

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF NEWS AND VIEWS

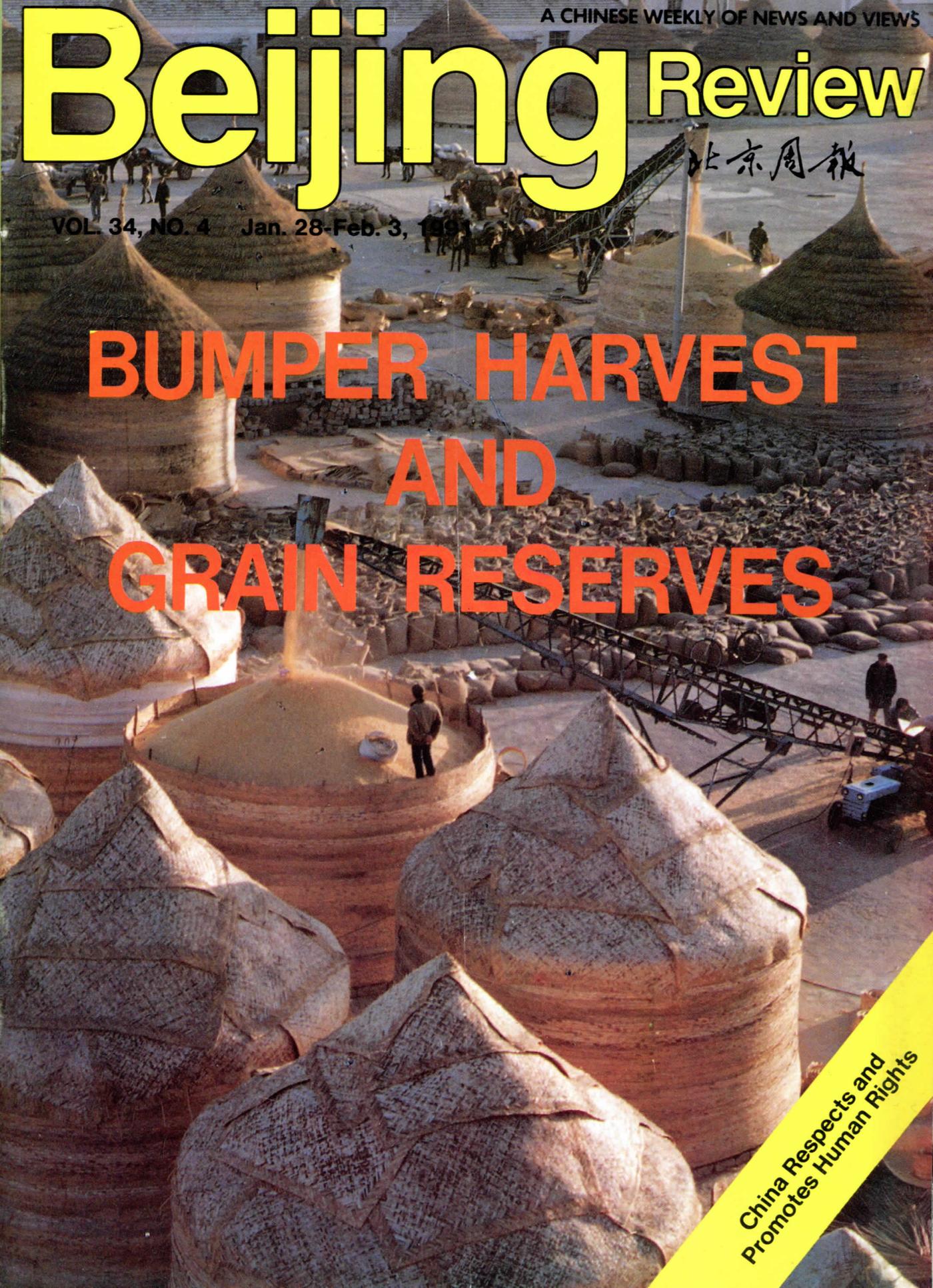
# Beijing Review

北京周報

VOL. 34, NO. 4 Jan. 28-Feb. 3, 1991

## BUMPER HARVEST AND GRAIN RESERVES

China Respects and  
Promotes Human Rights





Just look at them! Who will win the arm- wrestle ?

*Photo by Sun Yi*

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

## China Emphasizes Human Rights

□ Since the founding of New China, great efforts have been made by the Chinese government to guarantee and promote human rights. These include strengthening the legal system, improving the people's living standards, implementing family planning, promoting minority rights, protecting religious beliefs, safeguarding civil rights as well as participating in international human rights activities (p. 12).

## China Concerned Over Gulf War

□ China has shown grave concern over the Gulf situation since war broke out there. The Chinese government strongly appeals to all parties involved to exercise restraint so as to prevent escalation of the confrontation, and pledges to continue working with the international community in search for a peaceful settlement to the crisis. On the world arena, reaction to the war ranges from support, disapproval to sadness over the US-led multi-national attack against Iraq (pp. 4 and 7).

## Vice-Minister on Grain Production

□ China's vice-minister of agriculture told a *Beijing Review* reporter that China harvested 420 million tons of grain in 1990, about 15 million tons more than the previous year. The government has decided to establish a grain storage system to accommodate the rich harvest, and set the target for an annual output of 500 million tons of grain by 2000 (p. 17).

## Mainland-Taiwan Trade: An Assessment

□ Trade between the mainland and Taiwan from 1979 and 1989 amounted to 11.8 billion yuan and, by the end of June 1990, Taiwan investment in the mainland totalled US\$1.5 billion. The development of trade has helped improve mainland-Taiwan relations and offers hope for China's peaceful reunification (p. 22).

## Japan: For a Comprehensive Role

□ Not content with its role as a big economic power, Japan is seeking to become a political force and play a more important role in the world. Evidence of this is displayed in Japan's diplomatic and military policies and its influence on world affairs (p. 9).

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**COVER:** China's agricultural production in 1990 yielded a bumper harvest, hitting a record-high in grain output. The Baoli granary of Changtu County in Liaoning Province is but one of numerous storages built across the land to accommodate the harvested grain.

Photo by Zheng Yongji

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## China's Position on Gulf War

**T**he Chinese government expressed "deep anxiety and concern" over the gulf war that broke out on the morning of January 17.

In the small hours of January 17, the United States sent aircraft to attack some regions of Iraq and Kuwait. The war that the international community had striven to avert and the world people would not like to see finally broke out. The Chinese government expresses deep anxiety and concern over this, according to a spokesman of Chinese Foreign Ministry in Beijing on January 17.

The spokesman said since the beginning of the Gulf crisis, the Chinese government has clearly stated its opposition to Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait by force and demanded that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait imme-

diately and unconditionally and that the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and legitimate government of Kuwait be restored and respected.

Meanwhile, China advocates that efforts should be made for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis by political and diplomatic means, and China has made the greatest possible efforts towards that goal together with the international community.

At this critical moment, he said, the Chinese government strongly appeals to the warring sides to exercise maximum restraints and to prevent the war from spilling over and expanding, so as to allow the international community to take emergency measures in a continued search for the means and ways of a peaceful solution to the conflict. ■

crisis, Li said, the Chinese government has clearly stated its opposition to Iraq's military invasion and occupation of Kuwait, calling on Iraq to unconditionally withdraw all its troops from Kuwait and restore the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and legitimate government of Kuwait.

Meanwhile, China advocates greater efforts be made to peacefully resolve the Gulf crisis through political means and diplomatic channels. He said that "this position of the Chinese government has been consistent and clear-cut."

Now, Li said, "together with the rest of the international community, we will continue our efforts in seeking a peaceful settlement to the crisis."

Commenting on Iraq's first missile attack against Israel, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said on January 18 that China is "extremely concerned about further expansion of the war in the Gulf region."

People in Beijing from all walks of life also showed their concern over the Gulf situation, which has become an important topic in their daily life.

"The nearly six-month-long Gulf crisis and the ongoing war will no doubt have an impact on the international economy," said Professor Tang Baocai from the Institute of West Asian and African Studies under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The most direct one will, of course, be the supply of crude oil, Tang noted.

An entrepreneur doing business in the capital said, "We Chinese people do not like war, because it brings disaster and suffering. It is not necessary to solve a crisis by means of war." He also said that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait should be condemned, and that it's time for the Iraqi government to consider the situation calmly and from the

## China Concerned Over Gulf War

**P**remier Li Peng has called for the greatest restraint of all parties to prevent escalation and expansion of the Gulf war.

The international community, including China, had strived for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis so as to avoid war, he said in a January 19 meeting with a delegation of young Japanese Diet members of the Liberal Democratic Party.

Regrettably, Li said, all efforts failed and war finally broke out. "We feel profoundly anxious and concerned about this," he added.

Li said situations often develop independent of people's will.

"If the war continues, its consequences will be extremely grave," he said.

At stake are lives and property of many innocent civilians, and the destruction of oil fields in the Gulf would greatly affect the international economy.

Therefore, the premier said, "the Chinese government and people strongly appeal to all parties concerned to exercise great restraint to prevent the escalation and expansion of war, so as to protect the people of the Middle East countries from a greater catastrophe and provide opportunities and favourable conditions for the international community to continue its search for a peaceful settlement to the conflict."

Since the first day of the Gulf

viewpoint of what will benefit the Iraqi people.

College students in Beijing preparing for their end-of-term examinations are following the Gulf situation closely.

At the International Relations Institute, a student said, "War is never a good thing—just think about the number of families that will suffer from the misfortunes it brings."

An official of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade said that war cannot solve the crisis and people should not abandon efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement. ■

## China, Romania Keep the Ties Close

It was January 15. Most state leaders of the world were supposed to stay in their offices, waiting in suspense for the UN-mandated deadline for Iraqi pullout from Kuwait to expire, and preparing to respond to the latest development in the Gulf.

Romanian President Ion Iliescu, however, was several thousand miles away from home. The fact that he paid an official visit to Beijing during this crucial span of January 14-16 indicated how much his country values its traditional ties with China.

Iliescu's visit, originally scheduled for six days, had been cut in half due to the explosive situation in the Gulf. As a result, the visiting president had to give up his planned tour of the southern coastal special economic zones, which the Romanian leader said he "was very keen about."

China and Romania have been good friends since diplomatic ties were established on October 5, 1949, four days after the founding of the People's Republic of China. Romania was the only East European country free from ideological friction with China during the past four de-



Romanian President Ion Iliescu's visit is "a new starting-point" for Sino-Romanian ties, says Chinese President Yang Shangkun.

LIU JIANSHENG

acades. Romania played an important role in normalization of the Sino-US and Sino-Soviet relations. Frequent high-level contacts and mutual visits exhibited the stable bilateral relations between China and Romania.

Iliescu is the first head of an European state to visit China since the June 4th Incident of 1989 in Beijing, and since the dramatic changes took place in East Europe the same year.

Chinese Premier Li Peng, while meeting with the Romanian leader, described Sino-Romanian ties as "very good," and "not affected by changing situations," adding that the change in the Romanian government should not affect bilateral relations.

Iliescu expressed his appreciation at a press conference held on January 15 for the "realistic approach" of the Chinese leaders towards East European countries.

The Romanian president also reiterated his country's position of sticking to its "one China" pol-

icy, saying Romania had turned down Taiwan's proposal for official contacts. In this regard, the Romanian president stands in sharp contrasts with a few politicians in other East European countries, who have reportedly been making political overtures to the Taiwan authorities.

Iliescu also told the press that China had promised to grant Romania a loan of 100 million yuan, mainly in the form of agricultural and industrial supplies.

by Staff Reporter Li Haibo

## Press Ethics: The Chinese Way

China's 420,000 journalists are called upon to follow a professional code of ethics and be loyal to the cause of socialist journalism.

The code, adopted at the fourth council meeting of the All-China Journalists Association held from January 15 to 19, stresses the importance of truthful news reporting and condemns

all forms of falsehood.

Journalists are encouraged to seek truth from facts, support all ideas and actions conforming to the interests of the people and expose erroneous ideas and malpractices in society.

According to the code, journalists are required to refrain from engaging in profit-making activities such as advertising and avoid using news reports as commodities.

Chinese journalists are also required to make social benefit their benchmark while safeguarding national interests and state policies, and avoid stories involving sex, violence, crime, superstition and other topics that may be sensational but are harmful to young people.

The code stipulates that news reports should be conducive to world peace and human progress and should respect the cultural traditions and independence of other countries and peoples.

The congress called on journalists to strengthen their ties and co-operation with journalists and journalists' organizations in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao.

Chinese journalists are also encouraged to exchange and cooperate extensively with their counterparts in other countries, especially third world countries, the code added.

A leading official of the association said the code is aimed at raising the professional ethical standards of Chinese journalists and help them deal with new complexities arising from the ever developing commodity economy in China. ■

## National Economy: Strategic Changes

A noted economist predicted that the 1990s will see two major changes taking place in China's strategy for economic development.

The emphasis of the economy will be switched from a traditional quest for speed, quantity and scale to efficiency and quality, said Liu Guoguang, vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Speaking at a symposium on China's economic prospects for the 1990s, Liu said that the other changes involve the transformation of the economic system from central planning alone to a combination of planned economy with market regulation.

The symposium, sponsored in Beijing by the academy and Xinhua News Agency earlier this month, analyzed a wide range of issues involving China's economic trends in the 1990s and international economic relations.

Liu's prediction is significant in that he is member of a think-tank for Chinese policy-makers in the process of drafting the nation's Eighth Five-Year Plan (1991-95) and a 10-year programme for economic development.

In the next decade, Liu disclosed, China will give priority to agriculture, infrastructure, science and education while reorganizing the processing industry. Efforts will be concentrated in

technical transformation instead of undertaking new projects.

The economist said China will "gradually reduce the scope of the compulsory state planning and expand the role of guidance planning and market regulation." Meanwhile, enterprise reform will continue by separating the functions of management from state administration."

Concerning price reforms, he said, the scope of state-fixed prices will be reduced and the double-track pricing system will eventually be phased out.

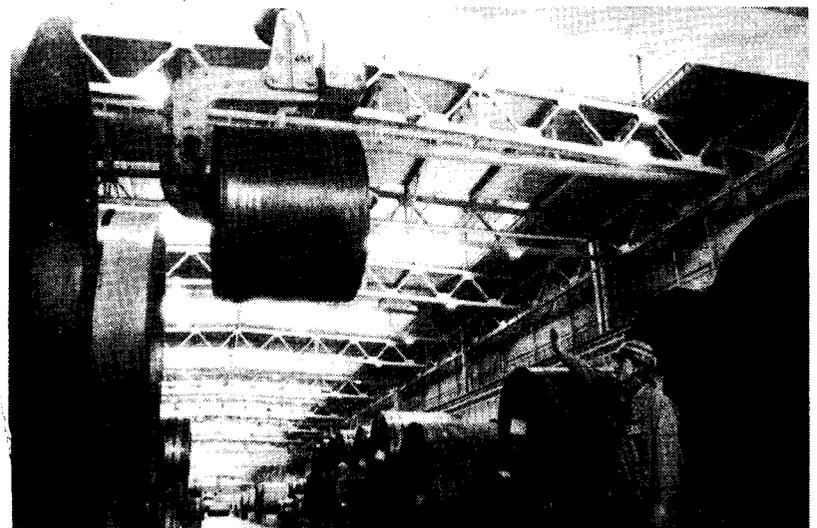
These reforms, the economist said, will help bring about the two major strategic changes he has predicted.

Liu believes China's 1980 GNP will be quadrupled by the turn of the century if a 6 percent average annual growth rate can be maintained. He bases his confidence on the fact that China averaged a 7.2 percent annual growth increase over the past 10 years.

The economic rectification drive in the past two years and more, he said, has furnished favorable conditions for further economic expansion. "We should make the most of this opportunity and accelerate the reforms," he noted. ■

With a daily output of 6,200 tons of steelplate, Baoshan Steelworks' hot-rolling mill in Shanghai is the largest of its kind in the country.

ZHANG JUN



# Gulf War Touches off Strong Worldwide Reaction

by Zhang Xiaodong

The US-led multi-national armed forces in the Gulf region launched a large-scale air raid on Iraq to begin the military action code-named "Operation Desert Storm" at about 2:40 am Baghdad time on January 17 (23:40, January 16 GMT). The reactions to the Gulf war from the international community vary greatly.

**China** The Chinese government expressed its deep anxiety and worry about the Gulf war and strongly appealed to the two conflicting parties to exercise maximum restraint and prevent the spread and expansion of the flames of war so that the international community can continue to search for means and methods

Anti-war demonstration in London.

to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict.

**The UN** The United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressed deep sorrow over the outbreak of the war. He said that although the present moment was not the time to make diplomatic efforts to solve the conflict, he still entertained hopes for peace in the Gulf. He stated that the early end to the war depended on Saddam Hussein himself.

**Soviet Union** President Mikhail Gorbachev said that the "tragic turn" of the Gulf crisis was provoked by the Iraqi leadership's refusal to withdraw from Kuwait and that the Soviet Union will take all measures to

bring about an early end to the war and restore peace by coordinating its efforts with all other countries and the United Nations.

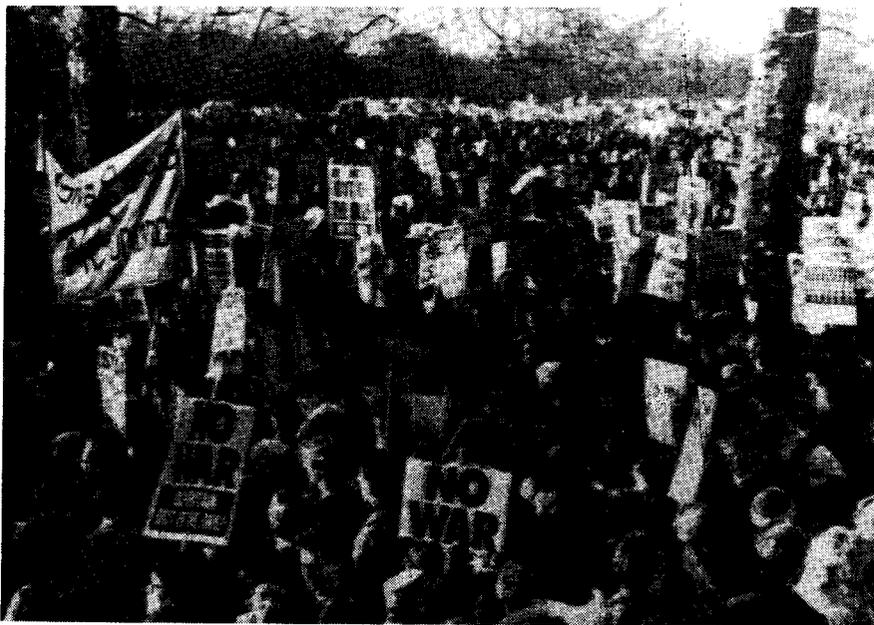
**PLO** The Palestine Liberation Organization said in a statement that "it is a black day in the history of humanity." It called for a worldwide response to the US-led attack on Iraq.

**Iran** President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani expressed deep regrets over the outbreak of the Gulf war. He said Iran would allow none of the belligerents to use its airspace or territorial waters.

**Jordan** An official statement on January 17 said "Jordan, its leadership, government and people condemn what took place in the early hours of this morning as a brutal attack on an Arab Moslem country and people."

**Israel** On the second day of the war, Israel was hit by Iraqi missiles. Although the United States and the allied powers called on Israel to restrain from answering the attack, Israel claimed to reserve the right to retaliate on Iraq. Following the attack on Israel, China again appealed to all parties concerned to exercise the greatest restraint.

**Kuwait** Kuwaiti





At an anti-war rally in Tokyo, a woman is holding a slogan reading "Children against war."

Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Abdulla Al-Salem Al-Sabah called on the Kuwaiti people who have resisted the Iraqi invasion of their country to continue to fight for the liberation of their motherland.

**Libya** Libyan leader Muammar al-Gaddafi said the military action of the multi-national force should not go beyond the scope of freeing Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. Gaddafi expressed Libya's feelings in a letter to UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar on the situation in the Gulf.

**The European Community** The EC's current Chairman Jacques Poos, foreign minister of Luxembourg, expressed the deepest regret over the outbreak of armed hostilities in the Gulf. He added that the European Community hopes the conflict will be short.

**Yugoslavia** As the executive

chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, Yugoslavia calls on all parties involved in the Gulf crisis to rethink the dangers of war, hoping Iraq, a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, will show good faith by withdrawing its troops from Kuwait. Yugoslavia also called on the international community to finally take responsibility for the settlement of the Palestinian issue and for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East issue in the near future.

**France** French Defence Minister Januier-Pierre Chevenement

stressed that the French Air Force is participating in the fighting under the presumption it is for the liberation of Kuwait, not the destruction of Iraq.

**Germany** German Chancellor Helmut Kohl expressed his surprise and concern over the outbreak of war in the Gulf, saying that Germany, together with its allies, will make every effort to "end the war as quickly as possible."

**Australia** Australian Prime Minister Robert Hawke noted that the root cause of the Gulf crisis is Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

**Japan** Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said that Japan strongly condemns Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait and expressed regret over the international community's failure to arrive at a peaceful resolution to the dispute. He said he supports the

multi-national force in their military action against Iraq. He also said that Japan eagerly desires an early end to the fighting in the Gulf, so the Middle East may experience permanent peace and stability soon.

**Cuba** Cuban President Fidel Castro said the war was unnecessary and could have been avoided by diplomatic means. He also said this war is the result of US hegemonic policy.

**Sudan** In a statement, Sudan expressed regret over the outbreak of war in the Gulf region and called on the international community to seek an end to hostilities and hold peace talks.

**Yemen** The Presidential Council and the cabinet issued a joint statement calling on the international community, especially the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, to assume the responsibility to end war and realize peace.

**The Gulf Co-operation Council** The council said it would co-operate with the multi-national force to drive Iraq from Kuwait in accordance with the decisions and resolutions adopted by the council's summit meeting, Arab Summit Meeting and the UN Security Council.

**Romania** President Ion Iliescu expressed his country's hope that the military conflict in the Gulf would end quickly and the situation in the area could be restored to normalcy.

**Political parties and social organizations** Georges Marchais, general secretary of the French Communist Party, said the actual aim of the US-led war against Iraq is for "oil, dollars and hegemony." He called for an end to the war and the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait through negotiations. Meanwhile, the Japanese Socialist Party issued a statement demanding an immediate end to the war fought between the US-led multi-national forces and Iraqi forces. ■



# Japan's Quest for Political Power

by Zhu Ronggen

Japan has been attempting to utilize its substantial economic strength and the dramatic changes in the world situation to accelerate its strategic plan to become a world political power. This attempt has been demonstrated in Japanese diplomatic and military policies.

In the mid-1970s, the leaders of Japan began considering how Japan should use its newly acquired economic power. In 1983, Yasuhiro Nakasone, then prime minister of Japan, put forward a strategy designed to increase Japan's influence as a world political power. Since then Japan has initiated and implemented the process of going from a world economic power to a world political power.

One of the main characteristics of Japan's current diplomatic policy is its positive participation in regional and world affairs as a world power on the basis of its substantial economic strength.

By now, Japanese Prime Minister Toshiaki Kaifu has visited the United States and a total of 17 other countries in Europe, Asia and the Middle East since the forming of his second cabinet in February 1990.

The major characteristics of Kaifu's diplomacy are embodied in the following statements: (1) Japan should take greater international political responsibility while maintaining its economic contributions to the world. Japan will have a positive impact on the establishment of a new international order with the same influence as other political powers. (2) The commitment to set up a new international order should be jointly shared by Japan, Eu-



Toshiaki Kaifu announced Japan's aid package to the Middle East countries to help offset their losses incurred by the Gulf crisis at a news conference on August 29, 1990.

rope and the United States. Kaifu noted that the gross national-product (GNP) of the whole world totaled US\$20 trillion in 1988, among which the United States and the European Community (EC) respectively contributed US\$5 trillion while Japan alone accounted for US\$3 trillion. He added that the coordination of efforts between the United States, EC and Japan is vital to the stability and prosperity of the world. (3) While increasing its foreign aid, Japan will follow a new policy utilizing various forms of assistance. Japan will try to provide aid not only in the form of cash disbursement, but also in the form of goods and materials, intelligence and expert personnel. (4) Japan will continue to participate in the peaceful resolution of all issues and hot spots of the world and try to play the role of a global actor with Asia as its centre stage

so as to expand its realm of influence within the international community.

Following his proposal, the four Cambodian parties held a meeting in early June in Tokyo. It was the first attempt by Japan to directly participate in dealing with a regional issue since World War II.

At the summit meeting of the seven Western industrial nations held in Houston in July last year, Kaifu said that Japan would take the lead in restoring loan agreements with China. The first Pacific and Asian foreign ministers meeting was held in New York in September last year under the proposal of Japan. In addition, Japan has been trying to play a leading role in Asia and the Pacific so as to realize its dream of establishing a West Pacific economic rim.

Japan's military strength has increased greatly while it has

pushed forward its strategy of becoming a world political power through economic, scientific and technological strength. From the end of World War II to the late 1970s, Japan's defence spending was kept at a low level. In 1976, Takeo Miki, then Prime Minister of Japan, made a decision that the country's defense budget should not exceed 1 percent of its GNP. However, in 1987, Japan's defense expenditures exceeded that ceiling. This aroused strong domestic and international reactions. Japanese defense expenditures have enjoyed an annual average growth rate of 6 percent during the past nine years. Its annual defense spending has increased to nearly US\$30 billion, which makes Japan's defense appropriations the third highest in the world following only the United States and the Soviet Union. Kaifu expressed on December 12 of last year that as East-West relations continue to relax, Japan

should return to the 1 percent ceiling set by Takeo Miki by reducing its defense expenditures during the 1991-1995 fiscal years.

The Japanese government has vowed repeatedly that Japan will not become a big military power and its function in the world will be confined to non-military areas. However, some events occurring in the country after the Gulf crisis broke out in August of last year suggest an alternative opinion.

Between the end of August and middle of September, the Japanese government appropriated US\$4 billion of economic aid to the Middle East countries to help them deal with losses incurred from the crisis in the region. In late September, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the ruling party in Japan, hastily threw out a motion on the floor of the Diet which proposed that Japan send troops to the Gulf. According to

the Japanese postwar constitution, Japan is not to have its own armed force, let alone send military personnel abroad. As a result, when the bill was submitted to the provisional assembly of the Japanese Diet, it was met with intense opposition from the opposition parties and was abandoned very quickly in the early periods of discussion. The proposal also arouses strong opposition from the Japanese people and caused serious concern in its neighbouring countries.

In Japan, some believe Japan should adhere to its peaceful constitution and pursue a policy of peaceful development while contributing to the peace and prosperity of the world. Others insist that Japan should revise its constitution, cancel the ceiling set on its military spending and expand its military strength. These people insist that Japan should be a rich country with strong military powers. The debate is going on and merits international attention. ■

## African Economy Rides Out the Gulf Crisis

by Wang Qinmei

In 1990, the African economy grew at about 2.5 percent due to a worldwide slowdown in economic growth and the Gulf crisis. This figure was much lower than the 3.7 percent level expected by the World Bank. The situation is not expected to improve much over the next year.

Although the Gulf crisis has exerted great impact on the African economy, the influence has not been devastating. Of Africa's total export earnings, 60 percent is from petroleum. Last year, 14 oil-producing African nations produced about 2 billion barrels, 70 percent of which was for export. Imports of oil by the oil-

lacking countries was only 120 million barrels, about 8.6 percent of the total amount of oil African countries exported.

However, the benefits realized from oil exports vary from country to country. Those countries whose major source of foreign exchange income is oil will register sharp increases in their financial income this year. Nigeria, for example, is expected to harvest an additional US\$3 billion in revenue and Algeria will obtain US\$2 billion. Egypt will have both gains and losses as a result of the oil price hike. The Ivory Coast, Cameroon and Zaire will use their increased oil

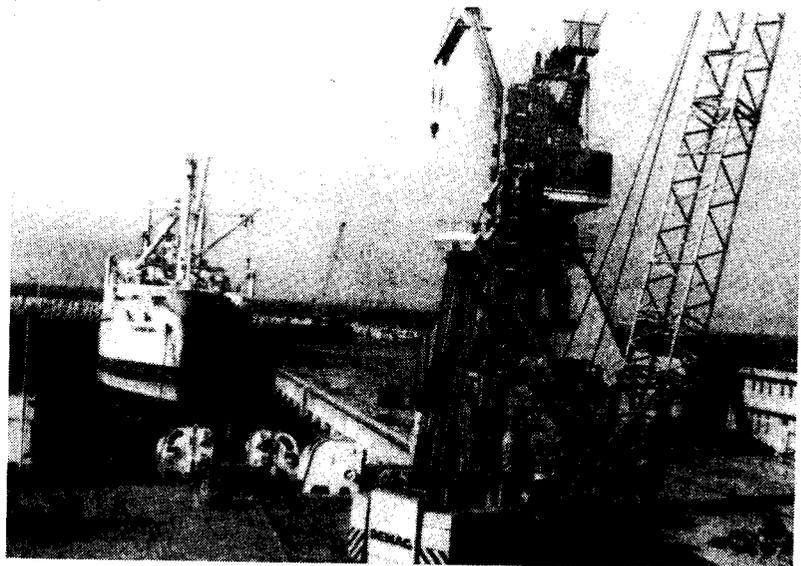
income to offset their loss brought about by drop in the price of coffee and cocoa.

Africa's debt rose from US\$256.7 billion in 1989 to US\$265. The rapid rise in oil prices contributed to the heavy burden of African oil-importing countries. However, non-oil-producers made some headway in economic structural adjustments, which balanced this downward trend of economic growth on the continent. Mali, for example, has reaped bumper grain harvests for several consecutive years and in 1989 it exported 560,000 tons of grain. The country's annual economic

growth rate reached 9.6 percent, a figure rarely seen in Africa.

In Tanzania, agricultural output has increased for three consecutive years by more than 4.7 percent. The industry grew by 5.4 percent in 1989, while the gross national product increased by 4.1 percent. After the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, the price of one litre of oil rose by about 27 percent. Even this failed to reverse the momentum of growth. This is because Tanzania introduced a market mechanism to deregulate prices of commodities, which increased the country's immunity to international trade fluctuations. The market flourished after the government control on prices was lifted. To tackle the long-standing issues, the government announced a plan to expand exports, limit imports, tighten expenditures, and control credits. These steps helped alleviate the difficulties caused by the oil price increase. In other oil-importing countries, such as Togo, Ghana, Guinea, Botswana, Mauritius and Zimbabwe, economic growth last year exceeded 4 percent. These economies will continue to head in a healthy direction provided there will be no more major destructive events occurring in the future.

Now, the international market is slumping. Influenced by the Gulf crisis, the price of many primary products has fallen, but some remain strong. For example, demand for cotton, high-grade tea, peanut oil, aluminium, uranium, cobalt, iron, chromium and nickel exceeds supply and the price continues to rise. In 1990, the total consumer volume of cotton in the world market hit an all-time high at 86 million bales, 6 million bales more than the world's total output. The global aluminium consumer volume increased by 2 percent, aluminium stock were reduced and the price soared to US\$1,945 per



A port in Mauritania.

ZHONG HEI

ton from US\$1,500. More noticeably, the price of nickel rose by more than US\$2,000 per ton.

This situation enabled African countries which export these products to earn more money. Another favourable factor to the African economy is that many African countries have paid great attention to agricultural production and increased investment in this area in recent years. In addition, the favourable weather brought most African countries a good harvest in 1990. The total output of grain was estimated at about 90 million tons.

The negative effects of slow international economic growth and the Gulf crisis are as follows.

First, the setback to economic improvement in Africa considerably restricts the restoration and revitalization of the African economy.

Second, some countries' economies have achieved initial successes through their long-term economic readjustments. However, because of soaring oil price, they need to pay premium prices for petroleum. This will lead these countries to slow down their economic adjustment pro-

grammes.

Third, those African countries which have little income, bear heavy foreign debt, import oil or rely on cocoa and coffee exports will face more serious difficulties. If some countries continue to experience chaos and political instability, their economies will be on the verge of bankruptcy. For example, the economies of Liberia, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Lesotho may shrink.

Fourth, as the world economy slows down further and some major countries face economic recessions, the international demand for primary products will decrease again. So, the income of African countries will consequently reduce, and their economic situation will certainly further deteriorate.

Fifth, the Gulf war may push up oil prices. If oil prices soar to US\$40-60 per barrel, African countries will pay another US\$2.6-5 billion for their oil imports in 1991. The global economic situation will further deteriorate, the price of primary products will slide down, and Western countries will reduce their assistance to Africa. Most African countries' economies will fall into a more difficult situation. ■

# China Promotes Human Rights

by Guo Jisi

In the past 42 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, and especially in the past 10 years since the adoption of the policy of reform and opening to the outside world, the Chinese government has done enormous work on the construction of democracy and legal system. The state has effectively guaranteed the citizens of various fundamental civil rights and freedoms. Meanwhile, by taking an active part in the international activities in the field of human rights, China has made her share of contributions to the promotion of human rights as advocated in the UN Charter.

The Chinese government has always attached great importance to safeguarding and promoting various civil rights for its people. This short article can hardly give a comprehensive account of the tremendous work accomplished by China in this aspect. The following facts, however, will be sufficient to illustrate the great achievements made by China in this area.

## Legal Protection

The Constitution and law of China always give priority to human rights protection. The Constitution clearly stipulates that all citizens of the People's Republic of China are equal before the law. This is one of the important principles which guarantee citizens enjoy human rights and basic freedoms. The Constitution also stipulates that all citizens are equal when applying laws, regardless of nationality, race,

sex, occupation, family background, religious belief, education, property status, or length of residence, and that every citizen enjoys the rights and at the same time must perform the duties prescribed by the Constitution and the law.

The past 40 years and more have seen a gradual development and perfection of China's legal system. The process of democratization in the political, economic and social lives has been making headway. Since the adoption of the policy of reform and opening to the outside world in 1979 in particular, the construction of democracy and legal system has been accelerated.

First, rapid progress has been made in the field of legislation. A series of important laws have been promulgated, which formed a legal system at its initial stage based on the Constitution. In the past 10 years, amendments to the Constitution have been made and laws and regulations have been drawn up, including 146 laws and decisions on legal issues, 497 administrative laws and regulations and 1,220 local laws and regulations. These laws and regulations cover dozens of areas such as criminal offences, marriage and family life, inheritance of properties, disputes on contracts, foodstuff hygiene, protection of historical relics, pharmaceutical administration, environmental protection, exploitation of mineral resources and protection of forestry, etc. They have greatly enhanced China's democracy and legal system.

Second, judicial agencies such as the public security organs,

procuratorial organs and the people's courts have been strengthened. At present, China has established 3,491 procuratorates with 170,000 procuratorial officers. In the past decade, people's courts have seen an increase of 130,000 in its staff. Since the end of the "cultural revolution" (1966-1976) the Ministry of Justice and local judicial departments have been rehabilitated and improved. Legal advisory offices and notary offices have also been set up. With the exercise of respective functions and powers, the judicial organs have made great efforts to protect the legitimate rights and interests of the citizens.

Third, an extensive and in-depth publicity and education campaign on the concepts of law has been launched throughout the country. The perfection of a country's legal system necessitates efforts to continuously strengthen its citizens' concept and accomplishment of law, to let all people know what rights they enjoy and how to protect their rights by the law, and at the same time, recognize that the rights and duties are united and the rights can be guaranteed by the law only according to legal procedures within legal provisions, thus ultimately enabling them to implement and abide by the law conscientiously. At present, courses on general knowledge of laws are included in the curriculum of primary and middle schools as well as institutions of higher learning. Meanwhile, publicity and education on law have been in full swing across the land, both in urban and rural

areas, and in the central and local administrations. More than 300 million people have attended courses of various types aimed at spreading general knowledge on law.

## Basic Right to Existence

China is the world's biggest developing country with a large population but a small acreage of arable land. The most important thing to more than 1 billion Chinese people at present is to have adequate food and clothing with access to medical care and education. The accomplishment of all this is a genuine safeguard to the fundamental rights of the Chinese people.

In the old China before 1949, people lived in dire poverty. The masses were short of clothing, food and medical care. The life expectancy was only 35, one of the lowest levels among countries in the world. Population and infant death rates were respectively 25 and 200 per thousand. Tens or hundreds of thousands of people died of the pestilence annually. The broad masses could not even enjoy the basic right to existence, let alone basic human rights.

Through common efforts by its people of all nationalities over the past 40 years and more, China has turned itself from a formerly backward agricultural state into a country with the beginnings of prosperity. Rapid progress has been made in economy and culture. Between 1953 and 1989, the gross national product increased by an average of 7 percent annually while the national income increased by an average of 6.8 percent annually. In 1989, compared with the peak year before 1949, China's grain output increased 2.7 times, cotton 4.5 times, and cloth 6.8 times, all rising to the first rating status in the world; steel output increased 66.7 times, jump-

ing from the world's 26th to 4th place; raw coal 17 times, from 9th to first; and crude oil 430 times, from 27th to 4th place. In 1989, the number of students in colleges, middle schools and primary schools was 17.8 times, 39.8 times and 5.1 times respectively that of 1949. The working people not only have enough food and clothing, but also have seen a remarkable improvement in their living and health standards. In 1989, China's life expectancy reached 70 and population and infant death rates dropped to 7 and 40 per thousand respectively. The illiteracy rate dropped to 15.85 percent in 1990 from 80 percent in 1949.

## Family Planning

However, rapid population growth exerts a huge pressure on China's economic and social development. China's cultivated area accounts for only 7 percent of the world's total, but it provides food to about 22 percent of the world's total population. At present, China's population is twice as large as that in 1949, and its per capita cultivated area was reduced from 0.18 hectare in 1949 to 0.086 hectare early in 1988, only one-fourth of the average level in the world. Although China had doubled its grain output from 1952 to 1989, per capita output only rose by 26 percent. If China's population increases by 15 million people each year and 400 kilogrammes of grain and two metres of cotton cloth are needed by every one, China must produce another 6 billion kilogrammes of grain and 30 million metres of cotton cloth each year. In some regions where the population grows too fast, people have to reclaim fields from forested land in order to produce more grain, resulting in soil erosion and environmental deterioration. In addition, the rapid growth of population also

directly influences the improvement of people's living standards. In 1989, in Chinese cities, per capita living space was only 6.6 square metres and every 10,000 people have 4.6 public vehicles, and in the whole country every 10,000 people have only 23.3 hospital beds. The large population has heavily restricted the development in various fields.

In order to effectively promote national economic and social development, improve the living standards of the people and enable them to enjoy their basic rights better, the Chinese government has, in light of China's specific conditions, pursued a fundamental state policy to control the population growth and improve the quality of the population. Beginning in the 1980s, the state started to implement the policy of family planning, advocating late marriage, birth control, and well breeding and rearing of children. Such policy fits the needs of China's economic and social development. In real practice, the Chinese government has consistently followed the principle of combining state guidance with the voluntary application by the people. Any coercive measures or arbitrary orders are opposed. As for state personnel, staff and workers and residents in cities and towns, a couple can only have one child except for special conditions. Those couples in the rural area who meet difficulties in the life can have a second child at proper intervals. Special policies have been consistently applied by the Chinese government towards minority nationalities. Local people's governments in regions inhabited by minority nationalities may work out their own ways and requirements of family planning in accordance with their local conditions. For example, in the Tibet Autonomous Region, it was not until the mid-1980s that

family planning was advocated among Tibetan cadres, workers and government employees. A couple is encouraged to have two children at proper intervals. In the sparsely populated border farming and pastoral areas and areas where population growth is slow, no family planning policy has ever been implemented.

China is the country with the largest population in the world. Under the grim situation that the world faces the population explosion, China has an unshirkable duty to resolve the population problem. This is China's bounden responsibility and duty to the world. The experience of the past 10 years proved that such policies are absolutely necessary, that they are not only in conformity with the needs of China's economic and social development, in the interests of the Chinese people, but also help to stabilize the global population growth. Some people in foreign countries attack China's family planning as "violating human rights," but facts have shown that their charges are unjustifiable.

### Minority Nationalities

The nationality problem is a general problem in the world. Many countries face the same question of how to properly handle relations among nationalities. China is a unified multi-national country, comprised of 55 minority nationalities apart from the Han nationality. In the old days before the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, national discrimination, oppression and opposition existed. But with the victory of the Chinese revolution, fundamental changes took place in national relations. "Equality, unity and mutual assistance" have become the basic characteristics of China's socialist national relations. The Chinese government has always

attached great importance to the issue of nationalities. China's fundamental guideline and policy towards the work of nationalities are to ensure national equality and unity, practise regional national autonomy and promote common progress of all its nationalities. National equality is embodied not only in detailed stipulations in China's Constitution and the Law on Regional National Autonomy, but also in the concrete practice in which various minority peoples become the real masters of their own affairs and expand their regional national autonomous rights in economy, culture, education, science and national language. Now, all nationalities in China jointly hold the state power, and the state power organs at all levels consist of deputies from all nationalities.

The practice of regional national autonomy not only helps to maintain national unity, but also takes into account various interests and rights of each minority nationality as a whole and of individuals. The system includes the following points: (1) All areas where regional national autonomy is practised are the inalienable parts of the People's Republic of China. The relationship between the state and all the autonomous regions is that between the central and local administrations. (2) National autonomous regions must abide by China's Constitution and unswervingly follow the socialist road under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. (3) Autonomous areas may be established by the minority nationalities themselves in places where they live in concentrated communities. Autonomous regulations may be formulated according to local conditions. By September 1989, autonomous regulations have been formulated in 20 autonomous prefectures and 38 autonomous counties.

The implementation of regional national autonomy satisfies the wishes of all minority nationalities to participate in the political life of the country and fully guarantees the equal status and rights for all minority nationalities, big or small. It proves to be effective in promoting political, economic, social and cultural development in the autonomous regions.

### Serfs Become Masters

Tibet is an example in point. Prior to the democratic reform in 1959, Tibet was under cruel feudal serfdom. The serfs and slaves who accounted for 95 percent of the population possessed no means of production, and even they themselves and their children were owned by the serf owners. Apart from handing in a multitude of taxes to their masters and providing heavy, unpaid labour, they had to pay their annual poll tax so as to indicate their personal dependence on their masters. Under such a social system, people in Tibet could not even have their basic personal freedom, let alone human rights. It was not until the overthrow of serfdom that Tibetans started to enjoy democracy and freedom that they had never had before. The former serfs and slaves became masters of the society, with their fate in their own hands and enjoying all the civil rights and political rights as guaranteed by the Constitution of the People's Republic of China. Since the implementation of democratic reform in Tibet in 1959, great changes have taken place in the autonomous region and the people's cultural and material life has remarkably improved. In the past 10 years, the Chinese government adopted a series of special and preferential policies in Tibet, providing the region with a large amount of financial and other subsidies,

loans, together with tax exemption and reduction. Assistance to Tibet has been arranged from other provinces and cities. All this has brought about notable progress and development in the economic, cultural, educational and other fields in Tibet. In 1989, the total output value of industry and agriculture of the Tibet Autonomous Region reached 926 million yuan and the per capita income of farmers and herdsmen was 397 yuan, representing a 3 percent and 6 percent increase respectively over the previous year. The grain output reached a record high of 532,000 tons. Great progress has also been made in the region's industry, communications, culture, education, medical care, sanitation and other fields. More than 250 small and medium-sized enterprises have been set up in power generation, mining, construction, printing and food industries. A 21,500 km-long road network with Lhasa as the centre has been built. There are now 2,470 schools of various levels with 140,120 students.

In the Tibet Autonomous Region, as in other regions in China, the reform and opening policy is being effectively implemented, the situation is stable, and the construction of democracy and legal system is being strengthened. When we talk about human rights, we must acknowledge that the greatest contribution to safeguarding the basic human rights of Tibetans should be accredited to the abolition of the serfdom and the consequent progress made in all fields in Tibet.

Some people in other countries who know little about China's conditions and are influenced by some unobjective press reports believe that there is a racial discrimination in China. The above-mentioned facts should be sufficient to help to clear up their misunderstandings. In the recent

years, however, some hostile forces in the world, taking advantage of some national problems, connive at and support a few national separatists, deliberately sow dissension among various nationalities of China and slander China's national policy in an attempt to split and subvert China. Their acts are absolutely not permitted.

### Religious Freedom

To respect and protect the freedom of religious belief has been the consistent position and fundamental policy of New China on the issue of religion. Article 36 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China says, "Citizens of the People's Republic of China enjoy freedom of religious belief. The state protects normal religious activities." The Criminal Law and the Civil Law have made clear and specific stipulations on the protection of the freedom of religious belief. The Constitution concedes to the citizens both the right to believe in religion and preach theism and the right not to believe in religion and preach atheism. So, the freedom of religious belief is fully guaranteed by law in China. No state organ, public organization or individual may compel any person to believe in or not to believe in any religion, nor may they discriminate against citizens who believe or do not believe in any religion. Any state functionary, who unlawfully deprives citizens of their right to the freedom of religious belief, will be prosecuted for legal responsibility in accordance with Article 147 of the Criminal Law of China. In the administrative aspect, numerous measures have been taken by the Chinese government to guarantee citizens of the freedom of religious belief. Religious departments are established within government organs at various levels

and religious committees set up at the standing committees of people's congresses at different levels. They are responsible for coordinating and supervising the implementation of religious policies and relevant laws. Currently, eight national patriotic religious organizations have been set up and perfected in China. They also set up their local organizations to coordinate and protect the lawful rights and interests of the religious believers as well as to make known their views and requests to the governmental departments concerned. Incidents such as the destruction of monasteries, temples and churches did happen during the "cultural revolution," but that "disaster" is over now. Those errors have been redressed and the policy of freedom of religious belief has once again been implemented. Presently, all religions, including Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Catholicism and Christianity, can carry out their normal religious activities according to their own conditions.

The Chinese government's policy of the freedom of religious belief is a long-term policy. While implementing the policy, the state strictly distinguishes citizens' normal religious activities from the illegal activities and criminal offences perpetrated under religious disguises. Those who are engaged in illegal activities and criminal offences by using religions shall be stopped and punished according to law so that social stability and normal religious activities can be maintained.

Since 1978, the Chinese government has allocated huge funds for the renovation and maintenance of many monasteries and temples nationwide. A sum of 35 million yuan has been allocated for the renovation of Potala Palace in Tibet. The Buddhist Association of China and its local branches have re-

sumed their activities and, with the assistance of the government, the College of Buddhism and the Scripture Printing House have been established. In Tibet, there are now 1,400 active monasteries, temples and religious centres with 34,000 monks and nuns and 300 living buddhas. These facts prove totally groundless the allegations that there is no religious freedom in China.

### Protection of Civil Rights

The Chinese government has always attached great importance to the protection of various rights of its citizens. The Constitution of the People's Republic of China specifies citizens' basic rights and, at the same time, also stipulates that the exercise by citizens of their freedoms and rights may not infringe upon the interests of the State, of society and of the collective, or upon the lawful freedoms and rights of other citizens. The stipulation requests that citizens fully respect others' freedoms and rights as they exercise their own freedoms and rights. Any citizen who breaks the law or commits a crime will be dealt with according to law. This guarantees the majority of people to fully realize their human rights and also embodies the internationally-recognized principle of law that rights and duties are united.

In order to safeguard the basic human rights of citizens, China's various judicial organs entrust their functionaries to "take the facts as the basis and the law as the criteria" to objectively and justly implement the laws. Judicial organs have set strict rules for their functionaries to carry out their duty according to law. Law enforcement personnel can also be held responsible according to law if they violate laws and regulations. Article 189 of the Criminal Law stipulates: Any judicial functionary who

violates the laws and regulations on prison management and subjects prisoners or internees to corporal punishment, if the circumstances are serious, shall be sentenced to a fixed-term imprisonment of not more than three years or criminal detention; if the circumstances are especially serious, he shall be sentenced to a fixed-term imprisonment of not less than three years and not more than ten years. Once cases involving infringement on the democratic rights of citizens and the rights of the person are discovered, they will be strictly dealt with according to law. The latest statistics reveal that from January to September in 1990, more than 35,800 cases involving infringement on the democratic rights of citizens and the rights of the person as well as dereliction of duty have been accepted and heard by the procuratorial organs at various levels, with 12,000 cases placed on file for investigation. This has not only shown the endeavours being made by the public security organs, procuratorial organs and the people's courts to protect the democratic rights of citizens and the rights of the person, but also demonstrated the advancing development of the construction of political democracy.

Moreover, the relevant laws of China have also made systematic stipulations of a variety of rights to be enjoyed by the citizens in their legal proceedings, during which protection is not only given to the interests of the state and the lawful rights and interests of its citizens, but also to the lawful rights and interests of prisoners serving sentences. Convicts, who have violated the criminal law and been imprisoned, are not only given humanitarian treatment in such aspects as education, labour, daily life, medical care, correspondence and meeting with family members, but also the right to expose or bring

charges and complaints against their supervisors for unlawful practices.

The Chinese government is always opposed to torture and strictly forbids extorting confession by torture or corporal punishment. China has signed and later ratified the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In order to curb and eradicate torture, the public security organs, procuratorial organs and the people's courts exercise their respective judicial duties independently, thus leading to mutual restriction and supervision among themselves. Besides, efforts have been made to train and educate functionaries in the public security and judicial organs and strengthen the supervision by the media. As a result, the rights of citizens in the judicial activities have been fully protected.

### Active Participation

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese government has attached great importance to human rights. China endorses the principles on the respect of human rights proclaimed in the UN Charter and the Declaration of the Bandung Conference. China is a member of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Sub-commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and has acceded to seven international conventions on human rights. While appreciating and supporting the UN efforts in the promotion of universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedom, China has taken an active part in the UN activities of human rights. China holds that the UN should give priority to the massive and brutal violation of human rights resulting from



colonialism, racism, foreign aggression and occupation, and should put an end to such acts through international co-operation. China is opposed to any interference in the internal affairs of UN member state under the pretence of safeguarding human rights. For international co-operation in the area of human rights, the UN is an important venue, where exchange of views, co-ordination and discussion on human rights issues of common concern can be conducted among countries, with a view to achieving what the UN Charter stipulates as "the creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples." However, such co-operation must be conducted in the spirit of mutual promotion and on the basis of mutual respect and mutual understanding. Such practices as attacking each other and spreading rumours, the exertion of pressure by way of bloc politics, and the interference in matters that fall under the internal jurisdiction of a state will only lead to confrontation, estrangement, the obstruction of normal channels of dialogue and exchange, thus hindering mutual understanding and co-operation. It will not be conducive in anyway to the universal realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

China is steadfastly carrying out the policy of reform and opening to the outside world, and is making every effort to increase production so as to improve the living standards of the people. This is one of the fundamental measures to effectively protect the basic human rights of the Chinese people. China will make even greater progress in the future in the promotion and protection of human rights. ■

## INTERVIEW

# Bumper Harvest and Grain Reserves

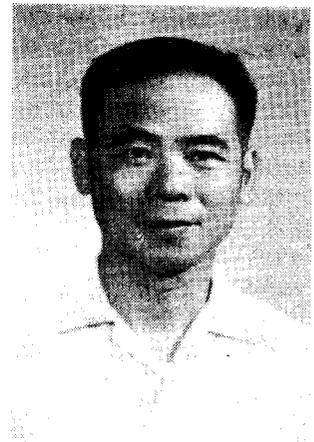
*A total of 420 million tons of grain is expected to be harvested in 1990, about 15 million tons more than the previous year, according to Chen Yaobang, vice-minister of agriculture. Given the good harvest, the Chinese government decided to establish a grain storage system and increase annual grain output to 500 million tons by the end of this century, Chen said during an interview with "Beijing Review".*

**Question:** China had another bumper grain harvest last year. How did China manage such a big harvest? Tell us about China's main production bases of rice, wheat and maize?

**Answer:** Last year, the situation in both farm production and rural areas was pretty good. Following a record-high grain output in 1989, the country had another good grain harvest in 1990 and, according to estimates, harvested a total of 420 million tons of grain, 15 million tons more than the year before. The production of cotton, oils, sugar, meat, fruits and vegetables also increased at varying rates.

A good harvest is not easy to come by, especially setting a new record in grain production as we had last year. On the one hand, it is a result of the joint efforts by the central and local governments in supporting and developing agricultural production. On the other hand, it is a matter of good weather.

The central government, in



addition to its stable policies on agricultural production and rural areas, undertook concrete measures in the following fields:

First, the government increased its investment in agricultural production and thus improved production conditions. In 1990, the central government put aside 2.57 billion yuan more for agricultural capital construction and other agricultural projects. Also, the Agricultural Bank and the credit co-operatives released 30 billion

yuan more in loans for agriculture. Most of these investments were used to speed up the agricultural capital construction and the comprehensive development and construction of commodity grain and cotton production bases. Since 1982, China has established 274 county commodity grain production bases and 97 county high-quality cotton production centres. These production bases have played a major role in the supply of grain and cotton.

Last year, a total of 2.6 billion yuan of funds were set aside for the construction of water conservation works by various localities, plus 3 billion yuan raised by the collectives and local people. With these funds, a total of 4.733 million hectares was irrigated, 933,000 hectares of water-logging land improved, 666,000 hectares of low-yielding salinized land transformed, and 15,000 sq km of land plagued by soil erosion improved. Last year, the nation saw the most improvement in terms of the scale and result of agricultural capital construction in a decade.

Secondly, the central government attached great importance to the reliance on science and technology in agricultural development. The Ministry of Agriculture designated 1990 as the year to popularize science and technology in farming and organized efforts to popularize technology for improving wheat production on 6.66 million hectares and maize production on another 6.66 million hectares in the Huanghe (Yellow)-Huaihe-Haihe River Plain and for yielding high rice output on 6.66 million hectares of paddyfields in south China, the technology for interplanting 666,000 hectares of wheat with cotton and for high-yielding 666,000 hectares of cotton in the northern part of the country. The minis-



SHAO JUN

**Farmers harvesting wheat in Suxiang County, Anhui Province, one of China's major commodity grain production bases.**

try's efforts produced positive results and the nation's average per-hectare grain output reached 3,750 kg last year, a 75 kg increase over the year before.

Last year, there was an increase in the output of rice, wheat and maize with rice output rising by 4.56 billion kg, wheat 6.3 billion kg, and maize 11.39 billion kg. All the 30 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in the mainland, except Fujian and Jianguo provinces, reported the same or better harvest than the previous year as more than 20 reached or surpassed the peak year.

**Q:** What is the purpose of the special grain reserves? What will China do with it?

**A:** Since 1989, some farm products have been difficult to market. This has caught the attention of the State Council which has adopted measures to resolve the problem. In regard to grain, the State Council decided to establish a system to store grain for years of poor harvest to guarantee the supply of grain and stabilize the price. In a year of good harvest, the state will purchase all the grain the farmer wants to sell at a protected

price.

To this end, the State Council held a meeting last September in Wuhan, central China, to discuss the plan for grain reserves and the construction of grain warehouses.

A leading group was established and the State Grain Reserves Bureau of the State Council was founded. The bureau is temporarily under the leadership of the Ministry of Commerce.

Last year, the state purchased 17.5 billion kg of grain the farmers wanted to sell at a negotiated price for the first batch of grain reserves.

The grain was purchased with a loan from the People's Bank of China, the discount for which will be covered by the state revenues.

The problem of how to store large quantities of grain will be solved through constructing new warehouses, repairing the old and the leasing and purchasing of warehouses.

Every year, there are about 30 billion kg of grain that have to be stored outdoors. The state requires there be no damage to the goods and their storage is limit-

ed to half a year.

**Q:** Please talk about grain imports and exports in the last few years and the per-capita consumption?

**A:** In the last two years China has imported about 15 million tons of grain annually and exported 3-4 million tons. Mainly, China imports wheat and exports rice in an effort to improve the quality of food composition. The import and export volume will float according to domestic demand and the international market.

At present, per-capita grain consumption totals 350 kg, including those used to produce meat, eggs and milk. Although the grain output in 1989 surpassed the peak year of 1984, the average per-capita consumption of grain in 1990 reached 372 kg, 22 kg less than that of 1984 because of the population growth.

**Q:** How about grain production this year and the efforts to further increase production?

**A:** First of all we shouldn't rest on past achievements and think that China has no problem in grain supply because of a bumper harvest for two years in a row. In fact, China will need to

confront a shortage of grain for a long time.

The central government will thus continue to invest in agricultural development, strengthen agricultural capital construction and improve agricultural comprehensive development. The government will build a number of commodity grain production centres while bringing into full play existing grain production bases.

It is necessary to speed up the development and popularization of improved strains of grain according to a well thought out plan and publicize agricultural science and technology.

At the same time, it is necessary to be prepared against natural calamities. The weather in the last few years was favourable for agricultural production. How about this year? It is difficult to say from year to year. We should therefore strengthen our forecast capabilities for disastrous weather, plant diseases and insect threats.

**Q:** What are the state targets for grain production for the Eighth Five-Year Plan (1991-95) and how will they be realized?

**A:** In this decade China will double the GNP it reached by

the end of 1990 and the people's living standards will reach a comparatively comfortable level. During the Eighth Five-Year Plan period, China's agricultural production will enter a state of stable development. The grain output will top 450 billion kg by relying on science and technology and by building up the nation's stable high-yielding farmland.

To realize these targets, the following goals will be set and measures adopted:

1. To stabilize rural economic policies and perfect, step by step, the responsibility system linking remuneration with total output for households while establishing a service system for production, science and technology research and management.

2. To gradually perfect the marketing system and devise a more reasonable price rate for grain and chemical fertilizers. Increase the grain purchasing price based on a stable pricing system for the means of agricultural production.

3. To strictly control the growth of population, strengthen the protection of agricultural production resources, control the use of cultivated land, reclaim waste land, transform the medium and low-yielding farmland, increase the per-unit output, limit the expansion of sanded areas, build windbreaks, control soil erosion and protect the agroecological environment.

4. In carrying out the state industrial policies, give priority to agricultural production and farm-use industries for investment, gradually increasing the proportion of agricultural investment. At the same time, boost large-scale multi-purpose development and continue to strengthen commodity grain production bases. ■

**The mechanized Hongxinglong Grain Depot in Heilongjiang Province.** XUE CHAO



## PEOPLE

# A Prefect who Finds Delight in Agriculture

by Our Staff Reporter Cheng Gan

*Sun Gengwu, an intellectual-turned official, has successfully promoted agrotechniques since he assumed a prefectural administrative position. He has helped to increase agricultural production in Jinzhong Prefecture by a big margin for three successive years.—Ed.*

**A**s chief editor of the book *Flood-Drought Calamities and Harnessing Strategy*, Sun Gengwu puts forward a summation and exploration of the floods and droughts which have struck the middle part of Shanxi Province. He is currently the administrator of Jinzhong Prefecture, Shanxi Province and the sociological research fellow in the Shanxi Academy of Social Sciences. Few high-level local cadres in China have made such achievements in the fields of applied and social sciences as Sun. After Sun, a university graduate in the 1950s, took his post, the grain output in Jinzhong Prefecture increased by more than 220,000 tons in three successive years, with an annual average increase of more than 13 percent. In 1990, the grain output reached 2.45 million tons, a record high for the area.

Sun, born into a farmer family, grew up in the countryside and worked in the grass-roots unit for about 25 years after graduating from the university. He had been a county Party committee secretary in two large counties of southern Shanxi Province for 14 years. In 1985, he was appointed the deputy head of Shanxi Agricultural and Animal Husbandry Department.

In 1988, he assumed his current post.

Due to wide experience in the countryside and in the agricultural department, Sun emphasized agriculture in the local economy. At that time, agricultural production in Jinzhong Prefecture, like many other places across the country, was caught up in the fluctuations which started in 1985.

Jinzhong is an agricultural area of dry land and its main crops are maize and wheat. Its 11 counties have a total population of 2.84 million, 77.4 percent of whom work in agriculture. The cultivated area is 338,000 hectares, 70 percent of which is non-irrigated.

The industrial output, mainly of light industry, textile and coal which developed after liberation, makes up 85 percent of the prefecture's total industrial and agricultural output value while agricultural output makes up only 15 percent. Sun noticed that over recent years, agriculture has not kept pace with industrial development and believed there were two important reasons why agriculture should be given increased support:

First, even though a birth control policy has been adopted by the prefecture, the population is

increasing. The fluctuating situation of grain production should be changed and an increase ensured so as to provide a reasonable per-capita grain amount. The economic and political situation, he noted, would be stable only if the grain supply were sufficient.

Second, the raw materials of many industrial departments depend on agriculture.

The decision-making group headed by Sun Gengwu held to the belief that agriculture, particularly grain production, must be a priority of the local economy while, at the same time, maintaining industrial production.

The question they faced, however, was how to expand the agricultural production which depended on a low degree of mechanization, manual planting and natural conditions. Sun demonstrated in his answer to the question that he was a true executor of the central government's idea to "depend on policy, science and technology, and input."

In regard to policies, Sun required each county, township and village to improve the system of contracted household responsibility related to output, a system which is called the magic

weapon of China's rural economic reform. He also promised them that the policy of collective ownership of cultivated land and the system of contracted household responsibility related to output would remain unchanged for a long period of time, thus safeguarding farmers' enthusiasm for independent production.

The local financial department's support for agriculture increased annually after Sun took office. It invested 1.8 million yuan in agriculture in 1988, 10 million yuan in 1989 and 12 million yuan in 1990. Due to the leading role of the local financial department in providing loans, the total amount of agricultural funds from counties, townships and villages reached 35 million yuan in 1989 and 52 million yuan in 1990.

One of Sun's most important contributions for Jinzhong Prefecture is his proposal named "new irrigation technique to increase output," a technical masterpiece based on science and technology.

Before 1988, there were nine years of drought out of ten, and there were 117,000 hectares of hilly land and dry slopes, more than one-third of the prefecture's total cultivated area. Sun focused on these low-yielding lands to improve Jinzhong's agriculture.

Tujiaoyuan Village in Taigu County, Shanxi Province, only yielded about 750 kg maize for each hectare of cultivated land before 1987. The village is located 1,100 metres above sea level, water has to be fetched from three km away. However, in 1987, despite an annual rainfall of only 60 percent of a normal harvest year and a hot summer, the harvest for 1.8 hectares of farmland reached 13,095 kg. The average yield of each hectare was 7,275 kg, almost ten times greater than previous years in per-unit area yield. In April 1988,

when cadres from the village reported the situation to Sun, he realized the area had resources. He immediately went to the village with the deputy official in charge of agriculture to investigate the situation. He discovered that the village had been short of water, so they had tried their best to reduce their washing and drinking. After several days, they concluded that the bumper harvest of the village was due to a combination of technologies involving "belt planting through ridges alternating with ditches," "deep-rooted turnover of soil" and the new "land film covering" practised by some farmers under the guidance of an agrotechnician.

Sun, a strong supporter of agricultural science and technology, immediately organized a special research group of agrotechnical personnel to research the production increase and come up with even more measures to improve harvests. During four months of research, Sun and his colleagues visited the village five times. In the end, they concluded that the deep-rooted turnover of soil and setting up of ridges helped to control soil erosion in the surface and store spring rainfall and that the timely use of plastic film retained moisture and fertility and added light and temperature. They believed that these strong measures could help areas without irrigation overcome such difficulties as limited natural rainfall, rain and heat in poor coordination, low land temperature and a short frost-free period. At the same time, they put forward a complete variety of measures for selecting better variety of seeds and determining fertilizer according to soil conditions.

Following this effort, Sun's group began to popularize the measures. Sun came to know very well the Chinese farmers' view of "seeing is believing." The new measure was labour inten-

sive, and farmers, including grass-roots cadres, could not help hesitating. They did not want to spend time and energy in planting without any results. Instead of using administrative orders to spread the measure, Sun first collected all grass-roots cadres in the surrounding area of hills and dry slopes to visit Tujiaoyuan Village, letting them see for themselves the results of the new measures. He then lectured them on scientific knowledge, teaching them practical skills. Sun wrote a folk song which introduced the methods, which helped farmers with low cultural background easily understand the measures he wanted to explain. The cadres, after receiving training, in turn became promoters of the new measures after they went back to their villages. Therefore, in 1989 and 1990, some 105 townships and towns of 11 counties in the whole prefecture transformed 2,267 hectares of low-yielding dry slopes into high-yielding farmland.

According to calculations, each millimetre of rainfall which went into the high-yielding ditches brought an average grain production of 1.51 kg, about two times that which was theoretically possible for an area of dry crop. Adams, president of the Agricultural College of Wales University, Britain, after learning of Sun's efforts, wrote a letter asking that a co-operative research effort be conducted on the measures. Presently the method has been introduced to Hebei, Shaanxi, Gansu, Liaoning, Shandong and Yunnan provinces and Inner Mongolian and Guangxi Zhuang autonomous regions. Sun is confident that the 500,000 farmers in the mountainous area of Jinzhong Prefecture will expand the area to some 54,000 hectares before 1993. "By then," he said, "this method will help increase the annual grain output of the whole prefecture 250 mil-

lion kg in comparison with the 1988 figure." (It took at least nine years to increase 250 million kg of the grain output in the history of Jinzhong Prefecture.)

By investigating at the grassroots, co-operating with agrotechnicians on experiments and researches, and deciding to promote new scientific planting method, Sun brought other successful measures to bear on agriculture.

Based on the sunlight and temperature of Jinzhong Prefecture, only one crop could be planted each year. In 1990, Sun promoted the idea of growing seedlings with a nourishing soil of various fertilizers ahead of time. His plan allowed farmers on 333 hectares of land to harvest two crops a year, and with the per-hectare grain output exceeding 15,000 kg annually.

After adopting the contract system of linking remuneration with total output for households, some farmers, paying attention only to profits, used large quantities of chemical fertilizer and stopped using farm manure. They thus reduced the organic matter in the soil which resulted in hardened soil impervious to rainfall. After Sun promoted in the whole prefecture a village's experience of applying the compost made of stalks of harvested crops in the land during the slack season after the land was frozen, the fertility of the land was restored.

Sun, however, was not satisfied with the achievements he accomplished in the three years. He attributed the good harvests of these years mainly to favourable natural conditions. Currently, he is considering the construction of a water conservancy project in the mountainous areas and planning to transform more farmland into that which ensures stable yields despite drought or excessive rain. ■

## MAINLAND-TAIWAN TRADE:

# Look Back and Into Future

by Li Jiaquan

The value of transit trade across the Taiwan Straits from 1979 to 1989 amounted to 11.8 billion yuan and, by the end of June 1990, the investment made by more than 1,000 Taiwanese businesses in the mainland totalled US\$1.5 billion. Such trade development has helped improve mainland-Taiwan relations and offer hope for China's peaceful reunification.

Over the past 40 years, the relationship between both sides of the straits has undergone three periods—military confrontation, political confrontation and relaxation. The third period began with the publication of the Message to Taiwan Compatriots by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on New Year's Day of 1979 and establishing better economic and trade ties between the two sides has since been placed on the agenda.

### Development

The development, since 1979, of economic and trade ties across the straits has gone through the following three stages:

(I) The initial development took about five years from 1979 to 1983, the value of transit trade (via Hong Kong, the same below) totalled around US\$1.47 billion, averaging US\$240 million per year. During this period, trade between both sides was basically clandestine and illegal. The Taiwan authorities adopted an indifferent attitude to the situation.

They assumed control on the trade, giving the impression that they were doing one thing under the cover of another. At that time, there was still no Taiwan investment in the mainland.

(II) During a three-year period (1984 to 1986) of moderate development, the value of transit trade totalled US\$2.61 billion, an average of US\$870 million per year, or 3.5 times that of the previous stage. During this stage, Taiwan's single-item transit trade with the mainland was gradually legalized and, in July 1985, Taiwan authorities officially declared for the first time that they implemented a policy of "no contact, no encouragement and no interference" towards transit trade between both sides. At that time, Taiwan investment was still not placed on the agenda.

(III) The rapid development that began in 1987 is continuing. By the end of 1989, the value of transit trade had totalled US\$7.72 billion, almost two times the combined total of the previous two periods and an annual average of US\$2.54 billion, or five times the annual average in the previous two stages. During this stage, transit trade tended to be two-way and legal as a craze of investment in the mainland began to emerge. Before 1988 there were very few Taiwan investors in the mainland but now the number has grown rather fast.

Economic relations and trade between both sides are growing. Seen from a mix of commodities,

the goods imported from Taiwan were almost all industrial raw materials and parts and components, of which artificial fibre and cloth accounted for 33.88 percent, machinery and equipment 15.16 percent, electric motors and electronic parts and components 13.85 percent and plastic raw materials 8.88 percent. Commodities exported to Taiwan consisted mainly of four categories: animal by-products and traditional Chinese herbal medicine, yarn, cloth and textiles, fish and sundry goods. The development of trade between the mainland and Taiwan has promoted contacts between personnel, spurred tourism and helped to develop academic, sports, cultural and art exchanges.

#### Four Characteristics

The development of trade between both sides over the past decade has had the following characteristics:

(I) **Trade ties and political relations interact on and influence each other.** Evidence of this is found in the close relationship between the three development stages of trade ties and the three development stages of political relations. In the initial stage, after the mainland published the Message to Taiwan Compatriots, the Taiwan people enthusiastically responded in order to do business with the mainland, Taiwan authorities, in their vehement resentment, however, countered this with a "three no's" policy (no contact, no negotiation, no compromise). As a result, no major steps were taken to develop economic relations and trade between both sides. Between 1979 and 1980, although the growth rate of transit trade between both sides was high, the absolute growth was small because the base number was low. During the second stage, although the

Kuomintang still stressed the "three no's" policy, it had relaxed its line of action a bit. As a result, the trade developed faster than in the previous stage. During the third stage (which began in 1987), the Kuomintang, while lifting martial law and Party proscription, readjusted its mainland policy and relaxed politically. As a result, economic relations and trade between both sides developed apace.

(II) **A fast rate of overall growth in transit trade between both sides.** During the 11 years between 1979 and 1989, the value of transit trade between the mainland and Taiwan totalled US\$11.8 billion, of which the value of goods Taiwan exported to the mainland stood at US\$9.62 billion and those the mainland exported to Taiwan at US\$2.18 billion. Taiwan thus had a trade surplus of US\$7.44 billion. According to an estimate by Taiwan newspapers, the total value of trade between both sides in 1990 was expected to exceed US\$4 billion. In the view of the Taiwan mass media, a disguised form of exchange (that is, the exchange of wealth but not commerce; the exchange of goods but not air and shipping services; communication but not the exchange of mail) between both sides of the straits has actually been realized, in effect, breaking through the Kuomintang's "three no's" policy.

(III) **Rapid, but twisting, trade development between both sides** In terms of transit trade. There were three high and two low tides during these 11 years. The three high tides were as follows: the first, between 1979 and 1980, had growth rates 64.8 percent and 316 percent respectively higher than the previous year; the second, between 1984 and 1985, was respectively 109 percent and 99.5 percent higher than the previous year; and the third, between 1987 and 1988, was 58.7 percent and

79.4 percent higher. The first low tide occurred between 1982 and 1983, the rates dropping by 36 percent and 11 percent respectively from the previous years and the second took place in 1986, the rate was down by 13.5 percent from the previous year. These were due to inexperience or to the influence of readjustment of the policies of both sides. In the last few years, trade between both sides has developed steadily.

(IV) The promotion of transit trade to Taiwan investment in the mainland. By the end of June 1990, more than 1,000 Taiwan businesses had invested a total of US\$1.5 billion in the mainland. According to news reports from Taiwan, Taiwanese investment in the mainland roughly has the following characteristics: (1) The investment was being transformed from a small sum to a huge sum, the amount of individual investments reaching US\$200 million; (2) investors first included medium-sized and small enterprises and then larger group enterprises; (3) the level of investment changed from a simple transfer of old and outdated equipment to use of completely new production lines, and from labour-intensive to capital- and technology-intensive equipment; (4) the investment methods changed from individual to co-operative investment by conglomerates; (5) the investment area extended from the coast to inland provinces; (6) investment expanded from a narrow to a wide scope and from backward industries to advanced industries; (7) the method of operation changed from mainly joint ventures to the coexistence of diversified forms such as joint ventures and exclusively Taiwan-owned enterprises; and (8) there was a subtle change in Taiwan's official attitude, i.e., changing from "absolute prohibition" to turning a blind eye to the bilater-

al trade and from "prohibition of contact with the bandit" to "indirect legitimacy."

### Problems and Trends

The development of trade has resulted in relaxing and improving the entire relationship between both sides and offered the light of hope for the peaceful reunification of the motherland. All patriotic Chinese the world over are expecting an early realization of co-operation between both sides and joint efforts to rejuvenate China. More than a year ago, a Taiwan newspaper foretold, "If the mainland and Taiwan can leave aside their political prejudice and first begin economic association, then with the resources of the mainland and Taiwan added to those of Hong Kong and Macao, the potential for their joint development will be well matched with those of Japan and would greatly change the balance of forces in Asia. In that situation, the Chinese people would put an end to their poverty and backwardness and to the historical, long-term state of oppression and humiliation and truly become an independent, powerful country in the galaxy of nations."

Unfortunately, however, Taiwan authorities have in recent years regarded the development of trade between the two sides as a trump card by which to put pressure on the mainland. For example, some high-ranking Taiwan officials intimated that Taiwan's policy on trade with the mainland remains one of principally indirect trade and that direct trade is possible only under such circumstances as when the Chinese Communist Party makes good-willed response and ceases regarding Taiwan as a local government by following the "one country, two systems" method. Some Taiwan officials even demanded that the Chinese Communist Party change its policy as quickly as possible, otherwise Taiwan will cool down "the mainland heat" and reduce trade relations between both sides of the straits.

Such an attitude is really inappropriate. Taiwan's call for a "response" from the Chinese Communist Party and a change in its policy is nothing more than a call for abolition of the socialist system and the Communist Party leadership, and that the mainland "withdraw" its "one country, two systems" policy, promise

"not to resort to the use of force," and give Taiwan an "independent international living space." Taiwan authorities are not realistic when they require that the Chinese Communist Party give up the socialist system and allow some people to create "two Chinas," "one China, one Taiwan," or "the independence of Taiwan," and allow foreign forces of aggression to wantonly interfere in China's internal affairs or wilfully support the separatists' activities inside and outside the island. What benefits will this bring about for the reunification, unity and rejuvenation of the Chinese nation? This author believes that not only the Chinese Communist Party but also all patriotic Chinese at home and abroad will reject such demands.

Trade relations between both sides have their own law of development and are independent of the will of any person. Taiwan is a capitalist industrial and commercial society, the largest economic law of which is the law of profit. As long as it is profitable, there will be people doing business between both sides of the straits. That's point one. Competition is stressed in an industrial and commercial society. If Taiwan does not do business on the vast market of the mainland, businessmen from other countries and regions will come to do business. Under such circumstances, Taiwan industrial and commercial enterprises will be landed in a disadvantageous position in the competition. That's point two. Taiwan and the mainland are an integral whole linked by the Taiwan Straits. The people of the two places have the same spoken and written language, the same race, same ancestor and same clan. Historically, their trade ties already could not be cut off. That's point three. Despite this, there are among Taiwan officials some people who do not want to see "a heating up of trade" be-

A Taiwan trade delegation of enterprise board chairmen visits the Beijing Textile Machinery Plant. XUE CHAO





tween the two sides of the straits and even artificially obstruct its development. But what is the result? Groups of fearless Taiwan industrial and commercial people continue to come to the mainland. Take the Guangzhou Export Commodities Fair in the spring of 1990 for example. The mainland sent out some 2,000 letters of invitation to Taiwan, but more than 4,000 Taiwan business people came. Such warmth shown by Taiwan businessmen towards the mainland surprised even the mainland organizers of the fair.

Some Taiwan officials often proceed from their own political interests, or adopt a hostile view on the mainland in their evaluation of trade between both sides. They show resentment towards investment, particularly direct investment, in the mainland as if making investment in the mainland was beneficial only to the Chinese Communist Party and not to Taiwan. Kao Hsi-Chun, a noted Taiwan economist, published an article saying that Taiwan investment in the mainland benefits Taiwan in five ways: first, it helps eliminate labour-intensive industries and upgrade industries; second, it helps find a way out for surplus funds and reduces speculative trades; third, it helps expand the sale of products, and continues to earn foreign exchange; fourth, it helps expand enterprising vigour; and fifth, it helps solve Taiwan's difficulties such as the shortage of labour, land and resources. Wang Yung-ching, a celebrated Taiwan entrepreneur, said after his investigative tour of the mainland that making investments in the mainland pays off in three aspects: first, the mainland's land price is only 0.5 percent of Taiwan's; second, the wage for a mainland worker is only 1/10th or even less than that for a Taiwan worker; third, the tax is lighter on the mainland and, with the exception



XUE CHAO

**Entrepreneurs from both sides of the Taiwan Straits attend a forum organized by the Council for the Promotion of China's Peaceful Reunification to discuss Taiwan investment in new factories on the mainland.**

of enterprise income tax, no comprehensive personal income tax is levied. It is clear they know far more than the Taiwan authorities about whether making investments in the mainland is beneficial to Taiwan.

If Taiwan authorities consider matters from a political point of view and try to force the Chinese Communist Party to respond to the above conditions or force concessions by cooling down the "mainland craze" and reduce trade with and especially investment in the mainland, neither the Chinese Communist Party nor the mainland people will agree and even Taiwan compatriots and overseas Chinese will resent the attempt by the Taiwan authorities. Taiwan authorities should be aware that the overwhelming majority of the Chinese people ardently love their motherland. Although there are different views on the timing, conditions and methods for China's reunification, once people see that the Taiwan authorities' practice will lead to the eventual separation of Taiwan from the motherland, they will resolutely oppose the practice. They also ardently love the mainland and fa-

bour investment in the mainland. Wang Yung-ching said, "Frankly speaking, under the same condition, I would prefer to go to the mainland, because after all I am a Chinese." The "Wang Yung-ching effect" created a shock in Taiwan. As the Taiwan mass media have said, "This is only a corner of the iceberg, it is the entire iceberg that merits our attention." Results of the questionnaires distributed by Taiwan-based Magazine *Tien Hsia* to the leaders of 1,000 large enterprises and of the questionnaires distributed by *Independence Evening Post* to leaders of 500 large enterprises show that 70 percent call for direct investment in the mainland and that 80 percent believe that direct trade with the mainland should be allowed.

This author believes history will prove that no matter how Taiwan authorities try to block trade between the two sides and no matter what obstructive measures are adopted, the change from indirect to direct trade between the two sides and the movement towards the peaceful reunification of China is irreversible. The attitude one adopts, whether a promoter of progress or of regression, will be subject to the test of history. ■

## China's Economic Priorities in 90's

XIANDAIREN BAO  
(Modernist)

**E**conomic rectification and readjustment, reform and development are three vital tasks confronting China's economy during the 90's, stated economist Liu Guoguang.

There are now three different approaches to these tasks. First, transform economic readjustment into development and reform. Second, continue readjustment and suspend reform until the economy takes a fundamental turn for the better. Third, support readjustment while considering all three priorities and combine this with development and reform, allowing them to proceed harmoniously. Special attention should be given to reform proportion as the first two conceptions won't work because they oppose readjustment, reform and development, the third is the best. During the first and second years of the Eighth Five-Year Plan period (1991-95), readjustment should be the priority, while broadening reform proportions and gradually allow this to become the primary focus during the middle and later stages of the Eighth Five-Year Plan period.

The distortion and imbalance in industrial structure are China's main economic problems. The stagnation and underdevelopment of infrastructure in agriculture, transportation, telecommunication, energy and raw materials industries have already hindered economic development. Particular consideration should be given to structural adjustment as a central focus in the economic development between the Eighth and Ninth Five-Year Plan period (1996-2000). During the Eighth Five-Year Plan period, heavy industrial development should be given priority.

The regional structure is an im-

portant issue in structural adjustment and the regional development policy, which combined inclination with co-ordinated development, should be implemented.

In the future, construction funds will be raised through both government and society instead of the methods which primarily depend on the government.

(Oct. 16, 1990)

## Incomplete Reforms Spell Difficulties

GAIGE  
(Reform)

**T**he economic difficulties China has experienced during the previous two years are not the result of the ongoing economic reforms, but have occurred because the reforms are not expanding quickly enough, economist Jiang Yiwei suggested. He summarized his propositions in the following four points:

(1) The reforms were incomplete. Though reforms in every field have had considerable impact, the desired results have yet to be obtained. For example, at the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee held in 1978, it was proposed that the functions of the government and those of enterprises be separated. In the ten years of reforms, we have made minimal progress in this respect, although enterprises today are given a much greater say in their management.

(2) No comprehensive mechanisms were installed to carry out the reforms at the macro-level such as controlling money supply, raising tax revenue, restructuring the nation's banking administration and overall long-term planning. From a micro-level point of view, available mechanisms have fallen short of what reforms called for in various types of enterprises nationwide.

(3) The absence of a complete package of guiding theory has re-

sulted in erratic change in the reform policies. During the past decade, there were two schools of thought concerning economic reform in China. The first, put forward at the Third Plenary Session of the 12th Party Central Committee in 1984, suggests a planned socialist commodity economy. The other, raised at the 13th Party Congress in 1987, holds that China today is in the initial stage of socialism. However, these two theories failed to be synthesized. No theories concerning planning, marketing, finance and tax revenue were derived from the theory of a planned commodity economy. Without the guidance of a clearly defined theory, there will be no common understanding of China's current economic situation. The result has been erratic policy changes and contradictions among various reform policies.

(4) Some of the measures have served as nothing but misguided the economic reform.

(No. 5, 1990)

## Ecological Residence In South China

ZHONGGUO CHENGSHI DAOBAO  
(China's City Herald)

**A**n ecological residential building suitable to rural areas in south China was completed and put into use at a village in Yongkang County, Zhejiang Province.

The three-storey building is equipped with a methane-generating pit, a filter well and a water purifying well in the basement. There is a pigpen, a water pump room and rooms for industrial and by-product production on the ground floor. The second floor includes kitchen, bed rooms, drawing room and bathroom. Rooms on the third floor are used to study, entertain and do experiments.

Constructed according to the required standards to be leak-proof, the building's rooftop has

been converted into a high-quality vegetable garden by removing the layer of heat insulation and installing a 20 cm thick fertile layer of earth. A trough was constructed above the building wall where oranges and grapes are planted, producing an annual yield of 250 kg of fruit.

Five large and small pipes separately link the water tower with the small pool on the building rooftop and a water pump on the ground floor. The methane-generating pit, pigpen, kitchen, bathroom and vegetable garden are linked with by pipelines and the marsh gas will provide fuel for cooking and lighting the house. The methane liquid can be pumped up to the vegetable garden and used as fertilizer.

Experts who participated in the appraisal of the building listed the merits of this ecological residential building as follows:

The development of rooftop garden can ease the conflict among the people, land and grain. The new type of vegetable garden, with adequate sunshine, will ensure a stable yield despite drought or excessive rain. The establishment of an artificial ecological system has converted damage into benefit, economized energy and improved the residential environment.

The house supplies an experimental ground for production and is favourable to the readjustment of the industrial structure.

(November 8, 1990)

## Zhang Shouxiang: An Wax Statue Artist

Liaowang  
(Outlook Weekly)

The Beijing Wax Statue Gallery, located in the Temple of Earth, is the first one of its kind in China's mainland. On display are wax statues of 53 Chinese historical figures ranging from Emperor Yandi and Emperor Huangdi to Sun Yat-sen. The

construction of the gallery started in June 1988. Zhang Shouxiang, an expert in restoring statues of human figures who works at the Beijing Natural Museum was entrusted with the job of making the wax statues.

Zhang had studied sculpture at the Central Academy of Fine Arts. More than 30 years of working experience enabled him to make a breakthrough in China's wax statue art. After eight months' hard work he successfully carved out various statues now on display.

The skin colour of the yellow race is different from that of other human races; the shade is very subtle and difficult to match. This posed a big problem for Zhang. However after more than 300 experiments he finally brought out a satisfactory model.

How to represent the natural wrinkles and pores in the human skin is a problem which, properly solved, raises perceptibly the quality of a wax statue and has long been a big headache for Chinese wax sculptors. But Zhang successfully found methods to clearly display them as may now be seen on the statue of Emperor Yandi, Cangjie and of Emperor Kangxi now on show at the Beijing Wax Statue Gallery. Zhang also brought out the blood capillaries showing through the skin and advanced pigmented spots. Through his efforts, the statues have taken on a strikingly natural look. The hair, eyebrows and beards are utterly life-like. All these achievements signify that Chinese artists have opened up a new road for making wax statues of the yellow race.

In contrast to the usual practice in many foreign countries at the Beijing Wax Statue Gallery each of the 53 wax statues has been placed into a different show case of about ten square metres in area. The unit is enclosed on three sides and different settings are arranged in accordance with specific historical times, the political

and economic status and the profession of the historical figure. This adds to the overall impression of the reality. ■

## New 'Health' Iron Pots Developed

YUEGANG XINXIBAO  
(Guangdong-Hong Kong Information)

Although iron pots may once have been crude and rough, these days many people can be seen purchasing new "health" iron pots at the Guangzhou Nanfang Department Store.

Iron pots have a long history of use in China, but in the past they were often plagued by cracking and leaking due to their poor design and sheer weight. Most of these old-fashioned pots were eventually replaced by stainless steel, aluminum and enamel pots in the marketplace.

In recent years, however, it was discovered that continued use of aluminum and stainless steel pots over time could lead to health problems. Iron pots, on the other hand, when used over an extended period, can contribute to the prevention of such diseases as anemia and dementia. By cooking food in iron pots, traces of iron become soluble and easily absorbed by the body. Therefore, recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended the use of China's iron pots in all countries.

During the 1980s, China's traditional technology of casting iron pots developed into die-casting. As a result, the product is no longer unwieldy, but is lighter in weight with thin, even sides. The cracking and leaking problems have been virtually eliminated.

The new "health" iron pots are attractive and practical. There are many different types available on the market, including those designed for stir-frying, frying, stewing and boiling.

(November 6, 1990)

## Chinese Imperial Customs: The Inside Story

*Archives of China's Imperial Maritime Customs: Confidential Correspondence between Robert Hart and James Duncan Campell (1874-1907)*

Published by Zhonghua Book Company (in Chinese) and Foreign Languages Press (in English) in Beijing

Distributed by the China International Book Trading Corp.

The publication of this large-scale, 4-volume documentary literature *Archives of China's Imperial Maritime Customs (1874-1907)*, is of great value to both Chinese and foreign historians. The first volume of its English edition is just off the press, with the second, third and fourth volumes expected to be completed soon. The Chinese edition is being simultaneously published.

Robert Hart (1835-1911) and James Duncan Campell (1833-1907) were two Britons. They held the high-ranking positions in China's Imperial Maritime Customs after the Opium War in 1840. In 1861, Robert Hart, a British aristocrat, became the Inspector General, the highest position in the service. He did not give up the position until his death in 1911. James Duncan Campell was his confidant and close friend. In 1874, he was appointed Director of the London Office of China's Imperial Maritime Customs Service, a post he held for 34 years, becoming a respected and noted figure in customs circles and British society. The two kept close correspondence during these 34 years except for a brief period between June and August of 1900, when the Yi He Tuan rose against the imperialists in north China

touching off the Boxer's Rebellion.

Through their correspondence, Hart informed Campell of China's political situation, foreign policy, customs business and other affairs, and directed him to perform various activities in Britain and other European countries for the government of the Qing Dynasty, such as the procuring foreign loans and munitions. Campell, in return, reported to Hart details of political and economic information concerning China and comments of the foreign press.

The book includes all private communications between Hart and Campell during these 34 years, comprising 3,528 letters and 4,496 telegraphs. In addition, there are 426 telegraphs between Hart and his brother James Henry Hart which are used as an appendix. Due to the sensitive nature of these materials, the letters and telegraphs were kept under tight wraps by the two men. Hart locked the letters in his safe and showed them to no one. At times he selectively reported the information he acquired about Britain's policy towards China and the political situation in Europe to the Office of Foreign Affairs, an organ of the Qing government. With the passing of time, the correspondence has become a top secret archive, which came finally under the umbrella of the Customs Administration of New China.

With nearly ten years' joint effort, the Institute of Modern History under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and the Second Historical Archives of China, have finally completed the compilation and translation

of the four part series containing more than 4 million Chinese characters, edited by Chen Xiafei and Han Rongfang. Professor Chen authored the introduction. Noted Chinese scholar Huan Xiang and the China Customs Society also contributed materials.

From 1874 to 1907 China witnessed a violent and dramatic change, suffering from such external disasters as the Sino-French War in 1884-85, the Sino-Japanese War in 1894 and the invasion by the Allied Forces of Eight Powers in 1900. The Reform Movement of 1898 and the Boxer Rebellion of 1900 took place one after the other. Europe was also undergoing a dramatic change at this time. All these came into the eyes of Hart and Campell. Their correspondence, in one respect, reflected historical changes of the times. Hereafter, the publication of this work will contribute to the study of the history of the Chinese maritime customs as well as the study of modern Chinese and world history.

Of particular interest, are the explanatory notes the book provides for its readers. Notes explaining the letters and telegraphs amount to 400,000 Chinese characters, which serve either to correct inaccurate dates, places and names or to explain Chinese customs, proper nouns and foreign words that were used to preserve their specific meaning. They not only supplement the book by enriching its content, but make it far more understandable for the reader.

by Cai Weizhou

## Customs Import, Export Figures

China's General Administration of Customs has announced that the total amount of foreign trade in 1990 reached US\$115.43 billion, an increase of 3.4 percent over 1989.

According to customs statistics, China's exports last year reached a record high of US\$62.07 billion, an increase of 18.1 percent over 1989. Imports totalled US\$53.36 billion, a drop of 9.8 percent from 1989. After deducting non-reimbursable assistance, donations, equipment imported by foreign enterprises for investment and materials imported for processing, exports were US\$13.07 billion more than imports.

Last year, the composition of China's export commodities continued to improve. The proportion of mechanical and electrical products rose, and the export of garments continued to rise. In addition, the export of oil, coal, steel, copper, medicine, cement and ceramics increased notably.

At the same time, the composition of imported products was reasonably adjusted. The import of production materials, for example, met domestic industrial and agricultural production demands. The import of chemical fertilizer, iron sand, inedible vegetable oil, ethyl-lactam, paper and paperboard increased while the import of natural rubber, timber, paper pulp, synthetic fibre for textile use, synthetic fibre yarn, wool, petroleum, steel, copper, aluminium and

kinescopes decreased. Also the import of cigarettes and other luxury goods was brought under control. The import volume of TV sets, radio cassette recorders, washing machines, household refrigerators, motorcycles and cameras dropped remarkably. Fewer sedans were imported, dropping by 25.3 percent.

by Li Ming

## New Law for Animals Export

China will implement a new law for the export of rare wild fowl, game and other wild animals beginning February 1. The Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, General Administration of Customs and State Administration for the Inspection of Import and Export Commodities and the State Import and Export Administrative Office for Species in Danger of Extinction recently released a notice on the new law.

According to the notice, those units applying for the export of rare wild fowl, game and other wild animals (including specimens, whole or in parts) must possess an import and export permit. When applying for such a permit they must, after examination, obtain the approval of the provincial forestry department. After approval by the Ministry of Forestry, the Port Quarantine Institution and Customs will conduct an examination and may give clearance, depending on whether the export permit is verified and is issued by the State Import and Export Administra-

tive Office of Species in Danger of Extinction.

Those who illegally export rare wild fowl, game and other wild animals will not only be refused an export permit but will also be dealt with according to the state law.

Some public figures expressed concern that the smuggling of wild animals and other products has increased because China's administration in this area has been lax in recent years. The issuance of the notice is expected to aid in the protection of wild animal resources. ■

## Foreign Loans for Urban Construction

The use of foreign loans by Beijing, China's capital, for urban construction and other undertakings has been showing new progress. According to statistics, by the end of 1990, Beijing signed agreements in foreign loans worth US\$600 million for 85 projects, US\$410 million having been processed into China.

Some 84 percent of the loans were long-term, low-interest and provided by foreign governments or international financial organizations from 13 countries, including Japan, Italy, Britain, France and Germany.

The loans would help Beijing strengthen construction infrastructure facilities for water, electricity, heating, and gas supply, transport and environmental protection, bringing about a dramatic improvement in the city's outlook and in its investment environment.

At the same time, the municipal government has re-

ceived donations from various countries. For instance, the Japanese government has promised to donate US\$48 million to the Beijing TV Station and the city's fire control centre while the German government has approved a donation of US\$23 million for the building of two rubbish dumps, a rubbish-to-fertilizer plant and a temporary rubbish transfer site.

Additional agreements to be approved and signed by the Chinese and foreign governments within the next one or two years will provide Beijing with an additional loan of US\$350 million.

by Yao Jianguo

## Shanghai Sees Export Growth

In 1990, Shanghai's exports reached US\$5.32 billion, a 5.7 percent increase over 1989.

An official of the Shanghai Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Commission said that in 1990 Shanghai provided a firm foundation for the increase of year-round exports by organizing a large-scale foreign trade fair, and holding comprehensive talks on exports in Hong Kong, Canada, Japan and other countries.

An analysis indicates three new characteristics of the exports:

- An improvement in the export commodity composition. The proportion of finished industrial products rose from 85.4 percent in 1989 to 86.4 percent last year while that of agricultural and sideline products dropped from 12.4 percent to 11.2 percent.

- The costs dropped and the economic returns increased

for most foreign trade enterprises.

- More adaptable to the international market. Shanghai's foreign trade enterprises expanded exports to the United States, Europe and Hong Kong etc., last year. Exports to the United States and Hong Kong alone rose by US\$235 million.

The total exports of foreign-funded enterprises in Shanghai in 1990 was 59.7 percent higher than in 1989.

by Li Ming

## Sanmenxia City Woos Foreign Aid

The development of 26 co-operative projects to be built in co-operation with foreign businesses have been approved, and the details will be publicly announced in the near future, said an official of the city of Sanmenxia, Henan Province.

The projects involve metallurgy, building materials chemical, machine-building, light, textile and food industries. They call for import of technology and equipment through such forms as individual proprietorship, Sino-foreign joint ventures, and co-operative management. The total value of foreign capital is expected to reach US\$233 million.

The projects are intended to bring in new technology, raise the technical level and production capacity of existing enterprises, and build some technically advanced enterprises hitherto unheard-of in the city.

In order to co-ordinate the implementation of the projects, provisional regulations

encouraging foreign business investment have recently been formulated by the city hall. Foreign businessmen are invited to set up their own enterprises, Sino-foreign joint ventures, or co-operatively managed enterprises to process with clients' samples and materials, assemble parts supplied by clients or do compensatory trade. Foreign businessmen are particularly encouraged to develop agricultural and coal projects, power facilities and highways, and invest in existing high-tech industries. The city government will provide foreign businessmen with preferential treatment in land-use fee collection, water and power supply, transport, credit, taxation and profit sharing.

Strategically located at the juncture of Henan, Shanxi and Shaanxi provinces at the middle reaches of China's second longest river, the Huanghe (Yellow) River, Sanmenxia boasts rich mineral resources. More than 57 kinds of minerals have been discovered in the region. Its gold reserve and output rank second in China and the aluminium and coal reserves are abundant. Sanmenxia has convenient communication facilities and a section of the Eurasian Railway. A Huanghe River highway bridge is on the drawing board.

by Li Ming

## New Medicine Sells Abroad

A new type of medicine, Naomaikang, which is reported to have a remarkable, curative effect on cerebrovascular diseases, is now on

the international market. The producer has attracted some foreign investment for co-operative production.

The medicine is made by the Heilong Pharmaceutical Factory in northeast China. Presently, foreign businessmen from a dozen or so countries and regions, including the United States, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong and Macao, have purchased the medicine or indicated their wish to act as sales agents abroad.

According to tests, the medicine has a curative effect on such cerebro-vascular diseases as coronary sclerosis, myocor-ditis and cerebral embolism and can improve blood circulation and cerebral function. Positive results are achieved in 98 percent of all cases.

The factory currently has an annual production capacity of 500 million tablets and 10 million doses of the medicine for external use. The Aolong Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., a joint venture between the factory and a Macao firm, specializes in its production. It is estimated that the new medicine, much sought after on the international market, will be exported in a large quantity.

by Liu Jianjun

## Briefs

● China exported a total of 17.7 million tons of coal in 1990, a 16 percent increase over 1989 and an amount which ranked seventh in the world. Total exports were worth US\$660 million, an increase of 19.8 percent over 1989.

Today, China exports coal to over 20 countries and regions including Britain,

France, Italy, the Netherlands and Japan.

● In 1990, China's export of textile products reached US\$13.5 billion, a 3 percent increase over 1989. Textiles have been China's largest foreign exchange maker for five successive years, accounting for a quarter of the nation's total exports.

In the last five years, the export composition of textile products has improved and the proportion of finely processed products increased. Garments exported last year, for example, reached US\$6.5 billion, an increase of 11 percent over 1989 and accounting for 48 percent of the total textile product exports.

● The Huaxia Grape Wine Co. Ltd., a Sino-French joint venture, recently opened for business in Changli County, Hebei Province.

The company is shared by the China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Import & Export Corp., the Changli County General Winery and a French firm. It produces a premium grape wine using high quality grapes and pure Changli water. The company has an annual capacity of 1,000 tons, 90 percent of which is for export.

● On January 12, the 20th MD-82 aircraft co-operatively produced by China and the United States was delivered to the China Eastern Airline. Chinese aviation experts consider it the finest aircraft since co-operation began.

By the end last year, the 19 MD-82s produced by the Sino-US joint venture had a total of 34,000 take-offs and landings and chalked up 63,000 hours of flying time without incident. The MD-82s

account for 77.6 percent of the total aircraft of the China Northern Airline and make up 54.3 percent of the China Eastern Airline's.

● A-5M attack plane, the largest Sino-Italian co-operative aviation project, was successfully developed and took off for a virgin flight.

Four and a half years of co-operation between China and Italy has resulted in the completion of two prototype aeroplanes and the successful integrated ground test for navigation and attack system. On this basis, another 17 categories of advanced equipment have been added which feature improved operation, navigation and firepower.

● The Shanghai World Trade Centre, a Sino-Japanese joint venture, began being constructed in 1987 and entered trial operation on January 12, 1991.

Located in the Shanghai Hongqiao Economic Development Zone, the centre is well-equipped with offices, flats, an international meeting hall, an exhibition hall, a restaurant and business conference centres.

With a total area of 90,000 square metres and 140 metres high, the centre was funded with a total investment of US\$98 million, contributed equally by the two sides.

● With a total area of 90,000 square metres and 1,000 hospital beds, the Shanghai No.6 People's Hospital was completed recently. The hospital has a total investment of 200 million yuan, with 110 million yuan contributed by China and the remainder by Japan. ■

# Liu Tingyu and His Inspirational Music

Liu Tingyu first became known in the 1970s for his music composed for *Ode to the Yimeng Mountains*, a modern ballet drama, which tells of China's liberation war. A woman peasant in the Yimeng Mountains saves a severely wounded People's Liberation Army soldier with her own milk and nurses him back to health, enabling the soldier to return to his unit. The unsophisticated beautiful music in the drama, especially the theme song *Ode to the Yimeng Mountains*, was tremendously popular among the Chinese people at that time.

In the early 1980s, Liu was commissioned to compose the music for *New Year's Sacrifice*, a ballet drama adapted from a novel with the same title written by Lu Xun, a renowned writer in China in the 1930s. Presented by the Central Ballet Ensemble, it tells about the miserable life of a working woman in old China who, under the burden of the feudal yoke, twice lost husbands and finally died on the street. Integrating folk music of national characteristics with music of traditional Chinese operas, Liu successfully revealed the mental tribulations of the heroine. The drama was awarded first prize at the Manila International Ballet Festival in 1981. Its presentation in many countries such as the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union, the Philippines, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium and the Netherlands also evoked much praise. In 1986, for instance, after the drama was presented in the United States, a celebrity in American cultural circles commented, "Tears have come to my eyes when I watch other dramas, but they came from my heart when I watched this one." When China launched



Liu Tingyu (right) with Hungarian ballet music officials in June 1988.

its first communication satellite in 1987, the music of *New Year's Sacrifice* was taken to space.

Shortly after *New Year's Sacrifice*, *Light Pursuit Trilogy*, a modern ballet musical, came to the fore with its revolutionary new style. Its striking modern rhythm and unusual accompaniment depicted the pursuits of contemporary youth. Meanwhile, the illusiveness of the universe and the sublimity of life implied by the music demonstrated the composer's talent and his love for life.

Liu's music for *Lan Huahua*, a ballet love tragedy set in north Shaanxi Province half a century ago, proved to be yet another success. In the last act of the drama, Yang Wuwa and Lan Huahua, estranged lovers, are reunited. Being unaware of the treachery of a wicked landlord, they eat poisonous food and soon realize death is approaching. The act was originally performed with lifting dance movements. However, Liu, being realistic and knowing the reserved nature of Chinese people, proposed a different scene: the couple kneeling down staring painfully into each other's eyes, without any sound or movement.

At this very moment, strains of the sad and touching local folk song *Lan Huahua* could be heard: "Finally I see my dear love. I pour my heart out to him and stay with him in life or death." The static interpretation, along with the folk song, greatly enhanced the appeal of this drama. Every time the act is performed, both cast and audience are moved to tears.

In recent years, Liu has written arrangements for a number of short ballet pieces taken from traditional Peking opera repertoires. When Peking opera music is played by an orchestra, unique effect is created.

Though Liu has composed a dozen or so wonderful ballet musical works, it is difficult to generalize about his style because every piece has its own unique characteristics. However, one can get some idea of the variety of music from China's different areas from his works.

From Liu's point of view, excellent national ballet music must be produced if the fledgling Chinese ballet wants to be part of the world's ballet elite. "I try to root my works in the soil of national arts," Liu said.



Born in 1940 in Chongqing, Sichuan Province, Liu has loved music since his early childhood. During his middle school years, he began to write songs and compose music for local theatres, and

made his own *Erhu* (a traditional Chinese two-string musical instrument). At the age of 19, he entered the Central Conservatory of Music to study under famous Chinese composer Wu Zuqiang.

After his graduation from the conservatory in 1965, Liu began his career of composing ballet music for the Central Ballet Ensemble.

by Wang Yongkun

## Stone Collector Jiang Zuozheng

In Yichang City of Hubei Province, located in the world-known three gorges area of the Changjiang

(Yangtze) River, lives a stone collector named Jiang Zuozheng who is considered as a "millionaire of rare stones." For more

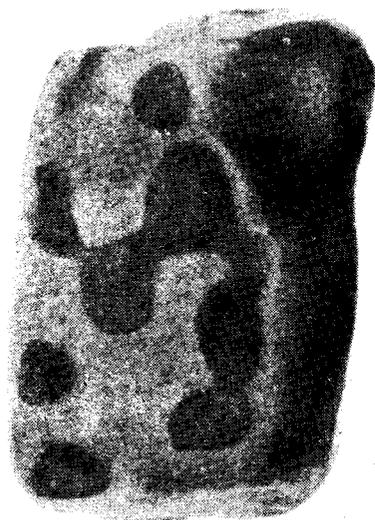
than 40 years, Jiang has collected over 20,000 pieces of rare and strange stone including aerolite, ancient stoneware, fossils, ores and even calculus taken out from the body of a human being. Pictographic stones and strange



Returning home at a snowing night.



A writer.



A monk.



A nun.



A snake.

stones make up a large percentage of Jiang's collection.

Jiang, now deputy director of the Administration for Tobacco Trading of Yichang City, was born to a family of learning and has extensive academic knowledge. In his childhood he began to show a strong interest in collecting beautiful and strange stones.

Jiang considers every strange stone as the creation of God so he always keeps its original shape and colour. Jiang likes to give a title to each stone and also write a poem for each stone. He divides his pictographic stones into several categories according to their shape and colour, such as human figures, animals, flowers and birds, and landscapes.

Jiang's rare stones win high praise from people of all walks of

life. Some of his stones have been collected by the Museum of Singapore. In 1990, some of his stones were selected to be displayed at the Art Festival of the 11th Asian Games and won high praise from the viewers.

Jiang keeps close contact with stone collectors in many parts of the world and they often exchange their collections. Jiang would like to see China set up a Rare Stone Museum.

Jiang is now director of the Rare and Strange Stone Art Society of Yichang City. This society has 130 members, most of whom are middle-aged and elderly people, though there are also young collectors. In June 1990, the preparatory committee of the China Ornamental Stone Association was founded in Beijing.

by Lou Linwei

## Museum of Hemudu Culture Remains

Construction of a modern museum at the ruins of the Hemudu Culture recently began.

The Hemudu Culture remains, one of the most important historical sites of the New Stone Age in southern China, is located in Yuzhao City, Zhejiang Province. This primitive site was discovered in the summer of 1973. Archaeologists from the Archaeological Research Institute of Zhejiang Province estimated the total area of the cultural remains could reach 40,000 square metres.

In the 1970s, two excavations were made, revealing four different cultural layers. About 7,000 pieces of valuable cultural relics were unearthed including evidence of rice cultivation, believed to be the earliest such find in the world dating back about 5,000 years ago. Remains of wooden-structured houses and primitive musical instruments were also

found.

Experts say that at that time the climate was warm and wet, with lakes, swamps, bushes and grassland surrounding the inhabitations. The livestock of the people included pigs, dogs and perhaps buffaloes. The stone-ware included the axe and adze; wooden, and bone handles and bone ploughs were also among the finds. Because this cultural layer was under the water level, many wooden objects like paddles, ploughs, bowls were well preserved. The technique of pottery making was very primitive. Most of the potteries have thick sides and crude designs.

Scientists say that the early Hemudu Culture remains date back to over 7,000 years ago, belonging to the early New Stone Age. This discovery necessitated that archaeologists modify their original belief about the origin of Chinese civilization. In the 1950s, a village site of the New

Stone Age was discovered in Banpo Village near Xian in Shaanxi Province, northwestern China. The coloured potteries and other articles unearthed there were examples of an advanced ancient civilization and hence archaeologists came to the conclusion that of the Huanghe (Yellow) River valley was the origin of Chinese civilization. However, the discovery of the Hemudu Culture indicated that it was yet another site of early Chinese civilization. The Hemudu Culture had its own independent developmental stages. The Hemudu Culture Site has been listed as one of the key cultural sites' under state protection.

The Hemudu Culture Remains Museum will have three main sections—a cultural relics display hall, an area displaying restored structures and artifacts, display of a re-creation of the original living environment. The architectural style of the museum will combine national character with local flavour, and primitive cultural features with modern ones.

The environment re-creation project will include landscape, landforms, the ecological surroundings and the primitive means of production and livelihood. When the work is completed, visitors will be able to see the primitive wooden-structured houses, visit the pottery-making yard where they can make pottery using ancient techniques, and have picnics using the replicas of the ancient cooking vessels and taste the "primitive rice."

The government has invested 3 million yuan (about US\$600,000) on the first-phase project—the cultural relics display hall. The total area to be occupied by the building will cover 5,000 square metres. The restoration of the excavation site has already begun and will be completed by the end of 1991. ■



Albert Einstein.



Qu Yuan, a patriotic poet in ancient China.

## Engravings by Yan Ye

Yan Ye, born in Tangshan City, Hebei Province in 1958, now teaches fine art at the Shirengou Children's School of the Tangshan Iron and Steel Co. Most of his works are stone and plaster engravings which sharply highlight black and white, boldness and strength in a metal and stone style.

### ART PAGE



The Blacksmith at Work.



Lu Xun (a famous Chinese writer).

