

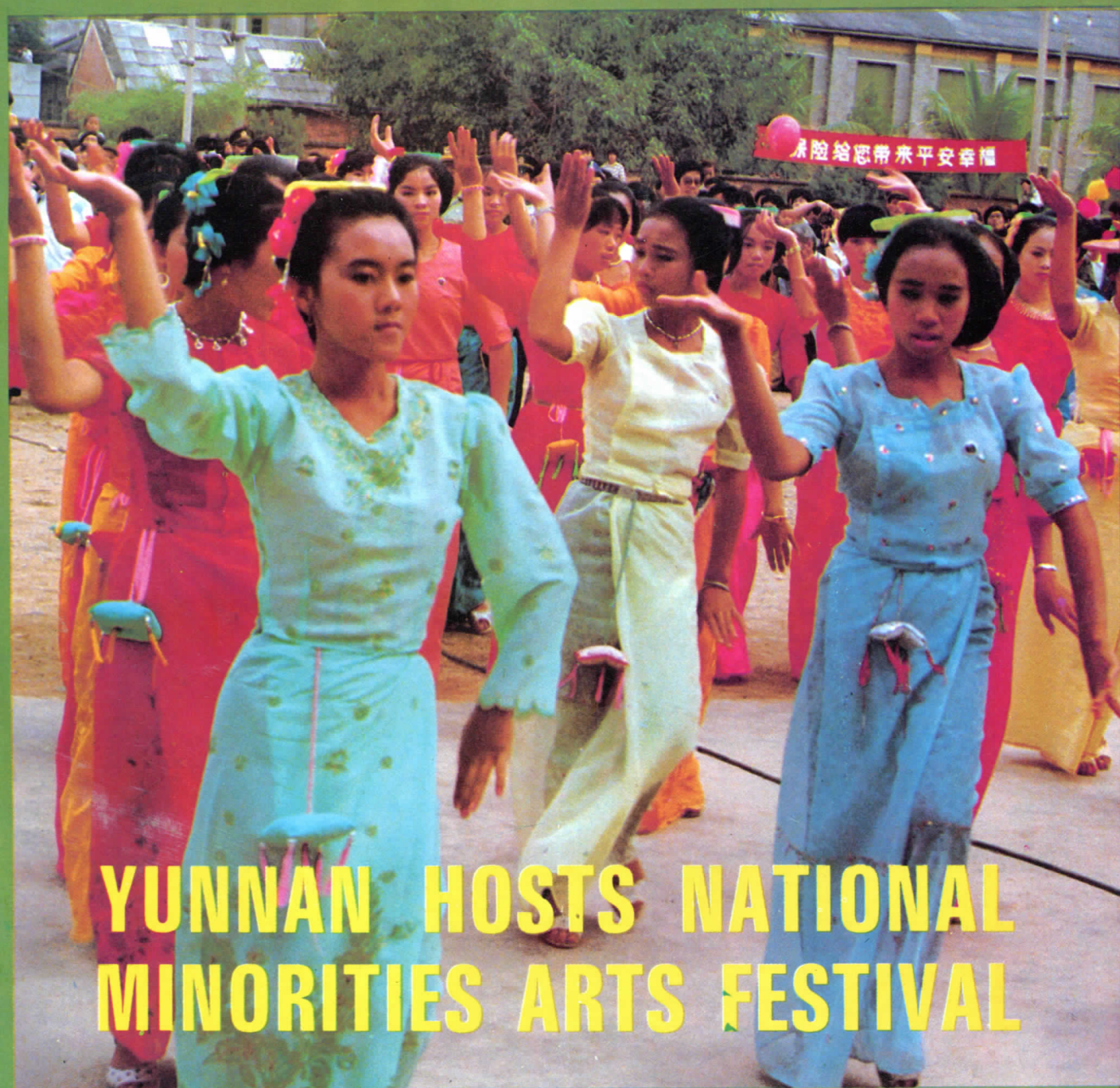
A CHINESE WEEKLY OF NEWS AND VIEWS

Beijing Review

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Vol. 31, No. 48 November 28-December 4, 1988

Hu Qili's Keynote Speech on Literature and Art



**YUNNAN HOSTS NATIONAL
MINORITIES ARTS FESTIVAL**



A unique "tent town" has sprung up on a prairie during a horse-racing fair held in northern Tibet.

Photo by Tu Deng

A traditional Tibetan sportsman picking up a *hada* from horseback.

Photo by Tu Deng



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national minorities dance along the
streets to mark the opening of the
province's first arts festival.

Dai Yannian

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Sino-Soviet Normalization — a General Trend

■ The Chinese foreign minister will soon visit the Soviet Union. If everything goes smoothly, a Sino-Soviet summit will probably take place next year. Currently, the crucial issue is that Moscow should urge Viet Nam to withdraw all its troops from Kampuchea as soon as possible. Sino-Soviet relations, if normalized, will be based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence for the benefit of not only the two countries, but also peace and stability in Asia and the world (p. 4).

China Upholds Human Rights

■ China maintains that human rights should include both the rights of the individual and the rights of the collective, and that a citizen's political right is as important as his economic, social and cultural rights. China has taken an active part in international activities in the field of human rights and formulated corresponding laws and assumed its due commitments (p. 17).

Hu Qili on Literary and Art Policy

■ A slightly abridged translation of an important speech by Hu Qili, a member of the CPC Central Committee's secretariat, at the fifth conference of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles held on November 8. In his speech, he summed up the cultural achievements of the last decade, and outlined how the CPC would strengthen and improve its leadership over the arts (p. 14).

Sino-Australian Ties to Be Promoted

■ Visiting Chinese Premier Li Peng was satisfied with the progress of Sino-Australian relations and hoped the relations will further develop. And Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke said that his government has an enduring commitment to that relationship (p. 5).

The Palestinian State Is Born

■ The birth of the Palestinian state is an outcome of the 40-year struggle of the Palestinian people aided by Arab nations and justice-upholding countries of the world. The new state will surely promote the Mideast peace process (p. 11).

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China, USSR on Way to Normalization

by Our Guest Commentator Wang Chongjie

Chinese foreign Minister Qian Qichen is about to go to the Soviet Union for a visit, the first to the country by a Chinese foreign minister since 1956. At the same time, people have noticed that not long ago Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said his country was ready to prepare immediately for a Soviet-Chinese summit meeting. And Chinese Premier Li Peng has stated recently that "if everything goes smoothly, a (Sino-Soviet) summit will probably come about in the first half of next year." Many signs show that Sino-Soviet normalization is called for by the times.

China and the Soviet Union are neighbouring countries with the world's longest land border line between them. Since the 1950s, their relations have experienced ups and downs, presenting a very complicated picture. There have been years of friendship and periods of tense confrontation. All this had some impact on both China and the Soviet Union, as well as the world situation as a whole. Today, the world is undergoing the tremendous change from confrontation to dialogue, and from tension to relaxation. Under this circumstance, a normalized relationship between the two major powers—China and the Soviet Union—would not only conform to the fundamental interests of the people of the two countries, but also contribute to peace and stability in Asia and the world.

For years China has stood for normalization of ties with Moscow and explicitly stated that to realize normalization, the three major obstacles in the relations

between the two countries must be removed. This has been the main topic of the Sino-Soviet political consultations at the vice-foreign minister level since 1982.

Currently, the crucial issue is that the Soviet Union should urge Viet Nam to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea as soon as possible. The people of the world have taken notice of the fact that the Chinese and Soviet vice-foreign ministers held a special meeting on the Kampuchean question in August this year and that the meeting was followed by an exchange of views on the same issue between the foreign ministers of the two countries in the United Nations.

On September 16, Soviet leader Gorbachev in his Krasnoyarsk speech said that the Soviet Union will remain prepared to help bring about an agreement on the Kampuchean question as soon as possible. It is our hope that the Soviet Union will make earnest efforts in this respect.

China hopes to establish a long-term stable relationship of good-neighbourliness with the Soviet Union on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Many facts prove that whether relations between states are good or bad depends not on their social systems and ideologies, but on whether they can strictly observe the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Socialist countries can hardly develop a healthy relationship among themselves if they violate these basic principles. Judging by their public statements in recent years, it appears that the Soviet leaders have become aware of this truth.

China firmly pursues an independent foreign policy for peace. It will never ally itself with any major power or bloc of powers. Sino-Soviet relations, if normalized, will not be the same as they were in the 1950s. China is willing to develop relations of friendship and co-operation with all other countries in the world on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Neither at present nor in the future will China seek hegemony and, at the same time, it will oppose any attempt by any other country to seek hegemony.

China follows the policy of opening to the outside world. In its relations with other countries, it upholds the principles of equality, mutual benefit and common development. Recent years have seen rather rapid restoration and development of trade and economic and technological co-operation between China and the Soviet Union.

Total bilateral trade from 1981 to 1985 reached 10 billion Swiss francs, and it was 8 billion Swiss francs in 1986 and 1987. The first half of this year reported a 32 percent increase in bilateral trade over the same period last year. The two sides have done a lot of work for a long-term steady growth of their trade and economic and technological co-operation, and have signed some agreements in these fields. The economic and trade management reforms now going on in the two countries have provided real possibilities for developing economic and trade relations at different levels and co-operation in various forms. But, taken as a whole, the enormous



potential for developing co-operation to the benefit of both nations remains to be tapped by joint efforts.

China and the Soviet Union, both socialist countries, are carrying out profound political and economic structural reforms by drawing on their experiences and lessons in their socialist construction work in the past. This also helps increase their mutual understanding.

On September 16, Gorbachev said that his country advocates an overall normalization of relations with the People's Republic of China, a relationship that reaches the level corresponding to the responsibilities the two countries have for world politics.

The Chinese leaders in their cable message congratulating Gorbachev's election as president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet said: "We sincerely hope that through joint efforts by the two sides, Sino-Soviet relations can constantly develop in the direction of good-neighbourliness and friendship on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence."

There exists a traditional, deep friendship between the two peoples of China and the Soviet Union, and a full-scale normalization of relations between the two states is the will of the people and goes with the tide of our times. ■

Li and Hawke Promote More Ties

Visiting Chinese Premier Li Peng expressed the hope that relations between China and Australia will further develop, especially in the economic field.

In a speech at a dinner held for him by his Australian counterpart Bob Hawke in Canberra on November 17, Li said, "In the economic field, our two sides can help supply each other's needs, make up each other's deficiencies and complement each other."

He noted that Australia, with abundant resources and advanced technology, has mineral, farm and animal husbandry products, while China, with a huge market and cheap labour, enjoys advantages in light industry, textiles, machinery and electrical equipment. "We have a broad prospect for development," he told the more than 300 people present.

In a speech at the Australian National Press Club the same day, Li said, "Politically, there are neither conflicts of fundamental interests nor piled-up grievances between us." And he said he was satisfied with the progress of Sino-Australian relations since 1972 when the two countries established diplomatic ties.

On the international situation, the Chinese premier said at the dinner that dialogue is taking the place of confrontation and detente is gaining momentum. "This new trend in the international situation is a positive and welcome change," he pointed out.

He called on the Asian-Pacific countries to actively carry out economic and technological exchanges and promote regional economic co-operation under the principle of "mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, increased exchanges and common progress."

At the dinner Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke said that his government has an enduring commitment to Australia's relationship with China. "The maintenance and further development of that relationship is one of the central elements in my government's foreign policy," he said.

He noted that the economic relations between the two countries have greatly developed with two-way trade reaching more than two billion Australian dollars (about US\$1.7 billion) annually. Besides, Australia has more than 30 joint ventures in China, while China's investments in Australia include an aluminium smelter in the state of Victoria and an iron mine in the western part of the country. These projects are the two biggest Sino-foreign joint ventures outside China. He said that while Australia's main exports to China are iron ore, wool and wheat, it is keen to diversify the commodities.

Hawke said his country welcomes China's policies of modernization and opening up to the outside world. This is "not only because of the mutually advantageous opportunities these policies give us for trade and economic co-operation, but, above all, because they will contribute to the peaceful and prosperous development of China as well as of the Asian-Pacific region and beyond," he added.

He expressed Australia's welcome to the recent improvement in Sino-Soviet relations, and said the success of the reforms in the Soviet Union "is a matter of the closest interest to China. Australia and other countries of the Asia-Pacific region."

On November 17, China and

Australia signed an agreement to avoid double taxation and another on fishing. And the two sides also signed on November 18 a memorandum for occupational health co-operation. ■

Science Academy Doubles Mission

Professor Zhou Guangzhao, president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), advocated "one academy, two systems" as a new management policy for the CAS at a November 5-7 academy conference in Beijing.

Zhou said, "'One academy, two systems' basically means to change the CAS's unitary model of doing research work, gradually establish research institutes of international standards and, at the same time, to form a group of export-oriented enterprises and corporations for technological development."

As early as 1987, the CAS adopted the policy of keeping a select group of people to engage in basic study and develop high technology while concentrating mainly on serving the construction of the national economy. In the same year, the entire academy completed the state's key research projects and basic researches. About 7,000 scientists did not limit themselves to the laboratories and set up nearly 400 corporations. They accounted for two-thirds of the whole academy and have formed a relatively independent system of technological development, production and marketing.

As the goals, quality, characteristics, method and value of research work are different from those of development, Zhou told the academy, different operating mechanisms and management models and systems must be

adopted. "We describe this basic idea as 'one academy, two systems'," he said.

The basic idea of the new system relating to the development work, according to Zhou, is to combine a small but select administrative department and a management entity into a stock-controlling corporation and carry out the stock system in its various subordinate corporations.

Scientific research and technological development are closely related, Zhou said. The transfer of personnel and research results together with fund circulation, form three essential links between research and development.

As to basic research, Zhou said, China will pay special attention to those fields which develop fast but demand less investments within the coming decade.

Zhou thought that the fields which can give full play to the advantages of Chinese scientists and the features of China's natural environment include coacervation physics, biotic chemistry, biological-molecular science, neurology and nonlinear science. We also must cautiously develop the scientific projects consuming tremendous investments, he added.

In order to recruit the country's best scientists for basic research, the CAS has opened 46 laboratories and five experimental centres. Applicants for the position of director of these laboratories will be interviewed next year.

This year, the academy will also allocate 16 million yuan (about US\$4.6 million) in grants to support the progressive basic research and outstanding young scientists.

In regard to the training of these scientists, Zhou said the academy will send a group of promising young researchers to conduct joint research with their foreign coun-

terparts at some first-class laboratories in developed countries. ■

Shenzhen Snags Smugglers' Racket

A bribery case involving Chinese customs officers and millions of Hong Kong dollars has been uncovered recently by police in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province.

The case is the result of searches last January 25 by investigation officers of Kowloon Customs jointly with police in Hong Kong and Shenzhen of three trucks smuggling nylon cloth, allegedly for contribution into Guangzhou, the provincial capital. Wu Qingquan, a Hong Kong businessman, and Zeng Zhaoqiang, a customs officer, were arrested when the trucks stopped on the way back to Shenzhen.

According to the leading official of the Municipal Procuratorate of Shenzhen, the bribery case involved more than 20 people, including Chinese customs officers and lawbreaking Hong Kong businessmen. The scope of the illegal operation was described as a rarity since 1949. All the suspects remain in custody.

Wu had collaborated with other Hong Kong businessmen to bribe customs officers. For example, one customs officer, Hu Shaokun, received bribes of more than 457,000 yuan and HK\$579,000 for letting the contraband through.

With the help of the customs officers, the smugglers had resold large quantities of nylon cloth, cigarettes, cotton cloth, cotton yarn, raw silk and rabbit hair for big profits between the end of 1985 and the beginning of this year.

Five smuggling points in Shenzhen were exposed, and police have confiscated illegal earnings totalling more than 1

million yuan in cash as well as other illegal gains, including gold jewellery, colour TV sets and motorcycles. They have also sealed a 300,000-yuan mansion that was believed to have been purchased with bribe money. Meanwhile, fake customs declaration forms and pamphlets and privately carved fake customs seals have also been seized.

The Kowloon Customs is now cleaning house in the wake of exposure of the bribery case that involved 14 of its officers. In addition to conducting internal investigations of its 4,000-strong staff, a quarter of the country's total, the Kowloon office is sending its most qualified officers to man the checkpoint and to crack down on smuggling.

When talking about the case on November 3, Dai Jie, head of the General Administration of Customs, pointed out that supervision on customs themselves must be strengthened though they are the organs of supervision.

Those 14 officers implicated in the bribery case are all under the age of 25 and took the job in recent years. Many of them were inspectors. Dai called for strengthening education among young customs officers and preventing the principle of commodities exchange from infiltrating into the customs operation.

He said that regular working posts and duties in customs had created more opportunities for smuggling and other crimes.

In the past, customs officers used to have relatively fixed schedules and duties, making it easy for illegal arrangements between customs officers and smuggling rings. But now the dispatch office has been computerized and customs inspectors are no longer sure when and where they will be on duty, another customs official in Beijing said.

The office has also adopted a "double-checking system," which requires two customs officers to inspect and check all work.

"We advocated the practice among the country's 161 customs offices long ago, but it has been overlooked by many. Now it is a must at the Kowloon office," said the official. ■

CPWDP Assumes Watchdog Role

The Chinese Communist Party (CPC) has urged democratic parties to establish corruption-reporting centres to monitor the Communist Party and government departments.

This suggestion was made in a CPC congratulatory speech at the 10th national convention of the Chinese Peasants' and Workers' Democratic Party (CPWDP), which opened in Beijing on November 9. The speech spoke highly of the contributions of the CPWDP to the Chinese revolution and construction since its foundation 50 years ago, saying that it is a close friend of the CPC. The speech also reaffirmed that the CPC will give all-out support to democratic parties and personages desiring greater participation in national affairs, and will recommend them for an increasing variety of governmental posts.

The CPWDP is one of eight democratic parties in China. Its predecessor was the Provisional Committee of Kuomintang, which was founded in 1930. Now it has a membership of 35,000, of which 20,000 were admitted in the past five years. They are mainly senior doctors, professors and scientists.

The convention that ended on November 13 discussed and carried the working report of the CPWDP's 9th Central Committee

and adopted a new constitution. The new Central Committee elected Lu Jiaxi, former head of the Chinese Academy of Science, chairman of the CPWDP's Central Committee. Lu, a chemical scientist, is now vice-chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. Zhou Gucheng, a 90-year-old historian and vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, was elected honorary chairman.

Lu, in his working report at the opening of the convention, outlined the CPWDP's activities during the past five years. He said the CPWDP's basic functions have included consultations on national affairs and democratic supervision. Specifically, it has voiced opinions and offered suggestions at the People's Congress and at the political consultative conference on such topics as national economic reforms and the general mood of society, prices, the rejuvenation of traditional Chinese medicine, medical science and hygiene, and on the development of education and science and technology. Medical research and sanitation, for example, have been key CPWDP priorities. Many of its suggestions in these areas were adopted by the CPC and government.

The party also provides public consulting services in medicine, hygiene, economics and technology. To date, it has set up 227 advising institutions that have aided in 2,102 queries and sent nearly 3,000 personnel to support activities in poor or backward areas. It also has set up 135 spare-time schools and 138 training courses that have trained more than 270,000 people.

Lu's report rallied its members to heighten their awareness of the party; take an active part in national affairs; and make contributions to the reform, the opening

to the outside world and the reunification of the motherland■

Taipei Issues Entry Passes

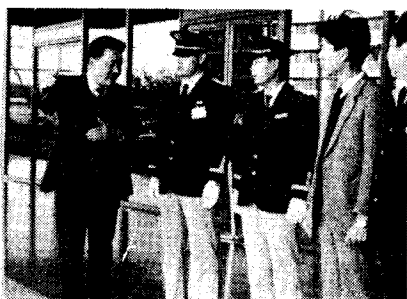
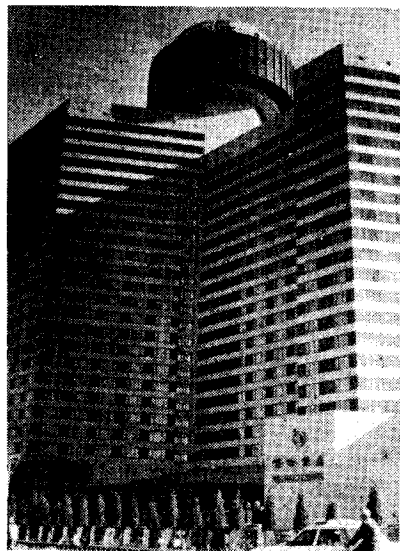
Taiwan authorities issued entry permits to four mainland residents on November 14, in the first instance in which relatives of Taiwan compatriots were permitted to visit ailing relatives on the island, according to a report from Taipei.

The first "Taiwan Entry Tourist Permit" was issued by the island's "Entry and Exit Administration" to 58-year-old Xu Songling of Zhejiang Province for him to attend his late father's funeral in Taiwan. The other permits were given to three mainland residents whose parents are ill in Taiwan. All four cases were initiated by requests from their Taiwan-based relatives, the report said.

Since Taiwan announced its decision to allow mainland compatriots to visit ailing family members in Taiwan a week ago, the island's "Entry and Exit Administration" has received 101 applications, including 61 to attend funerals and 40 to visit sick relatives.

A prominent applicant was Huang Xinjie, who is seeking approval for his brother, now living in Hangzhou, to visit their sick father in Taiwan. Huang is chairman of Taiwan's opposition Democratic Progressive Party.

However, 94-year-old Qian Mu, well-known Confucian scholar now living in Taiwan, was the first one to taste the joy of a family reunion, when his eldest daughter, Qian Yi, flew in from Europe to join her aged father in Taipei on November 14. Qian Yi, touring the Netherlands as a visiting scholar from the prestigious Qinghua University in Beijing, took the first



A Big Hotel Opens Business

"The front-door service at Kunlun Hotel is first-rate among the hotels where we have stayed in Beijing," a guest wrote in his letter to the general manager.

Beijing Kunlun Hotel, a high-grade joint-venture, will officially start business on November 26, 1988. Since the hotel began experimenting with business while still under construction, it has successfully received many foreign guests.

Left: The hotel is located in the Chaoyang District, northeast of the city.

upper right: Shen Chengxiang, hotel security manager, discusses service with his crew.

lower right: A parking attendant helps a guest.

flight to Taipei as soon as she received her entry permit from Taiwan.

Visitors from the mainland, meanwhile, are required first to exchange the duplicate of their entry permits for the original permits with Taiwan's Zhonghua Travel Service in Hong Kong before they are allowed to proceed to Taiwan. ■

Scholars Stress Cultural Continuity

China should use the wisdom of the past to help construct the culture of the future, laying equal stress on traditional and modern ideas, senior scholars say.

About 20 Chinese and foreign scholars attending a seminar sponsored by the China Con-

fusion Research Institute on October 25 affirmed the positive aspects of Confucianism and its influence.

In regard to the relations between traditional culture and modernization, many of the scholars said that Chinese ideological and cultural research appears to have undergone a change in the past few years and that the tide of anti-traditionalism is gaining in influence, particularly among young people.

Zhang Dainian, a well-known professor of Beijing University, pointed out that this new trend has become increasingly popular among young scholars, who have suggested that the past should be totally negated.

Zhang, who is also director of China's Confucian Research In-

stitute, said some attribute the backwardness of the Chinese economy to traditional culture, which was dominated by Confucianism, and he thinks this is unfair. The question of whether the backwardness is caused by the past or by the present reality needs to be intensively discussed and clarified, he added.

He inquired why Japan, Singapore and other East Asian nations deeply influenced by Confucian ideas are quite economically developed and said that this phenomenon is worth pondering by Chinese people.

The young people's intentions of surpassing the past are good, he said. But how, he asked, can they surmount the past without knowing it thoroughly? He said that Chinese scholars are facing two tasks: to define what is actually traditional culture and to surpass the the culture of the past.

Chen Yuanhui, professor of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said there are still many distorted opinions on Confucianism because of the anti-Confucianism campaign of the 1970s. It is high time to correct these erroneous views and their unhealthy influence upon young people, he said.

Chen added that modern Chinese culture should be developed on the basis of critically interpreting the culture of the past.

Every new era has to face up to a confrontation with the past, as well as conflicts with foreign cultures, said Xie Tao, vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. This is the situation Chinese culture has found itself in, he added.

Liu Epei, a researcher from Qinghua University, said future Chinese culture should include a sense of continuity with the past, but must go far beyond the past in maintaining Chinese national characteristics in relation to world culture as a whole. ■

Weekly Chronicle (November 14-20)

POLITICAL

November 14

■ Chinese President Yang Shangkun welcomes President of the Islamic Federal Republic of Comoros Ahamed Abdallah on an official visit in China.

China and Comoros have conducted "highly effective co-operation and developed a sincere friendship" since they forged diplomatic ties 13 years ago, Yang says. He reiterates China's firm support for the African countries' efforts in maintaining African unity and revitalizing the economy.

November 15

■ The China Maritime Law Association is founded in Beijing. Vice-Chairman of the association Wang Shoumao says its objectives are to strengthen research on maritime law and international conventions, put forward suggestions and reports to government departments and actively participate in activities run by the International Maritime Association and other international organizations.

Wang also expresses the hope of legal experts on the mainland who desire talks on maritime law with their counterparts in Taiwan in order to promote direct shipments and trade across the strait at an early date.

November 20

■ China officially declares its recognition of the state of Palestine.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry statement says: "The 19th special session of the Palestine National Council held in Algiers on 15 November 1988, proclaimed the founding of the state of Palestine. The Chinese Government, with full respect for the choice made by the Palestinian people, has decided to recognize the state of Palestine." ■

ECONOMIC

November 16

■ Daqing, China's leading oil field in Heilongjiang Province, is facing losses for the first time since it went into operation in 1960, having an estimated deficit of 26.12 million yuan (about US\$7 million) this year, *Workers Daily* reports.

An oil field official explained that the oil field has to purchase raw materials at market price while selling its oil at a state-set price. The price set for Daqing's oil is 15.7 yuan (about US\$4.2) per bbl while the price is about US\$13 per bbl in the world market, the official added.

CULTURE

November 15

■ A 45-day advance journalism course, the first of its kind in China, opens to improve journalism standards and discuss the basic theory of socialist journalism and media management.

This special class is being attended by chief editors and deputy-chief editors from central and provincial newspapers and other leading personnel in the news media.

SOCIAL

November 18

■ A Ministry of Construction official says that more than six million families are on the housing waiting list or living in squalid conditions.

The Ministry has planned that by the year 2000, the living space per capita for China's projected population of 1.27 billion would be eight square metres. But the official is not optimistic about the plan because 363 million people who were born during the 1962-1975 period will be of a marriageable and child-bearing age during the next 12 years.

PAKISTAN

PPP Celebrates Democratic Edge

In recent general elections the Pakistan People's Party won a plurality but not enough seats to obtain a majority; this will add difficulties to the implementation of its policies if it forms the new government.

The Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the biggest opposition party in the country, won a victory in the general elections in Pakistan held on November 16 for the National Assembly. According to returns by November 17, it captured 92 seats while the PPP's main rival, the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA), won only 54. The remaining 58 seats were gained by independents and other parties and groups.

The general elections were the first party-based elections in Pakistan in the past 11 years. A total of 1,273 candidates from 28 political parties and groups entered the competition for the 207 seats in the National Assembly.

Founded in 1967 by former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the PPP is now led by Zulfikar's eldest daughter, Benazir Bhutto, and his widow, Begum Nusrat. The IDA, headed by Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, chairman of the National People's Party, was formed last month by eight parties, including the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) with former Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo as its president.

Although the main rival parties in the election campaign attacked each other, they have no

basic policy differences. They differ from one another only in the degrees of emphasis on certain issues and on their personal interest. Both the PPP and IDA manifestos state support for a democratic system.

The PPP manifesto says it will strive "to restore representative, constitutional and parliamentary rule, restore the majesty of laws and provide speedy and inexpensive justice of the people, unite the nation and give a sense of national pride based on equality and justice."

Both parties stand for strengthening the national defence, pursuing a non-aligned and independent foreign policy and developing friendly relations with its neighbours and the third world countries, especially the Islamic countries.

What's more, both parties have promised to provide "economic opportunities" on the basis of equality for all sectors of society.

The caretaker government, formed after the Junejo government was dismissed on May 29 by the late President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq, who was killed in an air crash on August 17, will transfer the power to the new government in early December. Benazir Bhutto has expressed hope that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan

will soon invite the PPP to form the government.

The future government is expected to adjust some set policies pursued by the Zia government, but it is not likely to make immediate major changes. More urgent is the formation of a strong and stable coalition government with the help of other parties and independents.

The new government is expected to face some difficult tasks. These include: first, taking immediate steps to restore and strengthen the democratic process in the country; second, dealing with the ethnic riots and deteriorating law and order situation in the country; third, managing an economy burdened by a large budget deficit left over by the former government and foreign debts totalling more than US\$12 billion; and fourth, carefully handling its relations with the two superpowers and with its neighbouring countries.

As far as foreign policy is concerned, the new government is expected to continue its traditional good relations with the United States and, at the same time, try to improve its soured relations with the Soviet Union, due to the Soviet invasion of its neighbour Afghanistan in 1979. The new Pakistan government is also expected to continue to develop its good relations with the country's neighbours and support a political settlement of the Afghan war in accordance with the Geneva accords.

Pakistani and Chinese leaders have praised Sino-Pakistani relations as "model relations" between countries with different social systems. The frequent exchanges of visits by top leaders have further broadened bilateral political, economic and cultural ties. The Chinese people hope that the new government will continue to do so.

by Ren Yan

PALESTINE

Factions Unite, State Is Born

With the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the 19th Palestine National Council in Algiers, the state of Palestine, long yearned for by Palestinians, has come into being. It marked the beginning of a new historical era for the Palestinian revolution.

The four-day 19th extraordinary session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) closed in Algiers on November 15 with the adoption of a political statement and a declaration proclaiming the birth of an independent Palestinian state. This event culminated about 40 years of struggle waged by the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), their sole legitimate representative, and with the support of Arab countries. The proclamation is not only in keeping with the fundamental interests of the Palestinian people, but also will produce a positive influence on the development of the Mideast situation.

The Declaration of Independence, presented by PLO leader Yasser Arafat, accepts UN Resolution 181, a call to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, thus affirming the right of the Palestinians to live on their own land, and also implying recognition of the state of Israel. The declaration stresses that regional and international conflicts should be settled through peaceful negotiations in accordance with the UN Charter and resolutions. It adds that the Palestinian state rejects threat or use of force, violence and terrorism against its territorial integrity. These show that the new Palestine state is willing to set up co-operative relations with countries and people around the world. Its co-operative spirit, which

respects history and facts, is obviously rational.

The political statement calls for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied territories and restoration of Palestinian legitimate rights including self-determination. The document also clearly announces the acceptance of all UN resolutions related to the

Palestine issue, including Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and demands to hold an international Mideast peace conference based on these resolutions so the Palestinian problem may justly be resolved through negotiations.

The positive attitudes and the flexibility shown in the documents, a product of Palestinian unity, won praises from the international community. At the session, representatives of various factions had a frank exchange of views, removed feelings of ill-will, and respected and obeyed majority opinions. Thus far more than 30 Arab and non-Arab countries have recognized the new Palestinian state.

The new state will surely give impetus to the stalled Mideast

PLO Chairman Arafat proclaims the birth of the state of Palestine at a meeting in Algiers.



peace process. But Israel's stand of aggression and expansion still has not changed. After Israel's parliamentary election, its Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir became more stubborn and intensified suppression against Palestinians in the occupied territories. The United States' stand on the Mideast problem also has shown no marked changes.

This shows that obstacles to

resolving the Mideast problem still exist, and the Palestinian struggle will be long and arduous. But provided the Palestinian people continue to strengthen unity among themselves and with other Arab countries and make unremitting efforts along the road determined by the session, the Palestinian nation will certainly realize its goal.

by An Guozhang

JAPAN

Tax Victory, Political Disgrace

Japanese House of Representatives passed six government-proposed tax reform bills on November 16 despite strong objections from the opposition.

Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita took a big step towards achieving his long-cherished goal of overhauling Japan's tax system. The Diet's lower chamber plenary session approved government-proposed tax reform bills after adding some amendments and sent them immediately to the House of Councillors for approval.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is planning to extend by one month the current Diet session, convened July 19 and scheduled to end November 24, in a bid to move the six bills through the upper chamber.

The tax reform package includes the introduction of a controversial 3 percent indirect consumer tax, which will be levied on all types of goods and services from April 1, 1989, the beginning of the next fiscal year.

The bills were opposed by the second and third largest opposition parties, the Clean Government Party (Komeito) and the

Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), although the two opposition parties had agreed earlier to compromise on the handling of the reform package.

The largest opposition party, the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), boycotted the vote along with the Japan Communist Party (JCP), denouncing the LDP for defying their demands for the reopening of debate on the bills in the House tax-system committee.

Following a series of overnight talks, the LDP reached broad accords with the Komeito and the DSP on technical amendments to the bills. Among the amendments were an income tax reduction on retirement allowances for workers and individuals with elderly and bedridden dependents.

The DSP called on the LDP to postpone by one year the implementation of the consumer tax. The two parties agreed to incorporate a clause in the provisions allowing tax authorities to be "flexible" during the first six months of implementing the new indirect tax.

The JSP protested the proceedings and issued a statement that all preconditions for taking a vote on the bills will not have been met until a complete investigation into the stock market insider-trading scandal is made. The LDP, Komeito and the DSP then reached an agreement to establish a special committee in the lower house to look into the stock market scandal involving the Recruit Cosmos Company.

Altogether 26 politicians and bureaucrats, including their aides and family members, were named by the 50-member special committee as having purchased Recruit Cosmos shares before they were listed publicly. Those who bought the unlisted shares are believed to have made huge profits by selling them immediately after they were available on the market in October 1986. Among the politicians named in the stock-market scandal are Takeshita, his predecessor Yasuhiro Nakasone and LDP Secretary-General Shintaro Abe. Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa was also included on the list.

Debates about the introduction of a consumer tax have emerged in past years. At the end of the 1970s, the former Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira's cabinet had intended to introduce the consumer tax to increase the income of the government, but failed due to the strong opposition of a vast number of people. Nakasone also challenged the opposition and failed. In view of Japan's aging population and attempts to strengthen the country's military power, Takeshita also has listed the introduction of a consumer tax as the main task of his cabinet. His term in office will expire in November next year. Whether the tax reforms can be implemented successfully will directly influence his re-election.

by Li Wen

Mutual Interests Rebuild Relations

On November 10, Britain and Iran reached an agreement in Vienna under which they would exchange ambassadors within six months, resuming their diplomatic relations.

Britain had been keeping cold relations with Iran since the Iranian Islamic revolution in 1979, and their relations deteriorated further in May last year. At that time, Britain arrested an Iranian diplomat in London and charged him with stealing. Several days later, a British diplomat in Tehran was beaten by members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards. Then each country retaliated by expelling and recalling diplomats. Only the charge d'affaires ad interim of Iran was left in London.

However, since June this year, relations between Britain and Iran have warmed up. A notable sign was the settlement of mutual claims for damages to diplomatic property. Britain paid Iran 1.8 million pounds for damage to the Iranian embassy caused in 1980 when a British special technical unit rescued hostages held in the embassy. Meanwhile, Iran paid 980,000 pounds for damage to the British embassy caused by the Revolutionary Guards during 1979 and 1980. Thereafter, officials of Britain and Iran frequently held contacts in London, Tehran, Geneva and New York to consult on the matter of improving relations. After thorough preparations, British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Geoffrey Howe and Iranian Minister of Foreign

Affairs Ali Akbar Velayati announced renewed diplomatic relations following their United Nations Assembly talks.

Britain and Iran agreed in Vienna on November 10 to restore full diplomatic relations and put eight years of hostility and bitterness behind them.

An announcement released in Vienna said that the two countries "have decided to resume full diplomatic representation with immediate effect based on reciprocity, mutual respect and non-interference in each other's affairs."

Under a confidential seven-point "memorandum of understanding," Britain will send an interim charge d'affaires to Tehran in the coming weeks.

There will be a rapid build-up of British staff to about seven before a ceiling of 16 diplomats on both sides is reached. The two countries are expected to exchange ambassadors with six months if all goes smoothly.

The two countries' move towards resuming relations was based on the considerations of mutual interests. Britain, by improving its relations with Iran, will better its position for diplomatic manoeuvres in the Persian Gulf region. Iran's losses

in the oil industry during the Iran-Iraq war are estimated at US\$25 billion. Its primary post-war task, therefore, is to reconstruct its oil and chemical industries. As the third biggest oil company in the world, the British Petroleum Company had close ties with Iran's oil industry. Now, fearing to lag behind others, some British businessmen are already on the way to Tehran.

The main concern, however, is the British hostage problem, which is a major topic of the Western media. Currently, there are three British hostages in Beirut who were allegedly kidnapped by a pro-Iran organization, Hezbollah (Party of God). So there is concern about the possibility of an early release of the hostages. But British policies exclude bartering for hostages. Howe, speaking to journalists of the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) on November 10, said that there was no bartering or secret agenda. The thawing of relations, he added, would help Britain to effectively ask Iran to aid in resolving the hostage problem. In regard to this issue, Iran's charge d'affaires ad interim in London said that he did not intend to deny that possibility.

In view of the trend towards international detente and the Iran-Iraq ceasefire, Iran wants to foster political relations with Western countries and has already done so with France and Canada. Furthermore, its post-war reconstruction calls for the strengthening of trade and other economic ties with Western countries. Also, it has been reported that Iran is seeking to resume its relations with the United States. A newspaper published in Abu Dhabi quoted a British spokesperson as saying that the normalization of relations between London and Tehran would clear the way for the normalization of relations between Washington and Tehran.

Li Yuenfei

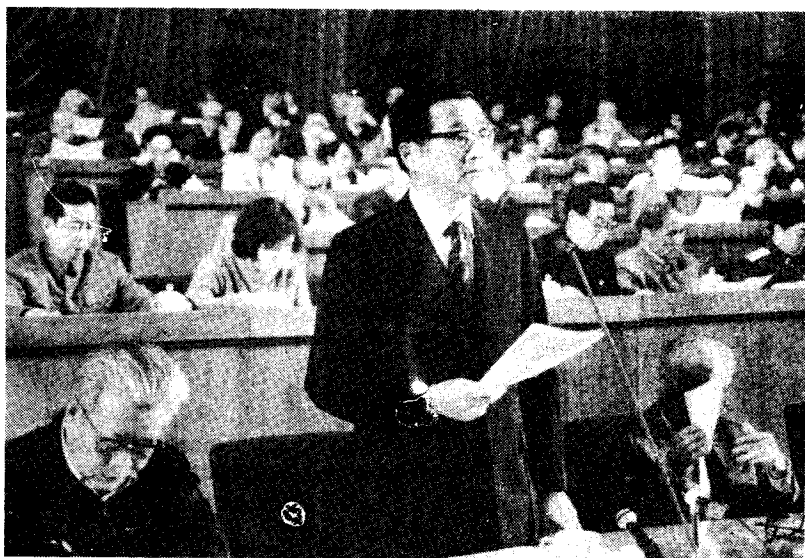
Hu Qili on Literature and Art Policies

The following are excerpts of the speech of greeting made by Hu Qili, member of the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee, on behalf of the Party Central Committee and the State Council at the opening of the Fifth National Conference of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles. — Ed.

Literature and art constitute an indispensable component of Chinese socialism. In his speech of greeting to the Fourth National Congress of China's Literature and Art Workers, Comrade Deng Xiaoping laid down the basic programme for literature and art work during China's new historical period of socialism, which we should earnestly carry out in combination with reality.

Chinese writers, artists and all literary and art workers, who share a common destiny with China's hundreds of millions of people and the socialist cause, should clearly recognize the important social responsibilities they bear during the course of socialist construction, reform and opening up. As Lu Xun once said: "Literature and art are simultaneously sparks sent out by the national spirit and lanterns guiding future national spirit." Literary works exert a great, if immeasurable, influence on the national spirit, social conduct, and the ideological and cultural qualities of the next generation.

The Chinese people in this historic period of reform need a strong cohesive force of will and a spiritual motive force. The glorious task and lofty mission of our literary and art workers is to actively throw themselves into the torrents of reform, opening up and the modernization drive. They must incorporate their personal pursuit of literature and art with the historical movement to rejuvenate the nation, and use



YANG FEI

Hu addressing the Fifth National Conference of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles.

their high-quality literary and artistic creations to boost public morale, arouse the national spirit, raise the people's quality, enlighten people's wisdom, enrich people's souls, and satisfy the masses' diversified and multi-layered needs for cultural well-being. They must unite, encourage and inspire the people to fight valiantly for realizing the modernization programme, rejuvenating China and building socialism with Chinese characteristics. Writers and artists who have worked selflessly and devoted themselves to creation for this target, and those who are continuing to do so, all deserve the love and esteem of the whole of society.

To better shoulder this glorious

task and lofty mission, literary and art workers must, together with the Chinese people, advance with the times, constantly reviewing experiences so as to ceaselessly improve their own accomplishments. Our literature and art are the people's literature and art. They are literature and art for socialism. Therefore they cannot exist without ideals, targets and social responsibilities. Socialist modernization and construction and the overall reform programme very much need the understanding and support of literary and art workers. We need to criticize outmoded conventions and bad customs, but we need all the more to eulogize the spirit of the times. We need to expose things negative

and ugly, but we need all the more to praise heroic deeds. We need to review and ponder profoundly our past, but we need all the more to look into the future.

No matter how diverse our literary and art creations are in form and colour, their social impact should be to heighten people's awareness of their responsibility for promoting national revival and social progress. They should carry forward China's spirit of hard work, bravery, solidarity, reform and creation. They should enhance the Chinese people's sense of national pride and self-confidence so that they can stand firmly on their feet in the galaxy of nations. I believe that the broad masses of Chinese writers, artists and all literary and art workers can develop inspiration and enthusiasm for creation in their joint struggle for the prosperity of the country and the nation and the happiness of the people, while at the same time acquiring increasingly rich sources and a broader freedom of creation.

The prosperity of China's literature and art undertakings lies in the development of the enthusiasm and creativity of our literary and art workers. For this purpose, we must further strengthen and improve the Party's leadership over literature and art. In the decade since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee, China's socialist literature and art have made gratifying progress: a large number of outstanding results have been produced in all areas; literary critics and theoretical discussions have become ever more active; the older generation of writers and artists have radiated vigour and a large number of middle-aged and young writers and artists have poured into literary and art circles with their fresh creativity and exceptional talents.

Although a few problems remain to be overcome or resolved, facts prove that in the last decade since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee literature and art have enjoyed their most fruitful period since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, as can be seen by the large number of talented new writers and artists who have emerged.

In reviewing these ten years, one important experience stands out: The concerted efforts made by the Party and literary and art workers, and the sense of construction they have strongly established have in large maintained a democratic and harmonious environment and atmosphere for the steady development and prosperity of the country's literary and art undertakings.

Our experience of the past ten years tells us that the Party's correct leadership over literature and art should first of all manifest itself in the earnest implementation of the Party's basic line and the upholding of "one central task (economic development—*Tr*) and two basic points (the four cardinal principles and the policy of reform and opening to the outside world—*Tr*). The leadership of the Party and the socialist road were choices made by the Chinese people after protracted probings and exploration. They contain the fundamental and long-term interests of the Chinese people.

Without the leadership of the Communist Party, the country would stray from the socialist road and be plunged into confusion and polarization. The four cardinal principles (keeping to the socialist road and upholding the people's democratic dictatorship, leadership by the Communist Party and Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought—*Tr*) are the foundations underlying all our efforts to build the country: they

cannot be dispensed with. Reform, opening to the outside world and invigorating the economy are our general principles and policies: they cannot be changed.

It is not advisable to view the four cardinal principles in a stereotyped manner, nor is it expedient to treat the general principles and policies of reform, opening to the outside world and invigorating the economy in a liberalized way. Practice has proved that the higher the consciousness in upholding the "one central task and two basic points," the more stable the order of democracy and harmony will be, and the greater the possibilities of creating a favourable social environment and political stability and unity for the development of literature and art.

The Party's correct leadership over literature and art can only be established on the basis, where the labour of artists and the laws governing the development of literature and art are fully respected, and where the needs of literature and art and of literary and art workers are fully understood. Literature and art are a special kind of mental labour which calls for the development of creative talent and individuality. It is necessary to appraise the role of literature and art and realistically analyse and approach the question of right and wrong in the field of literature and art.

In order to guarantee freedom of literary creation and criticism for writers and critics, it is imperative to earnestly implement the principles of letting a hundred flowers blossom, weeding through the old to bring forth the new, making foreign things serve China and the past serve the present. In regard to literary forms, different forms and styles should be encouraged to develop freely. In terms of literary theory, open debates between different views and different schools of thought

should be encouraged.

In exercising its correct leadership over literature and art, it is also necessary for the Party to promote and develop healthy and active literary criticism. Under the conditions of reform and opening to the outside world and in the process of implementing the "double hundred" policy, the appearance of works in different forms and styles as well as different views and opinions is inevitable. It is an indication of prosperity in literature and art. It is necessary to encourage competition between works in different styles, forms and schools and encourage free discussion between various views concerning literature and art.

In literary criticism, newspapers and magazines must earnestly carry out the "two serves" (serve socialism and the people—*Tr*) and "double hundred" principles. They must adopt an objective and fair attitude so as to ensure the expression of different views and opinions and create an atmosphere where healthy, democratic, mutually respectful and equal discussions can be held. It doesn't matter much even if differing opinions and views cannot be reconciled. They can be reconsidered and re-examined in practice, or allowed to supplement each other so that history can make its choice.

But, criticisms and counter-criticisms should be allowed. Scientific and pertinent criticisms based on facts are of great significance in promoting the prosperity of literature and art, aiding the development of writers as well as enhancing mutual understanding both within literary and art circles and between these circles and the public. This is the only way which literature and art can promote each other, learn from each other's strong points while offsetting their own weaknesses, uphold truth, correct

mistakes and develop socialist literary forms.

In exercising correct leadership over literature and art, the Party must also explore new methods of work. Party committees at various levels must implement the Party's line, principles and policies for literature and art in an exemplary manner. They should hold more exchanges and dialogues with literary and art workers, introducing them from time to time to the situation of the state and the Party's policies. They should solicit their opinions and listen to their demands, and then do everything possible to help them plunge into the thick of social life and engage in literary and artistic creation.

It is necessary both to uphold principles and refrain from arbitrary interference. The guidance given by the Party committees at various levels to literary and art work should be focused on the general orientation of development. They should interfere less in concrete literary views and criticisms of specific literary works. The standard of literary creations and artistic works should be judged by the people and the writers and artists themselves. It is necessary to have confidence in the people's ability to evaluate literary and art works.

Leaders can give their own views concerning works of literature and art in a personal capacity, but their views should never become rules or orders that must be followed. In dealing with academic or literary contradictions and disputes, administrative orders should be avoided as much as possible, not to speak the method of political movement. We should learn to deepen our understanding and raise our artistic level through free, democratic and equal discussion. It is necessary to encourage correct things, correct wrong ones and hold in check any that are negative

and harmful. This should be done by improving the material and cultural conditions of society, creating a sound environment for public opinion to be heard, enacting and implementing any necessary rules, regulations, laws and decrees, as well as economic policy concerning literary work. These measures will also facilitate the healthy development of literature and art.

We are convinced that through co-operation between the Party and people in literary and art circles and the earnest summing up of our historical experiences and lessons, the Party's leadership over literature and art will gradually mature and enter into a new and still higher stage.

China is a great nation with a long-standing history and civilization. Its ancient civilization took its place in the front rank of the world for a long period, during which it developed precious, rich and fine traditions and cultural wealth. In modern times, the nation fell behind with the decay of its feudal system and imperialist aggression. The Revolution of 1911, the May 4th Movement in 1919 and the people's revolution waged under the leadership of the Communist Party of China brought about great changes in China's history and culture. The founding of New China regenerated our great national culture on the basis of socialism. The reform and open policy adopted at the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee have given this regeneration a new and powerful lease of life.

The history of mankind has proved that culture has always developed through mutual influence, infiltration, conflict and in co-operation among nations. The culture of any great nation must inherit things from its past and must create afresh by assimilating what is useful and

discarding what is not in the old culture. With regard to the traditional culture of our nation, we should absorb the essence and reject the dross. As for foreign cultures, all that is useful to China should be drawn on and absorbed while things evil and decadent should be rejected. In the complicated historical process of cultural evolution, we should strive to avoid one-sidedness, laissez-faire and idle dreaming.

We should, and surely will, create a new socialist culture with Chinese characteristics. Under the guidance of Marxism, it will include the cream of Chinese tradition, while fully reflecting the spirit of the times. It will have its roots in the Chinese soil, but have an open attitude to the outside world. We shall make new contributions to promoting and enriching the culture of mankind.

The 20th century is an era of changes. The Chinese nation,

which won independence and embarked on the socialist road after an arduous and brilliant revolutionary struggle, is now showing the world a historic series of unprecedentedly broad, rich and profound socialist changes. This great socialist endeavour of the Chinese people will shine with dazzling brightness in the 21st century. To recognize, understand and express this goal, and construct a socialist cultural edifice to match it is the responsibility and glory of all writers and artists, especially those who are now young.

The Party and the people ardently expect that the vast number of writers and artists, especially those who are young or middle-aged, should take the interest of the whole nation into account. We hope they will promote unity, make arduous and constant efforts to heighten their ideological ability and their creative skills to generate works

worthy of our age, the people and life.

This conference will discuss the structural reform of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles. This organization, which unites the writers and artists associations and the federations of literary and art circles at provincial level, should strive to improve its liaison, co-ordination and service functions. It should actively encourage the members of its various associations to: implement the literary and art policies of the Party and the government; develop its exchanges and dialogues with the Party and the government; strengthen the unity among the literary and art circles; maintain close links with the people; safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of the literary and art circles; promote people-to-people cultural exchanges with other countries and better serve literature and art with a new posture and form. ■

Human Rights: China's Perspective

by Ma Jun

Human rights" is a slogan that was first raised by the Western bourgeoisie in their struggle against feudal autocracy. During World War II, fascist atrocities against human dignity and values generated a worldwide appeal for the safeguarding of human rights. The concept of human rights found its way onto the international arena when, in 1945, the principle of respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms was written into the Charter of the United Nations as one of its purposes.

To date, the legal instruments enacted by the United Nations on human rights have reached a total of 67, which include not only the

political, economic and cultural rights that an individual citizen is entitled to enjoy, but also rights to self-determination, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity that a country or a nation as a whole is entitled to enjoy. The latter refers to not only the political rights, such as elimination of racial discrimination, apartheid and genocide, but also economic rights, such as the permanent sovereignty over natural resources, the right to economic and social development.

In recent years, the human rights issue has become increasingly closely linked with the third world countries' struggle against colonialism and hegemonism and

their efforts to establish a new international economic order. Their struggle in this field has become an important part of international political life.

In 1955, the late Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai, in his speech at the Bandung Conference in Indonesia and in his report on the conference to the Enlarged Meeting of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, talked about China's basic position and attitude toward human rights. He said, "All dependences are entitled to enjoy the right to self-determination... all nations, with no distinction as to race and colour, are entitled to enjoy fundamental rights and

must not be maltreated and discriminated against.

"Now, it has become the common desire of the awakened Asian and African countries and peoples to oppose racial discrimination and colonialism, demand basic rights and national independence and resolutely safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity," he added.

He continued that it is the consistent policy and principle advocated and observed by the Chinese people to honour human rights and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

It is in this spirit that China has always resolutely supported the newly independent nations to fight against colonialism, achieve national self-determination and safeguard national sovereignty and independence, and supported their efforts to develop national economies and establish a new international economic order.

Since the restoration of her lawful rights in the United Nations in 1971, China has participated more actively in international human rights activities. From 1979 to 1981, China attended three annual sessions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, and in 1982, China was elected a member of the Commission. In 1980, China was re-elected a member of the Commission on the Status of Women. Now, there are Chinese experts working in both the United Nations Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the Commission on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Apart from taking an active role in activities sponsored by international human rights organizations, China since 1980 has acceded to or ratified the following seven international conventions concerning human

rights: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, and Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

China's position on the international human rights issues is that priority should be given to large-scale, gross violations of human rights resulting from racism, colonialism and foreign aggression and occupation. China has actively participated in the examination of Israel's violations of the right to existence of the people in the occupied Arab territories, the South African authorities' racist policies and colonial rule over Namibia, and the deprivation of the Afghan and Kampuchean people's right to self-determination by the Soviet Union and Viet Nam respectively through armed invasion and occupation.

China maintains that human rights should include both the rights of the individual and the rights of the collective, and that a citizen's political right is as important as his economic, social and cultural rights. China has made vigorous efforts to promote universal acceptance of the concept of collective human rights, such as the right to self-determination of the peoples. It has also taken an active part in the development of legal instruments, such as the "Declaration on the Right to Development," that would enrich and further develop the concept of human rights. China has no objection to the

United Nations expressing concern in a proper way over consistent and large-scale human rights violations in a given country, but it opposes the interference in other countries' internal affairs under the pretext of defending human rights.

While taking an active part in international activities in the field of human rights, China has formulated corresponding laws and assumed its due commitments. Now the right to life, personal freedom and security, equality before the law, the freedom of religious belief, protection of the rights of minorities, the right to work, social security and other civil rights provided for in international instruments on human rights, have found their concrete expression in China's Constitution, Criminal Law, the Criminal Procedure Law, the Civil Law, the Law on National Regional Autonomy, the Law of Nationality, the Marriage Law, the Law on Compulsory Education and many other laws.

China attaches great importance to the activities in the international human rights field and will continue efforts to make them positive and progressive endeavours in this area. ■



Yunnan Province: A Charming Place

by Our Correspondent Dai Yannian

Yunnan Province stands on China's southwestern border. It takes its name—"South of Xiangyun"—from a county in the province. And on its plateau, 2,000 metres above sea level, live 24 ethnic peoples, constituting one-third of the province's population of 35 million.

Before the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, these peoples still lived in ways that had existed for centuries: Some of them in simple communes, others with slaves, and several in a form

of serf society. The acquisition of socialism wrought tremendous changes on their lifestyles. Yet, many have retained much of their traditional culture, customs and habits. And these have stirred the world's curiosity about the region.

This autumn, the world was given the opportunity to find out for themselves about the peoples of Yunnan at the First Yunnan Arts Festival. From September 24 to October 6, more than 20,000 people from 26 countries and regions, as well as other parts of

China, descended on the province to view a series of shows, dances, and concerts, and to discover something about Yunnan's economy. The province's governor, He Zhiqiang, himself a native of the Naxi national minority, declared that the festival had three aims: to promote and encourage the arts of Yunnan, to foster friendship, understanding and co-operation with people from around the world, and to develop the province's economy.

Dancing in the Streets

On the first day of the festival, traffic in Kunming, the province's capital, ground to a halt while performance troupes sang and danced their way along the city's major streets. Dressed in colourful costumes, they proved a feast for the eyes of many local inhabitants as well as visitors from abroad.

Over the next few days, more than 20 performances were mounted in the city, ranging from singing and dancing to operas and plays.

One of the festival's most popular shows proved to be the Dai's "Peacock Dance." A group of young Dai women imitated through dance the movements of peacocks: strolling, drinking, gamboling beside the water, then flapping their wings, displaying their tail feathers and hovering. Peacocks are one of the famed products of the Dai area, regarded locally as a symbol of good fortune and happiness.

Dai men, not to be outdone by their women partners, mounted a display of their "Elephant Foot Drum Dance," so called because its movements symbolizing the strength of the elephants in the forests of Yunnan are performed to the rhythms of drums shaped like elephant feet. Wrapped in white cloth, the drummers beat out their percussive backing with as many parts of their bodies as they could; hands, elbows, feet and heads.

Representatives of the Yi gave an exhibition of their *Tiaoge* (dance and song). A group of young men and women in pleated skirts formed a circle, and then holding hands commenced to sing and dance. Such events usually have several hundred participants, who continue, according to tradition, to "dance until the ground trembles—from morning until the sun sets, so that all that can be seen is the yellow dust of the earth rising from the ground."

The Va staged their "Wooden Drum Dance." While a hollowed-out log two metres long is rhythmically beaten, a small group sang and danced around it.

This performance gave way to the Zhuang's "Straw Men Dance," a ritual dance usually performed from new year's eve until daybreak on the first day of the new year. Its 16 dancers with straw masks and rice straw adorning their bodies recreate the movements of ploughing the fields.

Tracks of Love

Many of the peoples of Yunnan have a myth that traces their origins to a time when a disastrous flood drowned everyone except for a pair of lovers hidden in a gourd. When the waters receded, the two married and their descendents are the people who now live in the province.

As a celebration of love in the province, the Yunnan Song and Dance Ensemble took this legend

as its starting point. It then continued to explore the ways in which young Yunnanese discover their future partners. The Aini, for example, express their affection with antiphonal singing, one person chanting a line, then the other answering. The Yi, from southern Yunnan, whistle at each other through rounded lips. When a Yao couple fall in love, they bite the back of each other's hand and then rub them together, symbolizing that as their blood mixes so do their hearts.

Young Dais signify their engagement by casting each other an embroidered pouch. At their wedding ceremony, their wrists are bound together with a piece of thread so that they can live to old age in conjugal bliss.

When a young Hani woman is ready to marry her lover, it is traditional for her to cry for her parents as she leaves to begin a new but strange life. At the

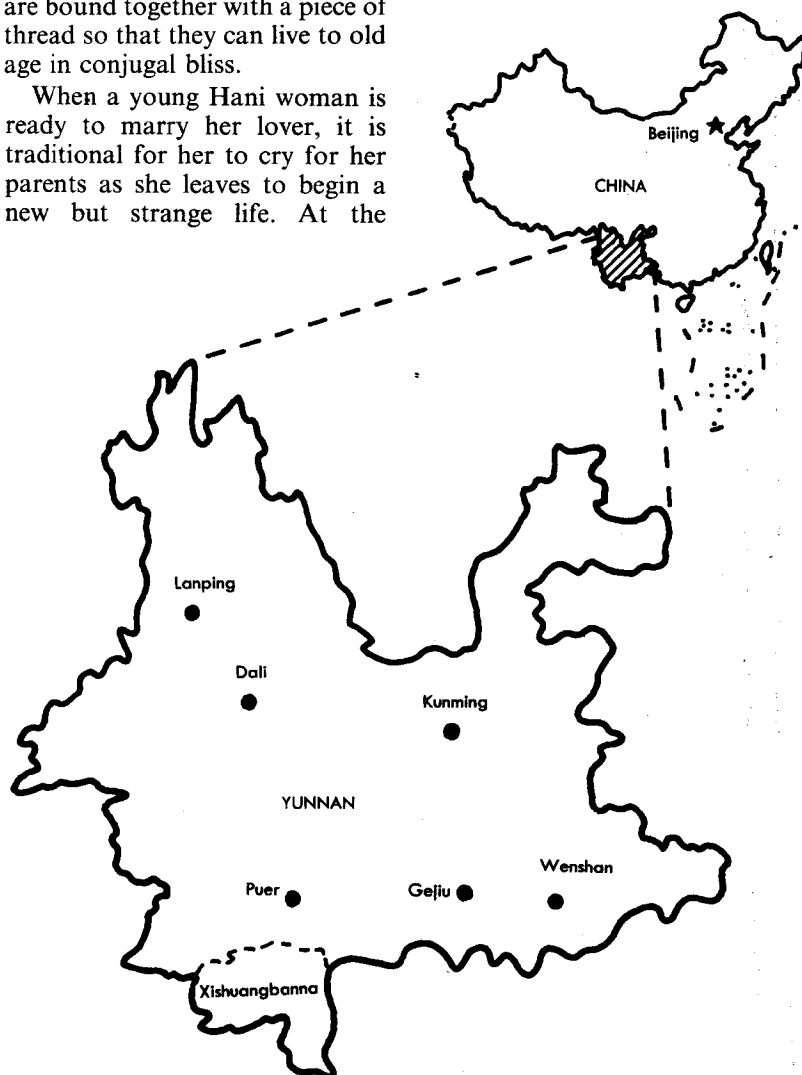
wedding, her friends symbolically beat her new husband so that he can learn there will be both bitterness and sweetness in the future.

Although all the peoples of Yunnan are free to select their future partners, some of them believe that couples should only marry if the man has auspicious dreams. If he doesn't, they should then go their separate ways. In the past, things were far worse—if a couple were prevented from marrying by forces of evil, or perhaps because their parents disagreed with their match, it was



Sketches by YONG QI

The palm fan dance (upper left). A Lisu folk singer (upper right). Hani folk dancers (below).



not unknown for them to resort to suicide so they could be united in a legendary "Free Kingdom of Heaven."

The ensemble's show successfully escaped the temptation to exaggerate novelty, presenting its audiences with a display of affection and beauty which tenderly depicted love among Yunnan's nationalities.

One of the many aims of the festival was to reveal how traditional art forms could be synthesized with the contemporary life of the peoples of Yunnan. Ma Yuanmin, director of the Kunming National Dance Troupe, attempted to forge such links in the ten dances and songs she wrote for a performance titled *The Plateau People of Mine*.

In traditional Dai dances, the women are depicted as slim and gentle. Yet as Ma had discovered when she visited their area to collect songs and dances, they possess great strength: on one occasion she had completely failed



Dai youth perform their elephant-foot drum dance.

to lift a load that a Dai woman had been carrying upon her shoulder with great ease.

This incident gave Ma her inspiration to create a dance which, while maintaining the tradition of external beauty, would simultaneously reveal inner strength. Titled "The Lancang River Boat Song," it evokes an image of women cleaving their way through the water in dugout canoes, and like the river, it appears calm from above but has countless whirlpools beneath the surface.

Ma has also collected and recorded many songs and dances of Yunnan's Va people. After first visiting their area in the 1960s, she created her maiden work *Husking Rice*. This depicted the happiness of the Va at harvest time while simultaneously eulogizing the soldiers sent to defend China's southwestern border. The piece was awarded a medal at the Third Performance Competition for art troupes of the People's Liberation Army.

Twenty years later, Ma returned to revisit the Va. She discovered that ultra-left policies had prevented any substantial changes in their living conditions. But despite

this, they still maintained their spirit, and by helping and sharing with one another were succeeding in living a harmonious life.

As a tribute to their steadfastness, she wrote *Sowing Buckwheat*. Buckwheat is the principal cereal crop of the Va, as it can grow in areas with poor soil and little water. The dance reflects the tenacious spirit of the Va: like the buckwheat, they have taken root in the area and survived generation after generation. A performance of this piece secured

Ma one of the top prizes in the Second Yunnan Dance Competition.

Awa Mountain, My Good Mother: is Ma's latest dance. It centres on the affection the Va bear towards a mountain in the areas they inhabit. One of their songs displays their feelings: "Awa Mountain, my good mother; mother loves me, I love my mother too. I bear no grudges whether you are old or poor, you always keep me warm. Mother, mother, I am always in your arms, sucking your sweet milk. I will always plant beautiful flowers upon your slopes."

Ma's dance recreated these feelings, showing the connection between the strength of the Va and their love for this mountain. She added, however, that it also embodied a personal debt of her own: "There was a feeling I wanted to get off my chest: it was the motherland and the people who have brought me up and given me opportunities. I wanted to say that I love my motherland, she gives me strength."

Awa Mountain was widely acclaimed at the arts festival. Gao Zhanxiang, vice-minister of culture, congratulated the directors

Wa nationality dancers in "Awa Mountain, My Good Mother."



and performers on their success. A professor of the Beijing Dance College said: "The performance demonstrates that our artists have not only inherited folk dances but have developed them. It gives people the enjoyment of beauty and evokes philosophical thinking." A local critic said: "Although the dance's varied movements and modern rhythms

made it hard to pick out the Va dance it was based upon, anyone—whether Va or not—would have immediately recognized it as a Va dance. This is because the choreography and direction concentrated on depicting the Va's loyalty to their land and affection to their mother—a precise revelation of the spirit and character of the Va."

planted, making the province China's second largest rubber production base after Hainan Island.

Yunnan Abounds in Resources

During the arts festival, a trade fair and exhibition of Yunnan's economic achievements was held in Kunming. Its display of the rich variety of local resources and products impressed many visitors.

The province is known as the kingdom of animals and plants. Of its 390,000 square kilometres, mountainous or hilly areas make up 94 percent. This combination of towering mountains and deep valleys offers cold, temperate and tropical climates, facilitating the growth of numerous animals and plants.

Some 6.6 million hectares of Yunnan are forested, including large stretches of virgin forestland.



Tea picking.



A young Dai woman.

In 1987, each hectare produced 1,182 kg of rubber—close to Malaysia's per-hectare output. Recently scientists developed a high-yielding variety which can generate 2,100 kg per hectare. Now the province has planted 8,000 hectares with this new strain.

It is from Yunnan's large-leaf tea trees that the well-known Puer variety of tea is made (taking its name from the place where historically the leaves were collected and processed). With a strong fragrance, Puer tea aids digestion, warms the stomach and promotes saliva. Among the mountains of southern Yunnan stands one tea tree which, because it was planted 800 years ago, has been titled the "king of tea trees." The province also has a 32.1-metre high 1,700-year-old wild tea tree, indicating Yunnan's long history of tea making.

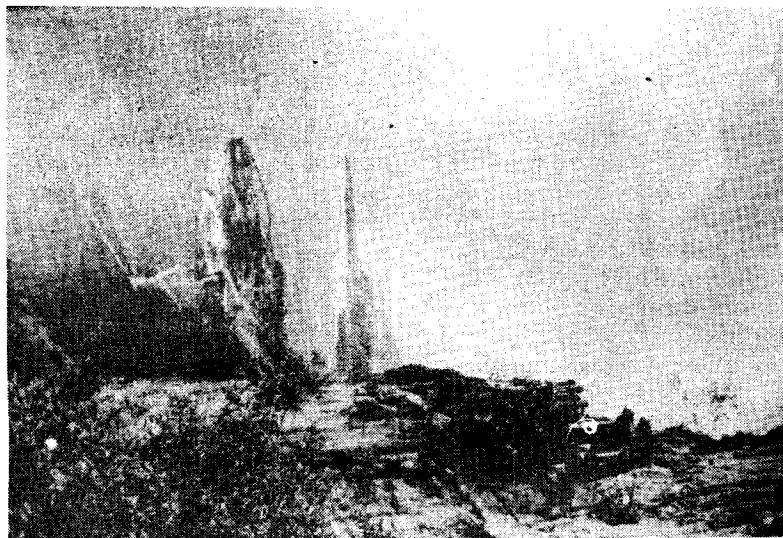
Yunnan's forests are the habitat of more than 770 kinds of birds and 230 kinds of animals, including such rare species as the

Rubber tapping.



To date, 15,000 higher plants have been identified in the region, the highest number of any province in China. They include valuable timber trees for making de luxe furniture and musical instruments, oil-bearing plants, herbal medicines, fruit trees and plants for making perfume.

Although rubber trees generally only grow within 10 degrees north and south of the equator, and the southern half of Yunnan lies between latitude 21-25 degrees north, Chinese scientists began experimenting with rubber plants during the 1950s. Today, 110,000 hectares have successfully been



The Dragon Gate In Kunming's West Hills.

golden monkey, Asian elephant and white-brow ape.

Some 154 kinds of mineral ores have been discovered in the province, and the many non ferrous metal ores here give it the name the "kingdom of nonferrous metals." It has China's largest reserves of lead, zinc, strontium and three other kinds of minerals and the second largest reserves of tin, nickel, cobalt, germanium and 11 other minerals. It also has important reserves of copper and phosphorus. Many of these are found in rich, shallow deposits, making opencast mining a straightforward proposition.

Gejiu City in southern Yunnan is China's largest tin production centre, outputting 55 percent of the country's total. Its 99.99 percent pure refined tin has won a state gold medal and is exempt from export inspection.

Yunnan's verified coal reserves total 17 billion tons, while its prospective reserves are estimated at 50 billion tons.

The Jinsha, Lancang, Honghe, Nujiang and Nanpan rivers have the potential to generate 71 million kw of hydroelectric power. Construction of the World Bank-funded Buluge Hydropower

Station on the tributary of the Nanpan River began in 1984. The Japanese Daisei Co. has undertaken the excavation of the water-diverting tunnel, and the generating equipment has been imported from Switzerland, West Germany and the United States. The first series of generators are expected to go into operation by the end of this year. The project, with a total generating capacity of 600,000 kw, is scheduled to be completed in 1991.

Construction of the Mantan Hydropower Station on the Lancang River began in 1986. Last year, the river was successfully dammed, and the first generators are expected to begin

operation in 1991. When completed around 1993-94, it will have a total capacity of 1.5 million kw, making it the second largest hydropower station in China after the Gezhouba Hydropower Station on the Changjiang (Yangtze) River. Its principal task is to provide power to excavate the rich phosphorus and aluminium deposits along the Lancang River.

In 1987, Yunnan's GNP was more than double that of 1978, and increased 11 times compared with the early 1950s. Many of its products are marketed nationwide, and more than 40 are exported, including refined tin, yellow phosphorus, tungsten ore, antimony, tea and herbal medicines.

Nevertheless, Yunnan is still a land of treasures waiting to be developed. To date, only a small proportion of its natural resources have been developed and utilized.

During the arts festival, local businesses reached agreement on 689 projects with Chinese and foreign business representatives. The China Xinghuo Co. expressed the desire to form a partnership with the Lanping Lead and Zinc Mine, which included a proposed investment of 95 million yuan to build a smelting factory. A Hong Kong business agreed to invest US\$30 million to develop tin deposits with the Wenshan Zhuang and Miao Nationalities Autonomous Prefecture.

Scenic Spots and Folk Customs

From a distance, Kunming's Western Hills resemble a supine woman at rest beneath the blue sky. The outline of her serene face, curved breasts, flat belly, bent legs and long drooping hair are clearly discernible. This "sleeping beauty" was created by violent movements of the earth's crust hundreds of millions of years

ago which simultaneously threw up the Western Hills and subsided to create the expansive waters of Dianchi Lake's 300 square kilometres.

The most attractive scenic spot in the Western Hills is the Dragon Gate. Standing on top of precipitous cliffs facing Dianchi Lake, it comprises a stone arch

erected on a terrace with a carved stone dragon head. Across its lintel are two Chinese characters—"Dragon Gate." Two carved couplets nearby encapsulate its effect: "The gate is five feet from the sky when you laugh with your head up, and you'll find its inverted reflection in the waters below when you look down."

The tunnels leading to the Dragon Gate were chiselled out of the cliffs from 1781-95 and 1840-49. As they wind upwards, holes cut in their walls offer thrilling views of the deep abyss below. Turning round at the Dragon Gate to contemplate the recently scaled heights, a series of pavilions and other tourists can be seen dotted across the cliff face. An ancient poem describes the scene: "The structures stand at the border of heaven, and people emerge from the walls of the cliffs." The cliff also has many stone chambers and Buddhist shrines containing statues, white cranes and peaches all carved from the mountain's rock.

In 1984, a new tunnel was dug upwards from the Dragon Gate leading to a new terrace still higher up the cliff. From here visitors can

stand and admire the whole of Dianchi Lake.

Yunnan's Stone Forest is one of the scenic wonders of the world. Lying 120 km southeast of Kunming, its 30,000 hectares are a myriad of exotically formed stone pinnacles. Some pierce the sky like swords, others expand into the graceful forms of lotuses in bloom. One pair resembles a bird feeding her nestling, while another appears like two cuddling sheep. Here it is possible to see Guanyin (a Bodhistattva) chanting scriptures, an elephant upon a platform, a phoenix preening its feathers and thousands of other shapes that may be conjured into new forms by the human imagination. Many local legends are connected with these rocks.

About 280 million years ago, the current site of the Stone Forest lay beneath the sea. A movement of the earth's crust, however, caused a thick layer of limestone to be thrust upwards, exposing it to the air. During the countless centuries since, the wind and rain have gradually eroded the stone into its present collection of bizarre shapes. Although there are many places in southwest China with such karst topography, the Stone Forest is the largest and the most fantastic.

Dali was one of the arts festival's two venues outside Kunming. A famous historical city, it was the capital of the kingdoms of Nanzhao and Dali between the 7th and 13th centuries. Three pagodas built at that time are still well preserved. The highest is 69 metres. When these pagodas were renovated between 1978 and 1981, more than 680 relics were found inside and around them, including Buddhist statues, carved birds and animals, models of pagodas, ornaments and scriptures, all made from gold, silver, copper, iron, wood, stone, jade, crystal or porcelain. This was the largest and most



Photos by DAI YANNIAN

The octagonal pavilion in Xishuangbanna.

important find of Nanzhao and Dali artefacts ever uncovered in China.

To the west of Dali stand the 19 peaks of the Cangshan Mountains. The main peak, 4,600-metre high, overlooks the placid 250 square kilometres of Erhai Lake. At the foot of Cangshan there is the Butterfly Spring, a spot where in late spring and early summer numerous butterflies converge. When Guo Moruo (1892-1978), a famous Chinese writer, visited Dali in 1962, he wrote a poem: "Thousands of butterflies fly to the Butterfly Tree at the fountainhead of the Butterfly Spring. With each dovetailing its head with the end of the other, they droop several metres down the tree in an inflorescent array. Blazing with the colour of flowers, they sway in the wind from dawn to dusk."

Unfortunately, because of damage to the local ecology in recent years, fewer butterflies now gather here each spring. Currently, efforts are being made to

17-year-old Shuang Yan, "the Third Golden Peacock of Xishuangbanna."



protect the environment in the hope that the fascinating butterfly meeting will return.

The annual March Fair at the foot of the Cangshan Mountains is a traditional festival of the Bai people. In the past, it was a time to worship Guanyin, as, according to a legend, this Bodhisattva had eliminated all evils for the Bai people. Later, it gradually developed into a grand gathering involving trade, song and dance performances and horse racing.

Southern Yunnan's Xishuangbanna, an autonomous prefecture where the Dai people live in compact communities, was another of the arts festival's venues. A rare sub-tropical scenic spot in China, it teems with tropical plants such as palms, papaya, coconut and banana trees. The bamboo houses that nestle in their shade are the traditional homes of the Dai people. It is said that these buildings, built from thick local bamboo, were created by the Dai people's ancestors in imitation of the posture of cranes taking shelter from the rain. Supported by bamboo posts, the Dai houses in the rainy Xishuangbanna stand high above the ground to keep the inhabitants safe from the damp earth.

The Dai people believe in Buddhism, and so there are many temples scattered across the region. On top of a mountain 70 km from Jinghong, capital of the autonomous prefecture, a group of pagodas rise like bamboo shoots above the land. Called both "bamboo pagodas" and "white pagodas," these gourd-shaped structures were built in the 13th century. On the peak of another mountain stands an octagonal pavilion whose ten tiers diminish in size from the bottom up. Built in 1701, this artistic structure was formerly a Buddhist meeting-place.

The Dais celebrate their new year in April with a "Water

Splashing Festival." This ceremony was adopted from Indian Brahmanism 700 years ago. According to legend, a demon once lived in the locality who nobody could defeat. However, he had one fatal weakness: his own hair could be used to separate his head from his body. Seven young women who had been imprisoned by the demon discovered his secret and killed him. After that they splashed water on each other to wash the filth and celebrate their victory. Ever since, the Dai people have exchanged greetings on this day by splashing water over each other. During the arts festival, this ceremony was performed in public, and many visitors, affected by the joyous atmosphere, joined in.

Xishuangbanna is also known as the "home of peacocks." Of the performances during the festival, a dance drama adapted from a local epic was highly acclaimed. It told the story of how a beautiful peacock princess and a brave prince gained their love after defeating an evil force. This dance drama performed by Yunnan artists had been well received in Hong Kong, Thailand, Burma and Singapore before appearing at the festival.

The Peacock Princess was played by a 17-year-old Dai girl, Shuang Yan. Her efforts to inject feeling into the dance ensured both the success of the performance and that her name would be added to the list of the two other dancers from Xishuangbanna who had become famous for playing the same role. As a result, Shuang Yan has been dubbed "the Third Golden Peacock of Xishuangbanna."

Shuang Yan, however, is not alone. There are many young ethnic artists in Yunnan. Through their efforts the province's arts should prosper and flourish—making the Yunnan arts festival not only the first, but the first of many. ■

International Studies

A Quarterly in Chinese
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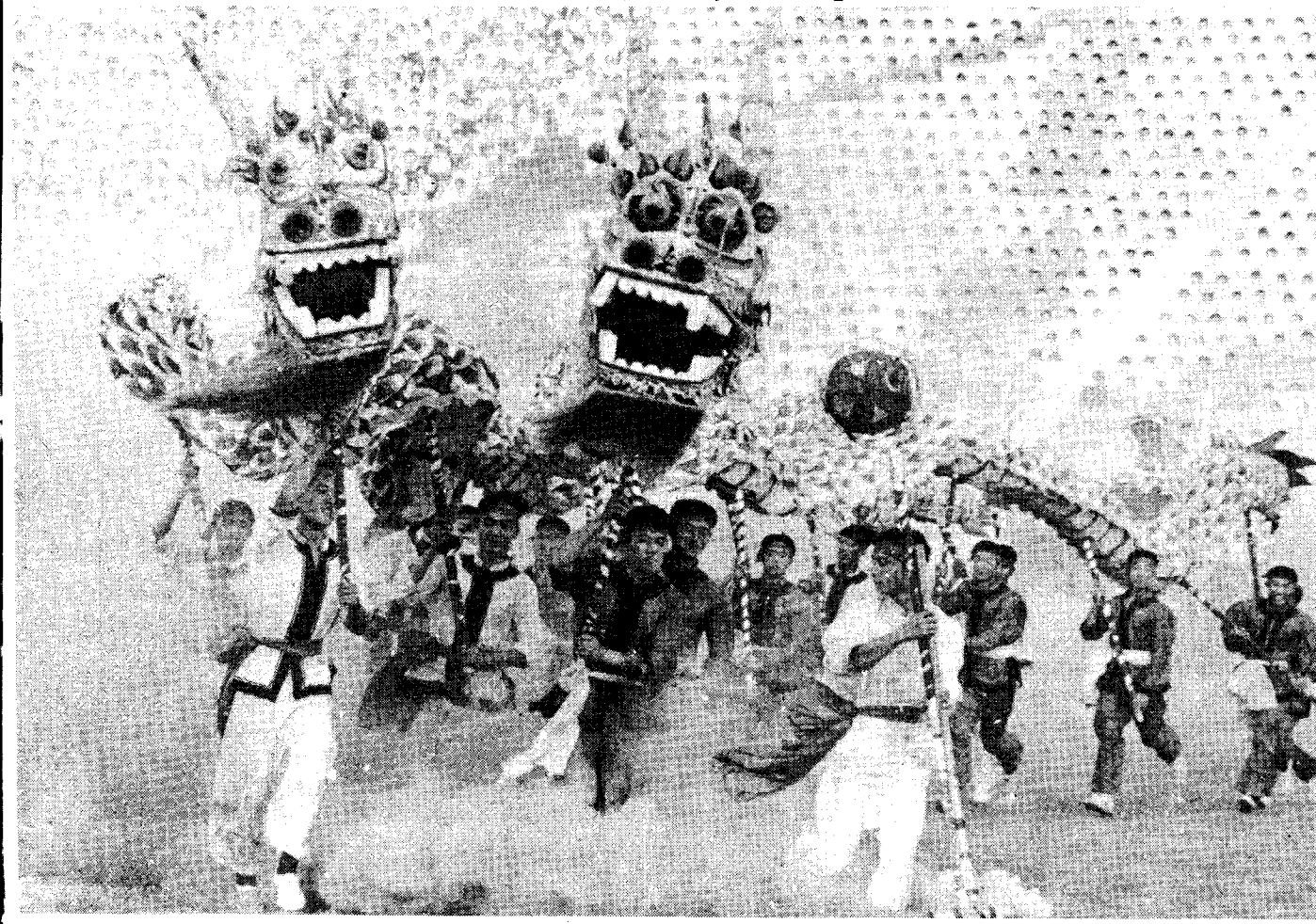
China's Foreign Relations:
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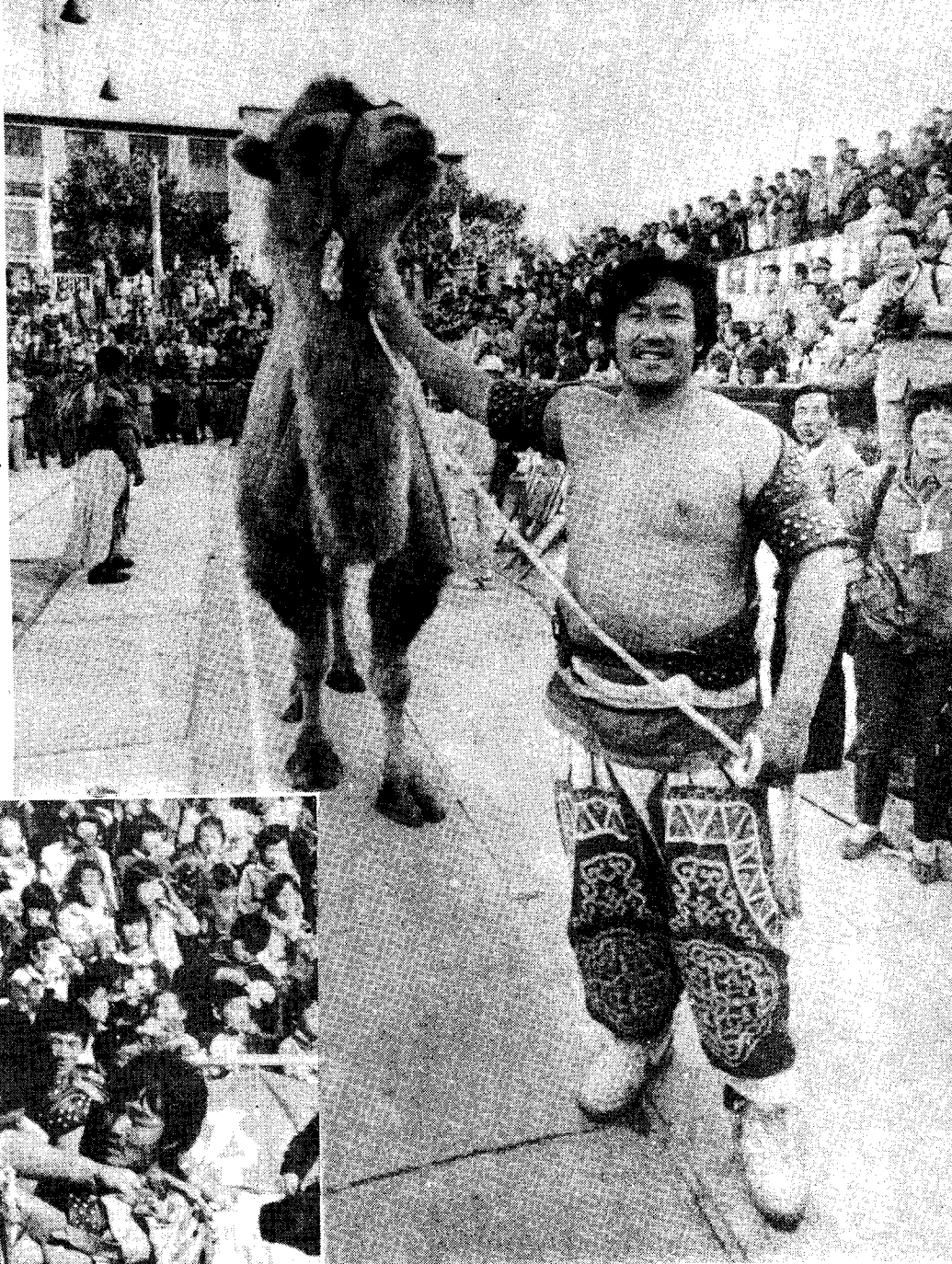
China's First National Farmers Games



To the sound of music, the athletes march into the arena for the opening ceremony.

Farmers from Shaanxi Province entertain the crowd at the opening ceremony with a dragon dance.





Winner of the Mongolian-style wrestling, Wang Shenjun of Jilin Province, walks off with the first prize — a camel.



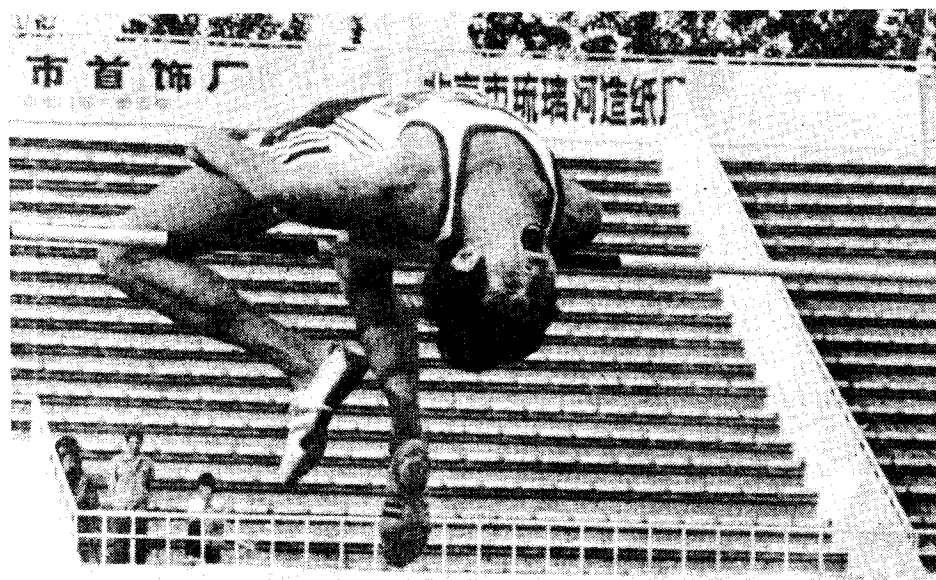
Mongolian-style wrestling in action.



The final of the women's 3,000 metres.



Teams from Jilin and Tianjin struggle for supremacy in the basketball final.



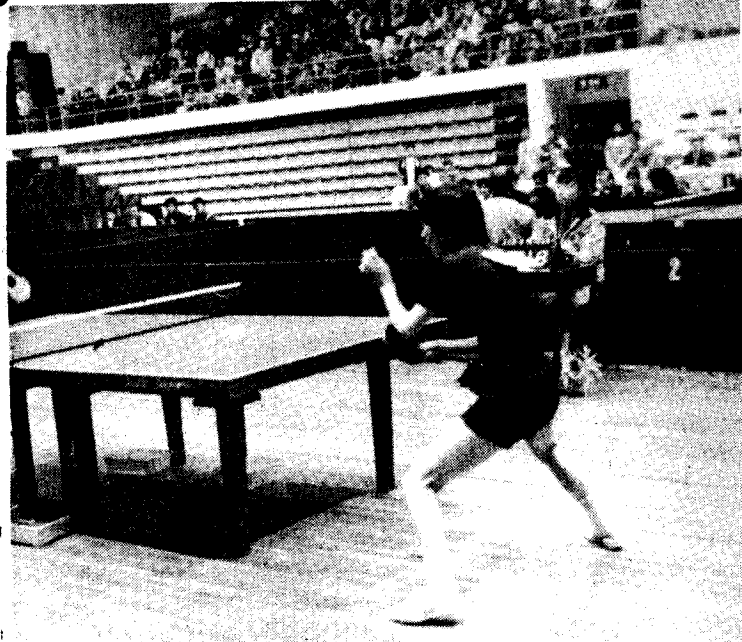
Gold medalist Shi Shengliang from Jiangsu Province clears 2 metres in the high jump.

Going for goal and gold.



After winning the 1,500 metres, 16 year-old metres, Zheng Guixia from Shandong Province answers question from the press.

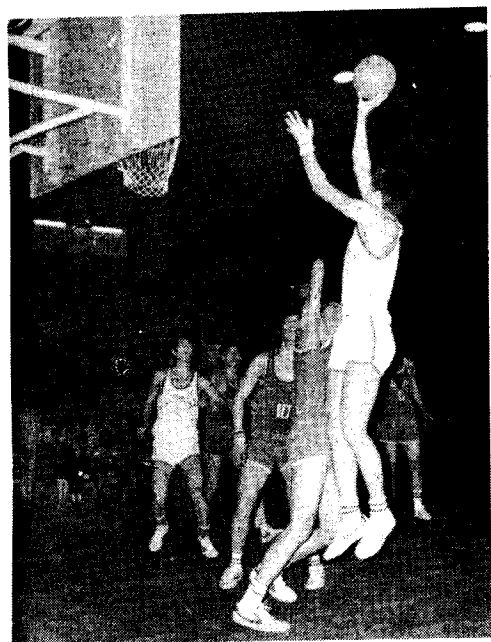




Battling it out in the women's singles table tennis finals.



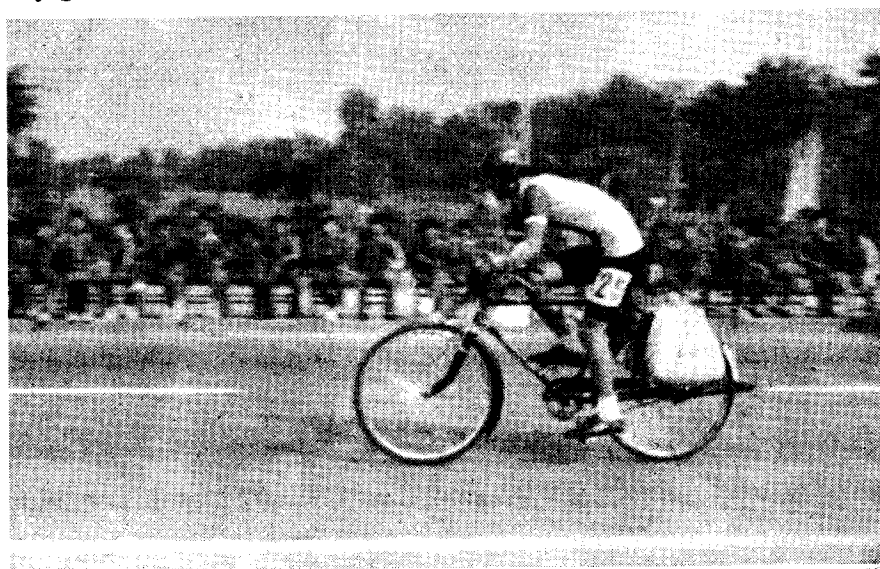
Aiming for success.



Leaping towards victory.

PHOTOS BY XUE CHAO, WANG ENPU, WANG YIJIANG and YANG LIMIN

Beijing's Wang Liansheng took the gold medal in the 25 km-50 kg cycling race.



Sino-Australian Economic Trade

Bilateral trade between China and Australia has tripled since 1983, according to official Australian figures. Last year, total volume reached US\$1.67 billion, making Australia China's eighth largest trading partner, while China is Australia's fourth largest overseas market.

In the first seven months of 1988, China exported goods worth US\$140 million to Australia, up 25.14 percent on the same period last year, while importing US\$534 million, a drop of 16.92 percent.

Geoff Roby, Australian economic counsellor to China, said trade between the two countries has a huge potential. Because of the trade imbalance, Australia has been helping China sell its products by providing advice on markets and holding exhibitions.

Roby added that if China could improve the quality, packaging and delivery of its goods, trade prospects between Australia and China would be very bright.

China has been increasing its investment in Australia. To date it has established 18 joint ventures. The China International Trust and Investment Corp.'s investment in the Portland Aluminium Factory is currently China's largest overseas investment project.

It, however, will be replaced by the Mount Channa Iron Ore Mine in Western Australia. In November 1987, a formal joint venture agreement was signed, with China undertaking to provide 40 percent of the total investment.

When operation starts, the mine will be China's largest overseas project. It should produce 10 million tons of iron ore annually, much of which will be shipped to China to ease the country's shortage.

Australia has invested 200 million Australian dollars in more than 30 joint ventures and co-operative enterprises in China. According to Robin K. Dulfer-Hyams, Australia's senior trade commissioner and commercial minister to China, another 30-40 projects are currently being negotiated.

He said that if China made a further effort to win the confidence of Australian businessmen,

he felt sure there would be brisk investment in China.

by Li Ping

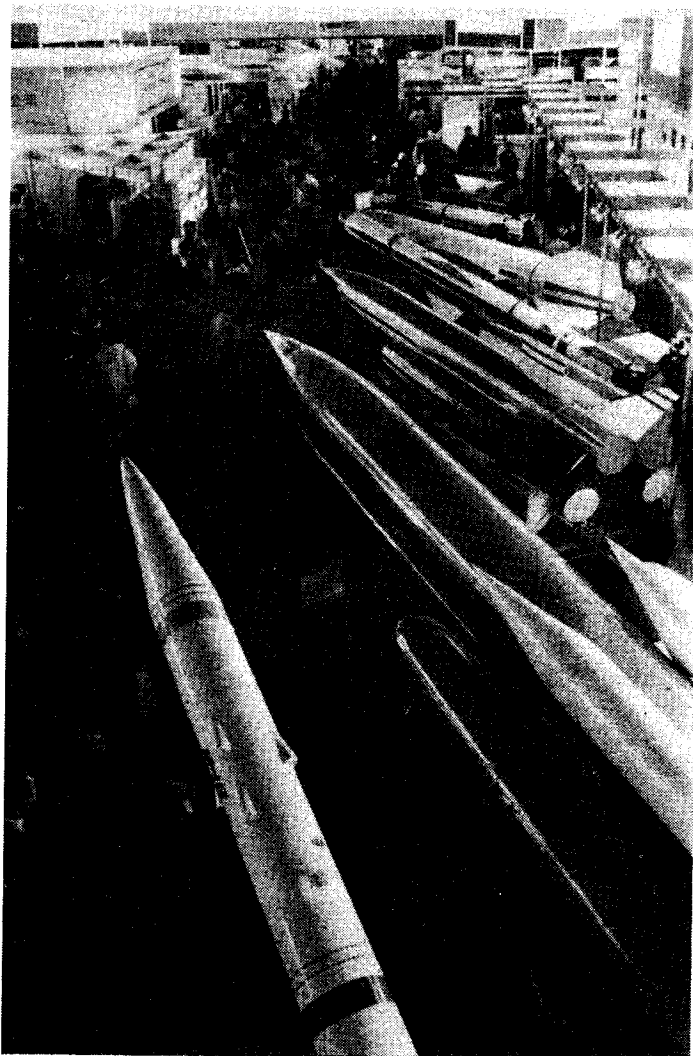
Missiles Unveiled At Asiandex '88

Six new Chinese-made missiles went on public display for the first time at Asiandex '88, China's second international arms fair which opened in the Beijing Exhibition Centre on November 15.

Made by the China Precision

Chinese missiles on display at Asiandex '88.

CHEN ZONGLIE



Machinery Import & Export Corp. (CPMIEC), the missiles included:

The C-301 supersonic anti-ship missile, nine metres long with a range of 130 km.

The C-802 "Flying Fish" multi-purpose anti-ship missile, powered by turbo-jet for low altitude attacks on enemy shipping.

The HQ-2B vehicle-carried, ground-to-air missile, an all-weather air-defence missile.

The FM-80 "Fierce Flight" ground-to-air missile, designed specifically to defend military installations such as airfields, oilfields, ports, etc. from aircraft flying at low altitudes.

CPMIEC also displayed 12 other types of missiles and 54 high-tech products including solid rocket motors, a small turbo-jet engine and tracking radar.

The China North Industries Corp., the country's largest arms manufacturer, occupied almost half of the exhibition centre's 10,000 square metres with its display of some 266 items of military equipment. These ranged from tanks and armoured cars to small arms and ammunition.

The fair attracted 113 arms manufacturers and dealers from 13 countries and regions including the United States, France, Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany and Hong Kong, who displayed their latest weaponry and equipment for ground, sea, air and space defence.

More than 400 foreign military representatives and 80 arms dealers attended the exhibition, including 23 military delegations invited by China's military. Among the latter were Nigeria's minister of national defence, the deputy chief of Syria's general staff, Gabon's national defence secretary-general, the commander of the United Arab Emirates' air force, an official from France's general ordnance office and the

commander of the Thai army's ordnance centre.

The next Asiandex arms fair will take place in Beijing in November 1990.

At the exhibition, a government official reiterated China's policy on arms exports:

To help countries strengthen their defensive capacity.

To aid the promotion and protection of peace, security and stability in all regions around the world.

Never to adopt measures in the export of military products which could be construed as interference in the internal affairs of another country.

by Li Ning

IBM Expands Its Computer Sales

IBM, the world's largest computer company, announced the development of a Chinese language workstation to be used with its Application System/400 series of computers in Beijing on October 25.

The 5295-GP3 terminal was described by Fred Tufts, IBM China's director of operations, as a high resolution, low cost monochrome workstation which would provide a total *Hanzi* (Chinese character) solution for all IBM AS/400 users in China.

The major products IBM has sold in China are the AS/400, PS/2 and ES/9370 computers. The AS/400 system has proved particularly successful. It costs around US\$350,000-400,000, and can easily be upgraded or have its power expanded without the necessity of replacing existing equipment. According to Fred Tufts, this is well in keeping with China's spirit of frugality.

Among the organizations who have bought an AS/400 system is

SES, which used it in September to analyse data from China's first meteorological satellite.

Fred Tufts said the PS/2 computer had been well received in China. Banks and mines alone had bought more than 3,000 of them. In spring 1989, IBM plans to establish a joint venture for assembling PS/2 computers in China, which will make it the fifth country to form a co-operative partnership with the corporation.

by Yue Haitao

Recycled Plates Cut Print Costs

The Beijing-based Nationality Printing House has developed a process to recycle offset litho printing plates, which because of the high price and smelting difficulties of lead in China should slash print production costs.

Ning Chengzong, director of the Nationality Printing House's Technology Department, came up with the idea of dissolving the printing surface of the plates. Now, proof plates can be regenerated seven or eight times and printing plates two or three times with no decline in quality.

Each recycled plate can save 60 percent of production costs. Already, the Beijing Nationality Printing House has used the stripping agent on 1,000 plates each month, saving 12,700 yuan.

Eight production lines are now manufacturing the printing plates, needing to import 2,000-3,000 tons of lead each year. So far more than 100 companies have started to apply the recycling technique.

Now, the Nationality Printing House is looking to export the technology. Two businessmen respectively from the United States and New Zealand are looking for possibility for possible transfer of the technology with China's CITIAP Trading Development Ltd.

by Yue Haitao

Gansu Displays Silk Road 'Gems'

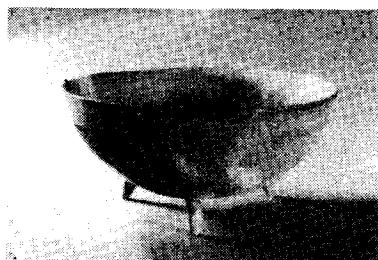
China's Gansu Province is a land of ancient culture. Located in northwest China and shaped like a narrow corridor, the province has many world-famous cultural wonders, such as the Dunhuang Grottoes, the Jiayuguan Pass (the western end of the Great Wall) and the bronze Galloping Horse with Right Hind Hoof on a Swallow.

Early in the 2nd century BC, the Gansu corridor was a vital pass from inland China to Central Asia. It was also a communication centre between the agricultural civilization of the Han nationality, who lived in the Yellow River valley, and the prairie culture of the nomadic tribes in the north.

An exhibition of more than 300 cultural relics from the region held in the Museum of Chinese History, Beijing, this past September, provides an overall view of historical and cultural treasures in Gansu Province.

Primitive Pottery (see picture 1). This painted pottery with red lace patterns was excavated in Dadiwan, eastern Gansu, in 1979. Believed to be a product of the early New Stone Age, about 7,000-8,000 years ago, it is one of the world's oldest discovered painted pottery, a fact indicating that Gansu Province is one of the birthplaces of Chinese civilization.

The potteries in Gansu have many shapes. Among the exhibits,



2

one pottery basin aroused special attention. With a diameter of 50 cm it is about 20 cm high, but is only 4-5 mm thick. Presumably, such a large and delicate piece was made by pottery professionals. Of special interest are the pottery's fish patterns, decorative designs representative of Gansu painted potteries. These bold and delicate lines had to be painted with a Chinese brush-pen, with the help of a *zhuanlun* (revolving wheel)

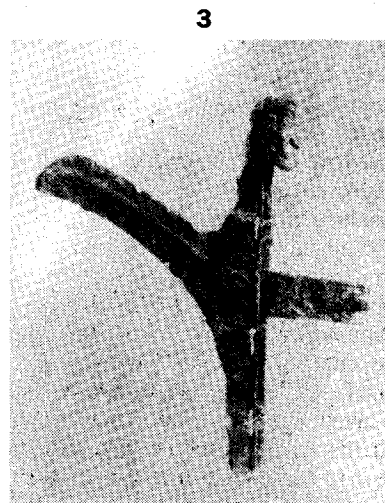
One painted vase is topped with the figure of a human head (picture 2). It is made in the image of a minority girl, with short hair and earrings, dressed in a colourful costume.

The pottery excavated in Gansu includes products from different cultural eras, dating from 8,000 to 2200 BC. Most of the objects were decorated with various language symbols, indicating an evident intermingling of heritage. One pottery has seven kinds of

language symbols from different historical periods. These are much earlier than inscriptions on animal bones and tortoise shells dating back to the 16th-11th centuries BC. These symbols are valuable contributions to the study of early Chinese civilization.

Gansu primitive pottery reached maturity between 5,000-4,000 BC. One unique painted vase has a pointed bottom. This water container could be placed on a base or into a pit. Some of the pottery is multi-dimensional, which means that it presents a complete picture whether viewed horizontally or vertically. Overall, the primitive pottery gradually evolved in terms of shape and design.

Bronze Objects: Most of the excavated bronze objects were products of the historical period from the Western Zhou Dynasty (11th century BC) to the Han Dynasty in the early 1st century AD. They include some of the best bronze objects in human history. One is called the Human-head Halberd (picture 3). It indicates that in ancient times, a warrior's honour depended on the number of enemies he had killed. It also reflects the custom of sacrificing human heads and displaying those of enemy tribes as decorations.



One of the most well-known bronze is the Galloping Horse. The horse is about 30 cm in height. Mouth open, head and tail high, the horse turns round its face in shock after treading on a flying swallow with its right hind hoof. This bronze horse shows the maker's rich imagination and exquisite workmanship (picture 4)



The Marching Formation Troop (picture 5), excavated in 1969, dates back about 1,700 years. This is a mixed troop, with horses and chariots. From the front to the back, there are 39 bronze horses, one bronze ox, 14 chariots, 17 warriors and 28 slave girls. This spectacular army easily reminds people of the world-famous Qin Dynasty Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses, excavated only a few hundred kilometres east of Gansu.



There are also a great variety of bronze daily-life objects. One bronze lantern takes the shape of a tube with a lid atop. Open the lantern, there are two other lanterns. Another lantern can be both used as a lantern and an oil container (picture 6).



Wooden Sculptures: The more than 30 wooden sculptures on display were excavated from a number of Han Dynasty tombs in Wuwei, central Gansu. The wooden sculptures are in good condition, probably owing to the dry climate of this region.

Wooden sculptures include a great variety of animals and human figures. Included are cattle, sheep, chickens, dogs and geese, as well as dancing figurines and figurines playing chess. Among the wooden animals are two one-horn creatures, called *Xiezh*. According to Chinese legend, this animal has the ability to judge right and wrong, and abolish the evil. Consequently, they are often placed inside the tomb gate to protect the dead from evil things.

Another wooden sculpture is a walking stick with a turtle dove at the top. According to historical records, during the Han Dynasty, this kind stick was given to people over the age of 70 as a sign of respect.

Another wooden sculpture is a chariot decorated with bronze. One horse is pulling it and one

man sits on it. The whole object is 1.5 metres long and 1 metre high, with a pair of wheels about 50 cm in diameter. This is the largest and most complete Han Dynasty wooden sculpture ever found.

Study Room Treasures: This display includes, among other items, brush-pens, ink-stones and paper used by Chinese aristocrats and other literates. One brush-pen on display is a Han Dynasty product, which is rarely seen. What makes the pen even more valuable is the fact that the maker inscribed his name on it: "Made by Bai Ma." There are also other rare treasures, such as the ball-shaped solid ink and the three-footed ink-stone.

One piece of paper on display was discovered in the remains of a Han Dynasty site dated about 70 BC. Though the old paper is broken, it still gives some idea about the creator's great paper-making skill. It is at least one or two centuries earlier than the paper made by Cai Lun, a person believed to be the inventor of paper.

There are also a great number of writings on bamboo and wood slips, dating back 2,000 years. The writings are not only valued as calligraph, but for their contents as well. Writings on a group of wooden slips (totalling 469 pieces) are a copy of a book about Confucianism titled *The Book of Rites*. Another group of writings on wooden slips are about medicine. They cover areas such as clinical treatment, acupuncture and medicinal herbs. They also have detailed records concerning the name, causes and symptoms of various diseases.

Another item displayed is a piece of silk with Chinese characters, which was originally placed on the top of an ancient coffin. The silk piece is about 2 metres long and broken on the bottom. But the written characters are still recognizable, telling the

name of the deceased and where the person was from. The cloth is designed as follows: On the top left are a sun, a bird and a nine-tailed fox; on the right are a toad and a white rabbit, all of which are popular animals in Chinese legendary arts.

Also on display are more than 600 cultural relics excavated in a third century tomb in Jiayuguan City in 1972, including a number of brick paintings (picture 7).

Buddhist Arts and Cultural Relics: Buddhism came to China from India through the Silk Road, and Gansu was the throughway. Buddhism prospered in Gansu during the third to fourth century and left many sites and artifacts. There are more than ten Buddhist grottoes and temples in the

province, among which the sculptures and murals in the Dunhuang Grottoes and the Bingling Temple are well-known throughout the world.

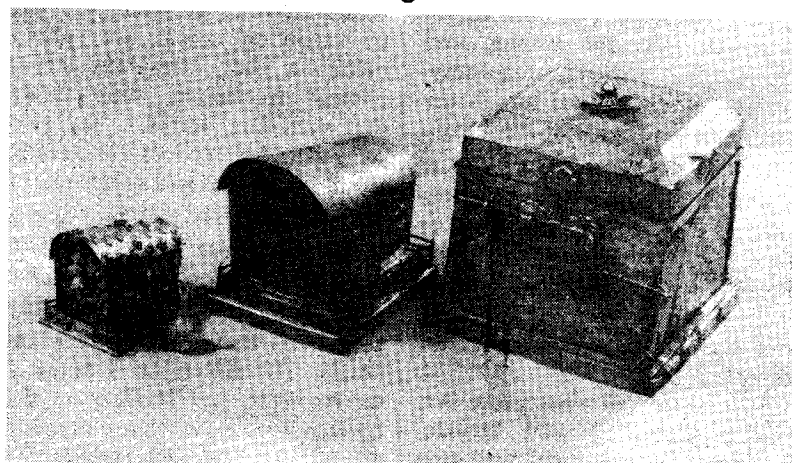
On display this time is a mini-pagoda excavated in Jiuquan City, western Gansu. Built in the year 428 AD, the seven-tier pagoda is the oldest in the country. On the top are carved the seven stars of the Big Dipper. In the middle are many niches where seven Buddhas and one Maitreya have been placed.

A stone case excavated in 1964 is composed of three boxes of different sizes. The largest is a bronze casket, the next is silver and the smallest is gold. Inside the last coffin is a glass bottle containing sarira (see picture 8).

7



8



9 Photos by CAI WENXUAN

The stone case was built in 649 AD. The gold coffin, only 8 cm long, 5 cm wide and 4 cm high, is woven with gold threads. It is also magnificently decorated with pearls and turquoise.

Ceramics: The Tang Dynasty tri-coloured glazed pottery discovered in Gansu Province is simple and bolder than those found in central China. One 160-cm-high figurine, Skt. Lokapala, is the largest Tang Dynasty tri-coloured glazed pottery figurine ever found (picture 9). Another colourful pottery, a powerful reclining cattle, is one of the best.

Most of the excavated potteries are products of the 10th-14th centuries. Light in colour and simple in form, they are mostly blue-glazed. Among the exhibits, apart from bowls, pots and vases, there is also a pillow box with tiger designs. The rare pillow box is dated and signed with the characters reading: "1032 AD" and "Made By the Zhang Family."

One glass cup is especially attractive. Its lotus-flower shape is obviously Chinese in style, but the bright, deep-blue dyeing material is evidently foreign-made. This is only one of the many cultural relics in Gansu that were the products of cultural communications between China and foreign countries.



Huge Trees.



A Revolutionary Veteran.

Sketches by Shen Yanxiang

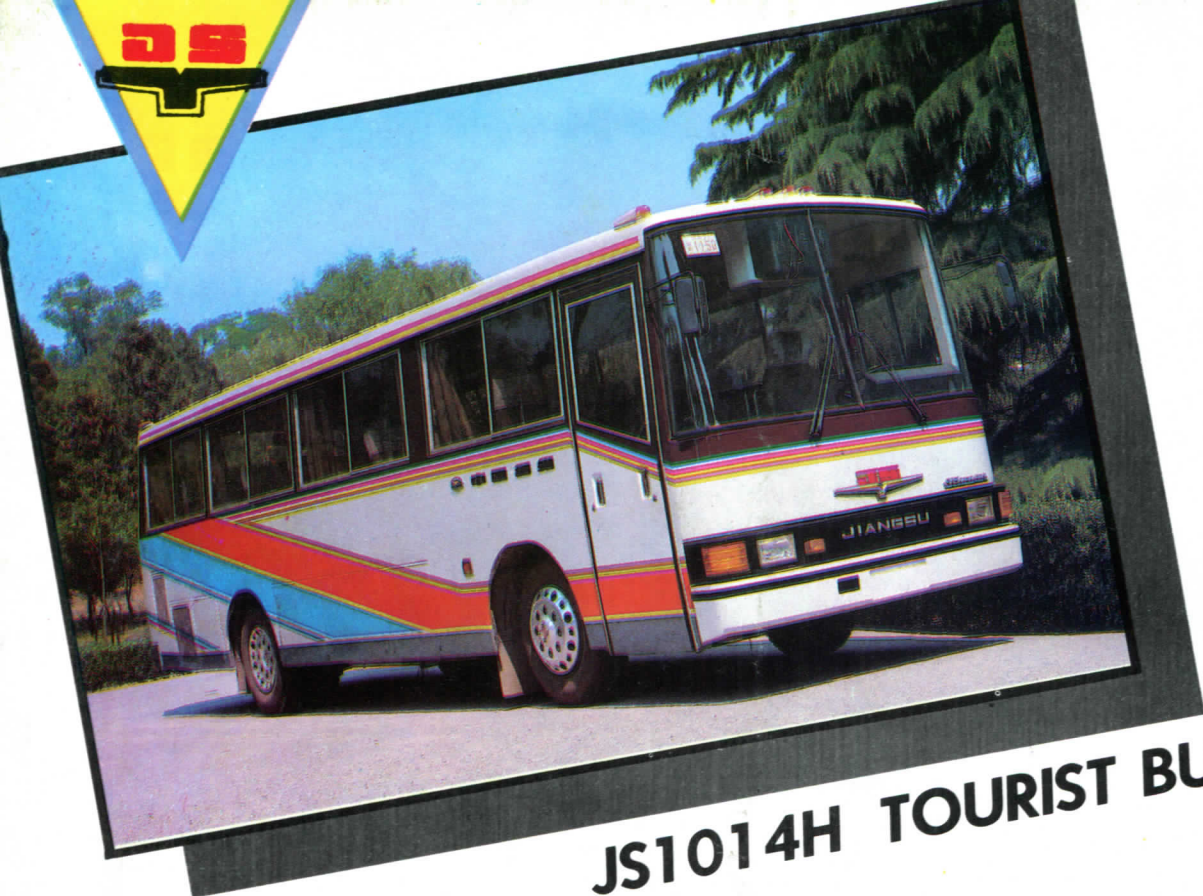
Shen Yanxiang was born in Hebei Province in 1939. He now teaches at the Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts.

He is a woodcut painter and specializes in bronze-plate carving. These sketches are some of his works. They are vivid, intimate and fine in technique.

ART PAGE



A Village Woman.



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