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On "One Country, Two Regions" Concept



CHINA'S WOMEN ACTIVE IN SOCIETY



Dancers enjoy themselves in an autumn evening.

Photo by Sun Yi



The 1990 Census

□ On October 10, 1990, the State Statistics Bureau released the major data of the 1990 census. An after-census check proved the reliability of data collected. Based on figures from the 1982 census, the 1990 census indicates a 12.45 percent increase in the population of the mainland, from 1,008,175,288 to 1,133,682,501 (pp. 9 and 17).

EC Makes a Wise Decision

□ On October 22, the EC conference of foreign ministers decided to immediately lift sanctions against China and restore normal political, economic and cultural relations. Premier Li Peng and a Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed appreciation for this wise decision. In fact, although sanctions against China have caused the nation temporary difficulties, they have also brought losses to the countries' initiating them. The decision by the EC will undoubtedly help to restore normal relations between Western countries and China (p. 4).

On 'One Country, Two Regions'

□ The new concept of 'one country, two regions' recently dished out by the Taiwan authorities is meant to continue the state of separation which exists between both sides of the Taiwan Straits. It is a rejection of the mainland's "one country, two systems" policy by which the motherland can be peacefully reunified. It is hoped that the Kuomintang would make contribution to China's reunification by treasuring the overall interests of the Chinese nation and promoting a dialogue between the two sides. (p. 14).

Complexities in a New World Order

□ Although East-West confrontation has given way to relaxation, new problems emerge in world security, such as realignment of international forces, widening economic gaps and the danger of power politics (p. 9).

Chinese Women Active in Society

□ The full participation by women in social labour is an important indication of their emancipation. Since the founding of New China in 1949, the Chinese government has done much to provide more job opportunities for women and, as a result, the number of working women has increased. This has brought about a marked improvement in their social status and enabled them to play an ever-greater role in socialist construction (p. 20).

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COVER: Women employees of the Kafa Technology (Shekou) Ltd. in Shenzhen concentrate on their work in the magnetic head shop.

Photo by Chen Zonglie

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A Wise Decision

by Zhang Zeyu

On October 22, the 12-nation European Community conference of foreign ministers decided to immediately lift the restrictions against China which the EC had adopted in June of last year, and to restore normal political, economic and cultural relations with China.

The following day, both Premier Li Peng and a spokesman for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed appreciation for the European Community's wise decision.

Prior to the decision taken at the EC foreign ministers conference, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher declared on October 20 that she would meet Mr Wan Li, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, at the end of November. On the day following the decision by the EC foreign ministers, the Spanish Foreign Ministry announced that Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, minister of foreign affairs, would visit China from November 22 to 24 to discuss with Chinese leaders bilateral relations and ties between the EC and China.

In France, Pierre Beregovoy, minister of state for economy, finance and budget, announced on October 25 that France would resume negotiations on new government loans to China. At a recent meeting, he said that the EC decision made it possible for France to reopen negotiations on frozen projects, referring to government loans under discussion between China and France be-

fore the events of June 1989. Commercial loans from France were never suspended. In another positive development, the German Parliament passed a resolution on October 30 to restore development assistance to China.

Since the founding of the European Community in the 1950s, China has had trade contacts with the community's member states. In September 1975, China established diplomatic relations with the EC. Since that time, bilateral economic and trade relations have expanded rapidly. In 1978, the first trade agreement, under which both sides granted each other most favoured nation treatment in tariffs, was signed. In May 1985, the two sides again signed a trade and economic co-operation agreement. Since then, bilateral trade and economic and technological co-operation has increased annually. In the ten years between 1978 and 1987, the volume of bilateral trade quadrupled, reaching US\$11.049 billion in 1987.

In addition to trade, China's economic and technological co-operation with EC member states has expanded to cover such fields as energy, aviation, shipbuilding, automobile, light industry, textiles, telecommunications, and food processing and a series of relevant agreements were signed.

Investments made by entrepreneurs from EC member states continue to increase. The contract value totalled US\$1.75 billion between 1979 and 1987.

After the political disturbance in Beijing in June 1989, the economic sanctions imposed by the

European Community on China reduced bilateral trade to only US\$10.466 billion for the whole year and investments by EC entrepreneurs in China to only US\$240 million.

China has consistently stated that the event in Beijing in June 1989 was a matter of China's internal affairs in which there should be no foreign interference, and that it was unwise for foreign countries to use economic sanctions to bring China to its knees. Although economic sanctions have caused temporary difficulties, China will never yield to outside pressure. On the other hand, economic sanctions have brought losses to those who initiated them. For instance, the sanctions France imposed on China resulted in a 25 percent drop in France's exports to China. An article published in Germany's *Handelsblatt* on October 24 said that Federal Germany's participation in economic sanctions against China cost that nation several billion Deutsche marks in trade.

It is China's hope that Western countries will lift their unjust economic sanctions and, on the basis of the five basic principles of mutual respect for territorial integrity, sovereignty, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, develop economic and technological exchanges. It is a good sign that more and more people are viewing China's proposition in a positive light. The restoration of normal relations between European Community and China will help to develop

and expand bilateral trade and economic and technological ties.

Lifting sanctions and restoring and developing good relations with China is an irresistible trend.

At the earlier summit of seven Western countries, the Japanese government clearly stated that it would slowly restore ties with China. The Japanese government has already acted by granting part of the third loans to China worth 810 billion yen for the period 1990-95. The exchange of notes for the first loan projects this year was signed recently in Beijing.

Attila Karaosmanoglu, vice-president of the World Bank, said in Beijing on October 29 that the time for resumption of normal loans to China had arrived. On the same day, Kurosawa Hiroshi, president of the Industrial Bank of Japan, indicated that his bank hoped, on the basis of past co-operation, to play a positive role in China's implementation of its Eighth Five-Year Plan (1991-95).

Many far-sighted Americans appealed long ago to the West to forego the imposition of sanctions against China and instead develop better relations. Caspar Weinberger, former U.S. secretary of defence, in Shanghai on October 15 made it clear that the imposition of sanctions on China by the West last year was wrong. He said the adoption of sanctions and the cancellation of the most favoured nation treatment by themselves would not have any positive effect. He noted the importance of good relations between the United States and China and the need to deepen the relationship.

At present, although a few people in Western countries insist on continuing sanctions against China, it is this author's belief that a wise choice will take the upper hand, and Western countries' relations with China will eventually return to normal. ■

China Now Has 1.16 Billion People

China now has a population of 1,160,017,381, the State Statistics Bureau announced on October 30.

Following the publication of the census results (See p.21), a senior Chinese statistical official told a press conference in Beijing on October 31 that the fourth national census was a great success thanks to broad public mobilization and scientific calculation methods.

Zhang Sai, head of the State Statistics Bureau, said the statistics show the current population has exceeded the target set for China's Seventh Five-Year Plan (1986-90) by 15 million. This is not beyond expectation, Zhang said, attributing the surplus to China's temporary difficulties in implementing birth control and family planning procedures in rural areas.

However, he said, the country has made remarkable achievements in nationwide family planning. The birth rate dropped from 24 per thousand in the early 1980s to its present 19 per thousand, while the natural growth rate dropped from 17 per thousand in the 1970s to 13 per thousand in the 1980s. The most outstanding achievement is that 200 million fewer babies were born during the past decade in China.

The census will provide China with important scientific data needed to formulate policies concerning population, family planning, nationalities and education. In a baby boom that will last until 1996, China will have 15 million to 17 million newborn babies annually. After the boom, the birth rate will drop.

Results of a post-count sample survey indicated a 0.6 per thousand net error rate in the population figures, Zhang said, adding that the net error rates for sex

and age were 0.14 and 3.07 per thousand respectively. Under-reported births showed an estimated error margin of 1.03 per thousand and under-reported deaths, 4.9 per thousand.

Zhang said measures had been taken to guarantee accuracy through self-checking and mutual checking by census takers, especially in areas recognized for better implementation of family planning practices. Zhang denied rumours that the bureau had been "conservative" with its results, checking and correcting several reports it had received in the census. "We have spared no effort for the accuracy of the national census, because even minor errors in the computation of population may lead to major mistakes in national economic and social planning and in formulating state policies," he explained.

Listing the difficulties the census takers had been confronted with during the process, he said there was only one year to prepare for the count, compared with more than five years in other countries, and the country had an increase in the number of transients due to the rapid development of the commodity economy during the past decade. ■

NPC Endorses A Consular Law

The 16th Session of the Standing Committee of the Seventh National People's Congress (NPC) closed on October 30 with the adoption of China's first piece of legislation on consular privileges and immunities.

The 29-article regulations, by specifying privileges and immunities of foreign consuls and their staff in China, provide the legal ground for foreign consulates operating in this country on behalf of their home countries.

The regulations, effective as of October 30, state that buildings of foreign consulates may not be encroached upon and Chinese state functionaries must receive permission from the head of a consulate or embassy prior to entering the buildings.

The regulations protect official consulate mail bags from being detained or opened. Chinese departments concerned are required to take proper measures to prevent violation of personal freedom or dignity of officials at the foreign consulates.

Those enjoying consular privileges and immunities have the freedom to go wherever they want within China except where access is banned or restricted by the Chinese government. They should also respect China's laws, rules and regulations, and not interfere in China's internal affairs or use buildings or apartments of the consulate members for purposes incompatible with their consular missions. ■

Grain Output Hits An All-Time High

It was enough of a new silver lining for China's agriculture. After years of hesitant development, grain output this year is expected to top 420 million tons, exceeding the record high of 407 million tons in 1984. The promising harvest this year is but part of a comprehensive development in the whole chain of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, sideline occupations and fisheries.

Pleasant weather conditions and a stable agricultural policy are well behind the burgeoning agriculture over the last couple of years. There are also some other contributing factors, such as a vigorous campaign for water conservancy and farmland capital construction, a bigger role science and technology have

played in aid of agriculture, increased purchasing prices for some of the farm produce, and strengthened assistance given to poverty-stricken farmers and the least developed areas.

Encouraged by this year's record harvest, the government plans to further increase its investment in agriculture in the coming decade to ensure a continuous growth in this key economic sector.

"The plan is to increase the input of funds by a large margin so that the overall production capacity will be expanded in the Eighth Five-Year Plan period (1991-95) and the next 10 years to come," said Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun on October 27 at a session of the National People's Congress Standing Committee in Beijing.

During the next five years, he said, government authorities would make investment aimed at improving 5.3 million hectares of low-yielding farmland and opening up 400,000 hectares of wasteland, in addition to giving comprehensive management to the agricultural use of mountains, rivers, forests, farmlands and roads.

Tian said the State Council expects to readjust both the purchasing and selling prices of grain over the next five years so as to gradually reduce the government subsidies in this regard.

"For the long run," Tian said, "to guarantee the steady growth in grain output and other products, it is necessary to promote the reform in the circulation section and solve the problems regarding purchases and prices."

He pointed out that the household-based system of contract responsibility has contributed to the bumper harvests over the past years. This system, which had provided an important impetus to China's rural economy through the 1980s, is suitable in application to the present productive force in most rural

areas. "This basic rural policy will not be changed," Tian said.

In order to continue developing the system, he said, greater efforts will be made to provide the public social services to tackle production difficulties that a single household cannot deal with. Governments at all levels should initiate steps to support this effort financially and materially. While adhering to this system, the vice-premier said, an appropriate scale of land management systems can be introduced into rural areas if local farmers have the desire and local conditions are suitable for it.

Tian also called for greater efforts in developing township-owned enterprises so as to expand collectively-owned economies and public services in rural areas. ■

Project Helps Fight Illiteracy

About 10,000 school dropouts in China's rural areas have returned to their classrooms with scholarships from the Hope Project launched a year ago.

Initiated by the China Youth Development Fund (CYDF), the Hope Project was designed to finance the children, who dropped out of school because of family financial problems, to return to the classroom. Statistics reveal that one-third of Chinese school-age children are forced to quit elementary school because of financial problems. In 1988 the number of school dropouts totaled 7,577,000 nationwide.

Operating in 40 remote and poverty-stricken counties, Hope provides each recipient with 40 yuan, an amount needed to complete his or her elementary education.

According to Liu Qibao, deputy director of the CYDF, the Hope Project won acclaim and

active responses as soon as it was implemented. Thus far, the CYDF has received a total of 8.21 million yuan worth of donations from about 4,000 domestic and overseas donors.

With the donations, the project has established three elementary schools with the assistance of local governments and enterprises in Anhui, Gansu and Qinghai provinces.

The deputy director said Hope tries to supplement the state's education allocation, which has increased from 26.5 billion yuan in 1986 to 43.4 billion yuan in 1990.

This year, Liu said, is the UN International Literacy Year. It has provided a "broader background" for the project and has joined Hope's efforts into the world campaign to fight illiteracy.

China currently has 180 million illiterates, accounting for 15.88 percent of its total population of 1.16 billion.

However, Liu stressed, funds raised by the project are far from enough to improve elementary education in the poorer areas. Therefore, more support from all quarters is needed. ■

Let the World Know China Better

More than 200 leading officials from all corners of the country gathered in Beijing October 29-November 4 to discuss how to better present China to the rest of the world under the present situation.

Chinese Communist Party and state leaders Jiang Zemin, Li Peng, Qiao Shi, Song Ping and Li Ruihuan met with the delegates on November 2. During the conference, Jiang, Li Peng and Li Ruihuan took the floor respectively.

The delegates held that China is now enjoying political stability, has achieved good results in



By the end of August this year, 9,000 travelers from more than 20 countries and regions had visited Dunhuang, a grotto site in northwest China. It is an increase of 10 percent compared to the same period last year.

ZHANG SHENGUI

China's Tourism Returns to Normal

After a year of fits and starts, tourism in China has returned to normal. The first eight months of this year saw the number of tourists from overseas reach 18.11 million, an 8 percent increase over the same period of last year.

The achievement had much to do with the effort to strengthen the management of tourism. More than 17,000 tourist guides were examined and those who passed the examinations were given qualification certificates which they were required to display during service hours. Meanwhile, efforts were made to upgrade the sanitation conditions of the tourism resorts. Security measures were also tightened up to protect tourists.

There are now 1,788 tourist

hotels with 268,000 rooms throughout China. The total number of overseas tourists visiting China this year will reach 28 million. The country is expected to become one of the 20 top tourist destinations in the world and one of the top four in Asia by 1995, by the year 2000 it will be one of the top ten in the world and the first in Asia.

To achieve this goal, China will enact a law for tourism and improve the efficiency of tourist agencies at all levels and their competitiveness in the international market.

The 1990 Travel Fair in Shanghai attracted about 4,000 Chinese and foreign tourism businesspeople and officials from 35 countries and regions. ■

its efforts to develop economy through the rectification drive and deepening the reforms, and has made notable progress in its diplomatic efforts.

In view of the situation, they agreed that more efforts should be made to better present China in order to acquaint people in other parts of the globe with what

is happening in this country and thereby increase their understanding.

The participants believed that this will be conducive to expanding friendly relations and cooperation and exchanges in economics, technology and culture between China and the rest of the world.

They also shared experiences on how to present China to the outside world. They all noted that foreigners and overseas Chinese are very different from people in China in lifestyle, way of thinking and expression.

Therefore, they agreed, these characteristics need to be seriously studied and handled; domestic methods should not be simply copied.

The work of overseas publicity should be done not only by the press, but also by all government departments and by members from all walks of life, concluded the participants, who came from the provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities under the direct jurisdiction of the central government, cities listed independently in the state plan as well as the Party Central Committee and State Council departments concerned. ■

News in Brief

Two Meetings Scheduled

China will convene two important meetings before the New Year to work out economic development plans for the next year and the next decade, said Chinese Premier Li Peng when meeting with six foreign ambassadors in Beijing on October 29.

The first meeting, a national planning conference, is to design China's economic establishment and expansion for 1991.

The second will be the Seventh Session of the 13th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist

Party, which will study and discuss the country's blue-print for the next decade, and a five-year outline programme.

US\$2 Billion Loss

China has suffered an economic loss of US\$2 billion as a direct result of its implementation of UN resolutions on sanctions against Iraq, said a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman on November 1.

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China had all along earnestly carried out Security Council Resolution 661, "hence the heavy economic losses" in fields such as trade, transport and civil aviation, she said, adding that this figure did not include debts which Iraq owed China for trade business, economic affairs and labour services.

She didn't give details of Iraq's debt to China.

Largest Seismic Centre

China's largest seismic station has been completed and put into operation in Luhuo County, Sichuan Province.

The station was built to monitor and record horizontal and vertical movements of the local Xianshuihe Fracture Zone.

More Power Stations

China is speeding up construction of a number of large and medium-sized power generating units, including six key power projects with a combined generating capacity of 6.4 million kilowatts.

The six are: the Yantan Hydroelectric Power Station in the Guanxi Zhuang Autonomous Region; the Geheyan Hydroelectric Power Station in Hubei Province; the Harbin No.3 Power Plant in Heilongjiang Province; Changshu Power Plant in Jiangsu Province (each of the above four has a capacity of 1.2 million kw); the Daba Power Plant in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and the Shentou No.2 Power Plant in Shanxi Province.

The State Council has recently

approved the construction of another 16 power plants with a combined generating capacity of 5.9 million kw.

In the next five years the country will have an additional power generating capacity of 45 million kw.

The target for the country's power industry is to have a total generating capacity of 240 million kw by the year 2000.

Antarctic Meteorite Search

The China National Antarctic Research Committee has approved a comprehensive five-year scheme, to be set in motion in 1991 by nearly 100 scientists, to search for meteorites and cosmic dust in the Antarctic region, according to a researcher from the Chinese Academy of Sciences on October 28.

The search will start from the area near China's Zhongshan Station. The possibility of discovering new meteorites is high in the regions north of the station and south of Japan's Showa Station, he said.

Scientists from the world over have discovered more than 11,000 meteorite samples since an Australian expedition collected the first in this coldest land in 1912. The ice and snow have kept the meteorites intact for much longer than in any other continent.

Rare Tigers Not Extinct

The wild Manchurian tiger, once believed to be extinct, has been found alive in northeast China.

Three forest workers recently observed a young tiger at play with his mother in Jilin Province's Changbai Mountains.

The discovery has put an end to a three-year controversy on whether the rare animal still existed in China. The argument resulted from the failure of a 1987 aerial survey of the Great and Lesser Hinggan Mountains as well as the Changbai Mountains in northeast China to find any trace of the tiger. ■

New Problems in a Changing World

by Song Yimin

Profound changes in US-Soviet relations and in Eastern Europe have ushered the world into a new era of reorganization of various international forces, replacing the old world order. Along with a relaxation of tensions, however, come eruptions of new problems in world security.

Drastic changes in Eastern Europe during 1989 hastened the pace of the old bipolar world evolving into a multipolar one, while simultaneously posing new challenges to the current post-cold war world order.

Soviet-East European Ties

Although the dramatic changes in Eastern Europe can be attributed to the internal conditions of the countries there, it is internationally recognized — and even Moscow openly admitted — that without Mikhail Gorbachev's "new thinking," the inherent internal causes could not have sparked such drastic transformations in such a short time.

Remarks by Soviet leaders over the past months prove relations between Moscow and East European countries have fundamentally changed. Moscow's attitude towards the events in Eastern Europe can be described

as follows:

— Moscow believes the changes in Eastern Europe are inevitable and basically within the expectations of the Soviet Union;

— The changes there, however, do not mean a failure of socialism but rather represent the bankruptcy of "Stalinistic totalitarian, bureaucratic socialism," a model for which the Soviet Union should be held responsible;

— The changes are a "positive democratic development," serving to strengthen the base for a "common European home" and promote the harmony and rapport of international relations;

— Moscow adhered to the principle of free choice when dealing with East European affairs, believing that in this way a genuine good-neighbourly friendship could develop between the Soviet Union and East European nations, which would

From adversaries to partners: a smiling George Bush and an equally jubilant Mikhail Gorbachev, leaders of the two superpowers, at a joint news conference on June 3 in Washington.

HAN JUCE





XU BU

Concern over German unification: Helmut Kohl (left), then West German chancellor, at a news conference with French President Francois Mitterrand on April 26.

ounced its "cold war" policy of containing the Soviet Union within its borders and instead had established a new policy of encouraging Moscow to integrate into the international community — in accordance with the West's wishes. Bush claimed that the key factor prompting him to make the decision was the East European situation, because during a trip to Hungary and Poland prior to the announcement of the new policy, he deeply felt the changes in these two countries were directly related to Gorbachev.

bolster Soviet security. If force were used to suppress the changes, it would have created enemies among East European people, destroying the diplomatic achievements Moscow had recently made and thus damaging the national security of the Soviet Union.

Positive changes in Eastern Europe, according to a Soviet scholar at the Soviet Academy of Sciences, have improved Moscow's image in Eastern Europe and won Western support for Soviet reform.

The relationship between the Soviet Union and East European nations has now changed from that of a large family of socialist countries whose members share similar social systems and ideology, to a normal state-to-state relationship based on each individual country's particular interests. The Yalta system, which was established at the end of World War II earmarking the beginning of the four-decade-long "cold war," collapsed on the

Eastern front.

Moscow's attitude towards the events in Eastern Europe has had a direct bearing on developments in its relations with Western countries over the past year.

Basis for US-Soviet Links

Beginning at the summit meeting in November 1985 in Geneva between the newly elected Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and then US President Ronald Reagan, US-Soviet relations have entered a period of relatively lasting and stable relaxation. After the summit, to further solidify its ties with Washington, Moscow made one overture after another by offering compromises and concessions on major issues, while Washington, in comparison, moved cautiously. It was not until May 1989 that US President George Bush advanced a major policy towards the Soviet Union: the policy of "beyond containment." This signified that Washington had finally ren-

Leaders of both the Soviet Union and the United States now admit that they are turning away from antagonism and desire to build a partnership between them. The Soviet Union's inclusion into the international community means, first of all, Soviet economic integration with the West, which has become a new basis for US-Soviet relations.

In the past six months, realization of economic integration with the West has become the Soviet Union's principal focus and Moscow regards the United States as a key player in the issue. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on January 28 stated that the Soviet Union's economic relations with the United States might play a decisive role in the issue of the Soviet Union's economic integration with the world, and that the Soviet strategic goal is large-scale co-operation, based on mutual benefits and mutual economic infiltration, between the Soviet

Union and the United States. Soviet Premier Nicolai Ryzhkov said in February that the Soviet Union planned to realize economic integration with the West in 1995 and with the world by the year 2000 or 2005. The 28th National Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union decided that the Soviet Union's worldwide economic integration was the key precondition for the Soviet Union's future international activities. The decision has a most important bearing on the Soviet Union's diplomatic activities and its economic and political reform. The Soviet Union has made economic integration with the world a primary part of its economic reform, while other foreign activities become subordinate to the focus.

Through private contacts with high-ranking officials of the Soviet Union, the United States, at the end of 1987, came to the conclusion that the situation in Eastern Europe was irreversible. It began to take specific actions supporting Gorbachev's demand of integrating the Soviet Union into the world economy. At the Malta summit meeting, the United States ended its "economic cold war" with the Soviet Union. President Bush in his report on national security strategy this year said the Soviet Union will find the United States a partner who is ready to create conditions for the Soviet Union to participate in the international community.

This new basis of the US-Soviet relations paves the way for further expansion of co-operation between the two countries. Although the superpowers have different state in-

terests and disputes over many issues, neither regards the other as a major threat. Contrarily, they have begun to build a partner relationship on an increasing number of problems. This is evident not only in issues of arms reduction and stabilizing regional situations, but also in Soviet relations with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union's internal development. This is an important symbol that the bipolar world order is nearing an end.

Warsaw Pact and NATO

The new situation in Eastern Europe has led to profound changes in the Warsaw Pact and NATO's military strategies, functions and deployment of forces, and may finally result in a fundamental transformation of the character of the two military

organizations.

The Warsaw Pact and NATO's military strategies have in fact shifted from an offensive to a defensive one. The communique issued after the NATO summit meeting in early July stated that NATO is prepared to change its strategies, promising that it will not be the first to use force under any circumstances and that nuclear weapons will be the final means to resort to. The document also said NATO's troop deployment in forward bases will also change. These changes won immediate applause from the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev, Bush and NATO's Secretary-General Manfred Woerner all expressed the desire to transform the Warsaw Pact and NATO from military-political to political-military organizations, thus strengthening their political functions.

The Soviet Union, the United States and other member countries of the Warsaw Pact and NATO have begun to reduce their military budgets and have worked out reduction plans to be implemented over the next few years. The Soviet Union has begun withdrawing troops from East European countries.

Both the Warsaw Pact and NATO will continue to exist for some time. Since the post-war European order has been upset and a new order hasn't been established, Warsaw Pact and NATO members have begun to have new requirements for the military organizations. During the Warsaw Pact summit meeting in June, the Czechoslovakian foreign minister said the Warsaw Pact, for the first time, became a useful organiza-

The threat of new regional conflicts: on August 10, the exiled Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad as-Sabah at the opening ceremony of an Arab summit meeting to discuss the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

ZHANG XUN



tion preventing the Soviet Union from estranging itself from other portions of Europe and the West.

NATO also hopes the Warsaw Pact will continue to exist for a period of time, for it will favour not only the continued existence of NATO but European stability as well. NATO secretary-general said in November 1989 that if the Warsaw Pact is reformed, it will, together with NATO, provide a framework for European security and become a factor for European stability. Now the two organizations have established official connections.

International Security

The danger of regional turbulence is growing. With the relaxation of US-Soviet relations and the disappearance of the concept of East-West ties, dangers of a world war have, in a sense, decreased. However, some regional confrontations, previously covered by the power politics of the United States and the Soviet Union, have come to the surface and even intensified. Ethnic confrontations and territorial disputes among East European countries have appeared. Some third world countries, no longer the targets of superpower rivalry

for spheres of influence, will face intensifying conflicts over territory, resources, race and religion, and possibly wars, an example being the current Gulf crisis. But regional disturbances are unlikely to lead to a global conflict.

While Washington, Moscow and the two military blocs are reducing arms, some countries are strengthening their military forces. Some do so to increase their defensive abilities, some pursue a military buildup compatible with their economic strength and political ambition, and some seek regional hegemony.

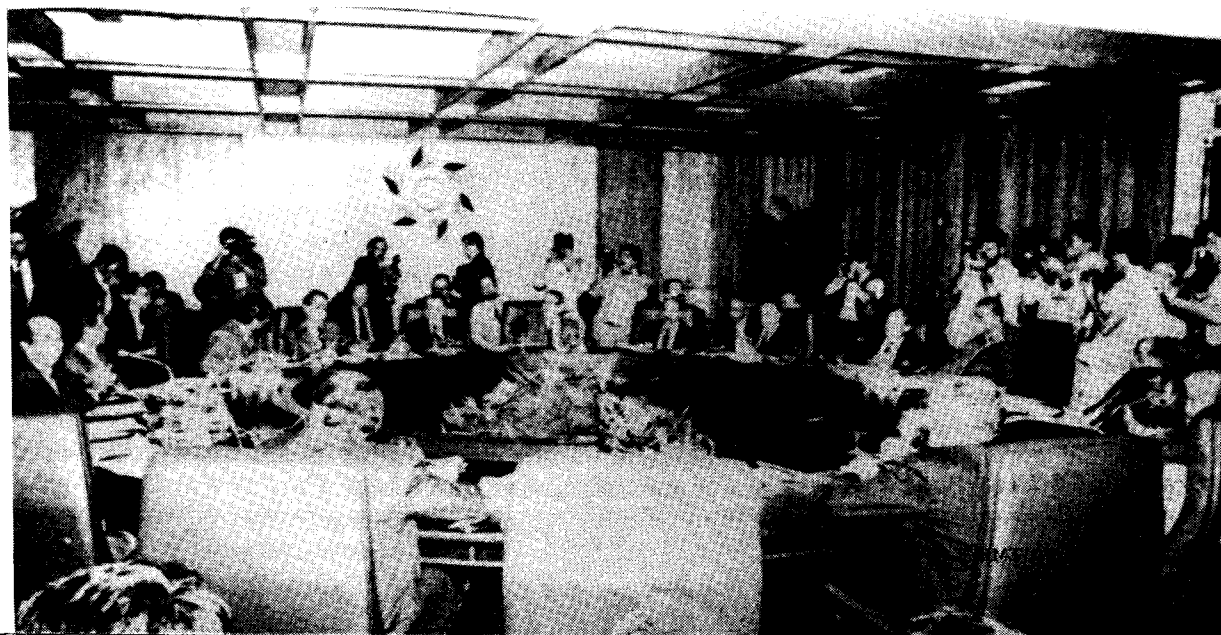
New economic and political factors influence international security. Although international military contention is relaxed, economic and political struggles are sharpening, especially the economic confrontations among Western countries. Bush stated in his national security strategy report that the trade disputes among Western countries might cause tensions in political and security relations. The North-South economic gap has widened. Many developing countries' economies have deteriorated, jeopardizing the world's economic security and arousing concerns in Western countries

about a new wave of immigration from these countries, considered an undermining factor of national security. Currently, 12 million immigrants in the European Community nations, primarily from North Africa and Turkey, have posed social questions to Western Europe. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher warned that NATO should pay attention to threats from the Middle East and southern Mediterranean areas, hinting that immigrants from the Mediterranean regions would generate problems in Europe. Besides, the heavy debt burden of Latin American countries and legal or illegal immigration to the United States are regarded as important elements affecting US national security. Additionally, Washington plays power politics, using the excuse of promoting "democratic values" to intervene in the internal affairs of other countries. The United States has used military force in Central American countries. Following changes in Eastern Europe, Washington and its Western partners have strengthened political offensives, and even intervened in the internal affairs of socialist and some third world countries.

Internal conflicts in some

Promoting regional economic integration: the fourth summit meeting of eight Latin American nations opened in Caracas on October 11.

YANG JIANHUA



countries also will affect international stability. The international community views with grave concern the trend towards separation in some Soviet Union republics. Observers worry that a Soviet version of the Lebanon-style split will cause immeasurable worldwide repercussions.

These new development or possibilities require each nation to reconsider how to maintain international security and their own security.

Balance of World Power

The changes over the last year in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe indicate major shifts in world power. Most noteworthy is the weakening of the Soviet Union and the rise of a united Germany.

Since the 28th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, Gorbachev has concentrated his efforts on drawing up an economic reform programme and a union treaty, leading some critics to believe that the Soviet Union is no longer a superpower. German unity and developmental prospects aroused concern in other European countries about its role as a dominant force.

During the past year, the United States and Japan have not undergone changes in their international status as obvious as those in the Soviet Union and Germany. Japan maintains a strong growth momentum and the United States continues to be the world's leading power. But there has been a decline in Washington's international status and influence compared to Germany and Japan. The United States no longer has the ability to dominate world affairs without ally support.

Changes in balance of force will certainly result in realignment of various international forces, an obvious example being in Europe. As the Soviet Union's

influence has declined, Eastern Europe has incurred drastic changes and Germany has become more powerful, various countries have readjusted their defence objectives. New alliances are breaking down old East-West barriers, such as the co-operative organization of Italy, Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

Another noticeable realignment is the increasing momentum of economic regionalization, a result of the chain reaction touched off by the East European situation. Germany's unification hastens the integration of the European Community (EC), and West European countries are trying, through the Community, to ensure that Germany is a "European Germany." The prospect that the EC's competitive strength will greatly increase has stimulated the United States to speed up the establishment of a North American free trade zone. The long-conceived plan to establish a US-Mexican free trade zone has also been put into practice since last June. Japan has strengthened its efforts to develop the market in Asia.

Currently, two trends exist among the three economic zones in Europe, America and Asia. First, they all expand in their own continents to different degrees and at different speed. East European countries are seeking to join in the EC or establish close ties with it, and the Soviet Union has proposed to establish a European economic zone. The EC countries, however, differ on whether to begin by first deepening or extending the Community. But economic contacts between Western European countries and the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries have become closer, and clearly some East European countries may soon join the EC. In America, Bush on June 27 proposed the Enterprise for Americas Initiative, which

aims at establishing a free trade system incorporating North and South America. He announced that the United States can, at any time, reach free trade agreements with Latin American and Caribbean countries. A commentary said it was equivalent to a new Monroe Doctrine. Presently, the Asian-Pacific countries have only a loose economic co-operative framework, but economic ties within the region are rapidly increasing.

Second, mutual infiltration among the three major economic zones strengthens. They all oppose regional protectionism and actively develop markets outside their zones. Competition is sharp and complicate. The United States, Europe and Japan cooperate as well as clash on different issues. The United States and European countries exert a joint pressure on Japan to open its market for their finished products. The United States and Japan jointly ask Europe not to take new trade discrimination measures. Europe and Japan, in turn, criticize the United States for its high budget deficits and trade egoism. On the other hand, they need each other. Japan must win support from the United States if it wants to play a leading role in the Asian-Pacific economic co-operation. The United States, now short of capital, welcomes Japanese and European investment in the Enterprise for Americas Initiative. Europe, the United States and Japan also cooperate in developing the huge potential market — the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Thus it is clear that current realignments are unfixed and short-lived alliances where it is not rare to see countries belonging to different blocs cooperating with each other. Therefore, the current international relations are more complex than during the cold war period. ■

Comment on 'One Country, Two Regions'

by Li Jiaquan

The "one country, two regions" is a new concept recently put forward by the Taiwan authorities after the concept of "one country, two governments" was inveighed by domestic and international opinion. It is essentially the same as the old one as both are aimed at maintaining the current separation of the two sides of the Taiwan Straits and obstructing the peaceful reunification of the motherland on the basis of "one country, two systems." The new proposition's positive effect is limited but its negative effect is enormous. It is our hope that the Taiwan authorities will correctly size up the situation, take the overall interest of the Chinese nation into account, set about to promote a dialogue between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits and truly make a due contribution to the reunification of the motherland.

When, on August 31 this year, the Taiwan authorities put forward the concept of "one country, two regions," their intentions were quite clear. They want to use the idea to replace the policy of "one country, two governments" which has been repeatedly attacked, maintain separation of the two sides of the Taiwan Straits and hamper the peaceful reunification of the motherland.

Questionable Concept

After the "one country, two regions" formula was proposed by the Taiwan authorities, some officials inside and outside the Kuomintang and some newspapers in Taiwan said the "new concept" was "a reasonable principle for handling the relations between the two sides of the straits." They also asserted that it "accords with the clarity of the state on both sides of the straits and gives it recognition in law and policy." It can "avoid the sensitive political disputes and argument over sovereignty arising from the concepts of 'one



Li Jiaquan, a research fellow, presented an academic paper at a symposium September 1990 in Anhui Province.

country, two systems' and 'one country, two governments.' " It will "prevent the emergence of the tense situation in relations between the two sides of the straits and will be favourable to the solution of substantive issues arising in the development of the people-to-people relations between the two sides of the straits." These commentators have declared that the formula "is, comparatively speaking, neutral and shows no partiality to either side. A law formulated on this basis, which governs the relations between the two sides, is, theoretically speaking, probably

advantageous, instead of harmful, to both sides."

It should be conceded that the formula of "one country, two regions" appears to be less political and less sensitive than the policies of "one country, two governments," "two Chinas" and "one China, one Taiwan." One Taiwan newspaper said, "It is a 'deliberate blur' with functional purposes." If we get to the bottom of it, however, it has clear aspects that cannot be covered up. Its premise is the maintenance of the separation of the two sides of the Taiwan Straits and the refusal to accept the pattern of "one country, two systems" for the peaceful reunification of the motherland. This was made clear when the Taiwan authorities proclaimed that the "one country" in the formulation of "one country, two regions" referred to the "republic of China" and said that Taiwan "will not abandon its sovereignty over the mainland." The reason for dividing it into "two regions" is that at present the "area ruled" by the Taiwan authorities "only covers Taiwan, Penghu, Jinmen and Mazu is-

lands." In essence, it is roughly the same as the idea of "one sovereignty, two ruling powers, and the division of one into two separate regimes," contained in the speech delivered by Lee Teng-hui, president of the Kuomintang, at the second plenary session of the 13th central committee of the Kuomintang in June 1989. In a previous article, this author criticized Mr. Lee Teng-hui for his proposal "which was, in effect, a policy of 'one country, two governments,'" though he did not mention the concept. The latest formulation of "one country, two regions" has the same meaning expressed in different words.

Under the present circumstances when relations between the two sides of the straits are deadlocked, the practice of weakening or sidestepping sensitive political issues may help ease the stalemate. As far as "one country, two regions" is concerned, however, its positive role is quite limited, but its negative impact is enormous. The reason for this is, first, that the concept can apply at most only in the field of civil law. A Taiwan newspaper pointed out that "if the concept is used in other fields relating to the relations between the two sides, we are afraid the possibility for its use is nonexistent." A "law governing the relations between the two sides across the straits" worked out unilaterally on the basis of the concept cannot be accepted by the other party and, therefore, has no binding force for the opposite side.

Second, the concept is inaccurate, because a region can be large or small. A continent is a region, a country is a region. Likewise, a province or a county, a township and a village can also be regarded as a region. As a province of China, Taiwan, like China's other provinces, can be considered a region. If one arbitrarily juxtaposes a province and the entire

mainland which encompasses 30 same-level provinces (municipalities) as two equal regions, it would be as ridiculous as comparing Asia or Europe with an individual country or the United States or Japan with a certain province or state. It is, in fact, a practice with a hidden motive, or at least, an unrealistic action.

Third, it will not truly contribute to solving the questions relating to relations between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits. The Taiwan authorities say that in their concept, they adopt a "theory of legal conflict" to resolve legal relationship arising from people-to-people exchanges between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits. They say that this theory "is not only applicable to relations between nations, but also has a precedent for solving relations within the country." Their argument is not convincing. Currently, the "theory of legal conflict" is not used at home or abroad, to resolve disputes over sovereignty. For instance, some used it for settling disputes between two independent sovereign states and others used it for problems between two local governments in a unified country. In either case there are no sovereign issues involved. Taiwan and the mainland are neither the former nor the latter. There are no conditions for the application of this theory. If this concept is used unilaterally and arbitrarily, it will not help solve the problems but will instead complicate them.

Overt and Covert

When the Taiwan authorities advanced the concept of "one country, two regions," they simply did not say what they meant. Their words are full of contradictions.

While the Taiwan authorities put forward the new "neutral" and "insensitive" concept of "one

country, two regions," they instructed their officials and newspapers to publish many non-neutral and highly sensitive speeches which were closely related to the concept of "one country, two regions." The following are some of the main contradictory points:

Stressing the connotations of "one country, two regions," a spokesman for the Government Information Office under the Executive Yuan openly declared that "one country, two regions" was an "expression of sovereignty" and there was no need to consult with or communicate with the regime of the Chinese Communist Party." Mr. Lee Teng-hui said even more explicitly that "in reality, it cannot be denied that China has two political entities."

In advertising the "experience" of the reunification of two Germanys, Taiwan officials said that the two Germanys "have undergone the stage of two countries and two governments, and mutual recognition," and "this juxtaposition and coexistence has not caused any impediment to their final reunification." Therefore, "to break the current deadlock between the two sides, both parties might as well start recognizing the lawful existence of the opposite party, accumulate more experience gained through exchanges based on the premise of equality and create conditions for reunification."

Continuing to make false charges against the Chinese Communist Party, the head of the Cultural Trade Union of the Kuomintang central authorities asserted that "the biggest obstacle to the reunification of the two sides of the straits is the Chinese Communist Party's refusal to promote democratic politics and adopt a free market economy, its refusal to clearly renounce the use of military force in the straits and its unwillingness to abandon

its obstructionist attitude towards my country's effort to develop relations with foreign countries under the principle of one China." He and other officials want the Chinese Communist Party "to show sincerity and goodwill" and to make promises in regard to the above points; they regard these as conditions for improving relations between the two sides of the straits. Recently, Taiwan spared no efforts trying to force the Chinese Communist Party to make a concession by threatening to cool down the "mainland craze" and restrict economic and trade exchanges between the two sides.

Advocating and promoting a "peaceful evolution" in the mainland, Ma Ying-chiu, executive secretary of Taiwan's "mainland work report," said that "democratization of the Chinese Communist Party is the key to reunification of the two sides of the straits." Therefore he said, it is necessary to bring about a gradual change in the mainland in accordance with the Taiwan pattern. Chung Hu-pin, director of the marine trade union of the Kuomintang Central Committee, said in no equivocal terms that the key to the reunification is bringing "information of freedom" and the various exchanges into the mainland.

We can easily see from these remarks that this so-called neutral concept is not "neutral" at all. Except for the packaging and minor points, the latest idea is essentially the same as the old concept of "one country, two governments."

Prospects and Hopes

Since the Taiwan authorities' latest proposal has put forward, there have been some strange and contradictory events on Taiwan island. On the one hand, the Taiwan authorities have tried to cool down the "mainland craze"

and formulated new measures to restrict economic and trade exchanges between the island and the mainland. On the other hand, the call for reunification of the motherland has been made in a rising tone. Some of the major party and administration officials emphasize time and again that there is only one China, that China will inevitably be reunified, and that any proposal to split China is intolerable. People, although pleased by such statements, cannot help but show grave concern over their other remarks. Recently some key party and administration officials in Taiwan talked glibly about how they would "guide the future reunification of the motherland," saying that they would bring into the mainland Taiwan's political and economic pattern in order to speed up a qualitative change in the communist political and economic system. They have really overrated themselves!

Some words of advice are necessary for such people.

Correctly evaluating the situation is basic. The Taiwan authorities are staking on a change of the socialist system on the mainland and attempting to give impetus to this change. This is a dangerous step. One of the basic lessons which the Kuomintang should have learnt from their rule of the mainland was their mistaken estimates based on their own wishful thinking. They overestimated themselves and underestimated their opponents. There are indications that they have committed the same mistake again. Not long ago, this author, while attending an academic symposium, told a Taiwanese that the mainland's policies of reform and opening to the outside world and its socialist orientation would not be changed. The mainland's socialist system with Chinese characteristics will be perfected step by step and de-

velop in a more healthy way. After international and domestic historical experiences have been summed up. The Kuomintang and other political parties in Taiwan should take this fact as the starting point for their mainland policies. Otherwise, they are sure to commit historical mistakes.

They should adopt an overall point of view. It is of utmost importance to consider the current problems from an overall point of view of the development and rejuvenation of the Chinese nation as a whole. This is the common aspiration cherished by the compatriots from both sides of the Taiwan Straits and by all the patriotic people. It is also the general trend of the times. Whoever acts against this trend and the wishes of the people will certainly be drowned by the tide of historical development. It is necessary to have an overall point of view when handling the relations between the two sides. The mainland is the main body of China; Taiwan is a component part. Just leave aside for the moment the fact that in terms of the domestic and international laws, the People's Republic of China has the sole legal status. In terms of the mainland's territory, population, natural resources and political strength alone, Taiwan cannot and should not ignore the mainland's status as the main body of China. The government on the mainland does not want to overwhelm the island. The Taiwan authorities, however, want to transform the mainland. The idea is unrealistic. If they persist in this view, where will the best interests of the Chinese nation reside? I hope the Taiwan authorities face reality and truly implement the principle of "one China."

The two sides should communicate each other. The current policies adopted by the ruling groups on both sides of the straits show many common

points. Both sides maintain there is only one China and oppose an independent Taiwan. They agree on the need to solve the Taiwan problem peacefully, to improve relations and strengthen mutual exchange. Certainly, there are some differences. Such being the case, the two sides can, in the spirit of "seeking common ground while reserving differences," sit down and discuss the relations between the two sides. Since both sides can negotiate with foreign countries separately, why can't they negotiate with each other? The Kuomintang authorities are unwilling to negotiate with the Communist Party. Do they have misgivings about the Communist Party or about foreign forces? Many are unclear on this point. Sun Yun-hsuan, former president of the Taiwan "Executive Yuan," once said, "Resting content with sovereignty over one part of the country cannot ensure one's own securi-

ty, and division will inevitably lead to destruction." His words are food for thought. More recently, he told a reporter that "it is possible to reunify the motherland. The wise Chinese people will not accept a delay in reunification; they will find a solution to the problem." These remarks are also thought-provoking. Isn't it good for the two sides of the straits to sit down and talk and come up with a solution?

People have also taken notice that a "committee for the state reunification" was established in Taiwan. It is good to put reunification high on the agenda, but the committee which concerns the future of both sides was formed unilaterally by a few people from the Taiwan side. I do not know on what basis this idea of Mr Lee Teng-hui was thought out. There is some fear, however, that the committee would actually obstruct reunification in the name of reunification. I hope

this fear is unnecessary. We have also taken note of Mr Lee's comments to an American that future reunification would be based on the common will of the Chinese people on both sides of the straits. His words are more positive than those of other Taiwan officials. Taiwan belongs not only to the 20 million Chinese people on the island but also to the 1.1 billion Chinese people on the mainland. Taiwan is an island of the entire Chinese nation.

The world is witnessing great changes and is entering the key moment of the 21st century. This author earnestly hopes for unity and co-operation between the people on both sides of the straits and a flourishing of the Chinese nation. It is hoped, moreover, that all the Chinese people, including the top leaders in Taiwan, will make their due contributions to the reunification of their motherland. ■

The 1990 Census

On October 30, 1990, the State Statistics Bureau of the People's Republic of China released the first Communique of Major Data of the 1990 Census, which reads in full as follows:

Following a State Council decision, China took a fourth national census in July 1990. Under the leadership of government at various levels and with the enthusiastic support and co-ordination of the people of various nationalities and by taking advantage of the superiority of the socialist system, 7 million census takers worked hard to make an accurate count of China's population. An after-census check has proved the census was a success. All of the findings are being computer pro-

cessed. Hand-tabulation of the major data has been completed and is published as follows:

1. **Total population:** 1,160,017,381.

The mainland's 30 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities (excluding Fujian Province's Jinmen, Mazu and other islands, the same hereinafter), including military servicemen, have a population of 1,133,682,501. This figure is obtained by direct investigation and registration conducted at zero hours on July 1, 1990, of those having the citizenship of the People's Republic of China and residing permanently in the mainland of the People's Republic of China.

The population of Taiwan and Fujian's Jinmen and Mazu and

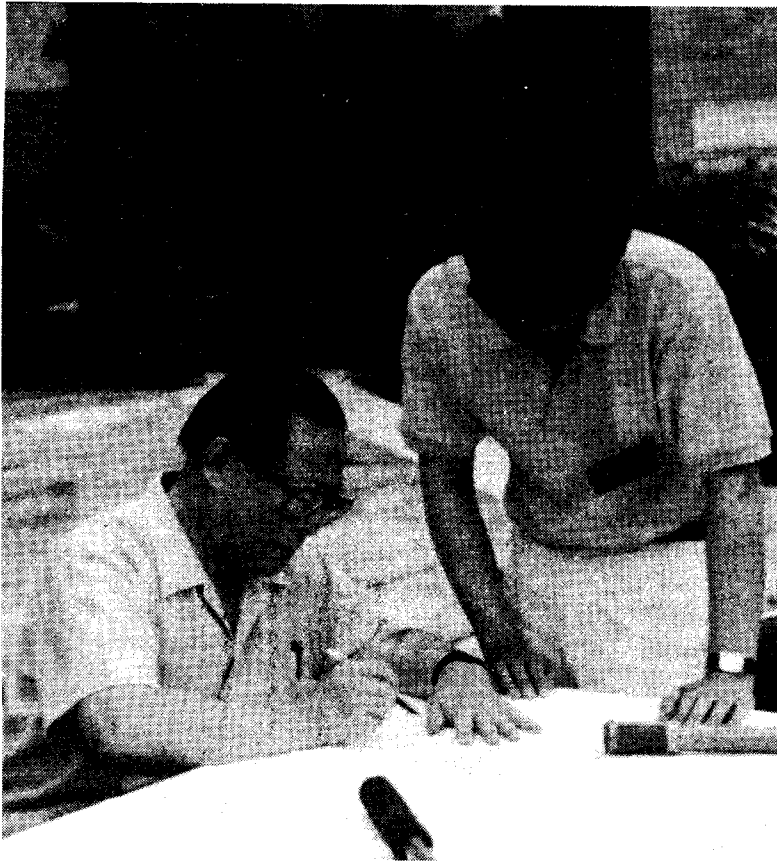
other islands is 20,204,880 (see note 1.).

The population of Chinese compatriots in Hong Kong and Macao is 6,130,000 (see note 2.).

In the past eight years since the third national census was taken at zero hours on July 1, 1982, the population of the 30 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, including servicemen, increased by 125,507,213, up 12.45 percent, and 15,688,402 per year, or 1.48 percent annually.

When calculated in accordance with residence registration, the population of the mainland's 30 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities is distributed as follows:

The population permanently residing in the counties and cities



General Secretary Jiang Zemin registering at a census-taking station. WU JIGUO

where they are counted and registered comes to 1,100,727,541, or 97.37 percent of the total;

Those that have resided for more than one year in the counties and cities where they are counted but have residence certificates in other places number 19,829,712, or 1.75 percent of the total;

Those that have resided for less than one year in the counties and cities where they are counted but have left their residence certificate-issuing places for more than one year number 1,523,911, or 0.14 percent of the total;

Those residing in the counties and cities when the census was taken but whose permanent residence has not been located number 8,164,236, or 0.72 percent of the total;

Those who used to reside in the

counties and cities but were absent for work or study abroad and thus have no permanent residence number 238,001, representing 0.02 percent of the total.

2. Households and population. There are 276,947,962 households with 1,097,781,588 individuals, in the mainland's 30 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, accounting for 97.1 percent of the total (excluding servicemen). On average, each family has 3.96 persons.

3. Sex composition. Of the total population and servicemen in the mainland's 30 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, males make up 51.6 percent, numbering 584,949,922, while females make up 48.4 percent, numbering 548,732,579, the sex ratio being 106.6:100.

4. Composition of ethnic groups. Of the total population and ser-

vicemen residing in the mainland's 30 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, the Han nationality comes to 1,042,482,187, or 91.96 percent, while those of other ethnic groups account for 91,200,314, or 8.04 percent.

Since the third census in 1982, the number of Han people has increased by 101,602,066 or 10.80 percent and the number of other ethnic groups by 23,905,147, or a 35.52 percent increase.

5. The population's cultural background. Of the Chinese mainlanders, those with a college education (from the junior college up) number 16,124,678, those with a senior middle school education (including those with a secondary technical education) 91,131,539, those with a junior middle school education 264,648,676, and those with a primary school education 420,106,604. The above figures include graduates, on-campus students and dropouts from their respective categories of schools and colleges.

Compared with the last census, the population's cultural background has undergone the following changes for every 100,000 persons: the number of those with a college education has increased from 615 to 1,422; with a senior middle school education from 6,779 to 8,039; with a junior middle school education from 17,892 to 23,344; and with a primary school education from 35,237 to 37,057.

Of Chinese mainlanders, the illiterate and partly literate (15-year-old and older) number 180,030,060, down from 22.81 percent to 15.88 percent of the total, compared with the last census.

6. Birth rate and death rate. The number of births came to 23,543,188, deaths 7,045,470, in the mainland's 30 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities during the period from July

CHINA

1, 1989 to June 30, 1990, with the birth rate being 20.98 per thousand, the death rate 6.28 per thousand, and the natural growth rate 14.70 per thousand.

7. Total population of cities and towns. The total population living in the cities and towns in the mainland's 30 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities comes to 296,512,111, accounting for 26.23 percent of the total; of this figure, those living in cities number 211,230,050, accounting for 18.69 percent of the total, while those living in towns number 85,282,061, accounting for 7.54 percent of the total (see note 3).

8. Results of the sampling for census checking. After the registration and a check of the findings were done, a sample was

drawn to check the quality of the census in accordance with the Rules Governing the Sampling of the Census Findings. The sample size numbered 173,409 persons. Results of the sampling are as follows:

Population: the rate of double counting was 0.1 per thousand, the rate of dropouts 0.7 per thousand, and the balanced error rate being 0.6 per thousand;

Sex: an error rate of 0.14 per thousand;

Age: an error rate of 3.07 per thousand;

Birth: a dropout rate of 1.03 per thousand; and

Death: a dropout rate of 4.9 per thousand.

As indicated by the results of the sampling, the fourth census is a success.

Note 1: Statistics released by the Taiwan authorities at the end of March 1990.

Note 2: The population of compatriots in the Hong Kong and Macao regions is calculated according to statistics released respectively by the British Hong Kong government and the Portuguese Macao government at the end of 1989.

Note 3: The population of a city is the combined total of the population in the urban districts of a city with administrative districts and the population of the neighbourhoods of a city without administrative districts. The population of a town is the combined total of the population of the neighbourhood committee of a town under the jurisdiction of a city without administrative districts and the population of the neighbourhood committee of a town under the jurisdiction of a county. ■

Table: Major Data of the Fourth Census in '90 in Comparison With the Third in '82

items	unit	4th census in '90	3rd census in '82	change
total popu. ¹	person	1,133,682,501	1,008,175,288	up 12.45%
natural changes ²				
birth rate	‰	20.98	20.91	up 0.007%pt
death rate	‰	6.28	6.36	down 0.008%pt
natural growth rate	‰	14.70	14.55	up 0.015%pt
size of an average family	person	3.96	4.41	down 0.45 persons
sex ratio (female taken as 100)	%	106.6	106.3	up 0.3 %pt
ethnic groups				
Han	person	1,042,482,187	940,880,121	up 10.80%
minorities	person	91,200,314	67,295,167	up 35.52%
cultural background of every 100,000 persons				
number with college education	person	1,422	615	up 131.22%
senior middle school education	person	8,039	6,779	up 18.59%
junior middle school education	person	23,344	17,892	up 30.47%
primary school education	person	37,057	35,237	up 5.17%
illiterate and semiliterate ³	person	180,030,060	229,964,474	down 21.71%
as % of the total	%	15.88	22.81	down 6.93 %pt
popu. of cities and towns ⁴	person	296,512,111	206,588,582	
as % of the total	%	26.23	20.60	

Note 1: The total population refers to the combined total of those residing in the mainland's 30 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities and servicemen, excluding compatriots in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao.

Note 2: The period of natural changes refers to the 12 months prior to the 1990 census; the 1982 census produced data about the natural changes in 1981.

Note 3: The illiterate and semi-literate refer to those, 15 and older, who do not know how to read and write or recognize only a few words.

Note 4: In the 1990 census the population of cities refers to the combined total of the population of the administrative districts of those cities with such districts and the population of the neighbourhoods of those cities without administrative districts; the population of towns refers to the combined total of the population of the neighbourhood committees of those towns under the jurisdiction of those cities with administrative districts and the population of the neighbourhood committees of those towns under the jurisdiction of counties. In the 1982 census, the population of cities referred to the population of cities designated as such by the central government, excluding the population of those counties under the jurisdiction of cities. The population of towns referred to that of towns under the jurisdiction of counties.

Chinese Women: Active in Society

by Our Staff Reporter Huang Wei

To participate in social labour is an important prerequisite for the emancipation of women. After New China was founded in 1949, the Chinese government has made continued efforts to expand employment opportunities for women and, as a result, the number of women entering the labour market has grown. As job opportunities for women have widened, their status has risen and their role in socialist construction taken on increased importance.

When Liu Xiaoli graduated with honours from a tax school, she faced two choices: become employed or become a housewife. Her boy friend, the general manager of a company with a staff of 200, hoped Xiaoli would marry him and raise a family. Liu, however, had other ideas. "I would have liked to become his wife," she said, "but, first of all, I wanted to earn my own living." Liu, now married, is currently a tax collector in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province.

After putting an end to 2,000 years of feudal culture, Chinese

women have been able to extricate themselves from a life in which they were bereft of skills and depended on their husbands for support. Now, the majority of women in both cities and rural areas have left their homes in order to take an active part in social labour.

A recent survey of more than 2,000 residents in ten cities, including Beijing, Harbin and Shanghai, indicates that over 80 percent favour the employment of women. Some 90 percent of the women surveyed felt that doing well in their work was an important goal while some 70 percent

said that career and family were equally important.

Employment

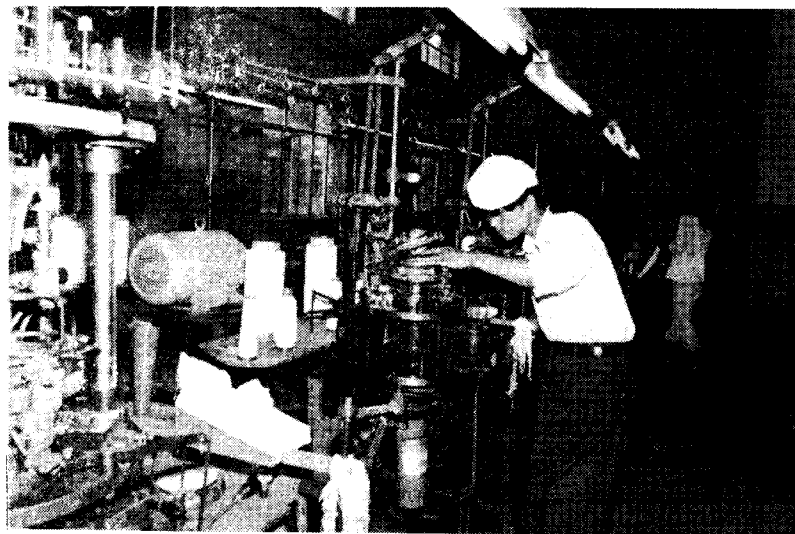
Madam Huang Qizao, vice-chairman of the All-China Women's Federation, said that women in New China are guaranteed the same right to employment as men by law. Over the past four decades since the founding of the People's Republic, the various trades in both urban and rural areas have applied the principle of equal pay for equal work for men and women alike. This has greatly stimulated the enthusiasm of women for social labour. Statistics show that 43 percent of all women are now working outside the home, a proportion much higher than the international average of 35 percent.

Rural Areas

In China, 80 percent of the women live in rural areas. After the founding of New China in 1949, women took part in such collective labour as agriculture and handicraft industry. Since the introduction of various forms of responsibility system centred on the household contract system which links remuneration to output in 1978, at least 150 million women labourers have switched

Women workers at the Beijing Knitting Socks Mill, a township enterprise in Miyun County.

XUE CHAO



from crop raising to more diversified endeavours such as animal husbandry, sideline occupations, fishery, industry, commerce, handicraft industry, service, transport and communications.

The suburbs of Longkou, Shandong Province, are one of the sites selected by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization to gauge the progress and changes in employment of rural women. The area has 280,000 rural women who account for 49.9 percent of the total rural population. The female work force totals 130,000, or 65 percent of total rural labour power. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has conducted monitoring in the area since 1981 and, in the past few years, the area has hosted five international conferences and some 105 Chinese and foreign experts from 22 countries have carried out on-site investigations.

The investigation by experts has shown that, since 1982, the role of women in Longkou has changed noticeably. Rural women who could only do odd farm jobs in the past are now responsible for some 40-60 percent of all major farm work. Moreover, women make up 43 percent of township enterprise employees and carry 31 percent of the work load. The output value of the township enterprises accounts for 64.8 percent of Longkou's total social product. The studies also found that women who work in the textile, garment and household electric appliance industries make up 80 percent of all employees and are responsible for 74 percent of production.

Urban Areas

Immediately after the founding of New China, there were 2.6 million women workers and staff members in the nation's cities, some 7.5 percent of the total work force. By 1989, women workers



XUE CHAO

Wei Yu (left), a deputy to the Seventh National People's Congress, being interviewed by our staff reporter.

had numbered 51.37 million, accounting for 37.4 percent of the nation's total. The 1989 ratio was 30 percentage points higher than in 1949, among the world's highest. In 1986, the employment rate for women in cities and towns was 82 percent nationwide. In 1989, the employment rate for women was as high as 95 percent in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone. Between 1987 and 1988, the employment rate for urban women was higher than for men during the same period.

As in other countries, the traditional occupations for urban Chinese women are textile, tailoring, food, commerce, catering and service trades. Women, thus, play an important role in these trades. According to the State Statistical Bureau, in 1988, women workers in these fields accounted for 40-45 percent of all workers. Moreover, because of the in-depth development of reform and opening to the outside world, Chinese women are now employed in every field of social production. Since, for example, hammers and pincers in heavy industry have been replaced by computers and buttoned controllers, the number of women workers in heavy in-

dustries from which they were previously barred is expanding.

Nevertheless, some women are still looking for employment in China's cities and rural areas. At the end of 1988, 2.45 million young people were waiting for jobs in cities and towns (excluding Tibet). Of these young people, some 59.2 percent were women. "These women are eager for work," said a member of the Labour and Personnel Affairs Bureau of Kunming, Yunnan Province. "By the end of November 1989," he noted, "5,000 people were looking for jobs on the Kunming labour service market, two-thirds of them women."

Enterprising Women

"I want to be like a gold spindle shuttling between the yarns." This is the wish of Yang Xiaohui, a textile worker. She has worked at a cotton mill for 12 years, and the amount of the cotton cloth she has woven can be made into jackets for 1.2 million people. She is a conscientious worker, paying close attention to new scientific and technical know-how, and has eventually summed up a whole set of advanced methods of oper-

ation. Between 1980 and 1989, she was cited as a model worker for Beijing and the nation on several occasions.

Most women, like Xiaohui, have worked and studied assiduously, contributing their wisdom and talent to their jobs.

Zhao Maomei, a woman of Huaxi village in Jiangyin County, Jiangsu Province, has been praised as a "standard rural woman." In the late 1970s, she worked in the supply and marketing section of a township enterprise. Regardless of the difficulties, she always rushed about all the year round looking for raw materials in Beijing, Nanjing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Fuzhou and promoting the sale of her enterprise's products. She is now the deputy general manager of the Huaxi Agriculture-Industry-Commerce Joint Company. More than 30 plants with a staff of 700, 380 of them women, have been set up in her village. The total social product of the village soared from 1 million yuan in 1978 to 100 million yuan in 1988. Her tireless efforts have brought fame to Zhao Maomei as a famous farm entrepreneur.

Higher quality and striving for

progress in careers is the developmental trend in present-day China. In 1987, the Shoudu Iron and Steel Complex, a large iron and steel enterprise in China, introduced reforms which abolished the separation of clerks and workers and promulgated regulations for selecting and evaluating the management. Any worker and staff member of the Shoudu Steel, regardless of the post, can apply for any post through an examination of their cultural level and a test of their practical work ability. Early in 1988, 21.7 percent of the candidates for economic management personnel were women, some 16 percent of whom were recruited. Li Shuping, a worker, finished her enterprise management course at the part-time worker and staff university. After passing the examinations and assessment, she became a researcher at the Technological and Economic Research Institute of the Research and Development Company under the Shoudu Iron and Steel Complex. Another example of women moving up in the company is Li Xinyan, 37, a managerial staff member, who was promoted to deputy head of the personnel affairs department af-

ter passing the examination and assessment.

Statistics show that in Beijing, between 1983 and 1988, employed women, 2.88 million in all, took part in various training and study classes. In the suburb of Beijing, 620,000 women participated in professional technical training, most of whom mastered more than one practical skill used in their daily work.

This enterprising spirit as shown in every sector of the national economy has prompted the broad masses of women to further participate in society. They are concerned with the affairs of state. An ordinary worker in Shanghai, for example, on her own accord put forward her suggestions for a dialogue with the mayor of Shanghai regarding the employment of women and traffic problem. The mayor later expressed the view that some of her opinions could be adopted. When Meng Weina, a woman teacher in Guangzhou, recommended herself as a deputy to the people's congress, it caused a public sensation. Currently, women deputies account for 20 percent of all deputies to the people's congresses at various levels. Of particular note is the fact that the number of women deputies to the National People's Congress and its Standing Committee rose from 11.9 percent and from 5 percent of the total at the First National People's Congress in 1954 to 21.34 percent and 11.6 percent, respectively, at the Seventh National People's Congress in 1988.

Fear of Disturbance

It is known to all that housework prevents women from taking part in social labour and is a cause of fear among professional women that household chores would hinder them in their endeavour for further progress in careers.

Nevertheless, many women try their best to co-ordinate their

Shang Guiqi (2nd right) discusses problems with young workers.

ZHU YUPING



work and their families.

Shang Guiqi, a woman engineer of the Shoudu Iron and Steel Complex, has been praised as an understanding wife and loving mother. She has to take care of her aged mother who is over 80 years old. In 1988, when the project she was in charge of was in full swing, her mother was hospitalized because of a broken leg from a fall. In order to fulfil her job commitments, Shang asked her aunt to take care of her mother. When her daughter gave birth to a child, she did not have time to take care of her and so invited a housekeeper to help out. As a result of the arrangements she made during such times, her family members have been able to live in harmony and her own work has been very successful. It has also allowed her husband, a teacher at the worker and staff university, to throw himself wholeheartedly into his profession.

There are many women like Shang Guiqi in China. Recently, the All-China Women's Federation, the CCTV and two other units jointly sponsored a public appraisal of "model families." Of the 56 "model families" selected, the female heads of most families were employed.

To enable women to participate even more fully in social life, the Chinese government and its relevant departments are working hard to mitigate the dual hardship of women who take part in both social labour and household chores. Luo Qiong, former vice-chairperson of the All-China Women's Federation, said, "In recent years, the state has paid attention to the development of the tertiary industry, household service trades and to the perfection of the labour protection system. It has not only helped female workers in many ways to work assiduously and do their work well, but also enabled them to raise their children, show consideration for the elderly who no longer have the ability to work, and



Despite an educational level of only junior middle school, Zhao Hongbin, a grinder worker, quickly improved her technical level and became a senior technician. Completing 14 years of work quota in only seven years, she was elected a model worker in Shenyang.

to carry forward the Chinese tradition of respect for the old and love for the young. It has helped to maintain a harmonious and warm family life."

Various government departments and units have taken practical steps to reduce the burden of household chores on their female workers. Gan Xiaosong, a research fellow of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, said in an interview, "Our acade-

my has done a lot to the benefits of the workers and staff members by running the canteen and kindergarten and made things convenient for the purchase of food and other daily necessities. All this has freed many of us from such household affairs as caring for our children, buying groceries and cooking family meals. Now, we can devote more of our energy to our work." ■

Disabled Citizens in China

by Our Correspondent Cheng Gang

In an evening performance by the Miao and Tujia Autonomous Prefecture celebrating the "June First" International Children's Day in western Hunan Province, eight deaf children, four boys and four girls under the age of ten, expressively sang and recited nursery rhymes in clear voices. In front of the stage, the parents of the children were moved to tears as they listened to their sons and daughters. Behind the scenes, teachers from the prefecture's listening and speech training centre for the deaf-mute children were elated by their success. The scene was only the latest example of China's ambitious goal to integrate the handicapped into society.

According to a 1987 sample survey, China has 51.64 million handicapped people with aural speaking, mental retardation, physical disabilities, visual impairment and mental disorder. Some 57 percent of the urban handicapped are gainfully employed while, in rural areas, some 60 percent of the handicapped participate in agricultural work. Generally, the government has ensured that the basic needs are provided for those unable to work.

However, China's historical reasons and its undeveloped economy have hampered the nation's efforts to help the handicapped.

Liu Jing, deputy director of the China Disabled Persons' Federation which was

established in March 1988, said the country's most important task was to find a cure for diseases afflicting the handicapped and to reduce their functional disorders so that they can participate to the fullest extent possible in society.

Rehabilitation

In 1982, the 37th UN General Assembly designated 1983-92 as the UN Decade of Disabled Persons, and also laid down the "World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons" in a call to all countries for action.

Doctors from a state medical team conduct an orthopaedic operation on a child stricken with polio in Yongshun County Hospital.

CHENG GANG



To this call, China has actively responded. In 1986, a "Chinese Organizing Committee of UN Decade of Disabled Persons" with the participation of the government and social groups was established to co-ordinate programmes for the handicapped. In September 1988, the State Council promulgated and implemented "China Five-Year Work Programme for Disabled Persons" (1988-92) which stipulated the measures and tasks to be accomplished within five years. Plans for helping patients with the

restoration of eyesight of the cataract, orthopaedic operations on polio victims and hearing and speech treatment for deaf children (the "three-rehabilitation plan") were targeted at the bulk of China's handicapped.

In China, about 4.9 million people suffer from sequela of cataract, 2 million of whom are blind; 1.24 million afflicted with infantile paralysis and 1.71 million are deaf under the age of 14. Surgical operations and therapy, however, have allowed most to regain their eyesight and their ability to speak. The three-rehabilitation plan is expected within five years to treat 500,000 cataract patients, 300,000 patients of sequela of infantile paralysis, and 30,000 deaf children. Each province, autonomous region and municipality has been assigned a particular target.

At the end of 1988, "The

National Three-Rehabilitation Leading Group for the Handicapped" was jointly set up by the Ministry of Civil Affairs, Ministry of Public Health, State Education Commission, State Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, General Logistics Department of the People's Liberation Army, All-China Women's Federation and the China Disabled Persons' Federation and other groups responsible for implementing the programme. In many areas, the three-rehabilitation plan is an integral part of the government's work. As of now, about 87.21 million yuan collected jointly by the government and society have been allocated for the three-rehabilitation work over five years. By the end of 1989, some 34.28 million yuan had been used in hospitals for subsidies, personnel training, survey of epidemic diseases, equipment, medical teams, teaching and special technical materials and medical support for poor areas as well as organizing and co-ordinating work. In this way, the three-rehabilitation work began to unfold nationwide.

Establishing Recovery Organizations. By the end of 1989, China's public health department had examined and verified 698 sites for the orthopaedic operation on polio victims, 1,701 sites for the restoration of eyesight of cataract patients, 250 sites for speech training for the deaf children and 18 service stations for fitting artificial limbs and other articles for the handicapped.

Technical Training. From 1988 to 1989, 33 training courses were held nationwide for the restoration of eyesight of cataract, 700 oculists trained, 53 training courses in correcting infantile paralysis held for doctors, more than 1,500 orthopaedists trained, and 38 courses provided to train nearly 900 teachers of deaf children.

Organizing Medical Teams. Between 1988-90, the National Off-



Lu Guiying teaches deaf children the phonetic alphabet.

CHENG GANG

ice of Three-Rehabilitation Plan for Disabled People and the China Disabled Persons' Federation sent 10 medical teams to areas in Gansu, Hainan, Jiangxi, Fujian, Shaanxi, Hunan, Tibet, Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia with a comparatively backward medical level. Some provincial governments also sent 20 medical teams to the areas under their jurisdiction. These medical teams, which provided medical treatment and training, not only performed many operations,

but trained leading technical personnel in an effort to improve local health expertise.

Organizing Patients. As most of the three-rehabilitation patients live in remote areas where medical treatment is backward and communication poor, rural grassroots cadres, medical workers, school teachers and students had to go door-to-door in order to reach the handicapped and take their history. Medical workers from the civil affairs departments and the China Disabled Persons' Federation then referred patients in groups to the most convenient rehabilitation sites available for treatment. The government bore either all or part of the costs of expenses for poor patients.

By the end of June 1990, China had operated successfully

on 97,575 people for correction of polio victims, 307,800 cataract patients, and 5,667 deaf children. One sample survey indicated that the effective rate for correction of infantile paralysis was 96.1 percent, 67.4 percent of which was of a major improvement. The cure rate for cataracts was 97.3 percent and 81.2 percent of patients recovered as much as a third of their eyesight.

Standing Up

The Miao and Tu Autonomous Prefecture of western Hunan Province, where the mountains are steep and the water is clear, is well-known for its natural landscape. However, a young person, Li Tianshun, Yongshun County seldom saw the beautiful scenery in his hometown before this past spring. The 27-year-old Li was unable to stand since contracting infantile paralysis at the age of three. He could only move by crawling across the floor on his hands. Although he went to the doctor several times, there was no hospital in the prefecture which could perform the necessary operation. Moreover, his family could not afford to pay for his medical treatment in other locations. As an adult, he seldom went out during the day for some dozen years

because he was ashamed to let others see his condition.

At the end of last year, however, a medical team of the county federation for the handicapped and the Civil Affairs Bureau went to Li's home and examined his case in detail. In April, Li received a note from the Civil Affairs Bureau of the county, asking him to come to the county hospital for treatment. Most of the medical expenses would be paid by the county government and the county federation for the handicapped. Li's father, half in disbelief, carried his son on his back to the hospital. After a detailed check up, Doctor Zhang Zhengxi of the Electric Power Hospital in Jiangsu Province told them that the prognosis was good for Li. An infantile-paralysis expert with dozens of years of clinical experience performed the operation on Li. One month later, Li was out of the hospital. More than 500 yuan of his 700 yuan medical expenses had been paid by the government. After a period of recovery and training, Li was able to stand and walk with the aid of a crutch. Now, Li often goes out to the street to see the world.

"After I learned to stand," Li said, "I went to a cinema to see a film for the first time. I went shopping and to the mountains and rivers for the first time. How wonderful it is!" With the help and advice of his new friends, a strong desire to support himself emerged. He learned to repair shoes in his home. He said, "I can basically support myself with my own hands. In addition, I can help my family with household chores such as cooking, etc. I know I can improve my skills." The leader of the county civil affairs agreed to give him a lot of support, promising to provide him with all the repair tools free of charge after he finished his studies.

The state medical team which came to the autonomous prefec-



YANG JIXIN

Pupils of a school for deaf-mutes, the first in Chifeng, Inner Mongolia.

ture in 1989 and 1990 visited all eight counties of the prefecture and treated 170 handicapped persons for sequela of polio victims, including Li. Moreover, the experts trained nine local orthopaedists to independently perform operations on polio patients. One doctor, Liu Junqing, said that the experts conscientiously explained every patient's treatment plan and operation programme and often guided them in their operations. In just two months, the doctors learned a great deal from the experts. Liu is now a leading doctor in the treatment of sequela of polio patients in his hospital.

Training the Deaf

There is a saying in China that "for every ten deaf people, there are nine mute." However, the recently developed listening and speech training centre for deaf children is helping to change this situation.

In a three-storey building in Yongshun county town, three rooms and one balcony are used as the "Yongshun County Training School of Listening and Speaking for Deaf Children."

In a six-metre square room, 12 deaf children have a pronunciation class. When teacher Lu Guiying, with Chinese phonetic alphabet cards in her hand, reads aloud, the children read after her. Although the deaf children were diagnosed as substantially hearing impaired, their ability improved with the help of hearing aids provided free of charge. Even so, their hearing is still poor. Lu said, "I must speak very loudly and repeat constantly."

In the next room, a special phonetics training site, Ding Liliu corrects a deaf child's pronunciation. In order to correct the speech of the child when he makes the sounds of "d" and "t," for example, Ding shows him how to shape his mouth and position his tongue.

As most of the 13 pupils are under ten years old and from the countryside far from the county town, they have to live at the school. In their sleeping area, 13 beds in two rows are laid out with clean, tidy bedding. Illustrated instructions for mouth and tongue exercises which the children must do twice a day hang on the wall. There is a table with a radio and a colour television so

that the children's life can be enriched and listening ability stimulated.

The 80-square-metre balcony is the children's recreational area. One of the listening games which the children play is to see who is the first to respond to the sound of drums and gongs. Each Saturday afternoon, children from other schools are invited to play with the deaf children so that they do not become isolated and to increase their opportunities for listening and speaking. In one corner of the balcony, a staff member prepares lunch, usually of rice, fish and meat with vegetable dish and a spinach and egg soup, for the children. Each pupil pays only 30 yuan and 12 kilogrammes of rice every month.

Despite the low level of investment, the poor facilities and the shortage of teaching staff, the training centre has made great progress since the school opened on December 5 last year. Except for the four deaf children who started lessons after May this year, nine children have all learned to read and write the phonetic alphabet, read 300 or so words and expressions and read aloud some nursery rhymes and the more common, daily used vo-

cabulary and expressions. At the same time, they have learned to do addition and subtraction within the number of 10.

When a 9-year-old Chen Jiashun became deaf at the age of one by streptomycin poisoning, his listening ability was reduced by over 90 decibel (db). He couldn't speak a word before his training. In desperation, his parents spent more than 2,000 yuan (equal to their annual income) for doctors in several provinces and cities to no avail. At the end of last year, Chen entered the training school. He refused at first to open his mouth in the unfamiliar environment. Lu Guiying and Ding Liquiu, who had been trained, respectively, in state and provincial teachers' training programmes for deaf children, spent a lot of time playing with Jiashun, cooking his favourite meals and, when he was home-sick, treating him to special fruits. Gradually, as Chen became familiar with his teachers, he tried to mimic their speech movement. He had a lot of difficulty with the "g" and "k" sound of the phonetic alphabet but both Lu and Ding patiently corrected him. On her first visit in March, Chen's mother was overjoyed to discover that

he could say "Mum." She told the teachers, "I want him to stay here until he learns as much as the school has to offer."

More and more parents are bringing their deaf children to the school. The shortage of equipment and teachers, however, limits the number of students. To meet the need of the county's 158 deaf children, the Civil Affairs Bureau has decided to expand the deaf children language training school.

Bring Brightness to All

After receiving therapy, most handicapped people take greater pleasure in their life and, in return, contribute to society.

In 1988, when Zhou Longyi, Party secretary of Taiping Village, Yongshun County, was a leader of the village scientific farming programme, he lost the vision in his left eye and was unable to see clearly. Within several months, when he lost his sight completely, he had to resign his work and return home so that his family could take care of him. At the end of 1988, the county health examination team for the three-rehabilitation patients came to the village. Zhou was diagnosed as having a cataract problem and suggested that he have an operation. Soon after New Year's Day in 1989, Zhou was sent to the People's Hospital of the county. Twenty days later, Zhou could see out of his left eye.

Soon, Zhou was again elected Party secretary of the village. After he took up the post, his first task was to raise funds among the villagers and to repair and rebuild the broken electric lines. When electricity was available to 165 households of the village, the lights shone brightly. Zhou remarked, "The government and doctors give me back my sight. In return, I will bring light to everyone." ■

CHENG GANG

Zhou Longyi regained his eyesight after a cataract operation.



三峡艺术节 开幕

Stunning Scenery of the Three Gorges of the Changjiang River The Colourful Three Gorges Art Festival You are Welcome to Join the Three Gorges Art Festival

(autographed by Wu Zuoren)

When autumn arrives, the mountains along the Three Gorges of the Changjiang (Yangtze) River are decorated with red autumn leaves and the air is heavy with the aroma of oranges and tangerines. The Hubei Provincial Association of Cultural Exchanges With Foreign Countries and the Yichang people's government will jointly organize Hubei's First Three Gorges Art Festival in Yichang, a major city located at the mouth of Xiling Gorge, one of the Three Gorges. The theme of the festival is "opening up, friendship, prosperity, and advance."

Date: November 20-22, 1990

Planned Activities:

—Rich colourful cultural and artist activities:

- Song-and-dance evening parties by the Dongfang (Oriental) Song and Dance Ensemble;
- Folk song-and-dance evening parties by the Hubei Provincial Song and Dance Ensemble;
- Evening Parties of Laughter performed by famous comic dialogue and *quyi* artists;
- Special performances highlighting local conditions and customs by the Yichang Song and Dance Ensemble;
- Peking opera performances by the Yichang Peking Opera Troupe;
- Special song and dance performances by the Yichang Prefectural Song and Dance Troupe;
- Peking opera and song and dance performances by local children;
- Folk art performances at the grand opening ceremony;
- An exhibition of the Three Gorges stone treasures;
- A Beauty of the Three Gorges exhibition of photos, calligraphy and paintings;
- An exhibition of potted landscape and tree root nodule carvings;
- Ancient chime bell performances;
- An exhibition of folk arts and crafts of Hubei Province;
- *Qigong* (deep breathing exercises) and *wushu* (martial arts) performances;
- Fashion shows;
- Special local delicacies.

—Multi-forms of economic and trade activities:

- A sales exhibition for export commodities and foreign trade symposiums sponsored by the Hubei Provincial and the Yichang municipal foreign economic and trade commissions;
- A sales exhibition for domestic famous brand, high-quality, and new products sponsored jointly by commercial departments of Hubei Province and Yichang City;
- A sales exhibition for tourist products to be sponsored jointly by the tourist administrations of Hubei Province and Yichang City;
- A sales exhibition of native produce of Yichang City.

—A Tour to the Three Gorges on the Changjiang River:

"Take a pleasure boat ride to see the sights of the Three Gorges along the Changjiang River." During the art festival, one-day, two-day and three-day tours to the Three Gorges will be available. Other activities include visit to Qu Yuan's native place, the Qu Yuan Memorial Hall, three-cave site and other historical sites. In addition, there will be organized to visit the Chinese sturgeon breeding centre; the Chinese sturgeon is known as a "state treasure" and "panda under water."

Office and address for more information:

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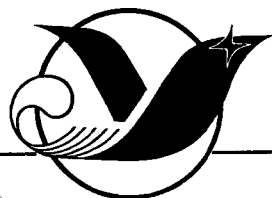
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The Preparatory Committee of the First Three Gorges Art Festival of Hubei Province



Social Changes in New China

As The Dragon Stirs
Text by Duan Liancheng
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China is such a mystery. It was sunshine everywhere, and then suddenly a bolt from the blue. It was like that before. Suddenly you had the cultural revolution, suddenly 'the gang of four' was finished...." An American, long concerned with developments in China, thus complained. He proposed that his friend, a senior Chinese journalist, write a book to help foreigners have a better understanding of China.

His friend's name is Duan Liancheng, the author of *As The Dragon Stirs*. Duan, also author of *How To Help Foreigners Understand China*, received his journalist training in the United States and returned to work for New China in 1949.

The direct stimulus for *As The Dragon Stirs*, however, came from two senior Chinese photographers, Gu Jin and Zhang Yunlei, who were editing a pictorial of social changes in New China over the past four decades and had turned to Duan for writing the text.

To edit the book, the two photographers wrote more than 1,000 letters in a search for historical photos from their fellow photographers throughout the country. They received several thousand original photos and sorted out 360 colour and black-and-white copies. Those selected are the outstanding works of more than 100 photographers from the mainland's 30 prov-

inces, municipalities and autonomous regions (including Tibet and Hainan). "Some of the pictures were gems—rare discoveries shining with the tears as well as the smiles of the people," Duan notes.

"Looking over the hundreds of pictures roused countless memories in me of personal experiences over the past 40 years," Duan writes in his *Introduction* to the book. After much thought and recollection, Duan wrote a text of more than 60,000 Chinese characters. It was chronologically divided into the following chapters:

1. "Glories and Tribulations (pre-1949)." This chapter summarizes pre-1949 Chinese history and brings to light the inevitability of the Communist-led Chinese revolution.

2. "Revolution and Progress (1949-56)" traces back the historical changes undertaken during the period. Land Reform in China's rural areas and the socialist transformation of industrial and commercial sectors in cities are covered.

3. "Setbacks and Recovery (1957-65)" covers the zigzag progress made during this period of time.

4. "Turbulence and Stagnation (1966-76)" retraces the decade-long "cultural revolution," a national tragedy.

5. "Exploration and Reform (1977-)" deals with the recent China affairs. After two years of efforts to bring order out of the chaos left by the "cultural revolution," China began to set its tracks on reform and opening to the outside world, the Chinese way of modernization. It discusses both achievements and prob-

lems in the past decade and reveals, in some way, the inevitability of the Beijing Incident in late spring and early summer last year.

6. "Retrospect and Prospect" summarizes experiences of China's socialist development and evaluates the future.

The pictorial is an attempt to trace the course of social and cultural events in China through its reflections of life at the grass-roots.

It is interesting to note that the pictorial ends with a large photo of the Yellow River, an indication of the author's optimism about China's future.

"From a macro-historical point of view," Duan concludes, "China's rejuvenation is proceeding steadily. It is like the Yellow River, the symbol of Chinese nation. After many turns and setbacks, it flows eastward, becoming more and more magnificent."

The book's first reviewer, Hsiao Ch'ien (Xiao Qian), aged 80 and director of the Central Literary and Historical Materials Museum, was famous in Europe in the 1940s as a war correspondent. Now he is one of the most talented and prolific writers and translators in China.

"As a witness to the events of these 40 years, I think the editors of *As The Dragon Stirs* have been faithful to historical facts. The book, while highlighting the major achievements the People's Republic has scored in every field, doesn't attempt to cover up the errors which brought such misfortune to the nation..." Hsiao writes in a preface to the book.

by Yang Jian

Fourth Asian Trade Promotion Forum

Delegates and economic observers from 14 Asian countries and regions attended the Fourth Asian Trade Promotion Forum between October 17 and 18 in Beijing. The forum, presided over by Zheng Hongye, chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), discussed the participants' role in promoting economic and trade exchanges and co-operation between Asian regions. During the forum, delegates exchanged experiences and discussed how to strengthen economic co-operation given the new trend towards economic blocs, regionalization and trade protectionism. After two-day discussion and negotiation, delegates agreed to the following declarations:

First, regard "mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, strengthening exchanges and promoting progress" as the basic policy for the Asian economic developers.

Second, mutually promote the establishment of a fair and reasonable new international economic order. Currently, the world's economic pattern is rapidly changing. The signing of a free trade agreement between the United States and Canada, the forming of a single EC market in 1992, the unification of the two Germanys, and the changes in Eastern Europe and the Gulf crisis have all brought about serious challenges and new opportunities for economic and trade activities in the Asian countries and regions. Thus, Asian economic developers should expand their effort to eliminate trade barriers and work out countermeasures for global economic changes. At the same time, they should promote the readjustment

of intra-regional industrial strategy based on industrial divisions and provide better conditions for further development of the Asian economy.

Third, the delegates realized the significance of strengthening the exchange of information between Asian economic developers and proposed to mutually establish a "TPO Communication" magazine and set up computer information network in the future.

Fourth, work to improve the image of Asian products on the world market and push forward trade and investment activities and technology transfers through promoting such activities as bilateral and multilateral personnel exchange, trade consultancy and trade exhibitions, seminars and forums.

Fifth, the delegates agreed that the forum would further promote the development of multilateral or bilateral trade, economic and technological co-operation in the region, improve the industrial and technical situation in each country and make a contribution to the balanced, stable, sustained development and prosperity of the Asian economy.

Sixth, the delegates approved Manila as the site for the next forum. The fifth Asian trade promotion forum will be hosted by the Philippines Centre for International Expositions and Missions Inc. The main topic will be "strategy for trade promotion." ■

Minister on China's Foreign Trade

In a recent talk on China's foreign trade, Shen Jueren, vice-minister of foreign economic relations and trade, stressed that attracting direct foreign investment will be the focus of China's effort to use more foreign funds in the future.

Shen also said that China wel-

comes Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macao compatriots and foreign businessmen to invest in agricultural development, energy, transport, basic facilities, infrastructure, raw materials industry and some technologically advanced and export-oriented projects. But, Shen said, China will not encourage more investment in hotels, restaurants, office buildings and apartment buildings.

Shen pointed out that borrowing foreign loans is a way for China to pool foreign funds. He wants to increase borrowings from foreign governments and international financial organizations.

Regarding China's import and export trade, he said that during the Eighth-Five Year Plan, China will strive to improve the quality of export products and expand the processing of imported materials. "In the future, China plans to import advanced technology, key equipment and materials necessary for production, construction and the people's daily needs," Shen said. "So long as foreign products meet Chinese import standards, there will be a wealth of opportunities for them to enter Chinese market." ■

Foreign Funds for Harbours, Roads

According to the Ministry of Communications, China will require several five-year plan periods to fully develop a comprehensive transport system, starting with the Eighth-Five Year Plan (1991-95). For this, it will make an effort to attract foreign funds to help with the construction of major highways, water transport thoroughfares and a series of harbours.

Since 1979, the Chinese Ministry of Communications has signed contracts for 18 projects using the loans from the World

Bank (WB) and the Overseas Economic Corporation Fund of Japan. They include 56 berths in coastal wharves and highways totalling 3,000 km in length.

By the end of the 1980s, China had completed the construction of 13 deepwater berths for 10,000-ton-class ships by using the loans from the above-mentioned organizations. As a result, its handling capacity increased by 400 million tons and 700,000 standard containers. These include the second-phase project for the coal wharf of Qinhuangdao Harbour, the coal wharf of Shijiu Harbour, the container wharf of Shanghai Harbour and the container wharf of Huangpu Harbour in Guangzhou.

The use of foreign capital has yielded good results. For example, completion of the second-phase project of the coal wharf of Qinhuangdao Harbour greatly increased its export volume from 3.6 million tons in 1982 to 10 million tons in 1988.

It is reported that more than 40 other berths are now being built with foreign funds. They are expected to increase China's harbour handling capacity to more than 40 million tons annually.

In highway construction, China used WB loans to build the Beijing-Tianjin-Tanggu Expressway, the Chengdu-Chongqing Highway, the Nanchang-Jiujiang Highway, the Jinan-Qingdao Highway and the Sanyuan-Tongchuan Highway as well as 59 rural highways. They cover a total length of 2,570 km.

The 142.69-km Beijing-Tianjin-Tanggu Expressway is the first of its kind in China. With a total investment of more than 1 billion yuan (including US\$150 million provided by the World Bank), the highway begins at the Fourth Ring Road in Beijing and leads to Tanggu in Tianjin. After its completion, the number of passing vehicles will

increase from 10,000 to 50,000 per day, while the driving speed will rise from 40 km to nearly 100 km per hour. The Ministry of Communications estimates that in the next decade the direct economic benefits of the newly built highways will reach 150 million yuan annually and that traffic accidents will be reduced by two thirds. ■

Association Turns One Year Old

On October 28, the Beijing Foreign-Funded Enterprises Association which has a total membership of 292 celebrated its first anniversary.

To help foreign-funded enterprises use China's law to protect their rights and interests, the association has over the past year done much to publicize China's foreign policy to the outside world. It has also done a lot in promoting exchange of information and experience among the Chinese and foreign companies. Foreign-funded enterprises were organized to participate in a comprehensive exhibition in Hong Kong, the Beijing Foreign Trade Symposium in Tokyo and various exhibitions and marketing activities in China. On the eve of the 11th Asian Games, the association organized its members to hold a sales exhibition.

The association's members include many joint ventures and wholly foreign-owned enterprises established in China by world famous companies, include the Beijing Philips Co. Ltd. of the Netherlands, the IDG High-Tech (Beijing) Co. Ltd. and the Beijing Matsushita Colour Kinescope Co. Ltd. This makes the association the most effective and best known in China.

By October 25, 1990, Beijing had approved the establishment of 230 additional foreign-funded

enterprises, including a negotiated investment of US\$260 million (some US\$120 million in foreign capital), an increase of 44.6 percent, 47.8 percent and 47 percent respectively compared with the same period last year. As of now, Beijing has approved the establishment of 826 foreign-funded enterprises with a total investment of US\$4.3 billion (including US\$2 billion in foreign capital). Some 60 percent of the 481 foreign-funded enterprises now in operation have already joined the association.

Li Ming

Beijing Showcases Air Technology

The 1990 International Air Equipment and Technology Exhibition was held in Beijing from October 27 to 31. It demonstrated China's latest advancements in the field during the past few years. Many of China's largest engine manufacturing companies and airborne equipment firms attended the exhibition. On display were China's newest technology and research achievements for military aircraft, which showed the competitiveness of Chinese aviation industry, particularly in the international market.

Also on display were new products jointly developed by Chinese and foreign companies such as the FT8 gas turbine and comprehensive electronic display system up to the world advanced level of the 1990s.

Attending the exhibition were also many foreign aircraft manufacturing companies including the Aerospatiale of France, the Dassault Aviation, the Gec-Marconi Ltd. of Britain, the Colling Avionics, Rockwell International Corp. of the United States and the V/O "Aviaexport" of the Soviet Union.

Discussions were held to develop Sino-foreign co-operation and exchange during the exhibition. ■

"Dream of Fancy Cotton Prints"

During the recent Asiad, 28-year-old dress-designer Jiang Zhongfang held two of her own fashion shows where more than 100 of her cotton apparel of both ethnic and modern styles were displayed. So well received were her fashions that she became the latest fashion-designer sensation in the capital.

Jiang Zhongfang chooses bright, large-design prints that are similar to those used traditionally by village girls for quilt covers for their doweries at the beginning of this century. For example, green leaves together with red peonies symbolize wealth and honour; yellow dragons and phoenixes on a red background signify good luck.

Jiang Zhongfang pieces together such bold cotton prints on white cloth to make her fresh, gay garments. She takes into consideration the traditional styles of ethnic minorities as well as modern dress trends when designing her fashions. She also incorporates the Chinese high collar, nipped waist and long skirt in such a way that her dresses are simple, streamlined and flattering to the feminine form.

Fashion experts say that Jiang Zhongfang is a talented new designer who has an eye for colour and a flare for bold, imaginative designs.

Jiang Zhongfang's career in fashion design began when "opportunity knocked" in August 1989—she saw an ad for the "Capital Cup Fashion Design Competition" in a newspaper. Having never

set foot before in this field, she spent over a month designing four sets of clothes. She pieced black and white material together on which was printed illegible, square Chinese characters in large gray blocks by woodcut artist Li Bing. Her fashions were elegant and graceful. One of her series won the first prize of the competition, and she entered the world of fashion design.

As a young girl, Jiang was particular about her clothes, and often altered her clothes herself. While other children wore dull, monotonous clothing, Jiang was dressing in her own style.

When she grew a little older, rather than buy ready-made clothes, she would wander in silk and cloth shops, collect pretty prints and make her own clothes. "Whenever I saw pretty prints, I just couldn't pull myself away,"

Jiang Zhongfang's creation that won her a prize at the "Capital Cup Fashion Design Competition" late fall last year.

ZHOU JINGDENG



Jiang said.

At the age of 16, Jiang enrolled in a vocational school for painting. When she graduated she worked designing patterns in a school attached to a printing house. After five years she enrolled in the Central Academy of Fine Arts where she took a course in fresco painting. She immersed herself in oil painting, sketching and portraiture. She loved painting, but never forgot her earlier wish—to become a fashion designer. It was at this moment, when she was wavering between the two careers, that she won the Capital Cup Competition. She decided to do fashion-designing wholeheartedly; she resigned from her work at the printing house, sold all her wedding dowery and set out to fulfill her "dream of fancy cotton prints."

During the past year, all Jiang's efforts and savings were spent on fashion designing. Of the bolts of prints and fashion books piled up in her home, she said, "They are drowning me."

Jiang Zhongfang is inspired by the fashions she sees of famous international designers. She finds the creations of Issey Miyake to be severe, abstract, rich and unconventional. Yves Saint Laurent's designs are sophisticated and elegant.

She also admires Kenzo Takada, Valentino and Chanel. "They make me realize that there is no end to beautiful fashions," Jiang said.

Although she realizes she lacks regular training in fashion designing, Jiang believes this is also her strength: she is not bound by conventional rules and regulations. Her training in painting enables her to

design according to the human body and not to rigidly adhere to how to make a pleat or sew on a button. She said, "I feel as if I am doing a sculpture with printed cloth."

Li Xiaoyan, one of the top ten models in China, said, "Fashions designed by Jiang Zhongfang are so comfortable to wear. They look fresh and natural. I just love them!"

As for the future, Jiang said, "I have set foot on this path and I intend to go to the very end. I'll strive with all my might to achieve success in this endeavour. With this kind of determination, who could not attain their dream?"

by Feng Jing

Lim Siang Hiong And His Paintings

Lim Siang Hiong, a Chinese-Singaporean, held his eighth one-man painting exhibition from September to October this year in Beijing. This was the first opportunity for him to show his works in China since he left the motherland 34 years ago.

The 100 recent paintings were exhibited in five categories: the times, society, reality, landscape, and flowers and birds.

Lim Siang Hiong's paintings are filled with a rich quality of life and a strong sense of the times. He believes in the idea that "social reality is the heart and soul of artistic creation." His paintings, *Fisherman Series*, *Metropolis Series* and *Malai Nationality Living Series* show deep feelings for the life of the ordinary people. *Behind these Vermilion gates meat and wine go to waste, but along the road are bones of men who have frozen to death* was a paint-



Behind these Vermilion gates meat and wine go to waste, but along the road are bones of men who have frozen to death, lines from a verse by the Tang Dynasty poet Du Fu which inspired this painting by artist Lim Siang Hiong.

ing by Lim, inspired by the disparity between the rich and poor in the West. *Though mountains and rivers remain intact, where stands my home in a conquered country?* was another painting

which voiced his feelings through paintings after he visited the Vietnamese and Cambodian refugee camps in Thailand and Malaysia. The painting *Please Save the Children* depicts two old men looking at three children lying on the ground. "If just a small percentage of the money spent on the arms race were diverted to the refugees, millions would be saved," said the painter.

Though Lim Siang Hiong left China when he was very young, he has great esteem for traditional Chinese culture. "It is like water without a source, or a tree without roots if one deserts his country and ancestors," he said. He regards his roots of being Chinese as the foundation and starting point of his philosophy of life and artistic inspiration. While he focuses on the quintessence of Chinese paintings, he has cast off the fetters of traditionalism. His paintings keep the special style and lines of Chinese painting and com-

Chinese-Singaporean painter Lim Siang Hiong.

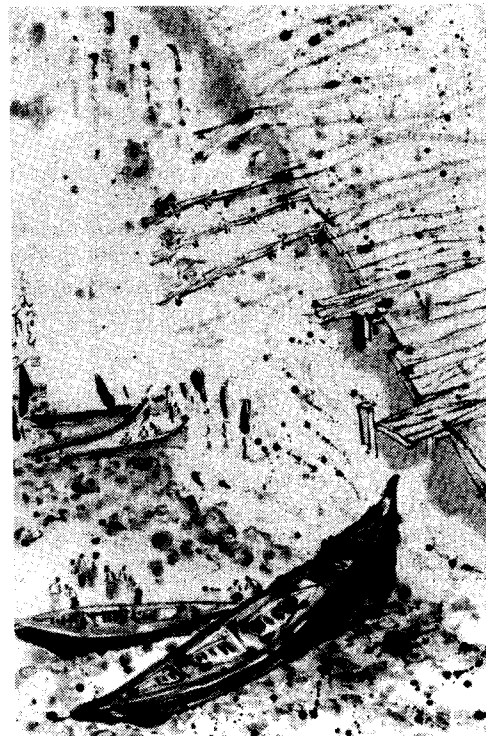


bine the techniques of Western painting in composition, perspective and colour. The combination of Oriental style and modern composition makes Lim's paintings unique. In many of his works, he sparsely uses colourful dots similar to pointillism in Western impressionistic painting. In his painting, *The Yellow River Comes from the Heaven*, Lim applies bold and unconstrained lines of traditional Chinese painting with Western oil painting technique. He uses *Xuan* paper, a special paper for painting made in Anhui Province, as his canvas. Fan Zeng, a famous Chinese painter, praised his works as "daring and imposing with bold touches and vividness."

Lim Siang Hiong, born in Chaoan County, Guangdong Province in 1945, liked painting when he was very young. He went to Singapore at the age of ten and began to study painting. From 1965 to 1968, he studied at the Singapore Artistic Academy. Lim's first one-man exhibition was held in 1968. He went to Paris for further training in the early 1970s.

Talking about his career, Lim believes that his artwork has undergone three stages. From 1968 to 1971 he was in a stage of exploration, and held two exhibits during this time. After 1973, his art exhibits demonstrated a change in his artistic approach from narrow and individualistic to broad and far-reaching, encompassing the times and society, in such a way as to emphasize the social value of art. Lim's eighth painting exhibition held in Beijing marked the third stage, in which his paintings reflect an artistic maturity.

Lim has successively published three collections of his paintings. He has read books extensively on literature, history and philosophy, and has written review books such as *Review of Local Art Scene and Its Direction*, *Liu Haishu in Singa-*



Anchorage, reflection of the life of the Malai people.

Photos by YANG LIMING

pore and three essay collections including *I See, I Think, I Write*.
by Hong Lanxing



An exhibition of the "Works of 10 Romanian Painters During the First Half of the 20th Century" was held recently in Beijing. Sixty oil paintings by these 10 painters were selected from the collection of the Bucharest Arts Museum to give art-lovers in Beijing an opportunity to appreciate the original works of Nicolae Tontea and other Romanian artists.

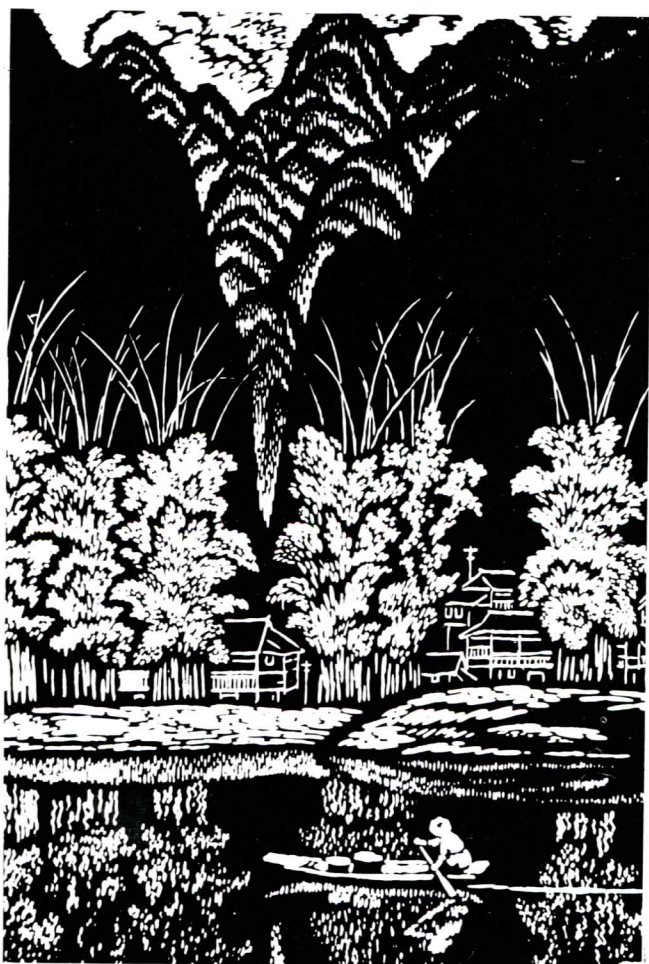
Portrait of a Girl in oils by Nicolae Tontea from the Romanian collection.

Engravings by Wu Jiahua

Wu Jiahua, born in Guiyang in 1932, now teaches at the Professional Artist Training School in Guizhou Province. He specializes in black-and-white wood engravings which express the local flavour of southwest China.



Waterfall.



Mountain River, Bamboo Bush and Village.

ART PAGE



Gathering Mountain Flowers.

Chinese Trumpet Creeper: Trueran Gauze



Cloth woven and made by good-quality trueran and natural cotton yarn:

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Trueran yarn includes grey cotton, bleached cloth, dyed cloth printed or dyed shirting. Our variety of fabrics include fine cloth, fine spun, poplin, voile, seersucker, linen, Oxford spun, yarn spun fabric, drills, khaki drills, jacquard, brocade and corduroy.

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