

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF NEWS AND VIEWS

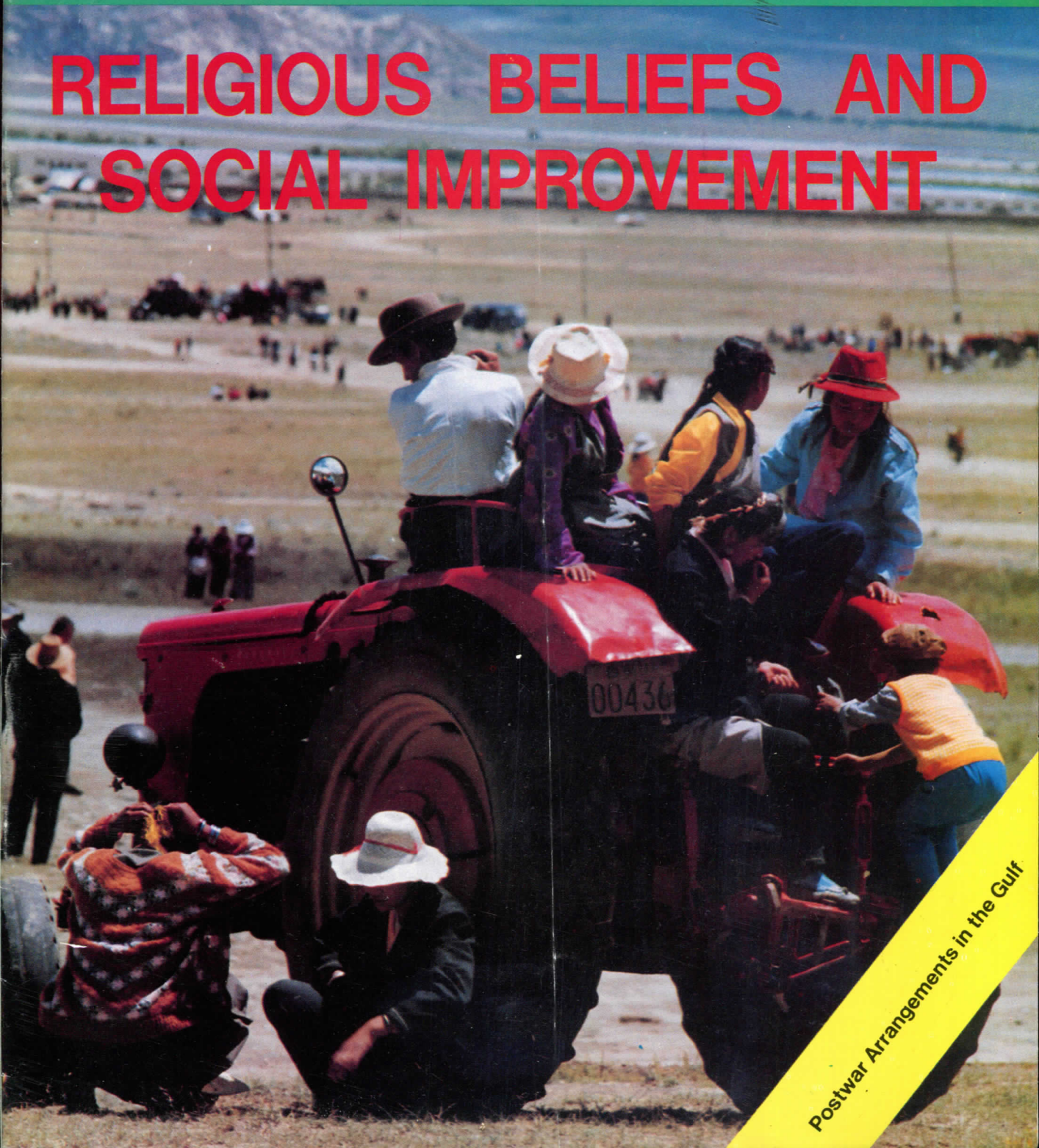
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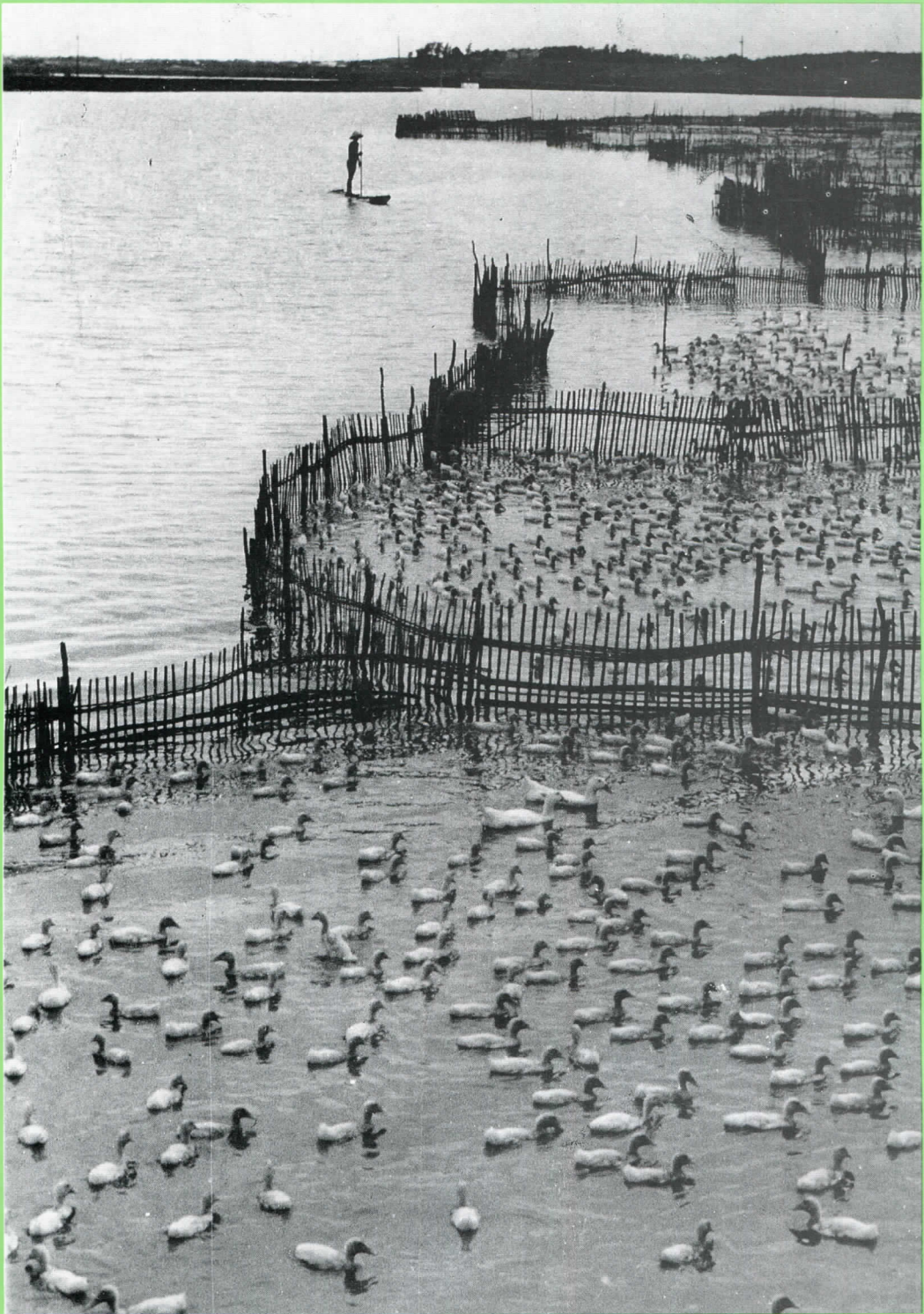
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RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT



Postwar Arrangements in the Gulf



Commander and his army of ducks.

Photo by Tan Zeqiu

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Is Tibet an 'Independent State'?

□ Some self-exiled Tibetan separatists claim that Tibet has always been an "independent state." This article provides evidence that Tibet became an administrative region under China's central government during the Yuan Dynasty in the 13th century and that this relationship has remained unchanged for the past 700 years (p. 12).

Religious Beliefs and Social Improvement

□ Although religion is very much alive in Tibet with 90 percent of the population practising Buddhism, Tibetans take great interest in community development and personal advancement. Their common aspiration is to make Tibet prosperous and secure a better life for themselves through hard work and constant economic and cultural advancement (p. 24).

Latin America's Economic Woes

□ Plagued by heavy debts, huge trade deficits and high inflation, Latin American countries failed to arrest the slide of their economies last year. Prospects of a quick and strong economic recovery this year are not very encouraging. (p. 10)

Post-War Security Arrangements In Gulf

□ As soon as the fighting ended in the Gulf, the international community, especially the United States and Arab countries, began making diplomatic efforts to create a future security structure in the region. Several tentative plans are under discussion (p. 7).

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COVER: Farmers and herdsmen drive a tractor to attend a festival. It is now common for households in rural Tibet to purchase tractors.

Photo by Han Xiaohua

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Beijing Bids for The 2000 Olympiad

After successfully hosting the 11th Asian Games last year, Beijing has now been officially nominated as China's candidate for the hosting of the 27th Summer Olympic Games in the year 2000, according to the Chinese Olympic Committee (COC).

A spokesman for the committee told reporters on March 8 that the application would be promptly forwarded by the COC to the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The nomination had earlier been fully endorsed at a special session of the COC in Beijing in February.

Speaking at the session, Beijing Mayor Chen Xitong said that the hosting of the Olympiad in the capital of the People's Republic of China with a population of over 1.1 billion would not only be an honour for the Chinese people, but would also give wider representation to the Olympic movement.

He Zhenliang, president of the COC and vice-president of the IOC, said the bidding told the world of "China's economic strength and determination to carry on the policy of opening to the outside world."

The Chinese government has expressed its firm support for the Beijing Municipal Government and COC in the application.

Other bidders are Berlin, Sydney, London and Brasilia, and more are expected.

The IOC will make its choice at its 101st session in September, 1993, in Monte Carlo.

Although the application

alone would cost millions of dollars, the Chinese government seems fully prepared. Last year, Chinese President Yang Shangkun expressed China's interest in hosting the 2000 Olympic Games while meeting with the IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, then visiting Beijing during the Asian Games.

After the Asian Games, Samaranch said it would be "very beneficial" for the Olympic movement if the world's most prestigious sporting event could be held in China.

The IOC chief said he had no doubts about China's organizing ability, as well as its appreciation and respect for the Olympic movement, adding that China had obtained excellent experience by host-

ing the Asiad.

Samaranch pointed out that the Olympics were far larger in scale than the Asiad and needed more organizing work and better sports facilities, but that China had an advantage in bidding since it enjoyed the all-out support of more than 1 billion Chinese.

"Hosting the Olympics has long been a cherished dream for the Chinese," Wu Shaozu, minister in charge of the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission, told reporters. "The successful hosting of the Asian Games has increased our confidence in the Olympics," he added.

Wu promised his commission would join efforts with the Beijing government and the COC for the bidding. ■

Tibet Works Out Blueprint

The Tibet Autonomous Region will give priority to the development of agriculture and animal husbandry in the next five to 10 years.

According to its five-year plan (1991-1995) and 10-year programme (1991-2000), the regional government will increase the input in agriculture and animal husbandry in order to raise the region's annual grain output to 625,000 tons by 1995 and 725,000 tons by 2000. The average amount of grain per capita will rise from last year's 253 kilograms to 263 kilograms in 1995 and 282 kilograms in the year 2000.

Last year saw the region reap a record grain harvest of 555,000 tons.

The total output of meat in the region will be 112,000 tons in 1995, averaging 47.3 kilograms per person, and 129,000 tons in the year 2000, or 50.2 kilograms per person.

The region turned out 93,000 tons of meat last year, averaging 42 kilograms per person.

The per-capita net income for farmers and herdsmen will be 550 yuan (US\$106) in 1995 and 800 yuan (US\$154) in 2000 if the targets are reached, compared with 430 yuan (US\$83) last year.

At the same time, the government will expand the light, handicraft, textile and mining industries, and the manufacturing of commodities catering to the needs of local ethnic minorities. Tourism will be boosted and exports of woolen textiles, leather and Tibetan medicine promoted.

The regional government will also speed up the construction of basic industries such as energy, transport, post and telecommunications.

The region's power-generating capacity will climb from 150,300 kilowatt hours last year to 258,000 kilowatt hours in 1995 and 390,000 kilowatt hours in 2000.

While extending highways and expanding Konggar Airport near Lhasa, capital of the region, Tibet will further develop satellite telecommunications.

The region will add 39 satellite ground stations in the next five years and its telephone network will cover all counties and link its cities with the national long-distance telephone network.

Tibet's economy is still underdeveloped due to a weak industrial base and the lack of management experience, funds and technology. The central government has adopted preferential and special policies to help the region realize its goals. ■

Official Collared For Taking Bribes

A senior provincial legislator was arrested on January 22 on corruption charges, the first major legal action taken against a leading official this year.

Han Fucui, vice-chairman of the standing committee of the people's congress of Qinghai Province, was arrested after an investigation revealed that he had accepted 35,800 yuan, US\$800 and precious jewellery in bribes, the Supreme People's Procuratorate announced at a press conference in Beijing on March 6.

Deputy Procurator General Xiao Yang said that Han had been deprived of his membership in the National People's Congress and removed from the provincial people's congress standing committee. He would be brought to court and prosecuted very soon, Xiao added.

According to a 1982 amendment to China's Criminal Law, embezzlers found guilty of pocketing at least 50,000 yuan (US\$9,600), and those accepting bribes of 10,000 yuan or more, could face a maximum sentence of life imprisonment or even the death penalty.

Han's case came to the attention of the Supreme People's Procuratorate at the beginning of last year when local inhabitants reported that Han had taken a large amount of cash and precious jewellery when helping a local construction enterprise win a lucrative contract.

Further investigation found that the 62-year-old Han, who once served as a deputy governor of Qinghai Province, had secured 13,000 yuan in exchange for arranging for a local businessman to get an official gold-mining certificate in the metal-rich western province, and had asked for a further 4,000 yuan and US\$800 from various private enterprises.

Xiao told the news conference that the central government had pledged to continue the fight against economic crimes this year, and particularly to intensify investigations into graft and bribery by government officials.

According to him, procuratorates last year investigated more than 1,200 officials, or

about one out of every thousand officials above the county level, who were suspected of economic offences. ■

Women Celebrate Their Own Festival

On March 8, about 2,000 foreign and Chinese women representatives in Beijing gathered in the Great Hall of the People to mark the 81st anniversary of the International Working Women's Day.

Addressing the reception, Chen Muhua, chairwoman of the All-China Women's Federation, extended cordial holiday greetings to all women of China and the rest of the world.

Chinese women, she said, have made remarkable achievements in various areas of endeavour. While enhancing self-respect and self-confidence, they have come a long way in seeking self-reliance and self-improvement.

She spoke highly of the Chinese women athletes who chalked up impressive records at the Eleventh Asian Games by dint of their tenacity and fine coordination. "Their performance is an eloquent proof of women's potential in sports," Chen added.

The chairwoman noted with satisfaction that in the past year new developments were made in exchanges and cooperation between Chinese women and their sisters in other countries. The enhancement of their mutual understanding and friendship will undoubtedly produce positive effects on solidarity and cooperation between women of various countries, and adv-

ance the cause of women's emancipation.

She said, "We wish to join hands with our sisters in all parts of the world and make tireless efforts to increase friendship between all the peoples, advance human progress and maintain world peace." ■

Enhancing Public Awareness of Law

China is launching a five-year extensive law education programme among citizens.

The programme, recently approved by the central authorities, aims to increase public awareness of the concepts of law and order so that civic rights will be duly protected and civil obligations fully performed.

The programme will be carried out among all literate people, with the emphasis on senior officials above the provincial and ministerial levels, law enforcement personnel and middle school and college students.

China's Constitution will be essential reading as the law of the land. Other laws to be covered include the compulsory education law, the law on rallies and demonstrations, the administrative procedure law and the national flag law.

Special laws and regulations will also be driven home to those working in various professions and trade.

The programme will adopt a face-to-face approach, and part-time law schools, television lectures and lectures at schools and colleges will play a big role.

In villages where part-time study and night schools were

impossible to arrange, local officials will be encouraged to open classes right at the farmers' homes.

More than 750 million Chinese citizens participated in the first law study programme which was launched in 1986. The programme achieved expected results and laid a foundation for the construction of China's socialist legal system. ■

China Disbands Unneeded Companies

The effort to close down unnecessary business companies, a major step in China's economic retrenchment, has achieved remarkable progress during the past two years.

By the end of 1990, China had cut or merged 103,772 companies, or 35.2 percent of the total in existence in 1988 before the screening started. This has curbed the rampant growth in the number of companies and dealt a blow on speculation and profiteering.

Of the companies closed and merged, 7,123 were affiliated with Party and government organizations, 198 owned by military units, and 96,451 run by local government organs.

One most remarkable result in the screening, which will come to an end in the first half of this year, is to have solved the problem of Party and government organizations running enterprises by taking advantage of their power and the problem of Party and government officials "moonlighting" in companies and seeking personal gains through their advantageous position.

Statistics show that Party

and government organizations at all levels had established 14,416 companies since 1980. So far, 11,284 such companies have been cut or merged while the rest will be switched over to business departments.

Among the 42,667 Party and government officials who concurrently held posts in companies, 41,243 have either given up such posts in favour of their government positions or vice versa. Those who are employed by foreign-related enterprises will do so after their contracts expire.

During the screening, the judicial departments have uncovered and dealt with a large number of criminal offences committed by companies or individuals. By the end of last year, 89,637 such cases had been looked into and dealt with, and 32 large illegal economic organizations outlawed.

The screening activities do not involve foreign-funded enterprises and companies. On the contrary, the screening is believed to have created better conditions for foreigners to invest and do business in China.

The number of foreign-invested enterprises has increased by a large margin during the screening. Last year, 7,092 such enterprises were registered in China, 34.2 percent more than the 1989 figure.

In order to bring the development of companies within the framework of the legal system, the state has issued more than 70 regulations and decrees. The nation's first company law has been worked out and will soon be promulgated and put into effect.

by Staff Reporter Liu Jianjun

Gulf: Post-War Security Arrangements

by Chen Jiang

After strategic air raids of more than one month, the multinational troops, headed by the United States, launched a ground attack against Iraqi troops in Kuwait and Southern Iraq on February 24 in a bid to liberate Kuwait. Iraq, facing military failure, had to accept unconditionally all 12 resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council after its invasion and annexation of Kuwait last August. On February 27, US President George Bush announced in a televised address that Kuwait's independence had been restored, the Gulf war had basically ended and allied troops would cease fire. At last, the six weeks of air assaults and 100-hour ground war has been suspended and participants are now dealing with concrete issues.

As soon as the fighting ended, parties concerned began diplomatic activities for future security arrangements in the Gulf region.

The main goals of the United States, openly declared after the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, are: Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, the restoration of Kuwait's legal government, the maintenance of peace and security in the Gulf and the guarantee of US citizens' security. At present, the former two have been achieved and the others are under way. Yet it is clear that issues of peace and security will require extensive diplomatic efforts to resolve with consideration of contradictions within the region.

Currently, the international community is trying to set up a security mechanism to maintain stability in the Gulf, a region significant to both Western and

world economies. Some Americans have advocated the establishment of a NATO-type organization in the region; some stand for a system similar to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE); and some favour a regional security framework similar to the Baghdad Treaty. Meanwhile, the Arab nations insist on a pan-Arab regional security structure, based on the 1950 Arab Joint Defence Treaty and the Charter of the Arab League, which excludes Western and non-Arab countries. Such non-Arab countries in the region as Iran and Turkey, however, hope to play an important role in the post-war security system.

Due to the complex nature of problems in the region, the United States and other countries must face serious questions if their aims are to be met. A NATO-like organization means the establishment of US military bases and relevant organizations in the region. This will probably trigger off anti-American action in Arab countries and encourage radical forces. A loose CSCE-type organization could not provide defence against invasion. And a system excluding non-Arab countries would perhaps cause new confrontations, threatening the region's security. At the same time, the joining of non-Arab countries could increase inner conflicts and put some countries in a dominant position.

What kind of security structure should be established in the region is under discussion. No matter what is finally decided, two points are clear: The securi-

ty of the six countries of the Gulf Co-operation Council will be considered first; and the United States will maintain a significant influence on the structure. One of the main targets of the United States is the safe control of the oil passage. Although the United States has announced the gradual withdrawal of its ground forces, it has also indicated that it will station stronger air and sea forces in the Gulf.

However, the establishment of a new security structure alone is not enough to maintain stability in the Gulf. Reports say that apart from new security arrangements, the United States, together with other major countries, plans to carry on arms control in the region, resolve the problems caused by the gap between rich and poor, restore and reconstruct Kuwait, Iraq and other countries suffering from the war, and settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Peace in the Middle East cannot be separated from the solution of Arab-Israeli conflicts. But different views emerge on this question. France and the Soviet Union persist in their efforts to hold an international Middle East peace conference, which the United States and Britain agree with in principle but consider incompatible with the current situation. If the conference is held at present, the United States will be isolated and Israel be asked to withdraw from the occupied territories, return to its 1967 borders and guarantee the establishment of a Palestine state. If so, Israel would consider its interests will be infringed upon and its security possibly endangered. In fact, it has rejected such a con-

ference. In light of this, the peace conference will probably not be held in the near future. It is likely that the United States will exert limited pressure on Israel.

The Gulf war has greatly weakened Iraq and enhanced moderate Arab nations' relations with Israel, creating a situation favourable to Israel. After the close of the Gulf war, however, Israel seems to harden its attitude towards the Palestinian problem, clearly indicating its refusal to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization. This suggests that while a measure of progress will probably be

achieved in the Middle East peace talks, a breakthrough is unlikely.

In addition, the role of Iraq in the future security system remains undecided. The United States is seeking a political overthrow of the present Iraqi government after its military victory. In Southern Iraq, anti-government riots have recently occurred in several cities. Now that the war is over, Iraq faces serious economic difficulties, as well as the ethnic problem and contradictions between Sunnite and Shiite Moslems. It is difficult to predict whether or not

Iraq will become a source of new turbulence.

In general, the Gulf war has brought about new conditions in the Middle East, always the home of various complicated contradictions. There is an opportunity, as well as a challenge to put a new pattern in place in the region. For the United States, it was not difficult to win the war, but will be difficult to realize peace and stability in this long-turbulent region. In order to stabilize regional security, Washington may pursue a strategy of "balance of power." ■

Tibet: Changes in the Last 40 Years

by Fan Guoxiang

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the peaceful liberation of Tibet. Over the past 40 years, under the leadership of the central government and with the assistance from the people of the entire nation, members of different nationalities in Tibet have been closely united in their joint efforts. They have effected democratic reforms, established a regional autonomous government of minority nationalities, and carried out socialist construction as well as reforms and opening to the outside world. As a result, Tibet has undergone profound historic changes in political, economic and other aspects.

Excerpts from a speech made recently by Ambassador Fan Guoxiang at the 47th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

Politically, the Tibetan people have become their own masters. The autonomous localities of the Tibet Autonomous Region, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the Law on Regional National Autonomy, enjoy various rights in the administration of local affairs in terms of their political, economic, cultural and social development. The People's Congress of the Tibet Autonomous Region has adopted and enacted over 20 local rules and decrees as well as specific regulations concerning the establishment of administration, social and economic development, marriage, education, administration of justice, forestry, grasslands, the conservation of natural resources and other fields. Such a variety of regulations

provides important guarantees for the realization of various democratic rights of the Tibetan people and for the development of social, economic and cultural activities in the region. Furthermore, a team of cadres of minority nationalities has been formed with Tibetan nationality as the backbone. At present, cadres of Tibetan nationality number over 37,000, accounting for 66.6 percent of all cadres. Among cadres at the autonomous region level, those of Tibetan nationality occupy 72 percent. Major leading officials of the People's Congress, government, people's court and people's procuratorate of the region are all of Tibetan nationality.

Economically, agriculture and animal husbandry in Tibet have made great progress. In

1990, grain production reached a historical high of 555 million kg. In spite of the negative effect of the most serious snow storm in 100 years, animal husbandry provided a record 90 million kg of commercial meat. Having started from scratch, modern industry in Tibet has now developed to a considerable degree. Over 10 sectors have made gradual progress, including electric power, mining, wool textile, leather, building materials, construction, chemical industry, paper, printing and food processing, with over 260 enterprises. National handicrafts have been maintained and developed. Since 1980, the state has spent 25 million yuan on supporting the national handicraft industry. Tibet now boasts 108 national handicraft enterprises with more than 1,600 kinds of products. They mainly serve the needs of the local people, while some products with a Tibetan flavour have entered the international market. Communications and transportation have improved greatly; 40 years ago in Tibet there was not a single modern road. Now roads cover 21,695 kilometres with over 720 bridges. An oil pipeline of 1,080 kilometres has been built from Germu to Lhasa. Civil aviation

routes from Lhasa to Lanzhou, Xian, Chengdu, Guangzhou, Germu and the capital of Nepal have been established. Commerce and tourism in Tibet are developing in a satisfactory manner. A total of 946 state commercial centres, over 880 collective co-operative shops and 40,000 individual commercial households have been set up. With the help of the central government and other provinces, modern hotels and restaurants have been built, thus improving tourist facilities, and a large number of tourists have been received. In addition, finance, postal service, communications and meteorology have improved considerably.

The national culture of Tibet has been protected, collected, maintained and developed, and the Tibetan language is respected. The Regulation Concerning the Study, Use and Development of the Tibetan Language, adopted by the People's Congress of the Autonomous Region, stipulates the principle of a dual system of both Tibetan and Han languages, with the Tibetan language taking the dominant position in Tibet. The precious cultural relics of Tibet are under protection. Provisional Regulations on the

Preservation of Cultural Relics adopted by the regional People's Congress contain specific regulations on all aspects of the protection, preservation, restoration and use of cultural relics. The Potala Palace, Jokhang Temple and several other temples have been designated as major national cultural relics under special protection. In the past decade, the state has allocated a huge sum for the restoration of some important temples. Since 1989, the state has provided nearly 40 million yuan and mobilized human and material resources for the urgent and intensive restoration of the dilapidated Potala Palace. Folklore culture has been revived and collected. The well-known long saga of King Gesar, in the form of folk songs, has been included in the list of major items of scientific research in China. Sixty-two volumes of the Tibetan language have been copied and published, with over 3 million copies being printed.

Eight research institutes in Tibet and 20 institutes in other parts of China have been set up to specialize in Tibetan studies. On May 20, 1986, China's Research Centre for Tibetan Studies was founded in Beijing. These institutes have collected, translated and published over 300 types of classical works, materials and historical documents on Tibetan studies, totalling more than 1 million copies. They have also published periodicals and trained research personnel. Moreover, studies on Tibetan medicine and Tibetan calendar have made significant discoveries. National elementary education has developed from nothing. Before the peaceful liberation, Tibetan education took place only in temples for the study of scripture, aside from a few private schools for the children of the aristocracy.

The TV tower (right) next to the Potala Palace (left) was built in 1985. CHENG XI



At present, Tibet has 3 universities, 15 vocational schools, 68 high schools, 2,398 primary schools and 40 kindergartens. Thus a system of national education with local characteristics has been formed to a certain degree.

The policy of freedom in religious belief has been carried out in Tibet. At present, over 1,400 temples and other places of religious activity have been restored and opened to the public with 34,000 monks and nuns, which on the whole manage to satisfy the needs of religious believers and ordinary people in their normal religious activities. Believers can freely set up Buddhist shrines and halls in their homes, chant scriptures and pray. They can also go to temples for religious activities as they like. Buddhist research institutes have been established and famous Living Buddhas and Buddhist scholars are often invited as professors to teach classical works of Buddhism and religious history. Each major

temple offers courses on scripture studies and every year several large-scale scripture teaching activities and debates are held. The Tibetan Buddhist Association has published a magazine in Tibetan, entitled *Buddhism in Tibet*, which specializes in research articles on Buddhism and temple history. With the authorization of the government, some large temples produce printing plates and publish scriptures themselves. The voluminous scriptures in Potala Palace have been sorted out and are being copied by calligraphers.

Since the peaceful liberation, the population of the Tibetan nationality in Tibet has doubled, increasing from about 1 million to over 2 million. Such a high natural growth rate is unprecedented in the history of Tibet. The following basic statistics further illustrate this point. At the time of the peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1951, the local government had no accurate population statistics avail-

able. The population of the Tibetan nationality was estimated at slightly over 1 million. In 1953, at the time of China's first national census, the population of Tibet was 1.274 million. In July 1990, the fourth national census showed that the total population of Tibet was 2.196 million, of which 2.096 million are Tibetans, accounting for 95.46 percent of the total population. The nearly 100,000 people of Han and other nationalities in Tibet are mostly specialized personnel and technical workers, with a relatively high level of education and specific skills. Coming from many provinces of the country, they have made important contributions to the economic and cultural development of Tibet, working together with the Tibetan people. They have overcome difficulties such as altitude sickness and some have even given their lives in this process, thus forging a profound friendship with the Tibetan people. ■

Latin America: Listless Economies

by Shen An

Latin American countries' efforts to stop the downward slide of their economies in the past year failed. Economies of the region were put in recession after nine years' economic crisis. Lacking the strength necessary to recover, the region's economy will mostly likely stagnate and remain in a slump this year.

Problems

According to the survey by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on 24 countries in the region, gross domestic product

fell 0.5 percent last year, following a drop of 1.5 percent in the previous year. Other economic indexes were equally as unexciting. Per capita gross domestic product dropped 2.6 percent while inflation rate remained in the four-digit bracket seen in the previous year. Large numbers of enterprises went bankrupt, causing the unemployment rate to skyrocket. In some countries, the rate of partial or full unemployment reached as high as 40 percent. Consumption decreased 13 percent in comparison with the year before. ECLAC estimates that there are some 200 million

people, nearly half of the region's population, living in poverty. This has intensified social problems, accentuated contradictions among different classes and caused societal instability.

Uneven development remains one of the region's economic problems. However, the situation changed last year as the economies of some highly-developed countries in the region began slowing down. In Chile and Colombia, for example, economies which developed rapidly in the past years began to cool off, dropping 4 percent last year. In addition, Venezuela and Mexi-

co's economies, which were growing smoothly at the beginning of the year, also failed to reach expected targets. The ECLAC has divided the 24 countries in the region into four groups. The first one includes the three countries whose economies have grown at a rate above 3.5 percent: Venezuela, Costa Rica and Colombia. The six countries whose economies have grown under the 3 percent rate make up the second grouping, and the third one consists of six countries whose economies have grown at a rate equivalent to or less than their population rate. The final group contains nine countries whose economies have had a negative growth rate. For example, last year Argentina's economy decreased by 2 percent, Brazil's fell by 3.85 percent, Peru's dropped by 5 percent while Nicaragua's fell by 5.5 percent.

As for foreign trade in Latin America, the situation is also worsening. International trade deficits rose due to the decrease in foreign trade. Many countries' capacities to pay debts have been reduced while their debts continue increasing. According to ECLAC statistics, the region's current-account deficits reached as high as US\$10 billion last year. Such cases recall the region's debt crisis in 1982, when international trade deficits of the region accounted for US\$28.3 billion.

The foreign trade slump and heavy debts are the main reasons contributing to the high balance of international payments. The region's exports reached US\$115 billion last year while imports fell to US\$89 billion. The total volume of the region's foreign trade was reduced by 6 percent last year. As prices of raw materials and primary products fell, the region failed to attain more benefits from increased exports.

The region's debt situation is also serious, and is reflected in

the following:

1. Foreign debts continue expanding. The entire region's foreign debt accounted for US\$422 billion last year, an increase of 3.5 percent in comparison with the previous year. Principal and interest due last year totaled US\$390 billion.

2. Debt-paying ability has been further weakened. Defaulting on interest has become common in the region. There have been some improvements in Costa Rican and Venezuelan debt conditions after they reached agreements with their creditors on debt reductions in accordance with the Brady Plan. However, as the agreements affect only tens of billions of dollars, they will not play a major role in settling the total of US\$400 billion regional debt. Some 15 countries in the region, including Brazil, have announced suspension of interest payments on their foreign debts because of lack of funds. It was estimated that from 1989 to 1990, the defaulted debt interests of the whole region increased from US\$18 billion to about US\$25 billion, while the moratory debt increased from US\$13.9 billion to US\$19.7 billion. Heavy debts have caused a heavy outflow of capital in the past nine years, estimated at US\$25 billion yearly.

Prospects

Many factors contribute to the economic recession of Latin American countries. Internal ones are as follows:

1. High inflation caused by the long-term economic crisis has led to widespread bankruptcy. With its severely limited resources, the region has little strength for economic recovery. According to estimates by the ECLAC, Latin American economies will not maintain a positive growth rate unless regional investment increases at a rate of 25 percent

each year. Yet the region's investment fell by 13 percent last year.

2. Unreasonable economic structures have not been changed. Some governments have been stymied in their quest for economic reform. Ignorance of governments' decrees is common in these countries unable to implement their economic reform plan. Other countries, such as Brazil, have implemented "shock" plans with an aim to stop rising inflation through reduced investment. Such restrictive measures have obviously slowed down their economies.

3. Elements aside from economics, such as war, strikes, social disorder and instable political situation, have impeded some governments' implementation of economic reform measures.

What will the economic development of Latin American countries look like? The disadvantageous conditions discussed above will surely affect regional economic development. But there will also be some positive changes. Some countries, such as Mexico, Bolivia and Brazil, have achieved results in adjusting their economic structures. If their efforts succeed, they will establish reasonable economic structures under which their economies can develop rapidly. Debtor countries will hold talks with their creditors on lessening their debt burden, and will probably receive debt reductions. Regional integration will continue expanding, which will give a tremendous impetus to economic development. The improved relations between Latin American countries and the United States and Europe will also be beneficial.

In general, the economic state of Latin American countries will remain difficult this year. Although there will be some positive changes, the situation as a whole will not improve much. ■

Is Tibet an "Independent State"?

Tibet became an administrative region under the jurisdiction of China's central government during the Yuan Dynasty in the 13th century. Over the past 700 years, this relationship has remained unchanged. A handful of self-exiled Tibetan separatists, however, claim that Tibet has always been an "independent state." What are the facts? The following are excerpts from our book "Tibet: From 1951 to 1991," which will soon be published to help people better understand Tibet's past and present.—Ed.

Question: China is a country with a long history and many nationalities. Are there any historical facts to show that Tibet has long been an inseparable part of China?

Answer: China is a unified multi-national country. It is a nation formed by many different ethnic groups in the course of a long period of historical development. Following a long process of historical development, Tibet has become an inseparable part of China.

1. Friendly exchanges between the Han and Tibetan people go back to ancient times.

According to The Book of the Later Han Dynasty of the early 5th century, the "Faqiang" (ancestors of the Tibetans) had exchanges with the Hans in the central plains from 477 BC to the 4th century. This is the earliest written record of Han-Tibetan contacts discovered up until now. In the early 7th century, the Xiboye tribe flourished in Yalong, Tibet. From among its members emerged the noted national hero in Tibetan

history, Songtsan Gambo, who annexed more than ten tribes and established the Tubo Kingdom (629-846). To consolidate and develop the Tubo slave rule, Songtsan Gambo advocated absorbing the advanced culture of the centralized authority of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) in the central plains. Songtsan Gambo married Princess Wen Cheng (?-680) of the Tang Dynasty, and developed close ties with the Hans in politics, economy and culture. In 821, the Tang court and the Tubo Kingdom formed an alliance. "We conferred about uniting our countries and concluded a treaty of alliance. This will never be changed. May the gods confirm it. Generations to come will forever praise it." In this way, a close political alliance was formed which later served as a foundation for a united country.

2. In the 13th century, Tibet became an administrative region of China.

In 1206, Genghis Khan (1162-1227), leader of the Mongolians began to expand his power,

after establishing the Mongol Khan court. In 1244 (the "Wood-Dragon" year of the Tibetan Calendar), Go Dan, prince of the Mongol Khan court, sent envoy Dorta Napo to Tibet with special instructions to invite Kongka Gyaincain (1182-1251) of the Sagya Sect in Tibet to Liangzhou (now Wuwei City in Gansu Province) to negotiate Tibet's peaceful allegiance to the Mongol Khanate. In 1247, after Go Dan and Kongka Gyaincain agreed on the conditions for securing Tibet's allegiance to the Mongols, Kongka Gyaincain wrote to the leaders of all sects in Tibet to persuade them to obey the Mongol Khan. (These two important historical documents are included in *The Sagya Lineal Descriptions* in Tibetan. The book has now been reprinted.) In 1260, Kublai Khan (1215-94), inheriting the throne of the Mongol Khan, became first emperor of the Yuan Dynasty. He conferred the title of "Imperial Tutor" upon Kongka Gyaincain's nephew Pagba (1235-80), Prince of Dhama of the Sagya Sect, and presented him with a jade seal.

In 1271, Kublai Khan established his dynasty under the name of Yuan. Later, after overcoming the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279) and unifying China, he set up a central regime with Dadu (today's Beijing) as the capital. The Yuan Dynasty took Tibet as an administrative region under the direct control of the central government and exercised complete jurisdiction over it:

—Kublai Khan made Tibet a hereditary fief for his seventh son.

—The central government



Wall painting from 1253, "Yuan Emperor Kublai Khan Grants an Audience to Qoije Pagba." Pagba was given the title of Imperial Tutor by the Yuan Emperor.

founded the Zongzhiyuan in 1264 to handle the affairs of Buddhist organizations across China and of Tibet. In 1288, this body was renamed the Xuanzhengyuan.

—Set up the system of imperial tutor and appointed the administrative and religious head. Pagba, leader of the Sagya Sect in Tibet, was appointed as the first imperial tutor. With this title, and also his position as head of the Zongzhiyuan, he became a key official in the central government. Pagba, who was in charge of both the political and religious affairs of Tibet, started the system of integrating government administration with religious affairs.

—Set up the system of "benqin." The benqin, as the supreme Tibetan administrative official nominated by imperial tutor and approved by the emperor, helped the imperial tutor handle administrative affairs in Tibet.

—Divided the area into administrative units and appointed local officials. After a census, the Yuan court divided Tibet into 13 wanhus (communities of 10,000 households each). Heads of the Wanhus were directly appointed by the Yuan court.

—Three Pacification Commissioner's Offices were set up in Tibet and other Tibetan areas to lead the garrisons and handle the administrative affairs of the wanhus.

—Made several investigations of Tibet's population, land and livestock, strengthened tax collecting and the administration of corvee service, and sent relief to people in disaster-stricken areas.

—Set up couriers stations and military posts, and stationed troops at strategic points.

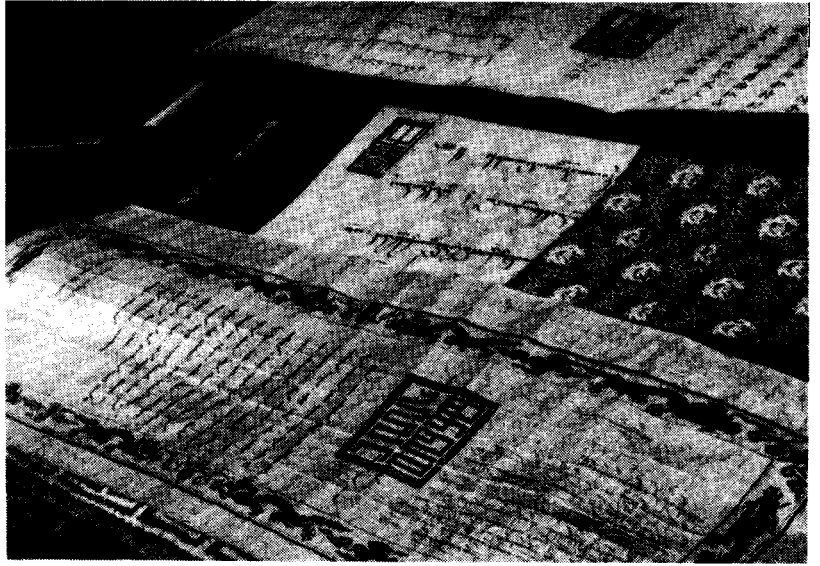
3. Successive central governments of China have been exercising effective sovereignty over Tibet all long.

The central government of the

Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) basically continued the administrative arrangements as taken over from the Yuan Dynasty in ruling Tibet. Zhu Yuanzhang (1328-98), the first Ming emperor, dispatched envoys to Tibet with an imperial edict demanding that all the leaders of various tribes in Tibet give their allegiance to the Ming imperial court, and recognized the Tibetan officials appointed during Yuan rule. The emperor also reconfirmed the titles of the successive officials who were perceived as the major powers in Tibet. Military and government organizations were established in Tibet. Envoys were also sent to appoint and award local administrative and religious heads, and courier stations were reopened.

The Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) strengthened its administrative grip on Tibet. The titles of Dalai and Bainqen were officially granted by the Qing emperors. The Qing court set up the office of the high commissioners dispatched to Tibet and the Kasha (local Tibetan government), founded the Kaloon System (the system of local Tibetan government officials), sent troops to repulse foreign invaders, formulated the famous 29-article Regulations Concerning the Administration of Tibet to establish clearly how the politics, economy, foreign affairs, and religious and military affairs in Tibet should be managed. The regulations marked greater systematization in the rule by law exercised by the central government over Tibet.

During the period of the Republic of China (1911-49), the successive central governments opposed and resisted activities steering towards "Tibetan independence" and upheld China's sovereignty over Tibet. In 1912, the government of the Republic of China declared the five main



Certificates of appointments issued by Kublai Khan to Tibetan rulers.

nationalities in China (Han, Manchu, Mongolian, Hui and Tibetan) to be under its rule and proclaimed the unification of the country. The Provisional Constitution and the Constitution of the Republic of China stipulated that China was a unified country and Tibet was a part of China. The central government set up an administrative body in Tibet and established an agency in Lhasa. On its part, Tibet had delegates in the parliament and sent representatives to attend the National Assembly, and set up representative offices in Nanjing, Beijing and Chongqing. Representatives of the central government had been sent to mourn the death of the 13th Dalai Lama and the 9th Bainqen. The representatives later approved the successors to the Dalai Lama and Bainqen the "soul boys" reincarnate. The official installation ceremony of the 14th Dalai Lama and the 10th Bainqen were presided over by envoys sent by the central government.

The above historical facts show that, since the Yuan Dynasty, the successive Chinese

central governments have practised varied political systems in Tibet; these included the wanhu system, the hereditary headmen system; the fief system, the Kaloon system and the system of dispatching commissioners to Tibet. Undeniably, the local Tibetan regime has all along been under the control of the central government.

Q: The relation between Tibet and the imperial courts in history is said to have been one between a religious "beneficiary and benefactor," but not one of political subordination. How about the historical facts?

A: There did exist a kind of "beneficiary and benefactor" relationship between Tibet and the central authorities. However, the relation was not only religious. It was the result and expression of the establishment of political subordination, and this embodied profound political implications.

The "beneficiary and benefactor" relation was originally a religious term. "Beneficiary" refers to those who receive alms. "Benefactor" refers to those who provide alms or make offerings.

Lamas receive alms and offerings in Tibetan Buddhism, so the "beneficiary and benefactor" relation was also paraphrased as the "Lama and benefactor" relation.

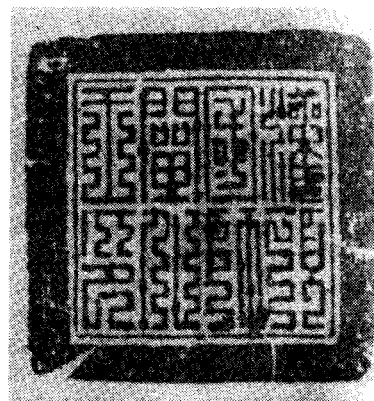
In the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties, the relation of "beneficiary" and "benefactor" between the local Tibetan authority as receiver and the central imperial court as giver was different from the religious one existing among monks and laymen.

According to historical records, the "beneficiary and benefactor" relation between Tibet and the central imperial courts took shape in the course of the political process of Tibet's subordination to the central imperial courts. Tibet's subordination to the Yuan Dynasty was realized through negotiation and consultation, not through the establishment of a religious "beneficiary and benefactor" relation. At that time, it was impossible for Mongolian aristocrats to give up their own religion of Shamanism and Nestorianism to become converted to Buddhism shortly after the subordination. It was impossible for Go Tan, the Mongol prince, to take the initiative of inviting a lama as a beneficiary. After much political maneuverings, the famous Tibetan Sagya Master Banzhida (Sapan) was invited to visit Liangzhou, an inland town, in 1246. He decided to subordinate Tibet to the Mongol imperial court after negotiation with Go Tan. Sapan issued a famous statement to the Tibetans, informing them of the alligence of Tibet to the central authority. It was pointed out in the statement that the subordination represented by Sapan was sincere and that Tibet would submit to the rule of the central authority. It was also noted in the statement that the Mongolians had come to believe in Buddhism, and sutras



Sapan to continue to expound the Buddhist canons. Sapan called the Mongolian Khan the incarnation of Bodhisattva and a "great benefactor." This showed that the "beneficiary and benefactor" relation was formed with the political subordination of Tibet to the central imperial courts.

It is proved by the above fact that political subordination was the prerequisite for the establishment of the "beneficiary and benefactor" relation, and the establishment of that relation was the result of the realization of the political objective, and was also an important means to solidify the political relation. If the "beneficiary and benefactor" relation had not been established, the historical process of Tibet's subordination to the central imperial court would not have been so smooth. As proved by the facts, the establishment of the relations through peaceful negotiations helped avert a disastrous military confrontation and smoothly solve the issue of political subordination. This historical process manifested vividly the unique cultural tradition and political wisdom of the or-



Seal given to the Tibetan ruler as a token of power by a Ming Emperor in 1373, and the print of the seal.

iental nation. It made a great historical contribution to a unitary multi-national state.

New dynasties tended to follow the preceding tradition. It was not true that everything changed with the replacement of one dynasty by another. During the long history of the Ming and Qing dynasties following the Yuan, Tibet was always an integral part of China. The "beneficiary and benefactor" relation existing together with the political relation was maintained with special characteristics of different dynasties. The "beneficiary and benefactor" relation was always controlled by the political subordination. During the history of the three dynasties, the central governments benefited Tibet by giving salaries to the living Buddhas and the Dalai Lama and Bainqen Lama, building temples for the two and giving alms to monks. The local leader who combined both political and religious authority submitted to the emperors of the three dynasties, received the conferment of titles from the central authority, and recognized the subordination of Tibet to it. Meanwhile, as benefactors,

the emperors of all the dynasties safeguarded the political, religious and economic interests of Tibet, resisted external invasions and safeguarded the unity of China. This is the essence of the "beneficiary and benefactor" relation between Tibet and central authority.

Q: The relationship between Tibet and the imperial court during the Yuan and Qing dynasties is said to have been simply the relationship between the Tibetans and two other nationalities, the Mongolians and the Manchus. What conclusion can one draw from that?

A: During the Yuan and Qing dynasties, there did exist relations between Mongolians and Tibetans, between Manchus and Tibetans, between Han people and Mongolians and Manchus, and between Mongolians or Manchus and other nationalities. These relations were formed under the central rule of the imperial court during the Yuan and Qing dynasties. The relations established under the prerequisite of political submission were in fact relations of political subordination. All other relations, including relations between nationalities, and religious relations, were of the same nature.

Chinese feudal society, which lasted more than 2,000 years, bears several characteristics. First, China is a multi-national country. The Chinese nation of today arose from centuries of exchanges between nationalities which appeared on this broad and rich land called China.

Second, apart from the Han nationality, other nationalities such as the Mongolian and Manchu nationalities also once in Chinese history set up unified imperial courts which exercised centralized authority. Local imperial courts and regional authorities were also set up by

many nationalities. For example, the Xianbei established the Northern Wei Dynasty in the fifth century; the Tubos set up the Tubo Kingdan and the Mohe set up the Bohai regime in the 7th century; the Qidans established the Liao imperial court; the Baimans founded the Dali regime in the tenth century and the Dangxiangqiang established the Xixia regime in the 11th century, and the Nuzhens set up the Jin Dynasty in the 12th century.

However, despite the changes of dynasties, China continued to be ruled by one imperial court, namely, the Qin, Han, Sui, Tang, Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties. Most of these imperial courts were set up by the Han nationality. Other nationalities also established centralized imperial courts. For instance, the Mongolian nationality founded the Yuan Dynasty in the mid-13th century, and the Manchu nationality set up the Qing Dynasty in the mid-17th century.

Third, interdependence and unification dominated the century-long exchanges among nationalities. A strong solidarity and coherence have thus developed in the Chinese nation. The imperial court set up by Han or other nationalities and local administrations were often dominated by officials from one nationality with the participation of those from other nationalities. The main characteristic of such administrations was the strong protection of China's unity, allowing no separation of the land or the country. The coherence which originated from the mutual exchange and attraction among the nationalities accounts for the existence of a unified China and the development shared by all nationalities.

Tibet which became an administrative region during the Yuan Dynasty continued to be admin-

istered by the Ming and Qing dynasties. The ethnical relations between Tibetans and Mongolians, or Manchus, were turned into the subordination of the local Tibetan authority to the central authority after the Mongolians and Manchus set up their own dynasties. So the arguments which represent China as having been conquered by foreigners during the Yuan and Qing dynasties, the arguments that ignore China's political and history and render the relation between the local government of Tibet and the central power as that between Tibetan and Mongolian or Manchu nationalities do not accord with historical facts.

Q: Some people use the differences in race, language and culture between the Tibetan and Han nationalities to show that Tibet is an independent country. Does this argument stand?

A: It is common knowledge that country and nationality are different concepts. There are countries in the world composed of one single nationality, or many nationalities. Also one nationality can set up several countries, or can be divided and join other countries. So the argument that uses distinctions in race, language and culture to testify that one nationality cannot exist together with other nationalities in one country is not in accordance with history and reality.

The Tibetan nationality created a rich and highly distinctive culture of its own over a long period of historical development. The Chinese government respects the traditional culture of Tibet and carries out policies which promote the inheritance and development of the Tibetan culture. Furthermore, there has been a long history of exchanges, absorption and mutual influence among the cultures of the Tibetan, Han and other nationalities.

Archaeological findings in recent years show that primitive culture on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in the Neolithic Age when the ancient Tibetan nationality was being formed was a complex culture with multiple characteristics. The ancient civilization in the Central Plains of the Yellow River valley and in the Yangtze River valley, the prairie nomadic culture to the north, and the tropical valley agriculture in Southeast China all were once converging in the direction of spacious, beautiful Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. The multiplicity in the primitive culture of Tibet was due to the mutual influence and mixing of these ancient cultures on the plateau. Among the brotherly nationalities in China exist both unique characteristics of independent development of individual culture and common historical characteristics; the combination of which represents the boundless amplitude of the culture of the Chinese nation.

Q: Some self-exiled Tibetans claim, "We have our own national flag, army and currency. Tibet is worthy of the name of an independent country." What are the facts?

A: The "national flag" separatists mention is the "Snow Mountain Lion Flag," the flag of the local Tibetan army. In Tibetan history, the lion flag appeared in the 7th century. When Songtsan Gambo established the Tubo Kingdom, he divided Tibet into four political and military regions, a system somewhat like the system for deployment of troops in the Tang Dynasty—the so-called "four ru's in Tibet." Each ru contained two branches, the upper ru and the lower ru. Therefore, there were altogether eight branch ru's in Tibet. Ru means "flank," a military battle-formation. To command and muster troops easily,



Certificate of appointment given to Sakya Yeshe, head of the Tibetan Gelug denomination by a Ming Emperor in 1410.

each branch ru had its own ru flag. Of these flags two had a lion design.

By the mid-9th century, the Tubo Kingdom collapsed. For a long time after that, there were no regular troops in Tibet. Certainly, there was no formal army flag. It was not until the late 18th century that the Qing Dynasty sent troops to repulse a foreign invasion of Tibet and formulated the well-known 29-article Regulations Concerning the Administration of Tibet. The regulations called for establishing a local regular army system. The 4th article stipulated, "There has been no regular army in Front and Rear Tibet. When needed, an army was temporarily conscripted, thus lacking fighting power and interrupting people's normal life, with negative effects. Now with the permission of the emperor, the local regular army is to be 3,000 strong. One thousand soldiers each will be stationed in Front and Rear Tibet, and 500 each will be stationed in Gyangze and Tingri." The 3,000-men army was the "Tibetan Army." Both regular training and command in battle needed an army flag so the Tibetan army flag was designed accord-

ing to the ru flag of the Tubo Kingdom. This is the history of the "Snow Mountain Lion Flag." In 1954, when the 14th Dalai Lama attended a meeting in Beijing, Chairman Mao Zedong asked him, "It is said Tibet had a national flag. Is it true?" He denied this and answered that the "Snow Mountain Lion Flag" was an army flag.

Since the question of the "national flag" is clearly explained, that of the "army" is also solved. Historically, the Tibetan Army was established under the auspices of China's emperor. It served as a local army and along with the troops sent by the central government, it was under the command of the commissioners sent by the Qing court to Tibet to consolidate national defence and safeguard local security. In order to improve the quality of the troops, the central government of the Qing Dynasty set clear stipulations in the 29-article Regulations concerning the establishment of the army, provisions and funds, and awards and punishments. The Tibetan Army existed as a part of the whole nation's military system in the Qing Dynasty.

The currency in Tibet was a component part of China's cur-

rency system. Since the Han and Tang dynasties, the Tibetan currency had close ties with that in the interior. In the 13th century, when Tibet formally became a region of China, it used gold and silver as a means of payment just as in the interior. The central government in the Yuan Dynasty provided large amounts of financial aid for Tibet. Four aids recorded in the *History of the Yuan Dynasty* included 5,754 taels of gold, 21,000 taels of silver and money worth 150,000 taels in silver. At that time, the courier station along the routes from the inland to Tibet were provided funds in the form of silver by the central government.

In 1792, Tibet became the first region in China to mint silver coins. Before that, silver coins made in Nepal had circulated in Tibet. To exchange silver for silver coins brought great losses so the Qing government decided to change the situation. It planned to mint coins in the interior then send them to Tibet. Because of the difficulties caused by the long distance and precipitous paths on the way, the government decided instead to send skilled workers to Tibet and set up its own mint there. Thus, under the supervision of the commissioner to Tibet, the first Tibetan "Zhangka" was produced in Gongbo. The following year, the Qing government formulated the 29-article Regulations Concerning the Administration in Tibet, which stipulated setting up a "coin-minting department" in Tibet. Two zipons and two zehongs appointed by the commissioner to Tibet and the Dalai Lama were responsible for coin-minting affairs. All the facts show that the Tibetan currency system was decided on by the central government and the Tibetan currency minted with the approval of the Qing emperor. It was part and parcel of the na-

tional currency system.

Q: How did the titles of "Dalai" and "Bainqen" come into being?

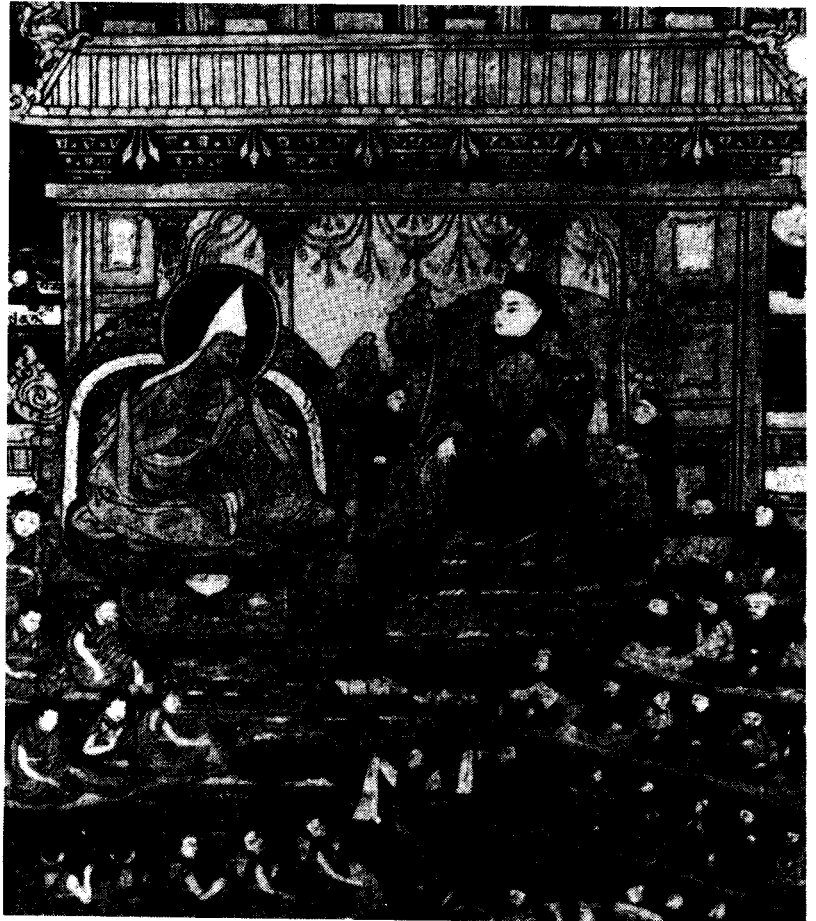
A: Dalai and Bainqen were two disciples of Tsong-Kha-pa, the founder of the Yellow Sect of Tibetan Buddhism. They formed two hereditary systems. The two titles were granted by China's emperors.

The word "Dalai" first appeared in the Ming Dynasty. In 1578 (the 6th year of the Ming Emperor Wanli), Altan Khan of the Tumet tribe of the Mongols stationed in Qinghai and invited Sonam Gyatso, leader of Yellow Sect, to preach in Qinghai. The two of them respected each other politically and exchanged honorific titles. Altan Khan named

Sonam Gyatso "Dalai Lama." It was a combination of Tibetan, Mongolian and Sanskrit, meaning "omniscience and great authority." From then on, the title of Dalai Lama has existed in Tibetan history. But this was only an honorific title exchanged between individuals. At that time, the Ming government had appointed Altan Khan the Prince Shunyi. Because of this, Sonam Gyatso asked Altan Khan to request the Ming emperor for a title on his behalf. Before long, Emperor Wanli acceded to this request and conferred on him a title which included the word "Dalai."

After the Qing Dynasty was founded, the 5th Dalai Lama

A mural in the Potala Palace depicting Losang Gyaco (*left*), the fifth Dalai Lama, paying homage to the Qing Emperor Shunzhi in 1652.



was invited to Beijing by the Qing emperor in 1652. He requested the Qing emperor for a title. In 1653, Emperor Shunzhi, formally entitled him "Dalai Lama," and granted him a gold seal engraved in Chinese, Manchu and Mongolian script.

To better rule Tibet, the Qing court ordered the Seventh Dalai Lama to take charge of the region's administration in 1751. Whenever the Dalai Lama took measures in the local government, it had to be reported to the emperor by the commissioner to Tibet and follow imperial decree. For instance, the Eighth Dalai Lama was not permitted to take charge of Tibetan affairs until he was 23 years old. In

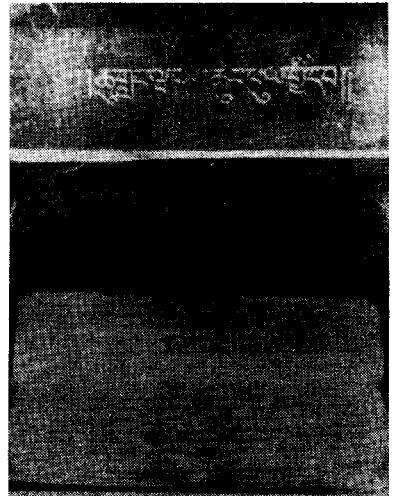
1844, when the 11th Dalai Lama was 18, Qi Shan, commissioner to Tibet, wrote in his memorial, "The Dalai Lama is 18 years old. According to the example of the 'Eight Banners,' I request on behalf of the Dalai Lama that he take over the reins of the local government. The incumbent regent should be dismissed right away." The Qing emperor agreed to the request and directed the Department of Personnel to set up files. After that, there was a clear precedent as to the age and procedures of request and reply, for when the Dalai Lama ought to come to power in Tibet.

The title "Bainqen" first appeared in 1645 (the second year of the Qing Emperor Shunzhi),

when the Mongolian chieftain Gushri Khan bestowed it upon the Fourth Bainqen. The full title was "Bainqen Bogto," with Bainqen coming from the Tibetan word meaning "master scholar," and Bogto meaning "wise and brave man" in Mongolian.

In 1713, the Emperor Kangxi of the Qing Dynasty changed the title for the Fifth Bainqen Lozong-Yiehsi. The imperial order ran: "In accordance with the Dalai conferment, we bestow the title 'Bainqen Erdini,' and present him with a gold seal and gilded album." "Erdini" means "brightness" in the Manchu language. The seal for Bainqen read "Seal of Bainqen Erdini Conferred by the Emperor" and was

A tablet in Potala Palace, and the inscription wished the Qing Emperor a long life.



In 1793, the Qing government issued the 29-article Regulations Concerning the Administration of Tibet, which contained concrete provisions on the authority of the high commissioner, the reincarnation of Living Buddhas, foreign affairs, foreign trade and border affairs.

engraved in Chinese, Manchu and Tibetan. It was the beginning of the title "Bainqen Erdini" conferred by the central government.

Both the titles of Dalai and Bainqen have been handed down through a system of reincarnation. Since the Qing emperor conferred the titles, the "soul boys" reincarnate of the two recipients needed the approval of the central government. In 1792, in order to further improve the reincarnation systems of the Dalai and Bainqen, the Qing government, in the 29-article Regulations Concerning the Administration of Tibet, decided to adopt a new reincarnation system of "drawing lots from a gold urn." That is, the names of "soul boys" selected from every district according to religious ceremonies were written on slips in Chinese, Manchu and Tibetan and were sealed in a gold urn. The Qing court commissioners to Tibet shook the urn before the group representatives from Tibetan religious and laical circles,

opened it and drew out a name-tag at random. The chosen child was the "soul boy" reincarnate of the late Dalai Lama or Bainqen. He then had to await ratification from the imperial court. When the "soul boy's" identity was confirmed, the commissioner to Tibet would preside over the official installation ceremony. Some "soul boys" did not have to be chosen through "drawing lots from a gold urn," but their names always had to be submitted to the central government for ratification before they could assume their positions. During the last century or more, this has become the usual practice.

This demonstrates that China's central authority had exercised the power of ratification over the "soul boys" of the Dalai Lama and the Bainqen Erdini and over the conferring of their titles. Such a procedure arose because Tibet in those times was carrying out a system in which political power was integrated with religion. The Dalai Lama and Bainqen Erdini were both religious and political leaders in Tibet. That the central government ratified them the title "soul boys" reincarnate had two significant meanings—granting them political power as the highest leaders in Tibet and recognizing their leading religious roles. At all times and in all countries, the seal of a political ruler or regime is a symbol of power and a demonstration of the legal right to rule. Therefore, China's central government had to present seals when ratifying the ti-

ties of the Dalai Lama and the Bainqen Erdini as legal proof of power. The central government also had the right to abolish the titles. So the ratification and conferment procedures were an important exercise of the administrative authority of China's central government.

Q: Speaking of China's central government exercising authority over Tibet, many scholars cite the famous 29-article Regulations Concerning the Administration of Tibet. Yet some people deliberately ignore it. What sort of document is it anyway?

A: The 29-article Regulations Concerning the Administration of Tibet is an important document which outlines how the Qing government administered the affairs of Tibet. In 1788, Korga intruded across the border of Tibet. In 1791, Korga invaded Tibet again, occupied Xigaze, sacked the Tashilhunpo Monastery, and brought great suffering to the Tibetan people. The 8th Dalai Lama and the 7th Bainqen reported the incident at once to the Qing central government. Emperor Qianlong sent two generals at the head of a 17,000-man army made up of the people of Han, Mongolian, Manchu, Ewenki and Daur nationalities. The troops entered Tibet and fought back the Korga army, driving out the invaders in May 1792. The king of Korga admitted his guilt and begged for peace. After the invasion, the Qing government considering that the various local systems of Tibet had imperfections instructed General Fukangan together with the local authorities of Tibet to reform the administrative systems, and to draw up a set of regulations. They formulated the 29-article Regulations Concerning the Administration of Tibet.

The 6,000-word, 29-article document contained concrete,

In 1940, the KMT government send officials to Lhasa to visit the new incarnate, then a child, of the 14th Dalai Lama.



clear provisions on politics, economy, the appointment and dismissal of important officials, and military and foreign affairs. Its major points were:

—Provision on the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama, Bainqen Erdini and other important Living Buddhas.

Article 1 stipulated, "In order to revitalize the Yellow Sect, the emperor presents a gold urn. The names and dates of birth of the 'soul boys' are to be written on ivory slips in three scripts Manchu, Han and Tibetan. The slips are placed in the gold urn. The Living Buddha of great learning prays for seven days. Then the Hutukotus (Living Buddhas in Mongolian language) and the high commissioner of the Qing court to Tibet shake the urn, open it and draw a name-slip at random. They officially ratify the Dalai Lama and Bainqen Erdini before the Statue of Sakyamuni Buddha in the Jokhang Monastery." After that, the system of "drawing lots from a gold urn" was officially established.

—Provision on the authority of the high commissioner dispatched to Tibet by the Qing government and their relationship to the Dalai Lama and Bainqen Erdini.

Article 10 stipulated, "The high commissioner dispatched to Tibet by the central government, the Dalai Lama and Bainqen are equals and are charged with handling the affairs of the local government through consultation. Officials below the rank of kaloon and Living Buddhas are subordinate to the high commissioner." The Tashilhunpo Monastery is to "report all special affairs to the high commissioner beforehand so that the high commissioner can handle them in time on the spot." Other articles also stipulated the authority of the high commissioner. The reincarnation of the Da-

lai Lama, Bainqen Erdini and other Living Buddhas should be decided under the supervision of the high commissioner; the official installation ceremony of a new Dalai Lama or Bainqen should be presided over by the high commissioner; military officers and local government officials of Tibet are to be chosen or appointed by the high commissioner; the high commissioner is to examine revenues and expenditures of the Dalai Lama and Bainqen, supervise tax collection and levies, call up local recruits, administer corvee services, border trade and the disposition of criminal cases.

—Provision on the appointment, dismissal, promotion and demotion of officials in the local government of Tibet.

Article 11 stipulated, "When a new kaloon is chosen, two candidates are to be nominated from among daipon, zipon, and qiangzuo by both the high commissioner and the Dalai Lama before finally appointment by the emperor. Except for a new kaloon and dapon, who must be appointed by the emperor, the other appointments are made by the high commissioner and the Dalai Lama and certificates awarded to them in Manchu, Han and Tibetan languages. The qiangzuo, suopon, senpon and zhongpon in the Tashilhunpo Monastery are appointed by the Bainqen Erdini and the high commissioners through consultation."

—Provision on the local regu-



In 1954, the 14th Dalai Lama (right) and the 10th Bainqen Erdini (left) were present at the First Session of the First National People's Congress and voted for the Constitution of the People's Republic of China. The 14th Dalai Lama was elected vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

lar army of Tibet.

Article 4 stipulated, "The local regular army of Tibet is to be 3,000 men strong. In the past, there was no regular army in Front and Rear Tibet. When a war broke out, many people were recruited. They were not qualified soldiers and production in the region was undermined." It also stipulated the amount and supplies of the provisions and equipment to the army.

—Provision on the local monetary system in Tibet.

Article 3 stipulated the style, quality, weight and rate of exchange of the currency in Tibet.

—Provision on the finance, taxes and corvee services in Tibet.

—Provision on reducing taxation and land rent.

—Provision on the administration of justice and the establishment of litigation proce-

dures.

—Provision on the management of monasteries, appointment and dismissal of the kumpus, support of monks and the ratification of Living Buddhas invited by Qinghai and Mongolia.

—Provision on the administration of foreign affairs, foreign trade, foreign nationals and border affairs.

The formulation and implementation of the 29-article Regulations Concerning the Administration of Tibet were in keeping with the aspirations of the Tibetan people who hoped for maintaining stability and safeguarding unity. It accelerated the pace of the development of Tibetan society and brought about a closer relationship between Tibet and the whole country. It was a milestone and a symbol of civic advance. The exercise of authority over Tibet by central governments since the Yuan Dynasty served as a basis which enabled the Qing court to administer the affairs of Tibet effectively and bring it into the orbit of the national legal system.

Q: Since historical facts prove that Tibet is an inseparable part of Chinese territory, how did the so-called "Tibetan independence" come into being?

A: Tibet has long been a part of Chinese territory and China has long had complete sovereignty over Tibet. This is a historical fact. The issue of the "independence of Tibet" did not appear until the outbreak of the Opium War which marked imperialists' invasion against China in modern times. Getting at the root of the matter, the so-called "Tibetan independence" is a product of the colonialist and imperialist invasion of China.

1. The early activities of the British imperialist attempt to enter directly into Tibet. In the

second half of the 18th century, after the British colonialists occupied the whole India, they began to invade the small countries at the southern foot of the Himalayas, extending their intrusion into Tibet of China. The governor of the British East Indian Company in Bangladesh sent some people to Tibet successively in 1774 and 1783, demanding trade relations, and collecting important information about the market, resources and transportation in Tibet and the relation between the central government of China and the Tibetan local authority. The local Tibetan officials told them that Tibet was governed by the Chinese emperor and that without the emperor's permission, the local officials had no right to discuss anything with foreigners, and refused their demand for trade relations. The British colonialists' attempt to directly enter into Tibet thus failed.

Since it was impossible to enter into Tibet directly, the British colonialists adopted a method to control the small countries along the Himalayas and encircle the Tibetan region of China. In 1854, with the support of Britain, Nepal invaded Tibet. The Nepal-Tibet Treaty was signed with the permission of the Chinese commissioner to Tibet, giving Nepal many privileges in Tibet. Later, Britain ruled Sikkim directly and controlled Bhutan, and thereby had the vital communication lines to Tibet in hand.

2. The British colonialists' armed invasions against Tibet. In 1888, Britain launched its first invasion of Tibet, occupying Zali, Yadong, Langre and other places.

From the end of 1903 to August 1904, Britain launched its second invasion of Tibet, occupying Gyangze and intruding into Lhasa. The 13th Dalai

Lama retreated to the interior. The British army forced the local Tibetan government to sign the illegal Lhasa Treaty with them.

Because of the negotiation of the Qing court, the Lhasa Treaty wasn't recognized but was regarded as an appended assignment to the Beijing Treaty signed by China and Britain in 1906. The British armed invasions did not attain its objective of casting off the Qing government and carrying out negotiations directly with the local Tibetan government in order to deny China's sovereignty over Tibet by use of the term "suzerainty".

The Tibetan people's brave resistance against armed British invasions is a glorious chapter in the modern history of the Chinese people's fight against imperialists.

3. The imperialists built up the pro-imperialist forces in Tibet's upper classes in order to separate Tibet from China. When Russia intruded into the northwestern territory of China, it also began to take a hand in Tibetan affairs. In 1907, Britain and Russia signed the Convention Between Great Britain and Russia Relating to Persia, Afghanistan and Tibet, in which there was one section about Tibet, calling China's sovereignty over Tibet the right of suzerainty. It was the first time the term "suzerainty" was used in an international treaty concerning Chinese affairs. It was typically imperialistic for Britain and Russia to compromise their own interests on the basis of jointly harming China. Since they did it behind the back of the interested party, China, the convention was illegal and invalid in terms of international laws.

By force, Britain could not entirely achieve its purpose of controlling Tibet, so it changed its

measures. On one hand, they resorted to all sorts of gimmicks, treachery and enticements to Tibet's upper classes to build up pro-imperialist forces and separate Tibet. They also tried to draw the 9th Bainqen to be their agent in Tibet instead of the Dalai Lama after the 13th Dalai Lama left Tibet for the interior. They coerced Bainqen to go to Calcutta, India, and gave him the most favored treatment. "They asked Bainqen to tell the Chinese government as soon as he went back to Tibet that China could not govern Tibet, and that Tibet should be independent," and "they planned to send Bainqen back to Lhasa to replace the Dalai Lama." Although this was all refused by Bainqen, the British provoked discord between the Front and Rear Tibet, causing conflicts between Dalai Lama and Bainqen.

In 1910, Britain sent Bell, the Indian political commissioner in Sikkim, to rope in the 13th Dalai Lama. The Dalai originally took a stand against Britain. Later, because he was extremely dissatisfied with the late Qing government's policy toward Tibet and himself, he exiled himself in India. Bell then persuaded him to break away from China. After the Revolution of 1911, the British governor in India urged the Dalai Lama to take advantage of the temporary chaos caused by the change of the Chinese central government and break away from China.

4. The so-called "Tibetan independence" activities carried out by the pro-imperialist forces in Tibet. After the Revolution of 1911, an armed conflict broke out between the Sichuan troops stationed in Tibet and Tibetan monks, army and local people. The Dalai Lama decided to go back to Tibet, and ordered the local government to issue a statement expelling Han people.

Some Westerners say this statement was the declaration of Tibetan independence. That is utterly groundless. At that time, all provinces in the interior reacted to the revolution, each declaring itself independent of the Qing government, and none declared itself an independent country. As for the Tibetan statement there was even no mention of independence from the Qing government.

Later, chaos occurred in Tibet, and Yuan Shikai ordered the troops in Sichuan to move into Tibet to put down the turbulence. Seeing that the tide had turned, Britain sent its ambassador to China to present five points, including "non-interference in Tibetan internal affairs," "no change of Tibet into a province," and Britain recognition of "China's suzerainty over Tibet." Britain also put pressure on the Chinese government, saying that if China sent troops to Tibet, "Britain would help Tibet be independent with its strength." In order to get Britain's recognition and support in return, Yuan Shikai gave in to British pressure and ordered the Sichuan troops to stop moving into Tibet.

At the Simla Conference in India in 1913 and 1914, behind the back of the Chinese representatives, the British representatives made a secret agreement with Tibetan representatives, drawing the so-called "McMahon Line" in an attempt to capture about 90,000 square kilometers of Chinese territory as a reward for the British support of "Tibetan independence." This conference was a secret transaction of "Tibetan independence" instigated by Britain. The Chinese government firmly rejected the Simla Treaty and the illegal "McMahon Line." The 13th Dalai Lama saw through Britain's ambition in his later

years, and adopted a pro-central-government but double-faced policy. After the 13th Dalai Lama passed away, the British and Indian governments took advantage of the War of Resistance Against Japan in China to keep on plotting the "independence" of Tibet.

At the time when the People's Liberation Army was winning victories in succession in the China's War of Liberation and the liberation of Tibet was in sights, the imperialists, however, continued to make a fuss on the Tibetan issue and plot of "the independence of Tibet." Under the instigation and plot of a British citizen named Richardson, and in the name of preventing Communists from entering Tibet, the pro-imperialist forces in Tibet created an incident of expelling Han people in 1949. Meanwhile, some CIA agents from the United States arrived in Tibet, declaring support to "Tibetan independence." The pro-imperialist forces in Tibet successively created a series of incidents, attacking the forces in Tibet who maintained the unity of the motherland, murdering the patriotic regent, the Living Bhuda Rabchen, and sending people to drum up support for the "independence of Tibet" throughout the world. The schemes, however, succeeded.

Historical facts show that despite the corruption of the late Qing government and domestic national oppression, the main reason behind the so-called "Tibetan independence" lies in the imperialistic invasion in essence, instigation and fostering of pro-imperialist forces in Tibet an upper classes. Therefore, in essence, the so-called "Tibetan Independence" is the product of the imperialist and colonialist invasion of China. ■

Tibet: Religious Beliefs and Reality

by Our Staff Reporter Li Rongxia

In Tibet, 90 percent of the people worship Tibetan Buddhism. Although the Buddhist influence is strong, this does not mean religion is the Tibetans' only concern. In daily life, they pursue a variety of personal and down-to-earth goals.—Ed.

August 20 is the traditional day for the Zhaibun Monastery in Lhasa to display its enormous *Tangkar* painting of Buddha. On August 20, 1990, we drove to the monastery.

I had set off together with my companions at six a.m. on a drizzling morning. On the wide asphalt road truckloads of people and pedestrians were all heading in the same direction.

We parked our car near the Zhaibun Monastery and walked up a muddy road to the hill where the painting of Buddha was to be displayed. When we got there, a huge crowd had already arrived and was waiting in the light rain for the ceremony to begin. As more and more people climbed atop the hill to feed the incense burners with cypress leaves, the hilltop became darkened mysteriously with rain and smoke.

The painting display ceremony began after the rain stopped. Lamas chanted Buddhist scriptures and blew sacred horns. They then displayed the enormous painting. Several dozen lamas held both ends of the scroll and unfolded it slowly and carefully. Every member of the crowd was held spellbound, fearful of missing even a moment to see the sacred object.

A Religious Atmosphere

Almost all Tibetans believe in Buddhism and the religious fervour can be felt not only in religious activities but also in daily life. Everyday, devout Buddhists visit the Zhaibun, Sera, Gandan and Jokhang monasteries in Lhasa and religious sanctuaries in other parts of Tibet to worship, give alms or add butter oil to the lamps there.

In Tibet today, there are some 1,400 monasteries and temples, each of which has dozens of statues of Buddha for people to worship. Butter lamps in front of these statues are always lit. Although local butter oil is sold at 18 yuan (US\$3) per kg, an expensive item for Tibetans, the ordinary Tibetan never hesitate to buy some for religious purposes.

I visited the Jokhang Monastery a couple of times and whenever I got there I witnessed dozens of people, mostly middle-aged and older women, prostrating themselves in front of the monastery gate. There are always people spinning prayer wheels as they walk along Barkor Street.

In Tibet, one always sees mani stone mound and sutra banners. Mani stone mounds, some of the stones carved or inscribed with six-word incantations, can be as

large as several hundred metres in diameter or as small as collection of several small stone carvings. When the Tibetan Buddhists pass them, they prostrate themselves, pour *qingke* barley wine over them, powder them with flour, chant scriptures or add a few pieces of small stones as a token of respect for Buddha.

During our visit, we also saw pieces of red, yellow, green, white and blue cloth printed with Buddhist scriptures in the Tibetan language. These are called sutra streamers by the Tibetans and are hung atop house roofs and any site high above the ground. Our guides told us that sutra streamers are a sign of homage to Buddha.

The impact of religion is also very strong within Tibetan families. Some well-to-do families keep a special room for worshipping Buddha, while most ordinary families have extremely colourful niches, in front of which they place bowls of holy water.

In a discussion about Buddhism in Tibet, Chen Rende, an official with the Tibet Autonomous Regional Committee for Nationalities and Religious Affairs, said that religion and government were combined in Tibetan history. "Before the Democratic Reform of 1959, Tibet was a feu-

dal serf society under theocracy. Since the 17th century, the Dalai Lama had received an official title from the central government of China, serving as both head of Tibetan religious groups and supreme leader of the Tibetan local government," Chen said. "It is the historical condition that makes all Tibetans Buddhist worshippers."

Pursuit

Although the Tibetans have maintained their religious belief, their personal pursuits have changed with the times. In the past, when feudal serfdom held sway in Tibet, many yearned to be a lama or a Living Buddha in a monastery so that they would no longer have to be slaves. Today, although a small number of youngsters still hope to be a lama, most work hard for economic or cultural advancement so that Tibet will thrive and they will have a better life.

A Government Expert

Qamba Chilie, 62, is head of the Hospital of Tibetan Medicine. A recognized leader in his field, he was awarded the title of State-Level Expert, a much esteemed award.

Qamba studied Tibetan medicine, calendar calculations, astronomy and Tibetan classics for nine years at *Mendzi Khang* (the Administration of Medicine and Calendar Calculation) and, in 1963, he was appointed head of the Hospital of Tibetan Medicine in Lhasa.

"Tibetan medicine has a history of some 2,000 years," Qamba said while showing us some ancient *Tangkar* anatomical paintings. "They are accurately and exquisitely treated and indicate the wisdom of our ancestors."

Picking up a well-bound edition of the *Four-Volume Medical Codes*, Qamba said that in the

past people differed over who authored the comprehensive book on Tibetan medicine. "Some said it came from India while others said that it was written by the God of Medicine, namely the incarnation of Sak-yamuni, the founder of Buddhism."

"In order to find the real author of the book, I visited many folk doctors and consulted many historical records," Qamba said. "Twenty-eight records show that the book was the masterpiece of Yutok Yonden Gonpo. Born in 708, Yutok was the private doctor of Trisong Detsan, a Tibetan king. He wrote the *Four-Volume Medical Codes* on the basis of his experiences over many years.

"In the process of its development, Tibetan medicine benefited a lot from the traditional medicines of other nationalities and even foreign countries. In particular, it is closely related with traditional Chinese medicine," Qamba said. "What are said to be the five elements—water, fire, metal, wood and

earth—can also be found in Tibetan medicine book. Tibetan doctors also feel pulse of the patient when diagnosing, just like doctors of traditional Chinese medicine."

Talking about the historical ties between Chinese and Tibetan medicine, Qamba said that when Tang Dynasty Princess Wencheng married Tibetan King Songtsan Gambo, her dowry included a medical book entitled *Encyclopedia on Medicine*. The book was lost later but its content was absorbed and included in the *Four-Volume Medical Codes*.

In 1974, a public health school was set up in Lhasa, complete with several Tibetan medicine classes. When Qamba was asked to write teaching materials for them, he wrote *Elementary Medical Science, Physiology, Pharmacology, On Diagnosis, Pathology, Internal Medicine, Surgery, The Five Sense Organs, Gynaecology, and Paediatrics*, books which run to hundreds of thousands of words.

Lamas use their religious horns in a ceremony.

LI RONGXIA



Qamba is also a very gifted scholar in astronomical calendar calculations. "We use mathematical as well as traditional Chinese methods in explaining astronomical atmosphere. The purpose is to forecast seasonal changes so as to determine agricultural production and livestock breeding," Qamba said. His fellow workers told me that he had made many constructive and timely suggestions to local departments in charge of agriculture and animal husbandry projects.

When asked about his future retirement life, Qamba gave a broad smile. "You are right. The young Tibetan medical doctors have grown up and I should make way for them," he said. "After retirement, I will do some writing."

A Woman Writer

Degyii Como is the head of the local CPC Publicity Department of Shannan Prefecture and a novelist. When I met her at her home, the 43-year-old Tibetan woman immediately impressed me with her dignified attitude and fine, delicate features.

"Frankly, my success is no

match for many other Tibetan women," Degyii said when I told her the purpose of my visit.

"My first short story, *Galloping Horses*, was carried in *Tibetan Literature*, which earned me an unexpected third-class award from the Tibetan authorities," Degyii said. "The second one, *Spinning Prayer Wheel Slowly*, published three years later, was awarded a second-class prize."

The success whetted Degyii's appetite and she continued her writing. "I wrote *A Mushroom-Picking Girl* in Chinese, which was later translated into Tibetan language," she added. "It was included in a collection of outstanding Tibetan literary works."

Thus far, Degyii has published six stories and is still working on a novelette of 50,000 words, which describes the new generation of Tibetan intellectuals. "The *National Literature* has shown interest in my draft work and invited me to Beijing for further revision," Degyii said. "I simply did not have the time to go however because I was so busy with my creative work."

Degyii told me that before liberation, there was no female of-

ficial in the government and, historically, there was no female writers.

Degyii was lucky enough to be sent to study at the Tibetan Nationality College in Xianyang, Shaanxi Province, when she was 12. "I studied there for seven years and afterwards studied literature in Beijing in 1981," Degyii said. "During my spare time, I am translating a set of three books, respectively on Tibetan folk tales, folk songs and folk proverbs, into Chinese. They run to some 150,000 words. After completing the project, I will continue my career as an amateur writer."

New Farmers

Gyangze is one of many granaries in Tibet. In recent years, the local government has made an effort to build up water conservancy projects along the Nyang Qu River and encourage scientific farming there. In addition, the government distributed land to the farmers and assured them there would be no change in policy for a long time to come. As a result, there have been bumper harvests in the area for many years. Farmers there are richer than their counterparts in other parts of Tibet.

One day I went to visit Losang Wangdui, a farmer who lives at Naisha Village located in the county. He happened to be away on business and his wife received me.

She told me that her family contracted five hectares of land and harvested 35,000 kg of grain in 1989. "We sold 10,000 kg to the state and stored the remaining in five granaries we built," she said.

In a talk about her life, the woman said that she married in 1972. "At that time we had eight rooms and two cows," she said. "Now, just as you see, we have 62 rooms, five horses, two *pian niu*,

A Tibetan opera performance during the Sour Milk Drinking Festival. LI RONGXIA



which are offspring of bulls and female yaks, 11 milk cows, one Dongfeng Brand truck and four tractors—two of which, however, aren't in good shape."

When she showed me her rooms, I saw piles of Tibetan quilts. "Each quilt costs 300 yuan," the woman said with a touch of pride. "We have ten pair of mats. One pair costs 1,500 yuan."

In one carpeted room, there were cabinets for the Buddhist scriptures, a niche for the statue of Buddha and bowls of holy water. "This is our sutra room. However, as we are very busy, we seldom have the time to chant scriptures ourselves. Sometimes, we employ lamas to be this for us," she said. "Of course, we pay them."

The hostess also said that in addition to tilling the land, they run two stores selling sundry goods, one food process workshop and one oil press workshop. "My husband has organized a construction team of 30 people. At the moment, he is often away on business so we employ two people to help with regular

chores," the woman said.

Later I was told that her family was the richest in the area. When the late Bainqen Lama paid them a visit, the couple laid down the wool mats, each pair worth 1,500 yuan, from their home to the highway (some 100 metres long).

Young Lawyers

In January 1989, the Tibet Autonomous Regional Economic Lawyers' Office was open, the first time Tibet had their own lawyers.

The office is headed by Doje, 28 and a 1984 graduate of the Northwest Institute of Political Science and Law.

"Our office has four lawyers, the oldest being 33 and the youngest 24. In the first year of office operation, we handled 35 economic cases and prevented a possible loss of some 5 million yuan. In addition, we offer consultancy and lawsuit services," Doje said.

"The settlement of economic disputes often makes us very happy," Doje said. "We know that our work is of great import-



A professional lama craftsman works on a mani stone. CHEN ZONGLIE

ance to the development of Tibet."

Doje said he and one of his colleagues were entrusted with settling a dispute involving 30,000 yuan between the Golmud Automobile Co. of Qinghai Province and the Lhasa Branch of the Gansu Township Industrial and Mining Materials Co. The two had signed an agreement, under which the Golmud company did shipping work for the Lhasa Branch of the Gansu company. Although the latter was supposed to pay the former 30,000 yuan for two years of freight, it withheld payment. "We summoned both parties to a meeting and explained to them the legal situation," Doje said. "The Gansu company explained that financial problems prevented them from paying. When we learnt that a Xian company failed to pay the Gansu company 60,000

The state has invested 1.5 million yuan in renovating the lighting system in the Potala Palace. This scripture recitation hall is equipped with new lights.

MA JINGQIU



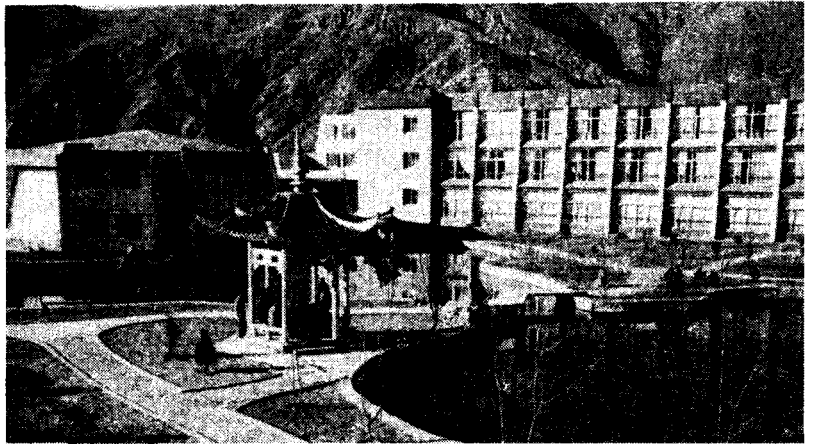
yuan, we managed to get that sum back for them. This made it possible for the Gansu company to pay the Golmud company."

Tibetan Cadres

In Gyangze County, I often heard people praising their Party secretary Puncog and, with great interest, I paid him a visit.

Puncog, 48, is an honest and easy-to-approach person who was quick to talk about his experience.

"I became a Tibetan cadre after Tibet's peaceful liberation. In 1962, I joined the others in supporting the PLA in resisting the Indians during the Sino-India border conflict, and saw with my own eyes how Han brothers shed blood for the defence of the motherland. They followed the Party's nationality policy to the letter. I will remember this for ever. At the time, I was a group leader and encouraged by my brothers, I did my best to support them. Because of my good performance, I was summoned to Beijing where I met the late



A modern Tibetan Hotel.

MA JINGQIU

Chairman Mao Zedong.

"I worked as a deputy district head in 1964 and was later sent to study at the Tibet Institute for Nationalities.

"In 1974, I was transferred to work in the county government in charge of constructing water conservancy projects and hydro-power stations. As I was poorly educated and had seen power stations in the hinterland only, I felt a lot of pressure to succeed. I sought advice from the engi-

neers and won their support. Our joint efforts led to the successful completion of the Gyangze Hydropower Station, a project which put an end to Gyangze's dependence on butter oil lamps and grinding barley by hand. The power station has contributed a lot to the development of the local economy.

"I was promoted to Party secretary of Gyangze County in 1980, right at the time of historical transition for China. Such a heavy task is really a severe test for me. But in the leading group there are many experienced, better educated people, including some of the Han nationality. I take them as my teacher and they give me warm support. This is why we can effectively promote the development of the reform in the agricultural and livestock breeding areas, the development of the commodity economy, and the quick spread of science and technology.

"Like the broad masses of the Tibetan people, I think without the Communist Party, there would be no New Tibet and no such happiness as we enjoy today. In the future, I will redouble my efforts to improve myself in the field of leadership so as to be able to guide the local people onto a road leading to affluence." ■

Caravan of trucks on the Qinghai-Tibet Highway.

MA JINGQIU



Textile Export Announcement

On February 21, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade issued its first stipulations for 1991's textile exports:

- All textile products produced in China, including those processed with imported materials, if these fall within the principle of import origin countries, must not bear the label of other countries and regions as origin countries and regions. Also, they may not exceed quota control, or be exported or transited to those countries that have signed bilateral agreements with China.

- Chinese textile producers and exporters must not export, through unjust transit (including the use of a third country and regions) as the origin producer in co-operation with businessmen from other countries and regions any textiles originally made in China and limited by quotas to those countries that have signed quota-limit agreements with China.

- All parts of the country should strengthen management over textile quota, strictly examine and verify the issuing of certificates of textile exports according to stipulations. Local customs should enhance supervision of textile exports so as to strictly prohibit enterprises having no export licences from exporting textile products.

A ministry official pointed out that the nation should confiscate goods, impose a fine or rescind the export licences of those enterprises that violated the above stipulations, and their legal responsibility will be investigated and affixed according to law.

At present, China signed bilateral textile agreements respectively with the EEC, the United States, Canada, Norway, Swed-

en, Finland and Austria. The agreements stipulate that China's textile exports to these countries are, practically or totally, subject to quota limits and are not allowed to be transmitted to these countries through a country or region.

According to the US customs, some Chinese textile export companies or production enterprises attached to part of the textile products originally produced in China the labels of the third countries or regions and relayed them to the United States, thus pole-jumping quota control. ■

Anhui to Attract Foreign Funds

On April 11-13, Anhui Province will hold a conference on construction projects using foreign capital in the Zhuhai International Trade Exhibition Centre in Guangdong Province in order to publicize its advantages in geography, economic resources and science and technology, boost its export-oriented economy, attract foreign capital and technology and speed up its economic development, especially in the areas along the Yangtze River.

The conference will be sponsored by the foreign economic relations and trade commissions and bureaus of the cities of Hefei, Wuhu, Maanshan, Tongling and Anqing. A total of more than 400 construction projects involving electronics, machinery, light, textiles, metallurgy, chemicals, food and tourism will be announced. All of them have a strong feasibility. The investment environment and the preferential policies for foreign and Taiwan investment in these cities will be introduced at the conference.

Anhui is an inland province close to the ocean. It boasts rich

economic resources. The province is in the national forefront in reserves of some minerals and farm produce. Some products have a ready international market and great potential for development. Hefei, the provincial capital, is an important scientific and educational base in the country. It has more than 30 institutions of higher learning, including the well-known China University of Science and Technology, about 100 scientific research institutes including the Hefei Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The scientific and technological sites now under construction have many favourable conditions for developing economic and technological co-operation with foreign countries. The cities of Wuhu, Maanshan, Tongling and Anqing on the banks of the Yangtze River have a long history of industrial production and business. They have abundant resources of minerals, farm and sideline products and tourism and are strong economically. Construction over the last few years has greatly improved the investment environment and developed a comprehensive communication network of railways, highways and waterways. Their telecommunication, water and power supply and other infrastructure facilities are sound. With a group of Sino-foreign joint ventures, co-operative and foreign-owned enterprises established, these cities are ideal areas for foreign investment. The well-known Huangshan Mountain scenic area is close to the cities.

During the conference, the foreign-funded enterprises department and related enterprises in these cities and other places in the province are ready to probe various ways to co-operate with foreign investors on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

by **Zhang Suzhou**

Hunan Pools Funds to Renovate Factories

In a five-day Symposium on the Use of Foreign Funds to Renovate Enterprises held in late January, Hunan Province signed contracts and letters of intent for 135 projects possibly attracting foreign funds of US\$320 million.

Chen Binfan, deputy director of the symposium and deputy provincial governor, said, "These projects were singled out to bid for foreign co-operation after repeated evaluation and feasibility studies. They involve metallurgy, nonferrous metals, machinery, electronics, textiles, building materials, chemicals and foodstuff. After the projects are put into operation, the profit margin is expected to be more than 15 percent. The products will sell well at home and abroad because of their high quality and some will be big foreign exchange makers. Multiple and flexible business forms have been used. For example, joint ventures, co-operative and foreign-owned enterprises were established along with processing with imported materials, assembling supplied parts and leasing."

The Xinhua Bank Hong Kong Branch provided US\$24.5 million in loan for a 30-ton electric furnace steel-smelting project for the Hengyang Steel Tube Co. Ltd. in Hunan Province. The project is one of the above mentioned items for which a contract has been signed. Ma Qinghua, general manager of the Hong Kong branch bank noted that the project is concerned with an enterprise's technical transformation which is certain to bring the production potential into full play and greatly in-

crease the output of seamless steel tube. Providing funds of the enterprise represents the beginning of future co-operation.

Hunan Province covers an area of 210,000 square km in the middle reaches of Changjiang (Yangtze) River in Central China. Since ancient times, the province has been a beautiful place. Endowed with its beautiful landscape and pleasant weather, Hunan has been long known as "the home of fish and rice," "the home of nonferrous metal," and "a tourist attraction." Hunan has established trade ties and economic and technical co-operation with more than 2,000 clients in 110 countries and regions, and signed contracts for 673 projects using foreign funds worth US\$1 billion. In addition, the province has set up 181 foreign-funded enterprises and exports US\$800 million worth of goods annually.

Chen added, "I hope that through the symposium more foreign funds and technology will be imported so as to quicken the technical transformation of our enterprises, update industrial production and increase foreign exchange earnings. At the same time, imports will be expanded to revamp the existing enterprises."

The province plans to hold the Third Foreign Economic and Trade Symposium in Changsha and Hunan Provincial Exhibition of Export Commodities in the Netherlands in September this year.

by Hong Lanxin

Better Investment Climate in Yantai

In early 1991, the Japan-China Food Interflow Investment Organization of Japan announced plans to open up a one-square-

kilometre food-processing area in the Yantai Economic and Technological Development Zone. Both sides are now conducting further negotiations.

Since its opening to the outside world in 1984, Yantai has signed agreements for 528 items using foreign capital amounting to US\$652 million, of which US\$379 million was in foreign capital. In 1990 alone, it signed 162 agreements worth US\$152.85 million, of which US\$90.99 million was in foreign capital, a 15.22 percent and 23.87 percent increase respectively over the previous year.

The chief reason why Yantai can attract foreign businesses is because of the comparatively big improvement the city has made in its investment environment. At present, it has opened a chartered freight air line to Tokyo, Japan, and passenger chartered flights to Hong Kong. The airport is capable of handling jumbo jet passenger planes in addition to domestic flights to Guangzhou, Xiamen, Shanghai and Beijing. Six newly expanded 10,000-ton docks at Xigangchi have been put into operation, making direct navigation with over 100 countries and regions possible and offering the capacity to handle over 10 million tons of cargo annually. Its programme-controlled telephones directly connect with over 160 countries and regions, and plans to add another 12,000 programme-controlled telephone project is progressing. China's first 1,000-ton ocean postal delivery wharf in Yantai is now operating. The Longkou Power Plant, built near a coal pit head, is China's first collectively funded and largest project, has already had a capacity of 600,000 kilowatts in operation and the third phase of its two 200,000 kw units is under construction. Construction work on Sino-foreign

joint ventures, the Huanghai Thermo Power Co. Ltd., and the Hualu Thermo Power Co. Ltd., have started. The zone is now one of China's cities with the best energy supply. The first two-square-kilometre area of the Yantai Development Zone has been completely finished and work on the zone's electricity, heat, water supply and drainage, telecommunications and road have basically been concluded.

The "soft" foreign investment environment is improving daily. Yantai has established a special service centre for foreign investment enterprises. The foreign economic and trade group, headed directly by the mayor, work in a building where all foreign departments are located in order to improve efficiency and simplify paper work. A foreign business chamber of commerce through which the mayor frequently conducts direct negotiations with foreign businesses and settles any problems that may occur in foreign investment enterprises has been set up.

by Wang Rong

Made in Beijing, Humidifier Sells Well

The high quality, ultrasonic wave humidifier developed and produced by the Beijing Yadu Artificial Environment Science and Technology Co. has been well received by domestic consumers, foreign embassies and business offices residing in China. For example, the British embassy in China bought one humidifier for trial use and two months later purchased another 90. The US Telegram and Telephone Co. China office bought 84 humidifiers in the past year.

So far, more than 4,000 humidifiers have been used to humidify offices and apartments of foreign embassies and business

offices in China. Some 1,000 have been sold abroad.

The product was up to the United States' UL standards and, in October 1990 it passed the appraisal by the China State Examination and Test Centre concerning Quality of Air-Conditioning Equipment. The company's General Manager He Lumin noted that the long service life of the product is one of its most outstanding features. The humidifier can work 10,000 hours on the average, or as long as its Japanese TDK counterpart. Other characteristics of the product include less consumption of electricity and water, automatic halt where there is no water within, automatic control of air humidity in the room and easy operation. The product is ensured with an adequate supply of water-purifying device and filth-removing agent.

The product is good for health, dispels static electricity. It can also be used in industrial and agricultural production and scientific research.

The company now enjoys a ready market in the United States, Denmark, Thailand and East European countries. The company is now pooling its ways and means to further improve its products so as to carve a larger share of the international market. ■

Shanghai's Largest Metallurgical Venture

The Shanghai Yichang Light Gauge Sheet Co. Ltd., jointly established by the United States Shanghai Pacific Joint-Stock Co. and the Shanghai Jiushi Co., recently began trial-production.

Cold-rolled thin slab is in short supply in Shanghai. The city consumes more than 200,000 tons but can only produce 5,000 tons a year. Given this,

Shanghai started making preparations for the project in 1989 and imported equipment from France, Austria, the United States and Britain. The total investment for the project came to 711 million yuan. During the test period, the main mill imported from France turned out 0.2mm thin sheet, the first thinnest of its kind in China.

The first-stage project will produce 300,000 tons of cold-rolled thin sheet a year and the second-phase project will make 500,000 tons. ■

International Ad Exhibition

The International Exhibition of Advertisement Apparatus and Equipment, sponsored by the International Advertisement Association, China Branch, the China Advertising Association for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade and other organizations will be held this May for six days at the Beijing Exhibition Centre.

During the exhibition, the China International Advertisement Forum, a combination of academic discussions on advertisement, advert works and apparatus will also take place.

At this exhibition the best advertising in China and abroad, and graphic design equipment will be on display; domestic and foreign advertising agents and companies will be introduced; and a variety of commercial and industrial enterprises, domestic and foreign, will publicize their products.

The ads shown will have been used in broadcasting, TV, newspapers, magazines, posters, printed matter, bill boards, neon signs, and display cases. Advertising companies and enterprises are invited to participate and exhibit their best ads, advanced graphic design equipment and apparatus.

by Li Ming

Xiao Youmei—Pioneer of Modern Chinese Music

In late December 1990, people from Chinese music circles gathered at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Xiao Youmei, one of the pioneers of modern Chinese music.

Xiao Youmei has been praised for establishing a landmark in the history of Chinese music by making great contribution to the development of modern Chinese music. Xiao began to study Western music in the early 20th century when he was a student at the Tokyo Musical School. Later, he continued his study of musical composition, theory and conducting in Germany at the Konigliches Konservatorium Zu Leipzig and the Stern Musikskule. Xiao graduated from the Leipzig University with a Ph. D.

In 1920 Xiao returned to China and became a professor of music at the Musical Research Society of Peking University. In May 1922, initiated by Xiao, the Musical Research Society was changed to the Conservatory of Music of the Peking National University, which became Chi-



Xiao Youmei.

na's first standard professional institution of musical education. With this, Xiao "ignited the fire of Western musical education in China," as was stated by a researcher at the North Illinois University. Before that, Western music was virtually unknown in China. A head of the Conservatory of Music, Xiao set up the first Chinese string orchestra he conducted, probably making him China's first string orchestra conductor in the real sense. In the 1920s in China, it was quite a

sensation to listen to the works of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven being played by a Chinese orchestra.

In 1927, the conservatory was banned by the warlords. Xiao moved to Shanghai where he founded China's first formal musical institution. The National Academy of Music (later changed to the National Institute of Music, predecessor of today's Shanghai Conservatory of Music). Xiao taught in this school for the rest of his life.

The National Institute of Music turned out a large number of talented musicians. Many of today's Chinese music celebrities studied there. More than 20 of its graduates have been listed in the music volume of the Encyclopedia Sinica. Therefore, the school is considered the cradle of modern Chinese music.

On one occasion Xiao Youmei was told by a music professor that one of his students, Yi Kaiji, had to withdraw from the school because of his inability to pay the fees. Shortly afterwards, Yi Kaiji was given a job teaching at a nearby school of music. Yi later found out that it was Xiao Youmei who had given him the job to enable him to support his studies. Now Yi is the dean of

Group picture taken in Nanjing in 1912: Xiao Youmei (first left, front row) and Sun Yat-sen (third left, front row); a picture of the Xiao family in the 1920s.



the Piano Department of the Central Conservatory of Music. Yi's students, Liu Shikui and Bao Huiqiao, have won prizes at both the International Chopin Piano Competition and the Chaikovsky Piano Competition, becoming the first Chinese musicians to win high awards at international competitions.

One of Xiao's chief policies in running the school in Shanghai was to invite Western musicians to teach there. Russian pianist Zakarov was one of them. Zakarov studied under Liszt and was a former piano professor at the Peterburg Musical Academy. It was due to Xiao's repeated invitations that Zakarov remained in China and taught at the school. Zakarov once told his Chinese students that at first he refused Xiao Youmei's invitation because he did not want to teach elementary music; it was Xiao's sincerity that persuaded him to stay on.

As one of the pioneers of modern Chinese music education, Xiao devoted much energy to the popularization of music education. He compiled and edited a large number of music textbooks for Chinese middle schools, including vocal, organ, piano and violin texts. His "A General Introduction to Music" has opened up the world of music to many Chinese students.

Xiao also composed some of the earliest modern Chinese musical works including "String Quartet," a brass piece, "March Against the Storm," two piano pieces, "Serenade" and "The Lament March," a cello solo, "Autumn Thought" and an orchestra work, "The New Dance of Rainbow-Coloured Feather Clothes." Most of Xiao's works were largely influenced by German music as is best manifested in one of his string quartets dedicated to Froulein Mollendorf, a German girl with whom he fell in deep love. In 1922 and 1923,

Xiao published his "Collection of Modern Musical Pieces" and "Collection of Modern Songs" which became the first group of professional works ever published by a Chinese composer.

For a long time, Xiao was misjudged as being an advocate of "totally Westernizing" Chinese music. In fact, Xiao attached great importance to the study of traditional Chinese music. His doctoral thesis, "Chinese String Orchestra Before the 17th Century—A Historical Survey," was still considered an important work in the study of the development of ancient Chinese music. In the early 1920s, Xiao invited Chinese folk artist Liu Tianhua to teach at the Musical Research Society of the National Peking University. Liu later became a famous Piba (a traditional Chinese plucked musical instrument) and Erhu (a traditional Chinese musical instrument) master. Xiao also set up the Society for the Reform of Traditional Chinese Music. In his music schools, Xiao required that all the students master at least one kind of traditional Chinese musical instrument and be familiar with national music while studying Western music. In 1939, Xiao offered a course named "History of the Development of Traditional Music" to give an outline of the history of Chinese music before the year 1795 to his students. Xiao also encouraged

his students to examine the shortcomings of traditional Chinese music in order to reform Chinese music in the future.

Xiao was also a close friend of Sun Yat-sen. While studying in Japan, Xiao once gave accommodation to Sun who had been followed by the detectives of the Qing Government. After the success of the 1911 revolution, Xiao served as a secretary in the president's office of the Republic of China. Xiao also wrote a song to lament over the death of Sun Yat-sen. In 1931, Japanese invaders occupied China's northeast. Xiao organized the Anti-Japanese Support Society. He also held concerts to raise money to support the anti-Japanese war. Xiao died in Shanghai in 1940.

Xiao's contributions and talent are being carried on by members of his family. His niece, Xiao Shuxian, influenced by her uncle during her childhood, later went on to study music in Germany and is now a professor at the Central Conservatory of Music. Xiao Shufang, another niece, is a renowned Chinese painter. His eldest son, Hsiao Chin, is a professor at the Milan Academy of Fine Arts in Italy. Hsiao Chin has donated money to the Central Conservatory of Music and the Shanghai Conservatory of Music to establish a Xiao Youmei Study Society in memory of his father.

by Cheng Gang

World Cup Bowling Championship to be Held in Beijing

The World Cup Bowling Championship will be held in China in November 1991. This is the first bowling championship to be held in China. Teams of 49 countries and regions have already signed up for the competition. The bowling centre of the Holiday Inn Lido Beijing, a large bowling ground established in China several years ago and

known for its high quality equipment and management, was chosen as the site for the competition. The World Cup Bowling Championship, held annually, is the largest bowling competition in the world. There have been 26 competitions since it began in 1965.

by Lou Linwei

Three Tourism Festivals in Hunan



A dragon boat contest on the Miluo River.

GONG TIEJUN

Hunan, an inland province in southern China, will sponsor three international tourism festivals: the Miluo River Dragon Boat Festival (June 16-18), the Fireworks Festival (September 8-10) and Zhangjiajie Forest Protection Festival (November 8-12).

Miluo River Dragon Boat Festival: According to historical records, the Qin troops attacked and captured the capital of Chu in 278 B.C. during the Warring States period. Upon hearing the news, Qu Yuan, a poet in exile, threw himself into the Miluo River in a show of patriotism. To protect his body from being dismembered by fishes, local people cast many glutinous rice balls on the river. This gradually turned into the custom of holding a boating competition and eating *Zongzi* (a pyramid-shaped dumpling made of glutinous rice wrapped in bamboo or reed

leaves) on the fifth day of the fifth month of the lunar calendar each year. The Miluo River in Hunan Province is the birthplace of the Dragon Boat Festival in China.

During the festival, people can view ancient sacrificial rites and boating scenes and participate in many local cultural activities.

Fireworks Festival: Hunan Province is the largest fireworks producer and exporter in China. Its products won a golden medal in the Fourth International Fireworks Competition held in Monte Carlo in 1986. The festival will be held in Changsha, capital of the province. Relevant departments will hold economic and trade talks with foreign businessmen.

Forest Protection Festival: Rich not only in zoological and botanical resources, Zhangjiajie, China's first national forest park, is also unique in natural land-

scapes. During the festival, people will have the rare opportunity to participate in such tourist activities as mountain-climbing, karst explorations and river rafting. In addition, participants will be able to visit local minority nationality villages. An international symposium on forest protection, exhibitions on forest ecology, potted landscapes and flowers and special local products as well as economic and trade talks will also be held there.

With a long history and beautiful natural scenery, Hunan is home to more than 40 tourist attractions. For example, a tomb dating back in West Han Dynasty (from 206 BC to 25 AD) was discovered in the 1970s on the outskirts of Changsha. In recent years, the provincial government has paid special attention to the development of its tourism industry by improving transportation and hotel facilities.

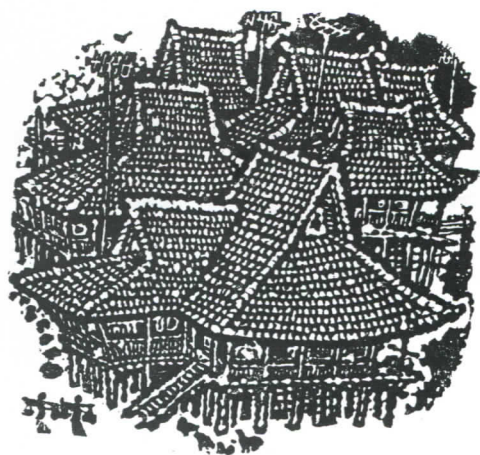
by Han Baocheng



Winter.

The Brick Engravings of Wang Jinxu

Wang Jinxu, born in Henan Province in 1939, is now a professional painter at the Political Department of the Air Force of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. Here are four of his works.



New Houses of the Dai Nationality.



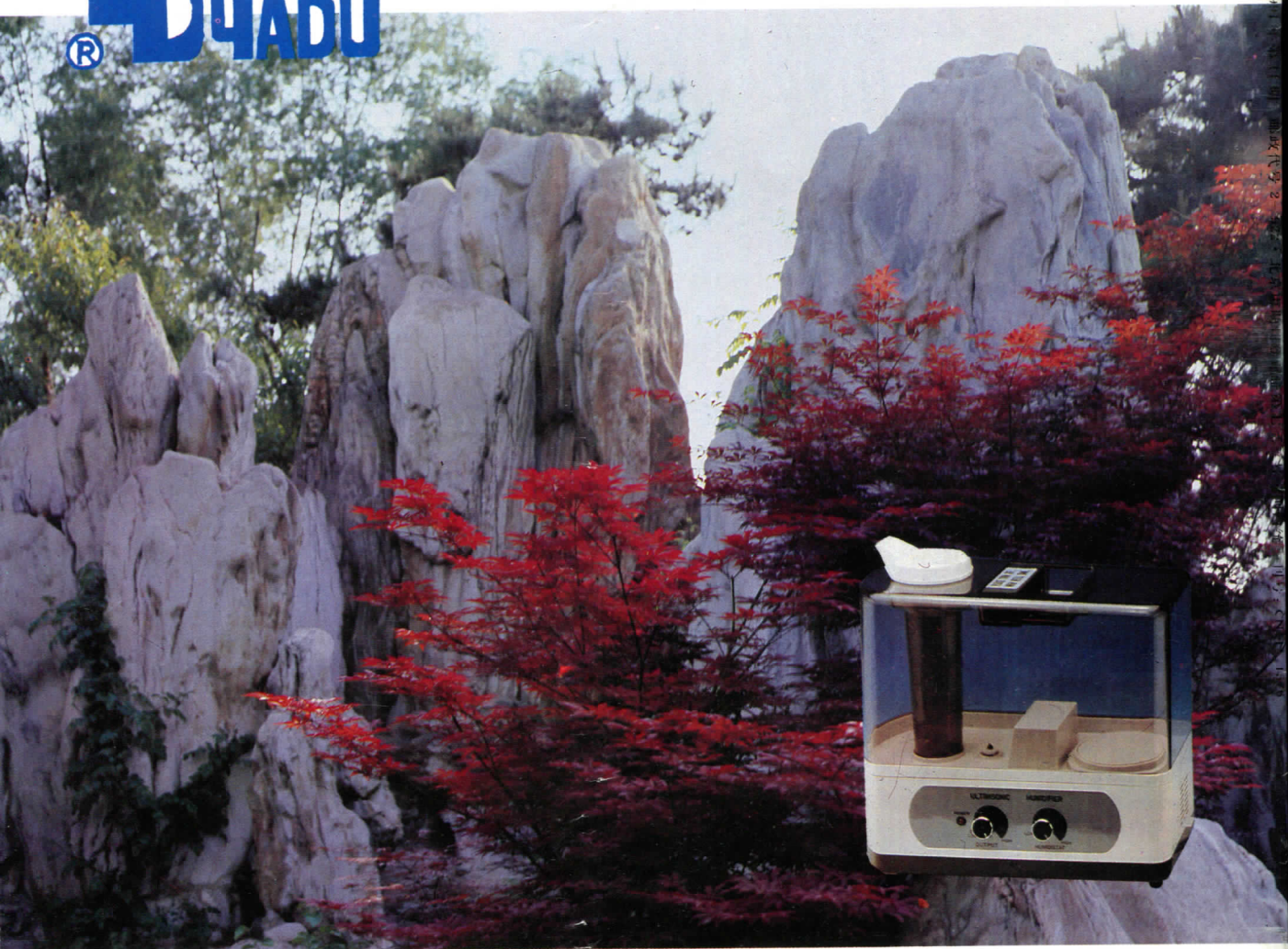
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