula — Fifth Open Zone

Shandong Peninsula will be the fifth open economic zone in China after Changjiang and Zhujiang deltas, the southern Fujian triangle and Liaoning Peninsula. The announcement was made by Jiang Chunyun, governor of Shandong Province, in Beijing mid-May.

The zone embraces Qingdao, Yantai, Weihai, Weifang, Zibo, Rizhao and Laizhou and 44 counties with a population of 26 million, or one-third the total for the province. The zone covers an area of more than 50,000 square km.

The governor disclosed that the open economic zone will adopt more flexible policies. The provincial government has already stipulated regulations on developing an export-oriented economy, establishing export processing districts, opening up money markets, processing export goods using imported materials, and upgrading old enterprises through overseas investment. Foreign investors will receive preferential treatment with regards to customs duties, local income tax, enterprise income tax, taxes on products, value-added tax and land use fees.

To simplify procedures, raise efficiency and create a better environment for foreign investment, the province recently adjusted the structure of foreign economic and trade organizations and co-ordinated their activities. At the same time, the government also empowered city-level organs to approve projects involving investments of up to US\$30 million. The approval for ordinary projects is granted immediately; for the important projects approval takes 10 days and for the special key projects approval is given in less than 30 days. Foreign businesses facing difficulties may apply directly to the city mayor or the provincial governor for help.

The province has listed 464 projects seeking foreign investment and co-operation for machinery, chemicals, electronics, textiles, garments, food, and farming and sideline product processing. Governor Jiang said the forms of co-operation will vary, they include Sino-foreign co-operative enterprises, joint ventures, wholly foreign-owned enterprises, export goods processing, processing with materials and parts supplied from abroad, compensatory trade, and contracting, leasing or buying Chinese enterprises.

Jiang also said, in order to attract more foreign investment and seek partners for economic and technical co-operation, the province will sponsor a symposium on economic and technological co-operation and a product fair in Hong Kong on July 16-26. By then, more than 600 co-operative projects will be proposed, and more than 100 varieties of quality products will be available for sale.

The province abounds in mineral, agricultural, marine, tourist and labour resources. It leads the country in agricultural output value and ranks among the provinces with the largest industrial output value and gross

national product. The ports of Qingdao, Yantai, Weihai, Longkou, Shijiu and Lanshantou have been opened to the outside world; Qingdao is one of China's four largest ports. By the end of last year, the province had established 126 Sino-foreign joint ventures and co-operative enterprises and attracted foreign investments of US\$150 million.

by Yao Jianguo

China Imports Benz Technology

China North Industries Corp. and the Federal German Benz Automobile Co. recently reached an agreement on importing technology to produce heavy-duty Benz trucks. An initial contract will soon be officially signed.

The technology will be imported by the No. 1 Machinery Plant and the No. 2 Machinery Plant in Baotou, Inner Mongolia. During the 10-year co-operation period, the Chinese plants will introduce manufacturing technology and, using Chinese-made ventilated diesel engines and gearboxes, produce 14 types of heavy-duty trucks weighing 16-36 tons. The production capacity will increase to 6,000 trucks by 1993.

The project requires a total investment of 670 million yuan (about US\$180 million). Part of the investment will come from a Federal German government loan. ■

News in Brief

■ The Joy Technologies Inc. of the United States and the Harbin Environment Equipment Co. signed a contract for technological transfer on May 17 in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province. According to the contract the US company will transfer technology related to manufacturing baghouses which eliminate dust from the environ-

ment, flue gas desulphurization systems and electrostatic precipitators to minimize pollution in thermal-power plants, and metallurgical, building-material, chemical and mining enterprises.

■ The Swedish Pharmaceutical Industry Consortium and the China National Medicinal Materials Co. signed a letter of intent for exclusive sales of Chinese-made Shaolin Cola in Sweden and Northern Europe.

Shaolin Cola is a nutritional drink produced with natural materials. The company produces 100 million bottles a year and expects to have an output of 400 million in 1990. The drink was awarded a gold medal for its value as a nutritious sports drink in 1988 and was recently sponsored for the 24th Olympic Games.

■ The establishment of the Shanghai China Import and Export Commodity Inspection Centre — the first Sino-foreign co-operative commodity inspection institute in China — was announced in Beijing on May 17. The centre is jointly run by China, Switzerland and Japan. According to the contract, the Swiss side will provide consultancy services for inspecting and testing technologies and help China programme standard inspections. The Japanese side will handle overseas advertising and provide part of the investment and other services.

■ Qingdao Carpet Company, one of the three major carpet makers in China, recently was given the power by the municipal government to export its products directly.

The company's carpets have been exported to more than 40 countries and regions, including West Germany, Japan, the United States and Hong Kong.

Last year, the company earned \$15 million from exports. At a spring carpet fair this year in China, foreigners ordered \$5 million worth of carpets from the company. ■

Fouling Marine Life Studied

The shell-like *Pteria penguin*, found at depths of nine to 55 metres, has a firm and tenacious silky foot with which it can anchor itself to rocks and corals on the sea bed. It grows as thick as 15.5 cm a year, to become one of a number of fouling marine organisms creating a problem for marine facilities. The organism is widely distributed in the seas off China's Guangdong Province, Hainan Province and the South China Sea.

The damaging effect of marine organisms on ships, water-carrying pipes and sonar equipment has aroused much concern, but the danger they pose to oil platforms is only beginning to be recognized.

The South China Sea Institute of Oceanology began a study into this problem in 1982. In 1987, researchers set up 10 experimental buoys in the waters off the mouth of the Pearl River Basin, Yinggehai and Beibu Gulf to investigate fouling caused by marine organisms. After a year, the data gathered filled in some of the gaps in the knowledge about this phenomenon.

Yan Wenxia, an associate research fellow with the study group, told our correspondent that fouling organisms anchored onto oil platforms can cause many engineering problems. The major one involves loading increase on marine facilities. The layers of marine life which become attached to an oil platform will eventually change its under water surface characteristics so that waves and strong sea currents could create heavy loading on the platform. Some reports from overseas document the collapse of supports in the sea due to a growth of

marine life which increases loading beyond the designed bearing capacity.

Fouling organisms may cover cracks in platform structures, preventing the discovery of faults; some, such as *barnacles*, can directly damage the coat of paint protecting the platform from sea erosion.

Yan said developing offshore oil fields requires a clear understanding of the marine life in the area and the way they can affect marine facilities. Oil platforms should be designed with provisions for the growth of marine biology attached to them. In subsequent years, if the growth of marine life exceeds design limits, some form of cleaning operation will be necessary to remove the fouling organisms.

The South China Sea is in the tropical and subtropical zones so water temperatures are high, providing good conditions all year round for the growth of marine life. Studies have shown that the organisms in the waters which constitute the biggest nuisance to marine facilities are *Megabalanus tintinnabulum*, *Megabalanus zebra*, *Saccostrea cucullata* and *Pteria penguin*.

According to Yan, no investigations of the kind conducted by his group have been made in the northeast and northern areas of South China Sea before. Their research results have become one of the scientific bases for designs of oil platforms for the area. In 1986, the US ARCO Oil Co. bought the group's research material, and in early 1988 the ACT Operators Group also made use of the research results.

"Forecasting dangers to oil

platforms caused by fouling marine organisms is a long-term programme," said Yan. A platform in the sea can operate for 20 to 30 years, which means that research workers must make a long-term ecological study of these sea areas.

by Wei Liming

Australian Play Performed in China

A *Stretch of the Imagination*, the first Australian play to be put on stage by Chinese artists, won audience acclaim when it was performed in Beijing last month and Shanghai last autumn. The thought-provoking and original work broadened the vision of Chinese drama fans who had never before seen a drama with only one character.

The play, which lasts two and a quarter hours, is a masterpiece by Australian playwright Jack Hibberd. Written in 1971, the play deals with an 80-year-old rural man who happily, patiently and even anxiously awaits the coming of death on the last day of his life. His skin is raw and dirty, and he keeps tending to his decaying body so that he can have a while longer to recall the good old days when he was an enterprising young man, a lover, a dreamer, poet and football star. The play is a naturalistic one in which trivial, even meaningless, vulgar things and actions are given great attention. The hero eats, drinks, belches and changes his underclothes on stage—a shocking experience for Chinese audiences, which have more aesthetic tastes. They find the experience acceptable, although a little uncomfortable. They consider that the play accurately portrays the state of a lonely old man, and also provides a glimpse of some aspects of life in Australia.

Wei Zongwan, 47, an actor from the Shanghai People's Art Theatre, displays his outstanding talent as he conveys the old man's complicated character. His excellent performance deeply impressed both Chinese and Australian dramatists, who called him a performing genius.

Chinese artists and specialists in Australian studies speak highly of the play. They say it ranks as a classic in the history of modern drama. Although the play seems simple in structure, it successfully conveys the author's unique views on life, society and the future of humanity. It is a tragicomedy—a bitter song of life at the moment of death.

by Wang Jian

Making Use of Solar Energy

In today's world, energy and electricity supplies often fail to meet demand, and solar energy is more and more an attractive new form of energy supply.

China's first comprehensive solar energy installation providing air conditioning and heating has already been operating in Shen-

zhen for a year. Scientists from the Guangzhou Institute of Energy Resources under the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Hong Kong Polytechnic co-operated closely in developing the installation. It can supply 80 square kilometres of housing with air conditioning day and night, and 10-12 tons of hot water at 50°C to 60°C.

The installation uses a highly efficient solar energy collector to convert solar radiation into heat. In summer it can produce hot water at 80-90°C, which drives the cooling mechanism for the air conditioner.

The main collector mechanism is made up of three parts—an evacuated tube collector, a heat pipe vacuum collector and a flat plate collector with V-corrugated film—all products of China's latest scientific research.

The installation is equipped with a computer controlled data collecting system and automatic control system, and has numerous applications in scientific research work.

China's southern areas have extremely hot summers with long periods of sunshine, and in

summer, air conditioning and cooling are very much needed. The use of solar energy in air conditioning is an ideal solution to the problem of meeting energy needs.

by Wei Liming

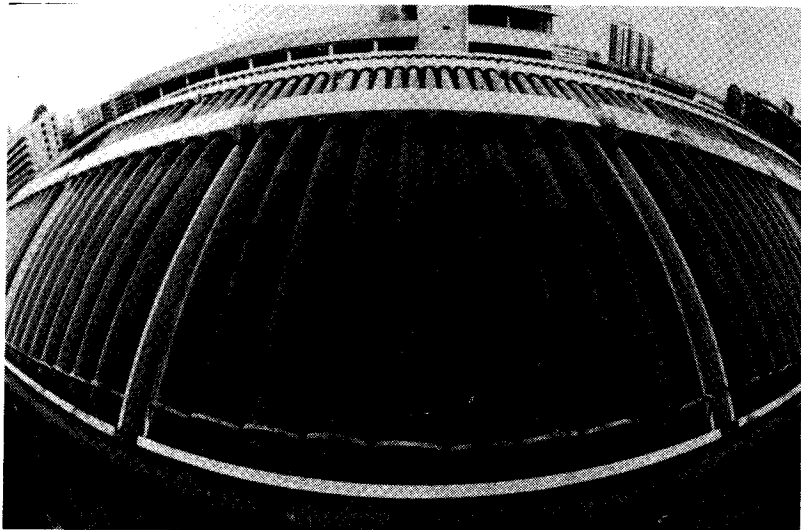
'China Reform' — New English Journal

China Reform, probably the largest journal in China today specializing in reform, is co-edited by the China Research & Advanced Study Centre of Industrial Economic Management and the Chongqing Academy of Social Sciences under Jiang Yiwei, one of China's famous economists. The first issue in Chinese came out in January this year. It has a huge editorial board composed of over 100 experienced advisers and editors, including scholars, specialists, professors, and provincial and municipal leaders with a strong background in various disciplines such as politics, economics, social sciences, publishing, etc.

Aiming to open up the field of research into reform and provide an impetus for China's reform free of the restraints of any leading body, the journal is an exploratory one by and for the masses; not merely an academic research journal, but one which combines theory and practice. It covers the reform not only in China but also in other socialist countries, as well as reform theory and practice in capitalist countries. All suggestions and comments on China's reform from foreign scholars and overseas Chinese are especially appreciated. Since it is produced in the spirit of "letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred

Shenzhen's solar energy installation.

SHAO XIAOCHUAN



schools of thought contend," many of the viewpoints presented in the articles embody new ideas and reflections on new trends.

A bimonthly, the Chinese edition is issued on the 10th of every odd-numbered month. Each of the three issues published to date contains 280,000 Chinese characters in 200 pages; and the more than 30 articles in each issue included monographs, investigative reports, policy discussions, plans for restructuring the economic system, case studies, and analyses on reforms at home and abroad. Articles are contributed not only by the staff advisers and editors, but also by specialists from all positions and parts of the country, and even by friends of other countries concerned about China.

Four months after the first publication of the Chinese edition, an English edition is due for release on May 15; it is published and distributed by the China Reform Publishing Limited Hong Kong. Also a bimonthly, the English edition is to come off the press on the 15th of every odd-numbered month for worldwide circulation. Articles in the English edition are either revised or condensed versions of those in the original Chinese edition.

Both editions are intended to inform readers throughout the world of what is going on in China concerning reform and draw the support and help of friends abroad for reform efforts in the country.

by JIANG XINYAO

The Chinese Nude Is Revealed

It is commonly believed that China has no history of the nude in art.

Since the 1960s, however,

extensive field work by Chinese archaeologists has uncovered quite a few ancient relics which provide clues to changes in the art of the nude in ancient China.

Prehistorical nude art originated with primitive religion or witchcraft. Some of the earliest sculptures of nude female figures discovered in Europe date back more than 10,000 years, during the late Stone Age. The most famous are called "Willendorf Venues" by Western art historians.

These figures portray pregnant women and highlight the female reproductive organs—the breasts, the belly and the buttocks.

The figures represent the prehistoric people's respect and worship for the earth goddess, who, they believed, like the human mother, gave birth to plants and animals on earth and thus enabled humans to survive.

It was not until 1963 that a broken piece of a similar prehistoric sculpture was discovered in China. Though the head and all the limbs were missing, the stone body had protruding breasts.

Since 1982, excavations in Liaoning Province have produced a few complete and quite a number of fragmented sculptures of female figures. The relics belonged to the Hongshan Culture, which developed more than 5,000 years ago.

One of the two carefully made pottery figures unearthed in Dongshanzui Village, Kezuo County of Liaoning, is less than 10 centimetres tall. It has an exceptionally round and protruding belly and projecting buttocks, clearly depicting a pregnant woman. The head and the left arm were missing.

In Hunan and Guangdong provinces, some half or complete nudes were carved on the handles of daggers found in tombs dating back more than 2,000 years ago.

In Shandong, researchers found

a tomb pillar on which was carved many nude figures, adults and children.

All in all, the comparatively few ancient art works of the nude discovered so far in the country more or less exposed the sufferings of those in the lower levels of society, and reflect the social concept and customs of the times.

From an artistic point of view, there are few good nude works of art. ■

Dictionary of Military Figures

The new "Dictionary of Chinese Military Figures" contains entries on several controversial historical figures.

Published recently by the Beijing Reference Works Publishing House, the text mentions Zeng Guofan who put down the rebellion of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom (1851-1864); Li Hongzhang, advocator of the westernization movement in the late Qing Dynasty (1644-1911); and Chiang Kaishek (1887-1975), the late top leader of the Kuomintang regime.

According to the paper, the dictionary's compilers included these individuals to maintain historical accuracy along with 2,000 Chinese military figures, from before the Qin Dynasty (221-207 BC) to the present, listed in chronological order.

