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Hong Kong—The Basic Law and Democracy



**PROGRESS IN THE
ANTI-PORN CAMPAIGN**



Farmers in Fujian Province opened a bamboo-raft service company in the scenic area of Jiuquxi in the Wuyi Mountains, and each year host more than 200,000 domestic and foreign visitors.

Photo by Gu Xinsheng



Basic Law Drafting a Democratic Process

□ The Basic Law (Draft) for the future Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is a product of more than four years of painstaking efforts through democratic procedures. It aims to ensure the implementation of the policy of "one country, two systems" and the continued prosperity of Hong Kong after 1997 (p. 9).

China's Anti-Pornography Campaign Successful

□ The nation's drive against pornography has been a big success. There was once a deluge of obscene publications and audio and video products, a key contributing factor to criminal acts. Now, however, they are hard to find in bookstores and news-stands. In order to build on this achievement, the central and local governments are improving the management of the publication and cultural market (p. 22).

Taiwan Political Situation: a Cause for Concern

□ An authoritative source has expressed "deep concern" over the intensive struggle within the Kuomintang in Taiwan, which is causing instability on the island (p. 5).

Multi-Party Co-operation in China—Past and Present

□ The system of multi-party co-operation led by the Chinese Communist Party is a system of socialist political parties that is in accord with China's reality. It emerged and developed under the special historical conditions of China and reflects the characteristics of the historical development of Chinese society (p. 16).

Learning from Lei Feng Back on Agenda

□ Activities to learn from Lei Feng, whose name is synonymous to selflessness and utter devotion to socialism, reached a new upsurge in China. Recently senior Chinese Party and government leaders wrote messages urging all the Chinese people to emulate the young hero and translate his spirit into a high standard of socialist culture and ethics in China (p. 5).

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| COVER: Beijing bookbuyers browse through new publications at the Xinhua Bookstore in Wangfujing. | |
| Photo by Chen Zonglie | |

Unless written by Beijing Review correspondents, the opinions expressed in signed articles do not necessarily reflect the view of the Beijing Review editorial board.

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Party Calls for Closer Ties With the People

The Sixth Plenary Session of the 13th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), held in Beijing from March 9 to 12, adopted a decision on strengthening the ties between the Party and the people.

In a communique released at the end of the session, the Central Committee urged Party organizations at all levels to pay special attention to the solution of problems of most concern to the masses as a practical move to close the ties between the Party and the masses.

The communique listed the following seven aspects in which the ties between the Party and the people are to be strengthened:

1. Adhere to the practice of "coming from the masses and going to the masses," and establish and perfect a democratic and scientific process of policy making and implementation, so as to ensure that such policy making and implementation are in line with the interests of the people.

2. Leading cadres at all levels must persist in the system of frequently going down to the grassroots units and going among the masses, and work in a down-to-earth manner so that the Party's line, principles and policies are implemented with tangible results.

3. Persistently strengthen the building of socialist democracy and legal system in the course of deepening the

political restructuring, and make vigorous efforts to keep open and broaden channels by which the Party maintains its ties with the people.

4. Continue with unswerving efforts to strengthen the building of an honest and clean government and improve the Party's style of work, and energetically carry on the spirit of hard work, so as to overcome the negative and corruptive practices existing within the Party.

5. Establish and perfect the system of supervision within and without the Party, and strengthen supervision over leading organizations and leading officials at various levels.

6. Bring into full play the role of grassroots Party organizations as fighting strongholds and the exemplary role of Party members in mobilizing the masses and organizing and leading them forward.

7. Conduct within the Party extensive and deep-going education on the Marxist point of view concerning the masses so that members can follow the Party's mass line more consciously.

The communique pointed out that at a time when the work defined by the fourth and fifth plenums (held last June and November respectively) of the 13th CPC Central Committee is being done in all fields and various undertakings are developing in a sound way, issuing an earnest call to the whole Party for closing the links between

the Party and the people and making a relevant decision is of immediate significance to achieving further political, economic and social stability and development in the country.

Such closer ties would also exert a far-reaching influence on achieving the Party's general goals in the new period of historical development and pushing forward the great cause of building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

On the whole, the session said, the relations between the Party and the masses and between the cadres and the masses have been good. But bureaucratism, subjectivism, formalism, passivism, corruption and other serious phenomena that tend to drive the Party and the masses apart have grown among some Party organizations and Party functionaries in recent years.

The session urged all Party members to keep high vigilance against these phenomena, fight unremittingly against them and make every effort to restore and develop the Party's fine tradition and working style of maintaining close ties with the masses.

The 1990s will be a decade crucial to China's development. Despite a changeable world situation and the temporary domestic difficulties, China will surely establish itself in an unassailable position provided no time is lost in attending to domestic affairs, most notably the national economy, said the communique. ■

Lei Feng Back In Limelight

Millions of Chinese from all walks of life devoted their Sunday holiday on March 4 to serve others in various ways in a new nationwide upsurge to resurrect the spirit of Lei Feng, a 22-year-old People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldier who died at his post in early 1962 and whose name has since become synonymous with such socialist ethics as utter devotion to the revolution and wholeheartedness in serving the people.

A well-known line of Lei Feng was: "A man has limited years but to serve the people is an infinite cause. I am resolved to plunge my limited years into the infinite cause of serving the people."

On March 5, 1963, Mao Zedong wrote an inscription, "Learn from Comrade Lei Feng." Other Chinese leaders also wrote inscriptions, calling on the people of China to learn from Lei Feng.

Since then, Lei Feng has become an example to the Chinese people, especially the young. With the development of the campaign to learn from Lei Feng, people's mental attitudes and moral character have improved in China.

However, during the 1966-76 "cultural revolution," such activities were in fact suspended and people were apt to say that "Lei Feng has disappeared." Some even believed that to spread the communist ideals of Lei Feng in the primary stage of socialism was no longer necessary.

To coincide with the policy of reform and opening to the outside world, Chinese leaders are once again advocating that the spirit of Lei Feng be carried forward. They believe that the campaign to learn from Lei Feng will help promote the advanced culture and ideology of socialism and foster a style of hard work and plain living among the people. It may

also help the people resist the effects of bourgeois liberalization, eliminate negative factors that have emerged in the process of economic development and promote economic readjustment and deepening reform.

Just before the 27th anniversary of Mao's call to learn from Lei Feng, Jiang Zemin, Yang Shangkun, Li Peng and other Party and government leaders wrote inscriptions calling on all Chinese people to learn from Lei Feng, to develop his spirit and to contribute to the building of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Now, to learn from Lei Feng has become a hot topic again among university students in China's capital.

"Lei Feng's spirit demonstrates the national spirit," said Li Hong, a law major at Beijing University, "and the campaign to learn from him accords with the people's desire to cultivate a better interpersonal relationship characterized by comradeship, fraternity and mutual help."

Lu Yong, a leader of the Beijing Students' Federation, said that over the past few months, many university students had formed learn-from-Lei-Feng groups. They have volunteered to help police direct traffic, help lonely, childless, sick and elderly people and clean public squares.

That's a great change, Lu said, several years ago, some young people thought Lei Feng "a fool" and what he had done was "stupid."

At a national forum on learning from Lei Feng held in Beijing from March 3 to 5, Li Ruihuan, member of the Party's Political Bureau Standing Committee, said, "In learning from Lei Feng, we should do as he did — love the Communist Party and socialism, put our limited lives into the boundless cause of serving the people, work hard and practise thrift, and love and be devoted to our jobs." ■

Taiwan Situation Concerns Mainland

Violent rifts in the bogus "National Assembly" and "Legislative Yuan" and political infighting that has convulsed among the Kuomintang are causing political and social instability in Taiwan, according to an authoritative source from the Chinese mainland.

"We are deeply concerned over the situation there," the source told the news agency Xinhua in an interview.

The Kuomintang authorities have gone against the wishes and interests of the majority of the people, he said, and have violated the democratic process in their nomination of candidates for the Taiwan leadership — the "president" and "vice-president." This, he added, has aroused strong opposition among many people in the party's central committee and has developed into an internal rift.

The crisis is the result of internal contradictions and quarrels that have accumulated over many years, the source said. The people's discontent has grown in the past two years because of the Kuomintang leadership's policy errors, political irresolution and the island's economic disorder and a deteriorating social order, he added.

The leaders of the Kuomintang have been strongly criticized by people with political insight inside and outside the party for their shielding of and indulgence to the internal forces of "Taiwan independence," the source said. At the same time, he added, the leaders are advancing the concept of "one country, two governments" and "dual recognition" and other wrong ideas in violating the principle of "one China" internationally.

He also said that the fierce struggle during the election campaign reflects the disputes and

struggles inside the Kuomintang on its current policies and the future of Taiwan.

The source urged the Kuomintang authorities to respect the wishes of the people and fully consult parties, organizations and representatives of all circles and recommend people who truly adhere to the "one China" principle and devote themselves to reunification of the motherland and social progress.

It is unwise for certain officials of foreign governments to publicly express their attitudes to some candidates in an attempt to influence the natural progress of the election, the source added.

"It is known to all that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China," he said. "We firmly oppose the interference of any foreign government in China's internal affairs and firmly oppose the interference of any foreign forces in Taiwan affairs."

The future of Taiwan depends on the mainland, and only by reunification with the mainland will Taiwan enjoy harmony, stability, progress and development, he added.

"We hope all the parties, organizations and persons who are concerned with the future of Taiwan and the reunification of the motherland become united and push forward the process of peaceful unification of the motherland." ■

Beijing Mayors Meet the Press

The economic sanctions and boycott inflicted upon China by some Western countries after the counter-revolutionary rebellion was put down in Beijing last June have had some impact on the city's foreign trade, but can by no means impede China's development.

These remarks were made by Beijing Vice-Mayor Wu Yi at a news conference attended by the mayor and vice-mayors of the

100 Rural Women Honoured for Merits

One hundred women from the Chinese countryside were honoured March 7 as "capable women" in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing at a celebration marking the 80th anniversary of the March 8 International Working Women's Day.

They were cited for their talents and "outstanding efforts" in a nationwide competition of eliminating illiteracy and employing scientific farming skills.

The competition began a year ago under the aegis of the All-China Women's Federation and the ministries of agriculture and forestry. It was an attempt to encourage rural women to acquire an education and improve methods of farming with the help of agricultural science in order to better China's agriculture.

The March 8th Red-Flag Holder, a title for women who have given meritorious service to society, was granted to 85 of the 100 women. The other 15 had won the title in earlier years.

"We're celebrating Chinese women's great achievements and contributions to our country to mark the women's festival," Chen Muhua, chairwoman

of the All-China Women's Federation, said in her speech to the 3,000 who attended the ceremony.

Chen also said the employment rate of Chinese women is the highest in the world with women accounting for 37 percent of the working population. One-third of China's scientists and teachers in elementary and middle schools are women. Equality with men is common in marriage and family life.

"Chinese women's family and social status has been raised a great extent since 1949," she said.

Party and state leaders, including Jiang Zemin, Yang Shangkun, Li Peng, Wan Li and Song Ping, attended the ceremony.

Jiang, Communist Party general secretary, told the audience that Chinese women have become an indispensable force in the country's development and reform.

He encouraged women to keep up with social development and heighten their sense of social responsibility.

Women on the mainland and in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao should stand together to promote the reunification of China, Jiang said. ■

capital city and 80 Chinese and foreign journalists on March 7. The news conference was called during the Third Session of the Ninth Beijing Municipal People's Congress held between March 3 and 9.

When asked how to cope with the economic sanctions and what measures will be taken in the future, Wu said that as a result of the sanctions, Beijing lost an esti-

mated US\$30 million in export and US\$2.5 million in foreign exchange revenue last year. Wu is in charge of Beijing's foreign economic relations and trade.

About 50 projects that were under negotiations last June were cancelled or delayed, she said, and the tourist business, including joint-venture hotels, suffered most.

However, many farsighted pol-



On March 3, more than 100 journalists from 17 Asian countries and regions come to Beijing at the invitation of the Beijing Asian Games Organizing Committee to see all the preparations for the Games, set to begin September 22.

WANG JINGYING

Confidence Builds for 11th Asiad

Twenty-eight of the 39 members of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) had confirmed by March 5 that they would participate in the 11th Asian Games this fall in Beijing.

Besides China, countries and regions that will be taking part include Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong, Bhutan, Iran, the Philippines, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Jordan, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Kuwait, Palestine, Qatar, Democratic Yemen, Macao, Brunei, South Korea, the Yemen Arab Republic and Syria.

The China Olympic Committee, the host of the Games, has also told the Beijing Asian Games Organizing Committee

(BAGOC) that China will take part in all 27 medal events and two demonstration events.

This was disclosed by He Zhenliang, vice-minister in charge of China's State Physical Culture and Sports Commission and vice-president of BAGOC, at a news conference on March 5 in Beijing. The news conference was held to mark the fact that there were only 200 days left before the Asiad begins on September 22.

According to He, the other 11 members of the OCA have expressed their willingness to join in the Games.

Many members have, in their formal writings, expressed goodwill for the Games as well as the Chinese people.

This is the first time in the history of the Asian Games that so many countries plan to participate. A total of 33 OCA members, the largest number ever, attended the Asian Games held in New Delhi in 1982.

Last September, China extended invitations to special envoys or diplomats representing all 39 OCA members at an official ceremony in the Great Hall of the People.

Zhang Baifa, vice-chairman of BAGOC, told reporters that preparations have reached a crucial stage. He pledged that all facilities for competition and accommodation would be completed by May.

Chen Xitong, mayor of Beijing and BAGOC chairman, told reporters that a campaign had already started in Beijing to "impress all Asian and world athletes and friends with beauty, politeness, cleanliness, elegance and hospitality."

He also said that fund-raising wouldn't be much of a problem because "an unexpected large number of remittances have come pouring over the last few days."

Chen expressed his thanks to both domestic and world support. Holding the Asian Games in Beijing, he said, shows the trust of the Asian people. All of the Chinese people, especially Beijing residents, should live up to the high expectation and be good hosts, he added. ■

iticians and personages around the world have never suspended their good relations with China and Beijing, she said. After the rebellion was put down on June 4, Wu said she herself received two groups of friends from the United States on June 14.

Last year, Beijing made record achievements in foreign economic relations and trade, Wu added. The city's export fulfilled quotas

set by the state two months ahead of schedule, earning US\$1.16 billion, an increase of 13.6 percent over the previous year.

In 1989, Beijing approved 185 foreign-funded enterprises — joint ventures, co-operative projects and wholly-owned businesses, a 25 percent increase over 1988. Now, in the capital there are altogether 618 foreign-funded enterprises that have attracted

foreign capital totalling US\$2 billion, she said.

Beijing Mayor Chen Xitong, when asked to elaborate on the point in his work report to the municipal congress that reactionary forces were still carrying out sabotage in Beijing, replied that the reactionaries have so far done nothing more serious than post-anti-government slogans or perform minor hostile activities.

Given its immense size and its population of more than 10 million, Beijing witnesses only a few criminal acts each day. "I take the liberty to say that Beijing's social security and order is, if not the best, among the best of all biggest cities around the world," the mayor said.

Malpractice and corruption still prevail in some service trades, particularly in utilities and the installation of telephones, one journalist said, which have caused strong resentment among the residents but they choose to keep silent about their complaints for fear of retaliation. "What is the city authorities' attitude toward this matter and how will they deal with it?" he asked.

Vice-mayor Zhang Jianmin replied that the government is to introduce a supervisory system to overcome malpractice in various trades. That is to say, to strengthen the democratic supervision and the mass supervision, in addition to improving our legal system, said Zhang.

"Offices to handle reports on offences and mass-report telephones are set up in the city, district and county governments," he added. "My government will take a firm stand against the corruption problems." ■

Resolution on China Vetoed at UN Session

The 46th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights adopted in Geneva on March 6 a motion to veto a draft resolution on the "Situation in China."

The motion, raised by Pakistan, was passed by a vote of 17-15 with 11 abstentions.

The draft resolution on the "Situation in China," proposed by the United States and some other Western countries, linked China's legitimate suppression of the June anti-government riots in Beijing last year to "human rights infr-

ingements" and attempted to include China in the list of countries with human rights problems that will receive deliberations by the UN body.

This move was designed no more than to provide a forum for those given to mud-slinging against China in order to interfere in China's internal affairs.

The principle of non-interference in others' internal affairs is fully applicable to the field of human rights, Fan Guoxiang, head of the Chinese delegation, said on March 5.

Fan said that the UN Charter and its declaration on domestic affairs of states and the protection of their independence and sovereignty and the declaration on principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among states point out that no state has the right in any form to deprive other states of their right to choose and practise their political, economical, social and cultural systems or intervene directly or indirectly in other countries' internal and external affairs.

The draft resolution, however,

met with opposition as soon as it came out into the open. A Pakistani representative to the UN pointed out that no country can avoid upheavals such as happened in Beijing last June. National security, social stability and people's lives would all be severely affected if no action was taken to stop them, he added.

It is the rule of the UN body to have representatives of a country behind a draft resolution explain it to delegates. This time, however, when the draft "Situation in China" was dished out, none of the proposers stepped out and made any explanation.

"This shows once again that member states upholding the UN Charter and justice constitute the mainstream in the United Nations after all and that any plot designed to muddle in China's internal affairs is most unpopular," a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said on March 8, as he commented on the vetoed draft resolution.

"We wish to express our appreciation and thanks to all the countries that uphold justice and have supported the said motion," he added. ■

China Welcomes More Sino-Soviet Exchanges

China sees the official visit last May by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as a significant event signaling the normalization of Sino-Soviet relations by finishing the past and opening up the future.

While meeting with visiting Soviet Minister of Foreign Economic Liaison K.F. Katushev on March 6, Chinese Premier Li Peng said the Chinese Communist Party and government are willing to maintain and develop friendly Sino-Soviet relations on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

The development of good neighbourly relations between China and the Soviet Union, Li added, is not only in the interests of the two peoples, but also conducive to peace in the Far East and the world at large.

Talking about Sino-Soviet economic and trade relations, Li said the Chinese government takes a positive attitude towards furthering these relations. There are broad economic fields in which China and the Soviet Union can help and supplement each other, the premier said. ■

Basic Law and Democracy

by Fang Da

On February 16, the Drafting Committee of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passed the final 24 amendments at a plenum, marking an end to the four-and-a-half years of drafting work.

The completion of this constitutional document, which concerns the future and destiny of Hong Kong after 1997, when China resumes the exercise of sovereignty over the territory, deserves high praise. Some people may still harbour complaints of one sort or another towards the Basic Law, and others may even slander it for not being "democratic." However, a review of the painstaking drafting process will reveal whether the birth of the Basic Law is democratic.

Arduous Drafting

In April 1985, the National People's Congress (NPC) decided to set up the Drafting Committee. Two months later the Standing Committee of the NPC approved the 59-member committee, which included 23 members representing all walks of life in Hong Kong.

In July, the committee held its first plenary session and formulated the drafting outlines of the Basic Law. At the meeting, it was also decided that a consulting committee, composed of representatives from all strata in Hong Kong, would be established. In December 1985, the committee, comprised of 180 Hong Kong residents, came into being.

After two years of preparations made by various special sub-committees, the Draft-

ing Committee held its fifth plenary session in 1987 and formed a work team to coordinate the drafting work of the various sub-committees. In December of that year, the Drafting Committee met again to prepare the Basic Law (Draft) to solicit opinions, which was ratified in April 1988 at the committee's seventh plenum. The draft law was subsequently published to solicit opinions, starting the first round of consultative work, which lasted for five months.

After reviewing the solicited opinions and proposals, the special sub-committees made a series of major revisions to the law. In January 1989, at its eighth plenum, the Drafting Committee discussed and passed the Basic Law (Draft), which was then submitted to the NPC Standing Committee. A month later, the Sixth Plenary Session of the Seventh NPC Standing Committee examined and promulgated the Basic Law (Draft), announcing at the same time that a second round of opinion-seeking consultation would be conducted in Hong Kong and on the mainland.

The results prompted the various special sub-committees to meet again mainly to discuss the most controversial issues. In February 1990, the Drafting Committee held its ninth and last session to finalize and vote for the amendments submitted by the various special sub-committees.

It can be seen that, in terms of legal procedures and strictness, the drafting process of the Basic Law, compared with that of many domestic laws, required much more work. It was also unusual in world constitutional his-

tory that a country spent so much human effort, material resources, time and energy to formulate a constitution for one of its regions through so many procedures. This, however, is precisely what democracy requires and embodies the democratic spirit.

Sincere Consultation

During the first round of consultation (April-September 1988), more than 70,000 opinions or proposals were received, which were compiled into five volumes of reports and submitted to the Drafting Committee.

The second round of consultation, which lasted nine months from February to October 1989, was aimed at seeking views on long-standing controversial disputes.

In viewing the role of the two consultations in the drafting of the Basic Law, the best way is to compare the changes and revisions made to the Basic Law (Draft) for soliciting opinions and the Basic Law (Draft) with the final version. After the first version of Basic Law (Draft) was published, the first consultation was carried out. As a result, 110 changes were made. Eighty of these changes were substantive and 30 were wording. Of the substantive changes, 50 were made with direct references to the opinions of Hong Kong members within the Consulting Committee. It was on this basis that the Basic Law (Draft) was produced. After its publication, the second consultation was launched. Based on the results of that consultation, 24 revisions were proposed and later accepted, and the

Basic Law (Draft) was finalized.

Evidence shows that in the course of consultations on the Basic Law, sincere efforts were made to heed the opinions of the Hong Kong people. Otherwise it would be difficult to explain why there had been so many revisions.

Repeated Revisions

There were numerous discussions and revisions in the course of drafting the Basic Law. The Drafting Committee not only listened to the opinions of the people in Hong Kong, but also took the initiative to study and revise the Basic Law. In the past four years, the committee held nearly 100 meetings lasting for a total of more than 400 days. Mainland members of the committee's five special sub-committees came to Hong Kong more than 10 times to hear opinions. The Consulting Committee also sent more than 20 delegations to the mainland for exchanges of opinions. Before the Basic Law (Draft) for solicitation of opinions was issued, the working team had revised 12 articles in it.

The Basic Law was formulated not to restrain the future special administrative region nor to transform Hong Kong into a socialist society, but to ensure the

implementation of the policy of "one country, two systems" and the maintenance of prosperity and stability in Hong Kong after its return to China. Therefore, in the course of drafting the Basic Law, all opinions had been admitted as long as they did not run counter to the basic principles of the Sino-British Declaration.

For example, after the Hong Kong people said they feared it would be difficult to stop mainland people from entering Hong Kong in huge numbers, articles on entry management were added to the Basic Law. And because the Hong Kong people worried that departments of the Central Government and provinces would take advantage of their seniority to bully Hong Kong, the Basic Law made definite stipulations about their relations.

Article 16 of the Basic Law (Draft) dwells on the special administrative region's administrative powers, a problem that has much to do with Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy after 1997. In the beginning, the draft basic Law for opinion-solicitation listed 29 aspects of the special region's administrative powers. However, after the consultations, the Hong Kong people maintained that there still

might be unavoidable loopholes. Some even expressed the opinion that to list Hong Kong's administrative powers separately was restrictive and ran counter to what was stipulated in the Joint Declaration—that there would be no restraints to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's power except in defence and diplomacy. Although these opinions were somewhat fault-finding and represented misunderstandings, the Basic Law Drafting Committee admitted them anyway, and changed the wording accordingly.

Moreover, significant and substantive revisions were also made in the Basic Law (Draft) in such problem areas as the enforcement of national laws in Hong Kong, the special administrative region's judicial powers, the right to interpret and revise the Basic Law, balance of payments and tax collection.

Of course, it is impossible for the Basic Law to meet all the demands of all the people. Such hopes would be impractical and do not accord with the spirit of democracy. Evidence has shown that the drafting of the Basic Law was a process of practising democracy.

(Originally published in Hong Kong's *Wen Wei Po* and minor changes are made here.) ■

Japanese-US Relations in a Changed World

by Yang Bojiang

US President George Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu met in Palm Springs, California on March 2 and 3 to discuss the political and economic relations of their two countries. Their talks focused on bilateral trade frictions, global partnership and security problems. The two leaders, however, found it difficult

to bridge the gap in their trade disputes. The international community is following with interest the development of Japanese-US relations.

In the 1990s, disagreements between Japan and the United States will become more acute under the new international environment. But on the whole, Japanese-US relations will see no

fundamental changes in the near future.

Current Japanese-US relations are a mixture of competition and interdependence, disagreements and co-operation.

The heavy imbalance of bilateral trade is an old sore point between Japan and the United States. In 1986, Japan's favourable balance of trade set a record

of US\$52 billion. In 1988, its favourable balance accounted for 44 percent of the US trade deficit. The figure topped 50 percent by the first quarter of 1989. Last September, the two countries began bilateral trade talks known as the "structural impediments initiative," which are to last a year and are an attempt to remove sources of frictions through changing their economic structure.

Another area of tension is high technology. A recent dispute on the joint development of a new generation of support fighter planes (FSX) showed their sharp differences in the field. In a modern economy closely related to technological development and commercialization, high technology means the establishment of new industry, an increase in economic vitality and new markets. Therefore, competition between Japan and the United States will be more intense in this field.

Japan's investment in the United States has also increased rapidly—by 13 times in the past 10 years, topping US\$60 billion at present. Japanese capital has been everywhere from Wall Street to Hollywood. By October 1989, Japan had become the second largest investing country in the United States after Britain. Japanese capital purchases in the United States climaxed in 1989: Columbia Pictures and the Rockefeller Centre were both bought by the Japanese. This greatly shocked many Americans, who complained that Japan was taking over the United States.

But more seriously, the increased bickering between the two countries has led to media clashes and heightened national emotions. This has resulted in political sparring matches in their congresses over Japanese-US relations.

Akio Morita, chairman of Sony, which bought Columbia Pictures, and Shintaro Ishihara, a nationalist politician from Ja-

pan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, wrote in their book called *The Japan That Can Say No* that Japan should consider selling its chip technology to the Soviet Union to show the United States who truly needs whom. A policy of this sort, the two writers said, would alter the balance of international military strength immediately because the key to support US military strength is Japan's high technology. They also criticized the United States for always blaming Japan for the trade imbalance and said that Japan should not yield to US intimidation and outside pressure in its diplomacy. The book touched off a great upset in the United States and was harshly criticized by the US media.

New Situation: Its Impact

As the world entered the 1990s, many changes took place which had an impact on Japanese-US relations.

The trend towards multipolar international politics has become even more obvious as tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States ease.

An unbalanced development of world economic forces has clearly weakened the ability of the Unit-

ed States and the Soviet Union to influence international affairs and control their allies. The overbearing economic prosperity of Japan and Western Europe, and radical changes in Eastern Europe have had a major impact on the US-Soviet bipolar system. Further detente in the international situation has also increasingly strengthened East-West cooperation and exchange, and has turned the focus of international competition from the military to the economic and technological fields. On the other hand, however, unrest still remains in some regions.

The Western economy has seen a relatively steady growth for the past seven years. The US position as an economic power has declined somewhat while Japan's role has sharply increased. In the third world, the Asian-Pacific region has kept a higher growth rate. Globally, however, the international economic system in which the United States played a leading role has gradually been replaced by one under a tripolar leadership of the United States, Japan and Europe. Meanwhile, the trend towards forming regional groups has become more prevalent in the world economy.



Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu shakes hands with US President George Bush during a visit to the United States on March 2 to discuss their economic differences.

Countries in the European Community are speeding up their efforts to establish a unified market. The free trade agreement between Canada and the United States has been in force for a year. The two countries also plan to eliminate tariffs within 10 years and expand the agreement to include Mexico. As for the Asian-Pacific region, 12 countries including Japan, the United States and Australia met in Canberra in November 1989 to discuss a multilateral economic co-operative circle.

Under such new conditions, the dispute between Japan and the United States has intensified. The easing of tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union has lowered Japan's posi-

tion in the American global strategy, and enabled the US government to focus its attention on tackling the economic threat from Japan. World competition is now focused on two fields—economics and technology—Japan's strong points. But the United States, because its focus has been on military strength, will be under pressure to improve in economics and technology. Furthermore, Japan will take advantage of both the general easing in the world situation and the regional unrest to promote its international role. Under such conditions, the US government's worries and doubts about Japan will increase and its policy towards Japan regarding co-operation in new technology, trade and defence will be-

come more strict.

In addition, a struggle for leadership in the Asia-Pacific area will take place between the United States and Japan. The plan of the European Community to establish an integrated market and the US-Canada free trade agreement have given Japan feelings of isolation. Japan is worried that it will be excluded from regional economic co-operation. So while increasing its investment in Europe and the United States, Japan is taking the initiative to establish an Asian economic rim centred around itself. Faced with increasing Japanese influence, a relaxed Soviet policy towards the Asia-Pacific area and uncertain conditions for American military bases abroad, the United States has

New Wave of Jewish Immigration Arouses Concern

by Wu Wenbin

An increase in the number of Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe will make disputes between Arab countries and Israel more intense and resolution of the Palestinian question and realization of peace in the Middle East more difficult.

During the first few months of this year there has been a massive Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Israel Radio said that in the first two months of this year more than 9,600 Soviet Jews immigrated to Israel. This year Israel will receive about 230,000 Soviet Jews. In the next five to 10 years 750,000 to 1 million Jewish people from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe will immigrate to Israel.

Because the Middle East peace

process has reached a stalemate and the situation in Israel's occupied territories continues to be turbulent, the sudden massive Jewish immigration has provoked a strong reaction from the Arab world and commanded the attention of the international community.

Leaders of Arab countries have recently made speeches or issued statements about Jewish immigration, and consulted each other on the matter.

They said Soviet Jewish immigration constitutes a serious threat to Arab nations and is a new factor affecting peace and stability in the Middle East.

They condemned the fact that the new immigrants were being allowed to settle in the occupied territories, saying it has violated the norms of international law

and the fourth Geneva Convention. At the same time they complained that the Soviet Union has placed its own interests above the interests of the Arab and Palestinian people. The Arab nations also condemned the United States for plotting massive Jewish immigration into Israel under the pretext of safeguarding the "human rights" of the Jewish people. Actually, they pointed out, the United States supports Tel Aviv's plan of establishing a greater Israel.

The Arab nations demand that the Soviet Union reconsider its immigration plan and exert pressure on Israel to force Israeli authorities to stop permitting the new immigrants to settle in the occupied territories. This should be a precondition in order for Soviet Jews to leave the Soviet Union. Arab nations also oppose direct air service between the Soviet Union and Israel. And they demand that the US administration cancel its limitation on the number of Soviet Jews allowed into the United States. They want free settlement of Soviet Jews in the United States and

been forced to adjust its strategy towards the area. As a result, the contradictions between Washington and Tokyo will be more sharply defined as they fight for political and economic leadership in the Asia-Pacific region.

Prospects for the Future

Although there are many factors hindering the development of US-Japanese relations, the basis of their relationship will not be shaken in the foreseeable future.

Both countries share the same view regarding the Soviet Union. They are uncertain whether Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's position is stable and how far his reforms will go. They believe that Gorbachev's reforms, which

have not brought any economic benefits to the Soviet people, are facing strong opposition from domestic conservative forces and the military, and there have also been many ethnic disturbances recently. They fear that if Gorbachev's reforms fail, a totalitarian and militaristic power will emerge in the Soviet Union, just as French President Francois Mitterrand has predicted. Being uncertain of the Soviet future, neither the United States nor Japan will easily give up their alliance.

Japan and the United States also help each other out economically. One-third of Japan's exports are to the United States and one-third of the foreign capital the US government uses to reme-

dy its financial deficit every year is from Japan. Although Japan is trying to divert part of its exports to other markets under pressure from the US government, its investments in the United States will continue to increase in the coming years.

In view of the two countries' relations in defence, the US-Japan Security Treaty has been the pillar of American strategy towards the Asia-Pacific area. It is also the basis of Japan's defence policy. The Japanese government considers that although its defence expenditure has increased rapidly in recent years, it has no capability to establish an independent defence system of its own before the mid-1990s. ■

Western Europe. The United States, therefore, should adopt practical measures to prevent Israel from establishing settlements on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and settling new immigrants there.

Under strong pressure from the Arab side, the Soviet Union proposed to hold a special meeting of the UN Security Council to decide the immigration issue. Regarding current Soviet immigration policy, Soviet first Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov argued that it was impossible for his country "to take resolute measures to prevent Soviet Jews from settling in Israel." The Soviet Union, he explained, was in the process of making legislation on free exit and entry of citizens more democratic. The Soviet foreign ministry also issued a statement strongly opposing Israel's settlement of new immigrants in the occupied territories. It appealed to Israeli authorities not to change the status of the occupied territories and condemned Israel for using the immigration issue to sow the seeds of discord between the Soviet Union and

Arab countries. Moscow also condemned the United States for providing a large amount of aid to the Jewish immigrants. Therefore, it said, the United States should take responsibility for the immigration issue. The United States also issued a statement, opposing Israel's expansion of settlements in the occupied territories and settlement of new immigrants there.

Observers in the Middle East pointed out that because of recent ethnic unrest in the Soviet Union, Soviet Jews were afraid they might get caught in the middle and applied for exit visas. Seeing this, the United States took the opportunity to privately make a deal with Israel. When Moscow opened the door for Soviet Jews, the US government threw roadblocks in front of Jewish immigration to the United States. Thus the Soviet Jews were forced to immigrate to Israel.

Since 1967, Israeli authorities have set up 178 settlements in the occupied territories, controlled 90 percent of the water resources in the West Bank and confiscated 50 percent of the Pa-

lestinians' land. They have also confiscated one-third of the land in the Gaza Strip. They have established about 100 factories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and settled 170,000 immigrants there. To meet the settlement needs of the Soviet Jews, the Israeli government especially appropriated US\$900 million out of US\$32 billion of the 1990 financial budget. They plan to use the money to build 17,000 new houses. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said that Israel would not abandon the West Bank and Gaza Strip and would build settlements in Jerusalem to accommodate 150,000 to 170,000 new immigrants. This fully shows that Israel plans to occupy the Arab land forever.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said on February 3 that the Chinese government is opposed to any attempt by Israeli authorities to change the status of the occupied territories by establishing settlements. Such a move is not only against relevant norms of international law, but is harmful to the Middle East peace process, the spokesman said. ■

Socialist Democracy—A Process of Development

by Wen Di

This is the concluding part of a four-installment article entitled "Socialism Will Save China." The first, second and third part appeared in issues Nos. 9, 10 and 11.—Ed.

Our worthy predecessors fully understood the importance of democracy and science during the "May 4th" Movement (1919). But, building up democratic politics and the scientific spirit, like erecting a magnificent palace and a towering mountain, takes time; it is a long and arduous process. This is not unlike the road to the capitalist democratic politics, which was not established overnight. During the political disturbance led by those political "elites," however, they took democracy as their own patent design and any person who disagreed with their political propositions was branded "anti-democratic" and "autocratic." If there was only one version of democracy, they might have been correct. Such an outlook, however, is an oversimplification. Our differences of opinion with the "elites" do not lie in whether one favours democracy or autocracy but in what kind of democracy one demands and in the best methods to build democracy.

What is democracy? Democracy is not generally believed to be a governing right dispensed from a divine, imperial or other supreme power. Democracy is not only a form of government management but also reflects the nature of a State. Democratic sys-

tem is not in the exclusive possession of capitalism. Its emergence dates back to the time of ancient Greece and its growth was tied to either the slave-owners or freemen. Therefore, when we talk about democracy we should see more than the form; we should not neglect the nature of a State represented by a given democratic system. The duty of various representative systems of government in the West today, whether it is the system of constitutional monarchy, the system of presidential government or the cabinet system, is to uphold the constitution. The core of these constitutions is, above all, to protect the private ownership of capitalism and, secondly, the various promised freedoms. China's recent political unrest has been termed a "pro-democracy" movement by the West, a designation which can also be interpreted as a movement towards a pro-capitalist free economy. China's current political system and its Constitution protect the public ownership economy with the ownership of the whole people as the core. Although some parts of this economy (including the system of leasing and shareholding) are still on trial, there is a common understanding that the means of production will not be allowed to fall into the hands of a small number of people. Marx

noted that the theory of the Communists may be summed up in the single sentence: abolition of private ownership. The difference between socialism and capitalism lies in socialism's advance towards the abolition of private ownership of the means of production.

If, instead of taking the existing Western democratic system, including the multi-party system, the sharing of power by the executive, judiciary and the legislature and the parliamentary system, as the only gauge to judge the existence of democracy, we take into account such factors as the existence of an exploiting class or of a handful of people who take advantage of the prerogatives of wealth to control the political power, then we have good reason to say that socialist democracy has progressed in China. The Chinese people have in place the institutional means to practise democratic politics—the National People's Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). There is nothing strange in the fact that people may criticize these organizations for their actual role because there are often limited debate and one-sided viewpoints. It should not be forgotten, however, that during the unrest, some people attempted to use the

Standing Committee of the NPC to reject marshal law which had been in force. It is thus evident that the NPC, as the organ of supreme power, cannot be easily ignored.

It took capitalist democratic politics a long time, a tortuous and prolonged course to attain its present development. Two decades ago, the black people in the United States had to fight for their civil rights. As recently as in the years before World War II, the United States still allowed illegal private punishment for black people and it was only after World War I that American women won their right to vote. In many Western countries, workers got their right to vote only a century ago. During the British civil war, some 300 years ago, Oliver Cromwell cruelly suppressed the Levellers because the latter demanded the abolition of the stipulation that only people with a property worth two pounds sterling had the right to vote. Such facts indicate that the early capitalist democracy was actually a democracy of property owners and that in the contemporary age the true nature of capitalist democracy has been concealed, making it more deceptive and hypocritical.

There are many reasons for the prolonged development of capitalist democracy. As Marx said, rights can never go beyond the economic structure of society and the cultural development conditioned by the economic structure. Many countries which developed late and were unable to make up for their lost time will, therefore, be unavoidably buffeted by all sorts of ideas ahead of their time. Today, a number of learned people returning from study abroad are anxious to transplant the democratic system of the United States of the 1980s to China. Despite their respectable desire to dedicate themselves to the service of the

nation, they clearly forget that the development of democracy is limited by a country's economic and cultural conditions, that is, that democracy follows a course of development. The sense of democracy stimulated by critically comparing China's developing democratic system with the American democratic system of the 1980s absolutely is not in keeping with China's reality.

People easily understand that the economic development must proceed steadily, step by step, but they tend to forget that the edifice of democracy can only be built block by block. Some of the demands by the political "elites" to promote democracy, such as the complete abolition of the practice of arresting people as "political offenders," permitting the establishment of opposition parties and the abolition of the Communist Party's leadership over media, represent an attempt to impose the current forms of Western democracy on China's political reality.

Why is that present China cannot completely abolish the practice of arresting people as "political offenders" as demanded by the West? In raising the demand some Westerners want the People's Republic to give full freedom of activity to its political enemy. If the international and domestic climate permitted, it might not be a bad idea. The real international and domestic atmosphere, however, falls far short of it. Not only is this impossible for China to do, but it is impossible for the United States. For instance, even though the conditions of democratic politics in the United States have improved a lot, a youngster who burned a national flag of the United States was still convicted, let alone real acts of subversion against the US government. If the Marxists in the United States occupied the lawn in front of the White House for a couple of days

and erected a statue of Marx there, one can easily imagine the troubles they would get into. Nor should people forget that only a few decades ago it was a dangerous thing for American workers to join a trade union or to talk about socialism or communism. The Taiwan authorities are also unable to do so. They still do not allow Communist Party members to visit Taiwan, to say nothing of permitting lawful activities of the Communist Party there. Therefore, the demand for China's complete abolition of "political offence" is nothing but deception.

What China can do today is to guarantee its citizens' safety so long as they confine their actions to those permitted by the Constitution and do not violate the law. With regard to ideological differences, so long as they do not act against the Constitution and the four cardinal principles stipulated by the Constitution, Chinese citizens can freely air and debate about viewpoints of every description. It is extremely necessary to develop a spirit of tolerance in the academic and ideological sphere and promote the thinking of Voltaire of the Age of the Enlightenment: "Although I detest your views, I am willing to defend the right you have to express them with my own life." Special attention should be paid to protecting the legitimate right of the minority. That is to say, we should adhere to and implement the policy of "letting a hundred flowers bloom and a hundred schools of thought contend" put forward by Chairman Mao Zedong. With this policy and spirit, there can be both freedom and discipline along with unified thinking and personal ease of mind.

China's biggest political problem is to maintain a stable political environment. Not carrying out political structural reform or moving too quickly with the

Formation and Development of System of Multi-Party Co-operation

by Lu Yun

The system of multi-party co-operation led by the Chinese Communist Party is a system of socialist political parties that is in accord with China's reality. It emerged and developed under the special historical conditions of China and reflects the characteristics of the historical development of Chinese society.

The multi-party co-operation led by the Chinese Communist Party has existed for about half a century. Almost all the democratic parties in China were founded during or after the War of Resistance Against Japan (1937-45); they established relations of co-operation with the Chinese Communist Party in the struggle against the reactionary rule of the Kuomintang.

Earlier, in 1924, the Kuomintang and the Communist Party, the only two political parties then in China, worked in

tandem to fight imperialism and feudal warlords. In that period, the Kuomintang led by Sun Yat-sen (1866-1925), pioneer of the democratic revolution, pursued the three major policies of "alliance with Soviet Russia, co-operation with the Communist Party and support for the workers' and peasants' movements," while the Chinese Communist Party, as the political party of the Chinese working class, set the realization of communism as its maximum programme and Marxism-Leninism as its guide to action. In 1927, the Kuomin-

tang betrayed the revolution and massacred a great number of Communists to introduce its own one-party dictatorship. Left with no alternative, the Communist Party turned to build its own forces by creating the people's revolutionary army and revolutionary bases in the countryside, and struck out on the road of encircling cities from the countryside and seizing political power through armed struggle.

In the 1930s, the aggression by the Japanese militarists aroused the Chinese people in a

reform will constitute the factors for the turmoil. China is now carrying out profound economic reforms, and the difficulties involved in the economic reform require the leadership of a powerful government. Thus, China's political structural form should be conducted in a more steady and reliable way. Otherwise, it will be a catastrophe for the Chinese people. The reform of the political structure should be based as far as possible on full discussions and a common understanding, and should be carried out, preferably, slowly but

effectively. Only in this way will the political reform bring real benefits to the Chinese people and not be manipulated by some schemers. What is possible to be achieved at present is to expand the power of the people's congresses at all levels, reinforce its representation and gradually perfect the people's congress system. The people's congresses should establish a regular work procedure so as to enable them to actively exercise supervision over the activities of the governments at all levels, instead of being turned into a "rubber

stamp" so detested by the people.

Concluding Remarks

It is a basic fact that the Chinese people have embarked on the socialist road. Despite this, the political "elites" have indulged in the vain hope of changing this historical trend and tried to lead China into capitalism. Their political programme will push China into chaos. The turmoil, which is aimed overthrowing the socialist state apparatus, will bring great suffering to the Chinese people.

united struggle against the invaders, and the Kuomintang and the Communist Party entered a second round of co-operation to fight the Japanese in unity. After the Japanese surrender, however, the ruling Kuomintang, supported by the US government, launched a large-scale civil war in an attempt to wipe out the Communist Party. It was against such a backdrop that all the democratic

parties in China, influenced by the Communist Party's united front policy, established, to varying degrees, relations of co-operation with the Chinese Communist Party. Such relations were further strengthened in later revolutionary struggles.

Initial Stage

When they were founded, the democratic parties drew their

members mainly from such social strata as the national bourgeoisie, urban petty bourgeoisie and their intellectuals as well as other patriotic democrats. They were all political parties in the nature of an alliance of different social strata. Among their membership and leadership, there were a certain number of revolutionary intellectuals and a few Communists.

At that time the political programmes of the democratic parties included the fight against imperialism and for national salvation and a demand for democracy—political programmes which were basically in accord with that of the Chinese Communist Party for the period of the new democratic revolution. This explains why these democratic parties took up co-operation with the Communist Party soon after they were founded. During the War of Resistance Against Japan, they worked together to fight the Kuomintang diehards who were attempting to surrender to the Japanese imperialists, break up the Kuomintang-Communist co-operation and pull the wheels of history back. After the Japanese surrender, when a political con-

Member of the Kuomintang Revolutionary Committee and daughter of Zhao Dengyu, a well-known anti-Japanese general, Zhao Xuefen (middle), a senior teacher of the Miku Primary School, Beijing, has been cited a model teacher for many years.

ZHENG SHUFU



Such a possibility should arouse the attention of the people.

It goes without saying that socialism will save China and that it has already brought independence, unity, stability and initial prosperity to China. It is highly likely that it can make China one of the most powerful countries in the world within the next 30 to 40 years. It only needs the time to make it a reality; it cannot be stopped.

At this important historical turn, then, it is absolutely necessary to stress political gradualism characterized by reform, ration-

ality, democracy and legality and oppose political adventurism characterized by extremism, fanaticism and eagerness for quick success and instant benefits.

The Communist Party of China has the ability to lead the Chinese people to realize the grand goal of the modernization drive. It will adhere to the policy of reform and opening up to the outside world, ensure the sustained, steady and proportionate development of the national economy, improve the living standards of the people and, at the same time, will carry out pol-

itical structural reform in an active and cautious way, promote socialist democracy and place the Party and the government under the supervision of the people. In so doing, the creative power of the people will be brought into play, national cohesion strengthened and a stable political situation created.

If the Chinese people, including all patriotic intellectuals, concentrate their wisdom on improving, not overthrowing, China's socialist system, there is no doubt that China has a bright future. ■

sultative conference attended by representatives of the Kuomintang, the Communist Party, the democratic parties and other public figures was convened and a truce agreement was signed by the Kuomintang and the Communist Party in January 1946 the democratic parties, as the "third party" and intermediate forces, worked together with the Communist Party in their struggle against the policy of civil war and dictatorship of the Kuomintang reactionaries and for peace and democracy. When the Kuomintang reactionaries tore up the truce agreement, and the resolutions passed by the political consultative conference in flagrant defiance of the opposition of the entire Chinese people and launched civil war on a national scale in June 1946, all the democratic parties, standing by the Communist Party, solemnly declared they did not recognize the bogus national assembly and constitution of the

Kuomintang reactionaries. Instead, they threw themselves into the democratic movements in the Kuomintang-ruled areas. In early 1948, when the people's war of liberation led by the Communist Party switched to strategic offensive and gained one victory after another, the democratic parties declared openly that they stood by the people's revolution and fought together with the Communist Party to overthrow the Kuomintang reactionary rule and establish a New China. In response to the Communist Party's call issued on May 1, 1948, the democratic parties sent their leaders to the Communist Party-led liberated areas, declared their acceptance of Communist Party leadership and joined the preparation for the convocation of a new political consultative conference.

In September 1949, all the democratic parties and the Communist Party attended the

Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, at which they passed a common programme which was invested with the nature and functions of an interim constitution, set up the Central People's Government through elections and founded the People's Republic of China. It was at this time that the system of multi-party co-operation under the leadership of the Communist Party took shape.

During the period of new democratic revolution, the democratic parties co-operated and fought together with the Communist Party and made important contributions to the victory of the revolution and the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Improved Co-operation

After the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, China began to shift, in a planned way,

China's Democratic Parties

The China Revolutionary Committee of Kuomintang. It was formally founded in January 1948 by democratic figures of the Kuomintang who carried on the patriotic and revolutionary spirit of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, forerunner of China's democratic revolution, and other patriotic democrats. Most of its members are former middle- and high-ranking Kuomintang officials or personages of middle and upper social strata who formerly had relations with the Kuomintang. At present, Zhu Xuefan holds the position of chairman. The previous chairmen of the Revolutionary Com-

mittee of the Kuomintang were Li Jishen (1885-1959), He Xiangning (female, 1879-1972), Zhu Yunshan (1887-1981), Wang Kunlun (1902-85) and Qu Wu (1898-).

The China Democratic League. It was formally founded in March 1941 by noted public figures composed mainly of intellectuals. Its original name was the China Democratic League of Political Organizations and it adopted its present name in 1944. Most of its members are senior and middle-level intellectuals engaged in culture and education. Its present chairman is Fei Xiaotong. The previous

chairmen were Zhang Lan (1872-1955), Shen Junru (1875-1963), Yang Mingxuan (1891-1967), Shi Liang (1900-1985), Hu Yuzhi (1896-1986) and Chu Tunan (1899-).

The China Democratic National Construction Association. It was founded in December 1945 by patriotic national entrepreneurs in industry and commerce and intellectuals having relations with them. Most of its members are people from the economic circle and related experts. The present Chairman is Sun Qimeng. The previous chairmen were Huang Yanpei (1878-1965) and Hu Juewen (1895-1989).

The China Association for Promoting Democracy. Esta-

from new democratic revolution to socialist revolution. All the democratic parties adapted themselves to this new situation. At the plenary sessions of their respective central committees, they revised their constitutions and decided to take the Common Programme as their political programme. Later, the democratic parties, adopting the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and the preamble of the Constitution of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference as their political programme, decided on the political line of serving socialism, thus turning off the new democratic road on to the road of serving socialism. In 1956 when the socialist transformation of the private ownership of the means of production was basically completed, Mao Zedong, chairman of the Communist Party, put forward the policy of long-term coexistence and mutual supervision for han-

dling the relations between the Communist Party and democratic parties, signaling further enhancement of the system of multi-party co-operation.

The democratic parties experienced three major tests after the founding of New China. The first was the land reform in the early post-liberation period and the ensuing socialist transformation. The land reform was aimed at cutting off ties with feudalism, while the socialist transformation was aimed at breaking off relations with capitalist ownership. Under the leadership and with the help of the Communist Party, the democratic parties were tempered and remoulded in the fight for the abolition of

the feudal system of exploitation and for the socialist transformation of the private ownership of the means of production. Their political awareness was raised and, as a driving force rather than as a resisting force, they made positive contributions to the thorough completion of the new democratic revolution and the smooth accomplishment of the tasks set for the socialist transformation.

Recalling the situation at that time, Sun Qimeng, chairman of the Central Committee of the China Democratic National Construction Association (CDNCA), said that during the period of transition from the new democratic revolution to the socialist revolution, the

The multi-party co-operation led by the Chinese Communist Party has existed for about half a century.

lished in December 1945, it is composed mainly of intellectuals who work in the fields of education, culture, publishing and science and patriotic personages of the industrial and business circles. Lei Jieqiong now holds the position of chairperson. The previous chairmen were Ma Xulun (1885-1970), Zhou Jianren (1888-1984) and Ye Shengtao (1894-1988).

The Chinese Peasants' and Workers' Democratic Party. It was founded in 1930 under its original name, the Provisional Action Committee of the Kuomintang, and adopted its present name in 1947. This party is composed mainly of senior and middle-level intellectuals who work in the fields of public health, science and tech-

nology, culture and education. The present chairman is Lu Jiaxi. The previous chairmen were Deng Yanda (1895-1931), Huang Qixiang (1898-1970), Zhang Bojun (1895-1969), Peng Zemin (1877-1956), Ji Fang (1890-1987) and Zhou Gucheng (1898-).

The China Zhi Gong Dang. Founded in 1925 in San Francisco, USA, it is composed mostly of returned overseas Chinese, their relatives and noted figures and scholars with overseas relations. The present chairman is Dong Yinchu and the previous chairmen were Chen Qilong (1892-1971) and Huang Dingchen (1901-).

The Jiu San Society. Founded in May 1946 by figures from the fields of science, technolo-

gy, education and culture, it is composed mainly of senior and middle-level intellectuals engaged in science, technology, culture, education and medical and health work. Its present chairman is Zhou Peiyuan whose predecessor was Xu Deheng (1890-1990).

The Taiwan Democratic Self-Government League. Founded in November 1947, it is composed of Taiwan natives residing in the mainland. Its present chairman is Cai Zimin. The previous chairmen were Xie Xuehong (female, 1901-70), Cai Xiao (1919-90) and Su Ziheng (1905-).

The eight democratic parties now have a total membership of more than 400,000. ■

Chinese Communist Party put forward in 1952 the general line for the transitional period, to the effect that the government should carry out the socialist transformation of capitalist industry and commerce to replace capitalist ownership of the means of production through the policy of peaceful redemption. CDNCA was

composed of patriotic entrepreneurs and businessmen of the national bourgeoisie and intellectuals who had connections with them. CDNCA members from the industrial and business circles who had gone through the ideological education of their own party led the way for participation in the joint state-private owner-

ship, using their own experiences to convince other industrialists and businessmen to accept socialist transformation through peaceful redemption. The government made proper arrangements for them in politics, work and their daily life, and most held leading posts in the new joint state-private enterprises. Quite a few participated in the work of people's congress, the government and the political consultative conference. After much effort, the national capitalists were, through their own efforts, transformed into labourers.

Sun added that the socialist transformation, which was aimed at abolishing capitalist ownership, was, of course, in contradiction with the essence of the capitalist class. This acute contradiction was, however, finally solved without a hitch un-

der the correct leadership of the Communist Party, without shedding blood or incurring economic losses. Success was also inseparable from the concurrent efforts of the democratic parties, mass organizations and advanced elements of industrial and business circles. The victorious transformation of capitalist in-

It not only reflects the characteristics of the historical development of Chinese society but also the characteristics and advantage of China's political system.

dustry and commerce in China was a marked indication of the successful multi-party cooperation under the leadership of the Communist Party.

The second test democratic parties went through was during the 1959-61 period of temporary difficulties for the national economy. To tide over this period, the democratic parties did a great deal of ideological work among their members and the people under their influence, in a commendable effort to help stabilize the national situation and overcome the difficulties quickly.

The third test was in the ten chaotic years of the "cultural revolution" from 1966 to 1976. Members of the democratic parties and quite a large number of Communists were cruelly persecuted by the two counter-revolutionary cliques of Lin Biao and Jiang Qing. However, after the Communist Party smashed these cliques, corrected its own mistakes and set things to rights, the democratic parties continued to adhere to the socialist road under the leadership of the Communist Party, and this is indeed highly commendable. Many Communists who had been persecuted during the "cultural revolution" valued

their friendship and relations with the democratic parties all the more. This time the Communist Party put forward the policy of "long-term coexistence, mutual supervision, treating each other in all sincerity, and sharing weal and woe together" for dealing with its relations with the democratic parties. This policy has greatly aroused the democratic parties' sense of responsibility and enthusiasm for the country's political life and modernization.

Persistence and Improvement

After the founding of New China, all the democratic parties participated in the construction of political power in the country. Taking the Constitution as their code of conduct and protected by it and other laws, the democratic parties and the Communist Party swapped opinions with each other, criticized each other and supervised each other in the light of the Constitution. They took part in the discussion and decision-making process of all important matters concerning the state's political life, economic construction and the united front, participated in running state affairs, called on their members and people under their influence to take part in activities beneficial to socialism, spoke on behalf of the interests of their members, assisted the Communist Party in publicizing its policies and coordinating relations among different social groups, and helped their members to proceed with their own ideological education. The democratic parties played an important role in fostering the patriotic united front, maintaining China's peace and unity and promoting the socialist cause.

In the late 1970s, China en-



Lei Jieqiong (second right), chairwoman of the Central Committee of the China Association for Promoting Democracy, with her party comrades.

XU ZHICHENG

tered a new historical period in which the central task is the construction of socialist modernization. The situation of the domestic classes has undergone a fundamental change. On the mainland, the exploiting class as a whole no longer exists. All the democratic parties have also undergone a historic change. They have each become political alliances of some of the socialist labourers and patriots who support socialism and with whom these parties maintain their respective ties, and a political forces that serve socialism under the leadership of the Communist Party. The four cardinal principles listed in the Constitution of adherence to the socialist road, to the leadership of the Communist Party, to the people's democratic dictatorship and to Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought are the common political basis for unity

and co-operation between the Communist Party and the democratic parties. All the democratic parties have thus entered a new historical period of serving the construction of socialist modernization.

In the past 50 years of struggle and practice, China's democratic parties have travelled on a road from co-operating with the Communist Party to accepting its leadership, and from standing for patriotism to serving socialism. The system of multi-party co-operation and political consultation emerged and developed under the specific historical conditions of China. It not only reflects the characteristics of the historical development of Chinese society but also the characteristics and advantage of China's political system. In 1987, the 13th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party called for the further im-

provement of the system of multi-party co-operation and political consultation under the leadership of the Communist Party and took it as an important part of the reform of China's political system. The "Guidelines Proposed by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China for Upholding and Improving the System of Multi-Party Co-operation and Political Consultation Under the Leadership of the Communist Party" put forward at the end of 1989 marks the beginning of a new period in which the work in connection with multi-party co-operation and political consultation will be conducted regularly as a hard and fast rule, and the role of democratic parties as participants in state and government affairs and democratic supervision will be given further play. ■

China Declares War on Pornography

by Our Staff Reporter Cheng Gang

Anyone who has recently paid a visit to bookshops, magazine stands and public places of entertainment has discovered that the various kinds of obscene publications, audio and video cassettes pandering to sex, violence and feudal superstition, which used to be readily available, were hard to find. The disappearance of such material is proof that China's campaign against pornography is making progress.

Since the implementation of reform in 1979, China's publishing trade has developed rapidly. In 1988, 502 publishing houses nationwide printed 6.225 billion Chinese and foreign-language books in 62,962 titles in addition to 5,865 magazines with a press run of 2.55 billion copies and 1,537 newspapers with a printing of 26.78 billion copies. This was a far cry from the situation between 1966 and 1978. You Yuzhen, a bank clerk more than 50 years old, said that at that time she could read only few new books a year, but now there is no way she can finish reading all the new titles which come on the market.

Such rapid development, of course, helped the publishing market to flourish. Now, there are more than 20,000 state, collective and individual-run bookstores throughout the country. Along with this publishing house boom has been the development of the audio-video industry over the past ten years. Before 1979, no factory in China was capable of producing audio-tape cassettes. But, by the end of 1989,

188 audio-video cassette publishing organizations and around 50 audio and video tape factories had been set up. Cassette and video tape marketing networks had expanded from their original base in urban areas to the rural areas. In 1988, the sales volume of video and audio cassettes nationwide amounted to 360,000 and 117 million respectively. In addition, about 30,000 video projection centres were opened in cities and small towns to liven up the cultural and recreational life.

Pornographic Pestilence

At the same time as this boom, however, many publishers took advantage of loopholes in the publishing and cultural market. A large number of publications, audio and video products, full of violence and feudal superstition, flowed into the publication market. For instance, *The Rou Pu Tuan*, a book full of promiscuous material banned in China for some 300 years, and *The Minds of Young Girls*, a hand-written pornographic book circulated secretly among young people during the 1970s, could both be found on bookstands over the past few years. In January 1989,

the Press and Publication Administration promulgated the provisional regulations on limiting pornographic publications and at least 254 pornographic books were immediately seized. In the video cassette market, some obscene audio and video tapes and productions smuggled into the country were also sold or played back both privately and publicly. Statistics from the Public Security Department of Fujian Province show that 411 of such video products were seized in 1988 and 66 in the first half of 1989. The material included pornographic products which are banned or limited in distribution in Western countries and, in some cases, even depicted sexual relations between humans and animals.

In July 1989, some banned books were still being sold at one bookstall in Beijing. The young owner explained that it's impossible for the few available administrative personnel to control the many individual bookstalls and, even when they discover banned publications, the fine makes barely a dent in the book-sellers' profit. This particular book vendor was typical. Over the past few years, many people

who thought only of profit have made large profits in the pornography business. They organized illegal underground networks to compile, publish, print and distribute the material, particularly in the coastal areas where the bulk of the manufacturing and distributing has taken place. In Shishi City, Fujian Province, for instance, obscene video tapes were sold almost publicly. Persons from around the country came first to view and then to choose the videos which they would peddle in other parts of the country. In a short time, some 1,000 households in the city were engaged in selling and reproducing at least 3,300 cassettes each day. In Shanghai, three-fourths of the pornographic videos seized over the past few years had originated in Shishi City.

Wenzhou's Jinxiang Town is another source of pornographic products. Between March and July 1989 alone, 77 individual managers and private enterprises sent 1 million letters to 29 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions soliciting customers for subscription to their

products. They earned 720,000 yuan.

Poison

Before his arrest, Chen Bingxun had raped four girls. His parents never expected their son to commit such crimes because they had been strict with him and because he used to be a promising student in a middle school of Jinjiang County, Fujian Province. However, he secretly got hold of the *The Minds of Young Girls*, reading it night and day, when he was only 15 years old. From then on, he read and saw many obscene publications and video cassettes; his studies suffered and he turned to crime at the age of 16.

In the Fujian No. 1 Juvenile Reformatory, all the juvenile offenders from both rural and urban areas had been exposed like Chen Bingxun to pornographic material. Eighty percent of them were direct victims of such exposure.

Although most students don't turn to crime, those who view pornographic material slacken their academic efforts and have less desire to be successful in their work. A model class in a

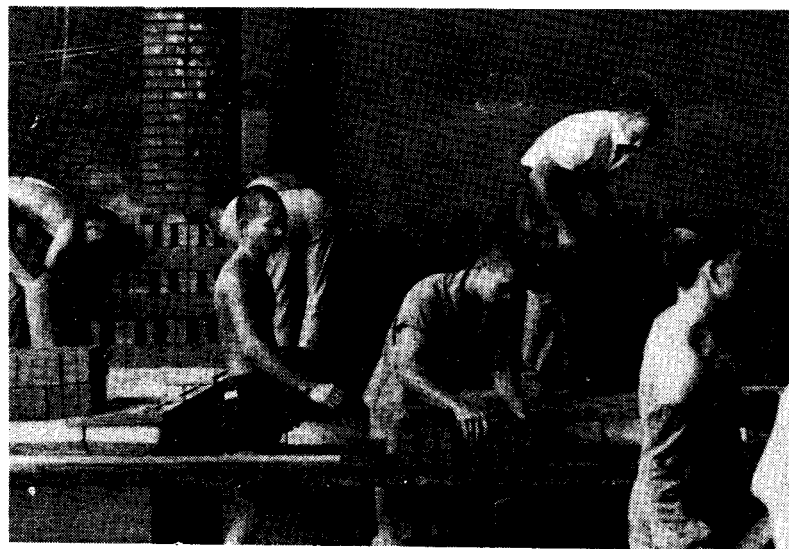
Beijing middle school is one example. After pornographic publications were introduced into the class, both male and female students became vulgar in speech, acted rudely, idled about and were lax in their studies. The class became worse by the day. In one year, four students failed to be promoted to the next grade and one student committed crimes. The class teacher attributed the deteriorating situation to pornography. "Teachers and parents have the best of intentions and urge their children time and again to behave morally, but all previous efforts can be wasted due to one bad book. It is certainly true that a person will emulate the good in three years whereas he will do the same for the bad in three days." One parent said that he was formerly worried his child would not read. Now, he said, he's worried about his child picking up the wrong book.

In fact, the harm which pornography does is not limited to the young. One 30-year-old married man, for example, in Beijing quickly degenerated into a life of debauchery after viewing obscene videos. He often gathered a group of men and women in his home to engage in sexually promiscuous activities. Another person, a 24-year-old married woman from an intellectual's family, became involved with a promiscuous group after viewing obscene videos for several years.

Faced with the deluge of such material, the public appealed for a nationwide campaign against pornography. Guan Tao, a member of the Secretariat of the All-China Women's Federation, said that for some time mothers have been quite distraught and were quite relieved when the campaign began. Li Yuanchao, a member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League, said that pornographic publications, audio

Prisoners, who committed crimes under the influence of obscene video cassettes, at work in the Fujian No. 3 Prison.

CHENG GANG



and video products must be thoroughly cleaned-up because they are the key factors contributing to crimes committed by young people. As early as 1985, 67 members of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) delivered seven motions calling for a ban on offensive newspapers, books and magazines to the Third Session of the Sixth National Committee of CPPCC. The Chinese public was quite pleased to see that the anti-pornography campaign had finally begun.

Cleaning-Up Pornography

Since the Emergency Circular on Checking Up and Rectifying the Publications Market was issued by the State Press and Publication Administration on July 11, 1989 and since a national tele-conference on cleaning-up and rectifying the publishing and audio-video industry was held by the CPC Central Committee and the State Council on August 24, 1989, there has been a rush of activities to clean up the cultural market in all parts of the country. Huang Xiaoxin, an official of the State Press and Publication Administration, said, "The surge of anti-pornographic activity is designed to curb the flow of such material into the cultural market; we intend to concentrate our resources and bring about a rapid change." By the end of September 1989, more than 50 million pornographic publications and 400,000 obscene video cassettes had been confiscated.

Nationwide, local governments have stressed the need to deal with the problem strictly according to policies. They first list, based on investigations, the names of the material to be banned. The state and provincial departments responsible for the administration of publications, audio and video products have

the power to define characters of publication; groups of invited experts are the only ones, however, with the power to decide whether certain materials are pornographic. Each province, municipality and autonomous region, especially the coastal areas, has its own target in the campaign. Public security organs, procuratorial organs, people's courts, civil administration organs, customs and the departments of publication, culture, industry and commerce, health, post and telecommunications are all co-operating closely.

The traffic, post and telecommunications departments in Fujian Province, in particular, strictly inspect goods from Shishi City. Security at the Fuzhou Airport seized some 10,000 obscene video cassettes which a Shishi resident had intended to transport to 13 provinces and municipalities; a post office in Tongan County captured two other Shishi residents who had bribed two workers for the purpose of posting obscene video cassettes; and some 43 freight transport departments have been closed down for shipping pornographic materials. Also, the Fujian provincial government sent a work team to Shishi to cooperate with the local public security organs and work with the local residents. So far, more than 50 pornographic material producers and distributors have been arrested. At an underground printing house in Xiangzhi Township, eight obscene pictures were still in the machines when police arrived. More than 10,000 obscene books, 20,000 calendars and 15,000 colour covers for obscene video cassettes were confiscated and 19 persons arrested.

The campaign has frightened some persons engaged in illegal activities to give themselves up to the police. One Shishi person, for instance, surrendered 350 obscene video cassettes to the judi-

cial department. Thirteen land-and-water transport co-ordination stations in Shishi, on their own initiative, turned over pornographic publications, audio and video products being shipped by passengers to the local industrial and commercial departments. In Wenzhou City, Zhejiang Province, all 59 lawless persons who surrendered to the judicial departments were dealt with leniently.

Each area has undertaken vigorous measures to counter smuggling activities and rectify printing, publication and distribution departments. Xiamen Customs, for instance, punished 40 smugglers of pornographic materials from 1988 to 1989 and confiscated 69 obscene books and magazines and 32 video cassettes in the first half of 1989. In co-operation with other departments, Xiamen Customs discovered a Singapore businessman who transported obscene video cassettes secretly into China and organized others to reproduce them. In the rectification of newspapers, publishing houses and printing houses, some units were ordered to close down during the second half of last year for publishing, printing and producing pornographic materials.

Although much progress has been made in cleaning up and rectifying the cultural market, the battle against pornography is not finished. In order to consolidate and further develop the gains, the central and local governments are now perfecting the management of the publication and cultural market.

Related laws and regulations have been formulated and a strict policy worked out. In December 1989, Shanghai published The Temporary Provisions on the Ban of Harmful Publications, the first set of anti-pornographic regulations formulated by a local government in

China. The regulations clearly stipulate the standard for judging harmful publications, the limitations placed on publications, audio and video products in regard to pornography, violence and feudal superstition and the punishment awaiting those who engage in pornographic production, marketing, distribution and transportation. Later, similar regulations have been or are being drawn up by the Beijing, Tianjin, Shandong and Zhejiang governments. The national



Illegal audio and video products seized in Xiamen.

CAI KE CHANG

Publication Law and the Provisions on Managing Cultural Market are now being discussed by experts from various fields and will be published soon. In addition, some administrative measures have been worked out and put into practice.

Administrative organs over the cultural market have been established nationwide. For instance, a cultural market management office has been set up in each city, county and district of Zhejiang Province. A daily publication market management group has also been established on each Beijing street, and forms a district-by-district management network. During a period of one-half month, starting August 23, 1989, the groups seized 8,428 pornographic publications, banned an underground wholesale department and closed down two obscene book rental businesses.

Flourishing Art and Literature

In addition to the campaign against pornography, people understand that cleaning up un-

healthy and obscene materials should be accompanied by healthy works meeting the needs of the masses. Li Ruihuan, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, has said that the aim of the anti-pornography campaign is to enable art and literature to flourish. Soon after the beginning of the campaign, activities highlighting socially positive publications have been held in Shanghai and Hunan. Book fairs and exhibitions have also been conducted in Beijing, Hebei, Henan, Shandong, Shanghai, Fujian, Jiangsu and Guangdong in order to publicize books to readers. In addition, many provinces and municipalities have adopted measures to support the creations of socially positive works. Shaanxi Province has decided that all funds confiscated from pornographic materials producers and sellers would be re-directed towards publishing beneficial works and academic articles. Shanghai has set aside 5 million yuan in publishing funds to encourage the publication of such works. Hebei Province has tried different tax

policies for different publications in order to limit the publication of worthless books. Concerned departments in the central government are now formulating similar measures.

On October 20, 1989, the Third International Audio and Video Products Exhibition was held in Beijing. More than 28 companies from 13 countries and regions including the United States, Japan, the Soviet Union, Hong Kong and Taiwan attended the exhibition and offered more than 15,000 varieties of cassettes, laser discs, video cassettes and laser video discs. The exhibition strongly appealed to Chinese music lovers and showed that China's cultural exchanges with foreign countries would not be weakened due to the anti-pornography campaign but, on the contrary, would be strengthened. Such events never are organized by pornographic distributors; they use illegal means, not cultural exchange. Nevertheless, as advanced world culture is introduced to the Chinese public vigilance must be maintained to ensure that pornography is kept out. ■

Shanghai: Culture Still Flourishing

by Our Shanghai Correspondent Dai Gang

The recent successful nationwide campaign against the "six evils" (mainly pornography, prostitution and gambling) has not adversely affected Shanghai's cultural life. On the contrary, an official from the city's Cultural Bureau told *Beijing Review* that the city's culture is booming.

As one of the nation's most important cultural centres, Shanghai's unique charm never ends with nightfall. In addition to the famous old Great World Amusement Centre, a number of ballrooms, music teahouses, sing-song halls, Karaoke bars and other entertainment centres have been set up to make big money in their prime time evening hours.

Though it is no secret that many residents in the city bury their noses in *Mahjong* games either for money or for fun, the cinemas and video centres are still the best shelter for lovers out dating. New foreign films and video features are, as usual, the favourite choice of most audiences.

Walking along the neon-lighted thoroughfares stretching out from Wai Tan (the waterfront Bund), or passing by those smartly-decorated private clubs in back alleys, one can easily feel the make-a-night-of-it mood which distinguishes Shanghai from most other Chinese cities, and fully enjoy idling away the hours in any of the many forms of entertainment the city provides.

Strong management over the

entertainment business is important, the cultural official noted, and in accordance with the policies against pornography publication and circulation, Shanghai has instituted quite a number of regulations and decrees. With these laws, the originally haphazard amusement business has undergone readjustment and been brought under control.

According to the official, since July 1989, they have reexamined the status of all ballrooms, music teahouses, Karaoke bars, amateur bands, fashion shows and folk art performing groups.

Of some 272 ballrooms, 60 percent sell admission tickets for two yuan per person and 2 percent charge more than 20 yuan. Though still a novelty to the average Shanghai person, the 33 Karaoke bars, equipped with the most up-to-date laser-disc play-

ers and large black-screen video monitors, are sure to see a rapid increase in customers.

"It's important to train the people who will work in the entertainment field," the cultural official said. Managers, orchestra members, singers, acoustic engineers and fashion models are generally required to be familiar with relevant decrees and regulations and have a thorough knowledge of their business. For this purpose, various training courses have been offered to 3,000 people. Some 1,800 musicians and singers have passed their professional examinations and received official recognition as qualified actors.

Cultural officials co-operate fully with the city's public security and commercial administrative authorities in regard to management of the city's enter-

Workers of the Shanghai Hudong Shipyard celebrate the Lantern Festival on a dragon boat.

XIA DAOLIN



tainment market. Authorities are expected to continue their joint efforts emphasizing the amusement parks and billiard, the management of games facilities because of the heavy demand on the services by young customers.

At the same time, unlike the restrictions placed on the number of ballrooms, new Karaoke bars will be encouraged to open in order to balance an over-concentration in location.

As for a serious art is concerned, the cultural authorities of Shanghai have been seeing for a long time the competitive challenge of imported films and video tapes to homespun products, of pop music to serious music, especially national music, and of disco to national theatre, national dance and traditional local opera.

The cultural official said, "In the 1990s, we shall do our share to regenerate national art and literature in order to fully display and promote our cultural heritage and express the spirit of our times."

Efforts towards this end have already begun. At present, a large good-will troupe of celebrated actors, singers and ballet dancers, led by Sun Bin, film star and chief of the Municipal Bureau of Culture, have been entrusted by Mayor Zhu Rongji to perform Peking opera, Shaoxing opera and Shanghai opera, comics, acrobatics and music and dances to entertain the coal miners and other workers in the communication and transport

industry in Shanxi, Inner Mongolia, Hebei and Beijing.

From the New Year's Day through Chinese traditional Spring Festival which fell on January 27, a total of 67 performances were arranged in and around Shanghai. Almost all these performances were national art pieces, 18 of which were staged for the first time. They

Shanghai will take to develop its urban culture is the imitation of a biennial comprehensive performance season—*Shanghai Spring Art Festival* in combination with the older ones such as *Shanghai Drama Festival* and *Shanghai International Art Festival*.

During the new season, starting in spring 1990, the city will



An attendant in the Mongolian Village, one of the new holiday villages in Shanghai, warmly entertains guests.

YANG PUTAO

included a special presentation by established players of the Shanghai Traditional Chinese Music Orchestra, a special performance by star dancers from the Shanghai Dance Drama Troupe, a concert offered by the Shanghai Orchestra and several newly-rehearsed Shaoxing and Shanghai operas.

At the same time, 11 performing art groups from other parts of China also presented their greetings to the Shanghai audience and special groups of performing artists went down to the country, factories, construction sites, PLA units and colleges to entertain the people there.

One of the major measures

not only sponsor art performances and exhibitions of its own, but also invite art troupes and artists from China and abroad to participate.

In order to support the endeavour of serious artists, the city's cultural authorities will also sponsor a full range of artistic activities after the spring performances season, including a symposium on strategic policies for development of theatre in Shanghai. Another step worth noting is that the Shanghai Art Theatre has been officially confirmed as the special theatre in charge of staging outstanding works of serious traditional Chinese and foreign classics. ■

Children Become "Little Assists"

WENHUIBAO
(Wenhui Daily)

Most children in kindergartens or secondary and primary schools in urban China are their parents' only child. They are the apple of their parents' eye and are indulged in every way. They are known as "little emperors" or "little princesses."

However, when the trade union of the Shanghai railway bureau meets to exchange educational experiences, stories about "little emperors and princesses" becoming "little assistants" are related.

Trying to be a "little supervisor" to help parents work safely. At the No.2 railway primary school in Pingxiang County, children learn about being "little supervisor" to their parents. So far, there are 308 "little supervisors" and each one of them can recite the safety rules distributed by the Pingxiang railway sub-bureau. When the pupils go home, they cross-examine their fathers to see whether the grown-ups have mastered the rules.

The father of Hong Wei is a train driver. Hong wouldn't allow his father to drink wine before driving and asked him to recite the rules. After that the child would say with deep feeling, "Papa, you must come back safely."

His father would always reply in a serious manner, "Sure, I'm sure." Because of the child's constant reminding, old Hong would go to work in high spirits and not resort to wine. Old Hong obeyed all work rules and drove safely for 1,468 days.

Since the "little supervisors" campaign was launched, 38 pupils have been chosen as "ac-

tive assistants," and eight have been named the best supervisors. The campaign has not only improved the safe driving record of railway employees, but has also bettered the atmosphere at the school.

The motto of kindergarten children whose parents work for the Xiangtang railway has become: "Papa, come back safely. I'll meet you when you return." The motto is a constant reminder to their parents to pay attention to safe driving.

Zhang Li's father is chief of a transfer point for trains. After his daughter sent him off to work with the motto ringing in his ears he drove carefully to his work station and boarded train No. 709. When the train entered Xiangtang Railway Station and hadn't come to a complete stop, a young man suddenly jumped on to the train. His foot missed the step. He grabbed the railing but found himself dangling on the outside of the train. Seeing the life-threatening situation Zhang managed to open one of the doors on the train and the young man was pulled to safety inside the train. Thus, a serious accident had been averted.

"To be a master of life." Railway workers must work three different shifts and find it difficult to get a babysitter for their children. But the primary school has taught children to be self-reliant.

"We want to be masters in life," said Lu Chen, a Young Pioneer in the fifth grade.

One day, Lu's mother was working the night shift and her father found himself in a difficult situation.

"I have something urgent I have to do and must be away on business," he told his young

daughter. "You have to stay at home alone."

"Don't worry, papa," the girl assured him. "Do what you must and take it easy. Our school has launched a campaign for us to become 'little assistants' to our parents. I must be a master of myself in life."

Looking at his daughter's trusting face, he nodded and left the house. Lu Chen went to bed alone after finishing the household chores and doing her homework.

Afterwards when the neighbours asked her whether she had been afraid staying at home alone, she replied: "I was afraid at first. But when I thought that my parents would be able to go to work without worrying about me, I felt happy."

(January 19, 1990)

Farmers Cut Expenses

ZHONGGUO TONGJI XINXI BAO
(China's Statistical and Information Daily)

This year farmers in China will continue to buy fewer consumer goods, especially luxury items, a recent survey by the State Statistical Bureau shows.

The survey covered 32,000 farmer households in 29 provinces, autonomous regions, except for Tibet, and municipalities directly under the central authorities.

It found that the house-building craze has abated. Between 1985 and 1988, the cost for farmers to build a house increased at an annual rate of 21.7 percent. In 1989, however, the rush to build a house started to cool off. From January to September, the amount of money farmers put towards

new houses slumped to 8.2 percent from 23.1 percent in 1988. The figure is expected to continue to drop this year. Farmer households this year are also expected to spend an average of 244.5 yuan to buy building materials, a drop of 17.9 percent from last year.

The survey found that the demand for durable goods has dwindled. A few years ago, farmers bought what's described as the "four old goods"—bicycles, sewing machines, watches and radios. But in the past few years they started to buy the "four new goods"—television sets, washing machines, tape recorders and electric fans.

Calculated on the basis of 100 families, the survey found that they planned to buy 7.8 television sets this year, a drop of 19.6 percent from the previous year. Of the television sets to be bought, 1.3 sets were colour, a decrease of 38.1 percent; and 6.5 sets were black and white, a drop of 14.5 percent. Every 100 farmer households planned to buy 3 washing machines, a decrease of 18.9 percent; 4.2 tape recorders, a drop of 6.7 percent; and 11.3 electric fans, a decrease of 11.7 percent. When buying the "four old goods" farmers prefer famous-brand goods, the survey indicated.

The survey also found that there was a marked rise in the quantity of clothes needed by farmer households but a slight decline in quality. With farmers solving the basic problems of clothing and food and becoming a little better off, their demand for clothes increased. The survey found that farmers are making new requests in the amount and style of clothes. This year each household plans to spend an average of 190.8 yuan on clothes, up 10.7 per-

cent over the previous year. Of this amount, each family plans to spend 9.3 clothing, an increase of 3.8 percent over the previous year, and 0.6 pair of leather shoes, an increase of 3.4 percent.

(January 8, 1990)

Economic Reform Via Price Reform

ZHONGGUO QIYE BAO
(China's Enterprises Daily)

There are several major elements to price reform, which is the key to China's general economic reform.

According to Gao Tiesheng, head of the Policy and Law Department under the State Commodity Pricing Bureau, the planned economy must be combined with market regulation. Price reform depends on the introduction and the use of the market mechanism, which in no way spells a weakening or negating of guidance by planning. China has not yet to work out effective and scientific measures in this respect. As well, the conditions for readjusting the market do not yet exist.

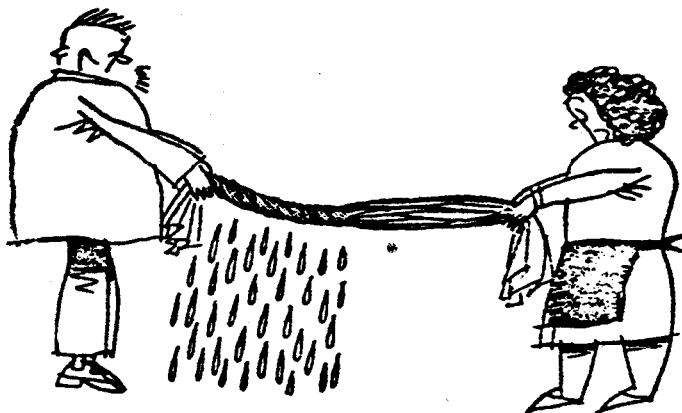
Gao said that price reform should be completed at the same time as reform in other fields, especially in enterprises. This is because price reform is closely associated with wages, bank interest, taxes and the foreign exchange rate.

Every effort must be made to avoid inflation to create a favourable environment for readjusting the pricing system, Gao said. High inflation will make it difficult to straighten out the price system and market mechanism. In 1988, prices in general went up 18.5 percent and banknotes worth 70 billion yuan were issued. As a result, no substantial progress was achieved in price reform.

Price reform should be conducted by combining efforts to readjust, decentralize and control prices. Practice has proven that it won't do to single-mindedly decentralize prices and neglect price controls. In the process of reform, economic and legal means will carry more weight than administrative methods.

Price reform, Gao said, requires patience to be successful.

(December 14, 1989)



“Co-operation.”

ZHAN FAWEN

Hainan's Four Development Zones

The four development zones set up after Hainan Province became China's biggest special economic zone in 1988, the Binhai Dadao Financial and Trading Zone (BDFTZ) in Haicou City, the Hong Kong-Macao International Industrial Development Zone (HIIDZ), Jinpan Industrial Development Zone (JIDZ), and Haidian Eastern Development Zone (HEDZ), have invested 752 million yuan in infrastructure construction.

The four zones cover a total area of 27 square km. Some 130 hectares of infrastructure construction has been completed in BDFTZ, 1.5 square km in size, and attracted 212 million yuan in investment from more than ten Chinese and foreign enterprises. The construction of eight high-rise buildings, including the 28-storey Nanyang Commercial Mansion of the Hong Kong Nanyang Commercial Bank, the Longzhu New Building of Guangzhou Zhujiang Co. and the 25-storey Shanghai Shenyang Mansion, has begun. Some commercial apartment buildings built by the Guangzhou Zhujiang Co. have been finished and put into use.

HIIDZ, 3.2 square km in size, specializes in the manufacture of shoes, clothes and foodstuffs and is managed by the Hong Kong-Macao International Investment Co. Basic construction has been completed, and foreign-owned enterprises, such as the Nanyin Footwear Factory and the International Footwear Factory, have begun operation. They netted US\$4.8 million on exporting 70 percent of their annual output last year. In addition, eight joint ventures, such as the printing and dyeing mill and emulsion gloves factory, are under construction. About 240 million

yuan has been invested in the HIIDZ.

JIDZ, an area of 16.5 square km, the largest of the four, has finished infrastructure construction in its centre and drawn investment of 120 million yuan from 17 Chinese and foreign enterprises. Among them, five enterprises, such as the joint-venture stainless steel tube plant, have gone into operation. JIDZ is expected to net US\$10 million on an output value of 100 million yuan this year.

HEDZ, 6.8 square km in size, has 100,000 square metres under construction, including office and apartment buildings. Sixty percent of the workload of the Heping Northern Bridge linking Haicou City and Haidan Island has been completed and HEDZ has put 180 million yuan in infrastructure construction. ■

Second Largest Tea Exporter

Statistics from the Chinese Customs indicate that China exported 204,500 tons of tea worth US\$420 million in 1989, a respective increase of 6,300 tons and US\$18 million over 1988. This makes China the second largest tea exporter in the world after India.

China has long been a big tea exporter. At present, China exports both traditional and new varieties developed in recent years. Some special teas good for keeping fit and dieting, for example, have been sold on the international market and won some 28 international gold medals.

Chinese tea is exported by the China National Tea Import and Export Corp. In the past decade,

the company has enjoyed international prestige for its fair prices and willingness to stick to contracts. World sales are continually expanding with the volume of orders increasing at an average annual rate of 5.7 percent.

Chinese tea is sold to more than 50 countries and regions. Sales volume in the United States, Morocco, the Soviet Union, Poland, Tunisia, Britain and Hong Kong, for instance, each accounts for more than 10,000 tons. ■

Commerce-Run Industries Expands

Last year saw a steady expansion of export of goods produced by manufacturers operated by China's commercial departments, Vice-Minister of Commerce Fu Limin told a recent press conference.

Exported commodities include such Chinese traditional products as meat, rice, soybean, cotton, wine, flavourings, vegetables, foodstuff and machinery for foods processing.

The goods, Fu said, have enjoyed certain prestige on the international market. More than 50 kinds of these commodities won gold medals on international fairs and foods competition. For example, the *Guihua* wine produced by Tianjin, won gold medal in the 49th International Class-A Light Wine Competition. The sweet vinegar brewed by Zhenjiang, Jiangsu Province won gold medal at the French international fair, and the bamboo-leaf green tea won the 24th world high-quality foods gold medal.

The commodities have been sold to a dozen or so countries

and regions including Japan, the United States, Britain, France, Federal Germany, the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and Hong Kong.

Since 1979 Chinese commercial industries have introduced US\$920 million in foreign funds to further expand the international market. Of this sum, US\$250 million have been spent in importing advanced technology and equipment for the establishment of 31 production lines and technical transformation of 419 projects.

In addition to a dozen or so joint ventures set up throughout China, they have also established Sino-foreign joint ventures in Thailand and the Philippines.

Chinese commercial industries have nearly 60,000 enterprises. The output value in 1989 was more than 75 billion yuan, the fourth largest industrial sector in China. There is much potential to be tapped in the future.

Exports are expected to increase in 1990, Fu said, adding that they are expected to strengthen their economic exchanges and co-operation with foreign countries, and import new technology and facilities so as to renovate the old equipment.

by Liu Jianjun

Export Credit Supervision Centre

China's first organization for the supervision of export credit, the Tianjin Export Credit Supervision Centre began operation during the Tianjin Export Products Fair held in early March.

The centre will check the quality of export products, supervise contract performance and

the services needed to keep up Tianjin's foreign trade reputation. The centre will provide reward-punishment regulations concerning product quality and contract performance in the light of pertinent laws to promote production export and timely delivery. The centre will handle matters according to international practices.

The centre will regularly conduct credit evaluations of Tianjin's foreign trade enterprises; solicit opinions of foreign customers, foreign commercial organizations in Tianjin, and commercial divisions of China's embassies, consulates and foreign trade agencies resident in foreign countries; collect information on quality of export products, contract performance and services; and accept foreign customers' complaints. ■

Thailand Invests More in Beijing

The prospects of a healthy market has encouraged the Chia Tai Group of Thailand to expand their investment scope in China. The group signed an agreement with the Beijing Dafa Animal By-products Co. in Beijing on March 2 to increase their joint investment from originally planned 64.12 million yuan to 170 million yuan.

The expanded Dafa-Chia Tai Co. Ltd. in Beijing, will have 12 enterprises. It will be able to raise 300,000 parent chickens, 30 million young chickens and process 18 million meat chickens a year, 30 percent of which will be exported.

Chia Tai Group is Thailand's largest transnational corporation and one of the largest farming

and animal-breeding group companies in the world. The Dafa Co., is an integrated industrial and commercial enterprise specializing in meat chicken farming in Beijing. With business booming, they have decided to further expand investment scope in order to improve their competitive ability. ■

Beijing Develops A New Medicine

Quintessence of Nature," a new medicine developed by the Beijing Haimin Co., has entered the markets of Japan, Taiwan and Southeast Asia.

Quintessence of Nature is produced by using unique techniques and special medicinal herbs of Northwest China; it is comprised of plant polysaccharide, 16 varieties of amino acids and more than 20 trace elements.

In 300 clinical cases, the medicine has shown to be beneficial in the treatment of weariness, insomnia, poor appetite, dizziness, blurred vision and chill—symptoms that appear at advanced age. The medicine has no adverse side effects.

Pharmacological tests on animals have shown that it is effective in improving and regulating cellular and immunity functions.

According to Tian Jian, technology adviser to the company, the medicine may also prevent the spread of Aids. During recent years, Tian has made successful advances in his research on prevention and cure of Aids by means of traditional Chinese medicines. Given the importance of his research, he hopes to cooperate with foreign colleagues who specialize in the field.

by Han Baocheng

Engravings Display Vigorous Style



Wood block printings from series of *Xidi Village*.

Unlike the elegant features of landscape painting south of the Changjiang (Yangtze) River, a set of engravings by Ying Tianqi titled *Xidi Village* displays a simpler, more vigorous style.

These engravings, one of which won a bronze medal at a national exhibition last fall, are Ying's record of a village in Anhui Province that has retained its traditional architecture because of its remote location.

When Ying, a native of Jiangsu Province, first saw Xidi, he was awed by its beauty and primitive simplicity and by the tranquility of the surrounding countryside.

The low, tilting wooden houses with carvings on the wooden windowpanes and eaves bending upward, and the brick walls

carved with horse heads that have taken on a mottled hue, come alive in Ying's hands.

His designs are simple rather than complicated, using brief, straight lines to capture basic details. In some of the engravings he has used the tops of arches and gateways to replace the horizon, impressing viewers with a sense of order and strength.

Although his forte is wood block printing and black-and-white woodcuts, he also uses the styles of lithography and etching in his work. In the words of Gu Yuan, a noted engraving expert, "Ying found a world of his own and reflected it seriously, arousing my love and sympathy."

Ying's reaction to *Xidi Village* was similar to the feeling he had experienced as a 16-year-old boy

when he had looked out into the quiet night in his hometown and been moved by the moonlight landscape. He found it curious that the harmony between undulating roofs and nature could evoke such a tranquility and from a disturbed mind and now, as an artist he seeks to stimulate that same feeling of wonder in his viewers.

Ying attended the class for advanced studies in the engraving department of the Central Academy of Fine Arts. He now works in the Wuhu Federation of Literary and Art Circles in Anhui Province and is vice-director of the Wuhu Artists Association. His work has been exhibited many times, both at home and abroad.

by Wei Liming

Tujue Culture Discovered

Relics of the nomadic Tujue people who lived in north China more than 1,000 years ago have been discovered in the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region.

The relics, including stone tombs, stone figures and cliff engravings, were found scattered across the Ulan Qab pastureland north of Hohhot, the Inner Mongolian capital.

The excavation of Tujue tombs revealed a peculiar burial practice: after the dead were cremated they were walled up in square stone tombs. Few burial articles have been discovered except for some ox and horse skeletons.

Stone figures standing about 1.4 metres in height on bases and with round, bearded faces were found in front of some of the tombs. They wear pointed hats and long gowns with waistbands. Some are even dressed in overcoats. Boldly and ruggedly shaped, these statues give some indication of the Tujue people's

features.

Another Tujue art form was cliff engraving, of which examples were recently discovered in the northern part of the Ulan Qab pastureland. The major images in these pictures are those of the goat, a symbol of power for the Tujue Khan State (552-630 AD and 682-744 AD); the three-braid horse, so named because the mane on its neck is cut into three braids; the deer and the horse and the rider.

According to specialists in this field, many symbols that resemble parts of the Tujue alphabet, are of high academic value. The Tujue alphabet may have evolved from these symbols, some specialists believe. ■

Ancient Ruins in Inner Mongolia

Chinese archaeologists have discovered a cluster of ancient ruins throughout Ulan Qab League in Inner Mon-

golia, some of which contain artifacts up to 50,000 years old.

The discoveries, which include 145 separate sites across Ulan Qab, have yielded valuable new information for the study of ancient human culture.

Among the ruins were five stone-implement processing sites that contained scrapers and chopping tools. It was these artifacts that enabled experts to date the ruins to the late Paleolithic Age, 10,000-50,000 years ago. Together with stone implements discovered 16 years ago at a large kiln in Hohhot, they shed new light on the culture of Daqingshan archaeological area.

About 100 Neolithic (beginning from about 8,000 years ago) village ruins in the region were found to contain microliths—tiny stone blades—as well as painted pottery and polished stone implements. Microliths are generally associated with the Mesolithic Age (beginning from about 10,000 years ago) and were used in hunting and husbandry economies. In one of the ruins in Qahar Youyi Rear Banner (county), the microliths were densely distributed in different strata, a fact that aroused the interest of archaeologists.

At Miaozigou in Qahar Youyi Front Banner, a rich collection of relics was found in half buried cave dwellings that date back to the late period of the Yangshao culture about 5,000 years ago.

At Yuanzigou village in Liangcheng County, remains that were once thought to belong to the Longshan culture (2500 BC) are now believed by Professor Yan Wenming, head of Beijing University's archaeology department, to be Neolithic cave dwellings. They contained many relics and had a clear layout that is rarely seen in China.

Researchers studying the civilization of north China and the origin of the state now have significant new material with which to work. ■

Shanghai Boom in Cultural Studies

Shanghai by the east coast is not only China's largest industrial centre, but also a city famous for its political, cultural and economic influence.

With the reform and open policy of recent years, interest in Shanghai has increased and a kind of "Shanghai boom" has emerged in the city's cultural circles.

Publication Series

Browsers in book stores can now find several beautifully designed reference books, such as *A Shanghai Dictionary*, *A Shanghai Lexicon* and *An Encyclopedia of Shanghai*.

Also appearing in the past year were volumes introducing the history and customs of Shanghai, for example *Shanghai and Its People* (10-volume series), *Studies in the Cultural History of Shanghai* (three of a projected 40-volume series), *A Chronicle of Modern Shanghai*, *A History of Shanghai*, *A Modern History of Shanghai*, *Modern Architecture in Shanghai* and *A Record of the Place Names in Shanghai*.

This marks the first time in China that reference books focusing on a particular city have been published. Furthermore, *A Dictionary of the Famous People, Events and Objects in Shanghai* is now being compiled, short stories reflecting life in Shanghai early in this century have been chosen for the second series of *Shanghai and Its People* and work is continuing on the successive volumes of *Studies in the Cultural History of Shanghai*.

These works indicate that in the non-fiction publishing field

the "Shanghai boom" is already in full swing.

Literary Works

In fiction, Ke Ling, a famous Chinese writer and a 60-year resident in Shanghai, is planning to devote the rest of his life to the novel *Shanghai in a Decade*. "Studying the past," the writer said, "improves our knowledge of the present, not to mention studies on such a metropolis like Shanghai. However complicated and painstaking it is, the project demands time and energy from specialists in all fields."

Cheng Naishan, a Shanghai woman writer, is working on a trilogy titled *Gazing Into the Far End of the World*, which is about three generations of a Shanghai family involved in industry and commerce. In her opinion, the members of this class were real Chinese entrepreneurs who, unfortunately, were dismissed by authors in the past and whose historical function has never been objectively appraised. In reality, Cheng says, they played an important role in turning the city into the commercial, financial and industrial centre of China.

TV Drama

In television, funds are being raised to dramatize a 50-episode serial *Shanghai People*. Huang Yun, the writer, said that she is very interested in the everyday life of ordinary Shanghai residents. Most of them poured into the metropolis from neighbouring provinces early in this century and became the major part of

the population, exerting deep and lasting influence over the culture and customs of Shanghai.

The TV serial dwells mainly on the life of middle- and lower-class residents through the depiction of the experiences of a woman managing a silk shop. Hardworking, diligent and tenacious, Huang said, these people could adapt themselves easily to various environments to achieve success. To some extent, they embody the Shanghai personality.

Ideas on the boom

Shanghai social scientists have paid considerable attention to the "Shanghai boom." Historian Tang Zhenchang, who edited the *History of Shanghai*, said that the appearance of the boom is the outcome of the city's opening to the outside world. Historically speaking, the development and prestige of Shanghai has always been linked to such openness. Studying the city's past reveals what motivated its development and how it qualified to face the world, he said.

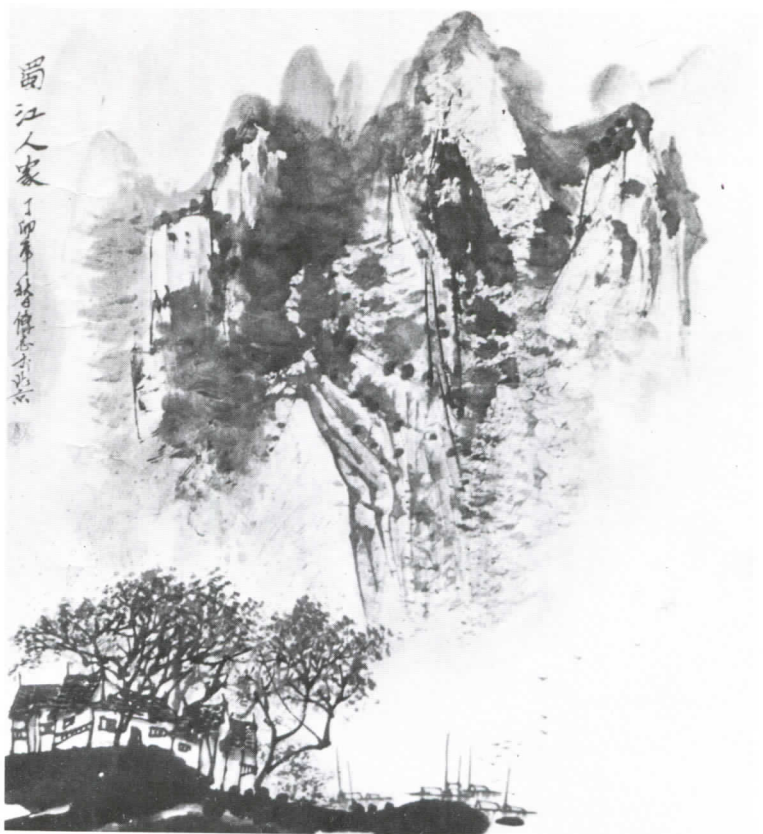
According to Gu Xiaoming, a sociologist, studies about Shanghai should grasp its essence. For example, he said, the distinctiveness of Shanghai people is based more on psychology than geography. This has to be dealt with realistically, he said.

Specialists and scholars on Shanghai studies agree that the "Shanghai boom" is no passing fad. It will touch on more problems than people expect and will exert far-reaching social influence in the city's modernization from now on.

by Hong Lanxing

Chinese Paintings by Sun Chuanzhi and Sun Dewu

Sun Chuanzhi, born in Shandong Province in 1937, works at the Research Institute of Chinese Painting. His son, Sun Dewu, born in Beijing in 1964, is a professional artist. The two devote themselves to improving their artistic talents. Chuanzhi's works exude solid traditional skills while Dewu's demonstrate a more modern style.



Households by the Shuijiang
River. (by Sun Chuanzhi)

ART PAGE



Thawing Snow. (by Sun Dewu)



Cranes and a Pine. (by Sun Chuanzhi)

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