

# Beijing Review

北京周报

VOL. 34, NO. 12  
March 25-31, 1991

## COUNTY AND TOWNSHIP PEOPLE'S CONGRESS ELECTIONS



Salisbury Interviews  
President Yang



Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme  
On the Tibetan Issue



A fine catch of fish.

*Photo by Tan Zeqiu*

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

## President Yang Meets Salisbury

□ During his meeting with Harrison E. Salisbury, President Yang said that China will not change the policy of reform and opening to the outside world devised by Deng Xiaoping. President Yang pointed out that China has scored tangible results in its economic readjustment (p. 13).

## Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme on Tibetan Issues

□ At a recent press conference, Vice-Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme answered questions about an agreement reached between the central government and the local government of Tibet that led to the peaceful liberation of Tibet, the changes in Tibet over the past four decades, the reincarnation of the Tenth Baingen and freedom of religious belief (p. 16).

## Local People's Congresses Reelected

□ In an 18-month period, China conducted elections for people's congresses in counties and townships throughout the nation. The elections and the way they were carried out were a major event in the political life of the Chinese people (pp. 19-27).

## Developing Nations See Worsening Economies

□ Over the past decade, the economies of developing countries have been confronted with serious difficulties. Their economic growth has slowed down due to economic management inexperience and the unreasonable international economic order (p. 11).

## China's Programme for the 1990s

□ A forthcoming NPC session will discuss and decide upon China's programme for the 1990s. With the fulfilment of the first-stage goal in the 1980s, the second-stage goal, once again doubling the 1980 GNP, will be achieved so long as an average annual growth rate of 6 percent is maintained. The key to achieving the goal lies in adhering to the socialist road with Chinese characteristics (p. 4).

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**COVER:** A newly elected people's deputy cheered by her colleagues.

Photo by Zhu Feng

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# China's Development Programme for the 1990s

by Jin Qi

The National People's Congress (NPC) to be held on March 25, 1991 will discuss and decide upon China's development programme for the decade of the 1990s, a subject of wide concern to people at home and abroad.

The "Outline of the Ten-Year Programme for National Economic and Social Development and the Eighth Five-Year Plan (1991-95)" (draft) submitted by the State Council to the NPC for discussion and approval was drawn up in accordance with the proposals presented by the CPC Central Committee's plenary session held last December. Both central and local governments have spent more than a year preparing the draft, drawing various democratic parties, non-party personages, scholars and experts into the discussion.

This blueprint specifying the orientation, policies, measures and goals for China's development in the 1990s involves both succession and development.

In accordance with the three-stage strategic plan for China's socialist modernization, the second-stage goal will be reached in the 1990s as the 1980 GNP is quadrupled and a comfortable standard of living achieved.

Because the goal of doubling the 1980 GNP was fulfilled ahead of schedule in the 1980s, it is estimated that the second-stage goal will be achieved if an average annual growth rate of only 6 percent is maintained during the 1990s.

Although this growth rate is not high, the difficulty in achieving it lies in overcoming the long-standing tendency of excessive pursuit of quantity and by shifting the focus of economic development to improvement in quality and economic efficiency. To do these, it is necessary to maintain a balance between total social demand and supply, optimize the economic structure, strengthen weak economic links and bring the economy into the orbit of a sustained, steady and harmonious development. At the same time, it is necessary for enterprises to turn extensive management into intensive management and rely on technological progress and scientific management to strive for high-quality production and service and greater competitiveness. If these can be achieved, it will mark a change of far-reaching significance in the history of China's economic development.

The key to attaining the above-mentioned goal lies in adhering to the socialist road with Chinese characteristics. The concrete contents of this road have been gradually enriched in the process of implementing the basic line centred around economic construction, of upholding the four cardinal principles and persisting in reform and opening to the outside world. It is summed up as 12-article major principles in the CPC Central Committee's proposals and is the crystallization of the wisdom of the Party and the people and an embodiment of the outstanding contributions made by Deng Xiaoping, chief architect of China's modernization.

Economic restructuring and the open policy are the most remarkable change to have occurred in China's social and economic life over the past ten years. They are as well the basic stimulus to strive for major achievements. In the next ten years, China will press ahead with full-scale reform, open its door wider to the outside world and, in compliance with the requirement of a planned socialist commodity economy, establish an operational mechanism which integrates the planned economy and market regulation and carry out foreign economic and technological exchanges at a higher level and on a larger scale.

In the next decade of social development, China will demonstrate that it has learnt a lesson from weakened political and ideological education. The nation will strengthen construction of socialist civilization with advanced culture and ideology in order to raise the entire nation's moral and cultural levels. In addition, China will pay close attention to and make active and enterprising efforts to perfect socialist democracy and the legal system, safeguard political stability and unity, intensively fight against corruption, for construction of a clean government and for control over the growth in the population.

Practice is the only yardstick for testing truth. In the past ten years, we have fruitfully taken the socialist road with Chinese characteristics. In the next decade, we will continue to follow this road and, while summing up our experience and drawing on lessons, we will uphold what is right, correct what is wrong and compensate for what is insufficient. What will be the result of these efforts? Let the future answer. ■

## 7th Five-Year Plan: GNP Goal Surpassed

**D**uring the years of 1986-90, China overfulfilled its plan for gross national product (GNP) growth by 0.3 percent, according to a government official.

Zhang Zhongji, a spokesman for the State Statistical Bureau, told a press conference on March 13 that the past five years saw an annual growth of 7.8 percent in GNP, higher than the 7.5 percent target.

The national income, he said, grew from 702 billion yuan in 1985 to 1,430 billion in 1990, with an annual growth rate of 7.5 percent in the past five years, 0.8 percent higher the planned target.

Its per-capita GNP rose to last year's 1,532 yuan (US\$249.6) from 816 yuan (\$156.9) in 1985. Accordingly, both urban residents and farmers saw nearly identical increases in their average annual income during the past five years: 4.1 percent for urban residents and 4.2 percent for their rural compatriots, he said.

The income growth, in turn, enabled ordinary Chinese to spend more on better food instead of just filling their stomachs and buy fashionable clothing and durable consumer goods such as refrigerators, colour television sets and washing machines.

"Despite a relatively low income level," Zhang said, "the health conditions, nutrition intake and average life expectancy of the people have been close to or already reached the standard of countries at middle-income levels."

China's economic reform efforts paid off as it readjusted its economic structure and system of ownership in the past five years.

While keeping public ownership as the mainstay of the national economy, he said, China saw sizable increases in both the collective and private sectors.

Of China's total industrial output value, the share contributed by collectively-owned firms rose to 36.9 percent last year, up from 32.8 percent in 1985.

Meanwhile, private and other non-public sectors increased their share from 2.3 percent to 8.6 percent of the country's total indus-

trial output value, the spokesman said.

In the countryside, rural firms developed rapidly in the past five years and provided 22 million extra jobs for labourers.

Non-agricultural production sectors, such as industry, commerce, construction and transport, accounted for 54.6 percent of the total output value in rural China last year, which was an increase of 11.7 percent over the 1985 figure, he added. ■

## China Suggests Mideast Peace Plan

**A** five-point peace plan for a fair solution to the Middle East issue at the earliest possible date was proposed by the Chinese government on March 14.

At a weekly news briefing, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out that the prolonged absence of a solution to the issue, with the Palestine question at its heart, is the main cause of the continuous turmoil in the region.

After the end of the Gulf war, he said, the need for such a settlement has become imperative.

He spelled out China's five-point peace plan as:

— The Middle East issue should be resolved through political channels and all parties concerned should refrain from resorting to force;

— China supports the convocation of an international peace conference on the Middle East under UN auspices, with the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all parties concerned;

— China supports the efforts of all parties to conduct dialogues of various forms as they deem appropriate, including direct dialogue between the PLO and Israel;

Another flyover has been completed at Dongbianmen, east Beijing city proper.

ZHANG FULAI



— Israel must stop its suppression of the Palestinians in the occupied territories and withdraw from the occupied Arab lands; in return, the security of Israel should also be guaranteed;

— The State of Palestine and Israel should recognize each other and Arab and Jewish nations should co-exist in peace;

The spokesman said that China, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, will continue its efforts to promote the Middle East peace process together with the international community.

Speaking on arms sales in the Middle East, the spokesman said the Chinese Foreign Ministry has called for a "prudent and responsible attitude."

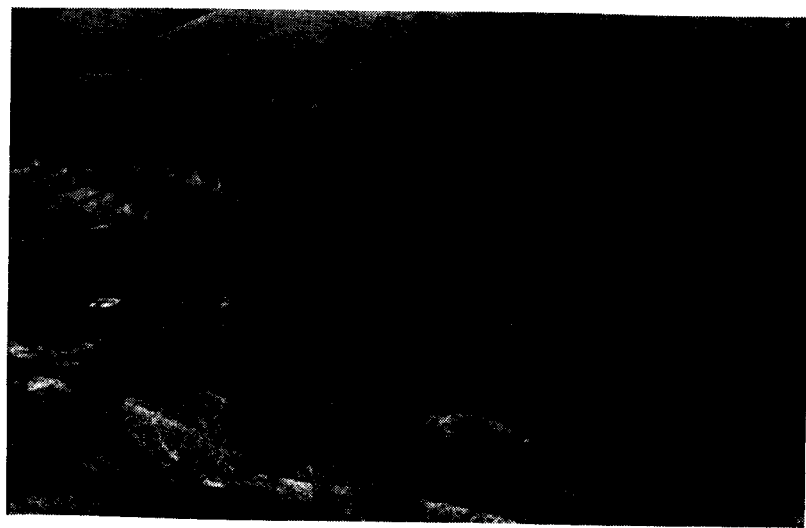
"China maintains that the armaments of each country should be used for self-defense only. They must not be used for armed aggression against and interference in any other country," he said. ■

## Massive Drive to Turn Nation Greener

**M**ore than 10 billion trees have been planted in China over the past decade thanks to a massive campaign participated by millions of Chinese people, old and young, to beautify their country.

A survey shows that Hunan, Hubei, Jiangxi and Fujian provinces and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region have afforested more than 300,000 hectares of mountain slopes and wasteland in the past two months. A total of 1.4 million hectares of land will be planted with trees in these regions the rest of this year.

According to the Ministry of Forestry, China plans to build 31 million hectares of forest in the coming decade so that tree growth will surpass timber con-



YAO ZONGYI

People in Zhidan County of Shaanxi Province plant trees on barren hills.

sumption.

To meet this target, the ministry is to invest 2.5 billion yuan in technical innovation and the improvement of forestry-related infrastructure in the coming five years. New scientific results and technology will be introduced to speed up afforestation.

During the Seventh Five-Year Plan (1986-90) period, the country planted timber forests on 15.78 million hectares, up 6.4 percent over the 1981-85 period.

Last year alone, 5.5 million hectares of land were planted with trees and 3.7 million hectares of hillsides were closed off from livestock grazing and fuel exploration to facilitate afforestation.

So far, China has 30.7 million hectares of man-planted forests, ranking first in the world.

Construction of a shelter belt is well underway on the upper reaches of the Changjiang (Yangtze) River. The project, covering 670,000 hectares, had stretched across 145 counties in nine provinces along the river early last year.

The northern shelter belt project began in 1978 to curb desertification, soil erosion, flood and drought. In all, 9.13 million hec-

tares of trees have been planted, bringing 11 million hectares of farmland under protection.

As a result of afforestation efforts, 60.7 percent of the farmland on the plains is now surrounded by trees.

Village-run tree farms have been established to meet the nationwide needs for tree saplings. China has 121,000 such farms with a combined 13 million hectares of forested land. In addition, the state tree farms have planned to plant trees on 6.7 million hectares of mountain slopes and wasteland in the next ten years. ■

## State Organs in Efficiency Move

**P**remier Li Peng said on March 13 that to improve economic management, government organizations should be streamlined in accordance with the principle of integrating planned economy and market regulation and separating governmental and business functions.

While addressing a national conference on personnel management which began on March 11

at Zhongnanhai, the seat of the central government, Li stressed the significance of reforming government organizations. He said that the major task facing the reform of local government organizations is to carry out multi-level experiments, while organizations under the State Council should remain comparatively stable. The key point is to improve efficiency, he added.

Li stated that wage system reform should be carried on in relation with the reform of government organizations. Egalitarianism should be eliminated and practical efforts be made to encourage experts, scholars and scientific and technological personnel who have made prominent contributions.

He pointed out that a new civil service system should be established in light of China's present conditions, and the selection and promotion of government officials should be based on their working abilities.

According to Vice Personnel Minister Zhang Zhijian, no new government bodies will be established, nor will existing ones be expanded, without State Council approval.

He said the State Production Commission, set up in 1989 to coordinate national industrial management, would be kept an impermanent government organ under the State Planning Commission.

And the central government has decided to restrict administrative interference in the business aspects of major national enterprises or enterprise groups, the vice-minister said.

The number of new recruits to staff government departments this year will be limited to 290,000, while a total of 160,000 redundant staff will be cut, Zhang noted.

Last year, the country cut 120 government-affiliated institutions and reduced the work-

ing staff by more than 62,000. However, the departments of justice, statistics, industry and commerce administration, price management, tax, customs and family planning enlisted more staff. ■

### News in Brief

#### Djibouti President Pays Visit to China

President of the Republic of Djibouti Hassan Gouled Aptidon arrived in Beijing on March 11 and paid a five-day goodwill visit to China.

Chinese President Yang Shangkun and Premier Li Peng met and talked with Gouled the next day. Yang pointed out that President Gouled's current visit will further the political, economic and other relations between the two countries. World peace will also benefit from the good relations between the two countries and from the meetings and talks being held between their top leaders, said Yang.

Gouled, who visited China first in December 1979, noted that the Djibouti people are satisfied with the projects aided by China and the work performed by Chinese technicians in Djibouti.

#### Marshall Embassy To Be Established

Chinese Premier Li Peng held talks on March 14 with President Amata Kabua of the Marshall Islands.

Li said that Kabua's China visit, after diplomatic ties were established between the two countries in November last year, indicates the importance the Marshall Islands attach to relations with China, for which he voiced appreciation.

Kabua said the Marshall Islands plan to set up an embassy in Beijing soon.

#### Cambodia: China's Support Assured

The Chinese government will,

as always, support the Cambodian resistance parties in their efforts to reach a political settlement of the Cambodian issue.

This was declared by the Chinese Premier Li Peng when meeting with the leaders of three Cambodian resistance parties, including Prince Norodom Sihanouk, in Beijing on March 14.

Sihanouk said that the three parties agree with the UN Security Council's framework and other related documents on the Cambodian question and called on other parties concerned to accept these documents.

#### China Will Increase Its Export

China has set an ambitious export goal to increase its annual exports by 20 percent during the 1991-1995 period.

The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade urged managers of the China National Overseas Trading Corporation, one of the country's leading comprehensive foreign trade enterprises, to exert their utmost to develop new markets and high-value products to reach that goal.

#### State Hiring and Firing

Early in March, the State Council appointed some State officials, sacking others.

Hong Hu was appointed to be vice-minister in charge of the state commission for restructuring the economic system, Wang Ang to be vice-minister of aeronautics and astronautics industry, Dong Zhiguang to be vice-minister of foreign economic relations and trade, Chen Ziying to be deputy director of the Head Office in charge of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs and Jiang Zhuping to be the director of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC).

Jiang Xiasheng was removed from his position as vice-minister of aeronautics and astronautics industry and Hu Yizhou as the director of the CAAC. ■

# On the Right to Development

Zhang Yishan

Since the Declaration on the Right to Development was adopted, the universal and full realization of the right to development has always been a major concern of the commission, which has decided to give priority to this issue as a separate item on its agenda from the year 1990. For years, the commission has done tremendous work in giving wide publicity to the right to development and in actively promoting its realization, a fact that the international community has always commended and appreciated.

To fully realize the right to development, we must first clarify the concept. There is a doctrine at present which emphasizes that the right to development is only a right of individuals. The Chinese delegation believes that the right to development is both a right of states or nations and of individuals. It is a collective as well as an individual human right. To interpret the right to development as purely an individual right is not a balanced view. Judging from the world's social and economic development process, individual development can in no way be separated from that of states or nations. All developing countries, including China, have had the same experience, i.e. there is no point in talking about the right to development for individuals when their coun-

tries are subjected to foreign domination and their national rights are completely nonexistent. Only when states or nations achieve development, can favourable political, economic and social conditions be provided for the development of individuals. Individual development as such would in turn promote and facilitate the development of the state or nation as a whole. Therefore, the development of states, nations and that of individuals are unitary and mutually complementary. Any arbitrary separation or confrontation between the two would hamper the comprehensive and correct understanding of the right to development as well as its implementation.

To fully realize the right to development, it is also essential that we eliminate obstacles existing in the international community which stand in the way of national development. There is no denying the fact that there still exist in today's world various forms of colonialism, racism, foreign aggression and occupation and denial of state sovereignty, independence and self-determination of peoples. All these are obstacles to the realization of the right to development, and their eradication requires joint efforts on the part of the international community to establish a new international political relationship based upon mutual respect, seeking common ground while preserving differences, mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs,

peaceful coexistence, equality, mutual benefits and co-operation among states. Only when such a new international political order is established can our world become better and the right to development be realized.

To fully manifest the right to development, we must also establish a new international economic order. In today's world, the unjust and imbalanced economic environment has led to the growing gap between the North and South and ever deepening plight of most developing countries in their socio-economic development. The number of least developed countries has increased from 25 in 1972 to 41 at present. In the world market, the scissors differential in the exchange rate between primary products and manufactured goods is increasingly widening. Most developing countries are encountering greater difficulties in their economies, resulting in a lowered per capita income and slowed down development. In spite of their positive efforts in seeking solutions to these problems and the preliminary results achieved so far, they have failed to fundamentally change their disadvantaged position, which is the long-term result of the irrational international economic order. Any change in the present situation would require the establishment of new international political relationships coupled with the improvement of the existing international economic order, elimination of injustice and inequality in the global economic

This is a speech recently made by Zhang Yishan, alternative representative of the Chinese delegation, at the 47th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.



structure, improvement of international economic conditions, and the mitigation and eventual eradication of elements constraining the development of developing countries.

The realization of the right to development is a long-term and arduous task. Difficult to accomplish with the efforts of human rights institutions alone, it requires co-ordinated efforts on the part of governments, United

Nations agencies and all quarters concerned. It is well known that the world economy is an integral whole, that all countries are intimately related in their development efforts, that the prosperity of a minority cannot be sustained at the cost of prolonged underdevelopment and poverty of the majority and that the advancement of developing countries would contribute to the wellbeing of both developed and

developing countries alike. The international community should join in a united effort to effect the right to development and create conditions for the early achievement of the objectives of the Declaration on the Right to Development. China stands ready to join the rest of the international community and make its contribution to the economic and social development of mankind and to the realization of the noble goals of the declaration. ■

## Palestine Back in the Spotlight

by She Duanzhi

With the guns in the Gulf going silent, the question of Palestine, the heart of the complex Middle East labyrinth, has once again become the focus of international attention.

To take advantage of what some people have described as the "historic opportunity" provided by the end of the Gulf war, many countries are launching diplomatic initiatives in an effort to break the stalemate in the Mideast peace process.

On March 3, in a nine-point plan for future Arab relations, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak stressed the need to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially the Palestinian question.

In an address to a joint session of Congress on March 6, US President George Bush said challenges still lie ahead in the Middle East despite the end of the war. "We must work to create new opportunities for peace and stability in the Middle East... We must do all that we can to close the gap between Israel and the Arab states — and between Israelis and Palestinians... The

time has come to put an end to Arab-Israeli conflict," Bush said.

He added, "A comprehensive peace must be grounded in UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of territory for peace." The two resolutions call for the Israeli return of the occupied Arab territories, Arab recognition of Israel and Arab-Israeli negotiation.

The Security Council has made it clear in its numerous resolutions on the Middle East that the key to resolving the Middle East issue is Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories it occupied since 1967 and the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations. With the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO, as well as the five permanent members of the Security Council, the conference would help to guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

However, not one of the resolutions has been implemented so far. For 23 years Israel has re-

fused to withdraw from the occupied territories, in open defiance of the Security Council resolutions, and has now categorically rejected the proposed international conference. The Security Council has failed to take any action against Israel's defiance.

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), in a statement on March 7, welcomed the "positive elements" in Bush's speech — that the question of Palestine must be addressed on the basis of United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338.

In a summit meeting on March 8, foreign ministers of eight Arab nations — Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates — issued the Damascus Declaration, which pointed out, "The foremost challenge to peace in the Arab region comes from the continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories." The eight nations welcomed Bush's peace plan and vowed their continued efforts to seek a just and lasting

solution to the Middle East conflict.

The five North African Maghreb countries — Libya, Algeria, Mauritania, Tunisia and Morocco — also held a summit meeting in the Libyan town of Ras Lanuf on March 10, at which they condemned any attempt to undermine the PLO, saying the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

US Secretary of State James Baker, in a fresh diplomatic endeavour, shuttled between Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Syria in the first half of March. While in Israel, he held separate talks with both Israeli officials and representatives of Palestinians living on occupied lands. Israel, however, remained as intransigent as ever.

Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark and three foreign ministers of the European Community also toured the region in early March to probe the possibility of settling the Arab-Israeli conflict, while France and the Soviet Union

have voiced their approval for the convocation of an international Middle East peace conference.

In an interview with the French newspaper *Le Monde*, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said a just and immediate solution to the Palestinian problem must be found to prevent fresh conflicts from arising in the Middle East. The French foreign minister indicated that he would meet with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Paris because the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of Palestine. It is subjective and unrealistic to refuse to recognize the PLO, Dumas pointed out. He went on to say that France cares not only about the Palestinians' right to establish their own state but also about Israel's security. These are two closely linked issues, he stated, and France has steadfastly maintained that the convening of an international Middle East conference is the best method to resolve the Middle East issue.

• People are waiting to see what

actions the United States will take to cope with Israel's stubbornness. They hope Washington will co-operate with the Security Council to demonstrate the same determination and maintain the same standards and pace as it urged the council to do when dealing with the Gulf crisis.

Zimbabwean Ambassador to the United Nations S. S. Mumbengegwi told the Security Council on March 9 that history will commend the council's actions in taking four days to impose economic sanctions and five months to take military measures against Iraq when it invaded and occupied Kuwait, "but history will not forgive the council for renegeing on its responsibility in other cases of occupation in the same region."

Secretary-General of the United Nations Javier Perez de Cuellar said on March 9 that the world body should be responsible for arranging peace in the Middle East and that all countries have the right to voice their opinion on the issue. ■

**The United Nations Security Council votes to end the hostilities in the Gulf: Can the world body play as vital a role in resolving the Middle East conflict as it did in driving Iraqi troops out of Kuwait?**

GAO XUEYU



# Developing Countries Face Economic Woes

by Wu Ninggeng

*In the 1960s and 1970s, developing countries maintained an average economic growth rate of 5 percent, higher than the level of Western countries. However, they have been confronted with severe economic situations since the 1980s.*

Long-standing economic difficulties have been experienced by many developing countries. According to United Nations data, from 1981 to 1989 the average annual growth rate of developing countries, based on fixed 1980 values, was only 3.1 percent. If the 9 percent growth rate of China is not included, the growth rate was less than 2.4 percent, lower than previous levels and than developed countries (2.8 percent). Except for the Southeast Asian and South Asian regions, which maintained an average growth rate of 5.6 percent, other countries made almost no progress in the 1980s. Thus the World Bank called the past ten years the "losing decade" for developing countries.

Last year, the economic growth rate of the developing countries was a mere 2.2 percent, lower than the rate of population increase. In Southeast Asia and South Asia, the growth rate had dropped to about 5 percent, and Latin America, the worst off, witnessed a negative 0.4 percent growth rate.

## Troubles at Home

Current ailing economies have resulted from various crises. In addition to economic stagnation, many developing countries are seeing worsening financial situations. According to the International Monetary Fund, deficits in many countries valued 8 per-

cent of the gross domestic product in 1989, compared with 3.8 percent in 1981. Meanwhile, inflation had climbed out of control. The situation continues to worsen, with the total debt of developing countries surpassing US\$1,300 billion. The Latin American region alone accounts for one third of the total foreign debt of developing countries. Clearly, the heavy debt burden has weakened the foundation of these countries' economic growth.

Moreover, the unemployment rate in those countries has increased, leading to a drop in citizens' real income. In 1989, per capita income in 57 developing countries was lower than in 1980,

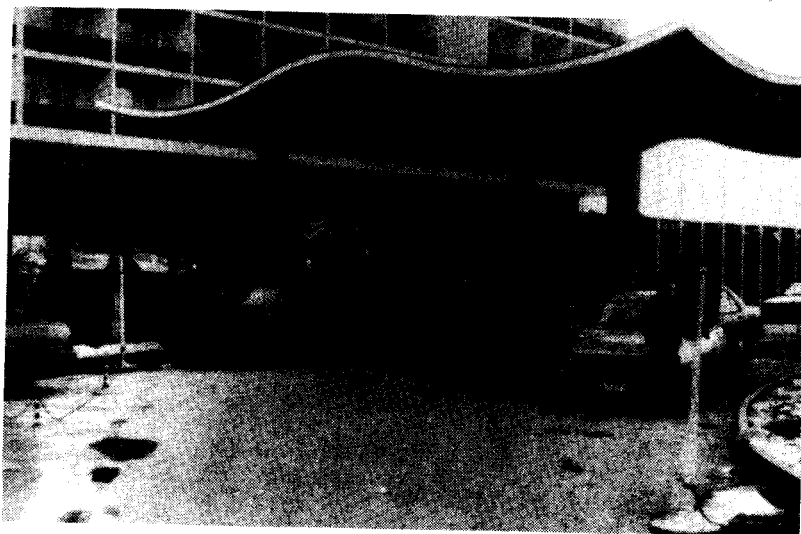
dropping a striking 35 percent in 19 countries. This provoked social disturbances and sharpened social contradictions in many countries in the 1980s.

The economic difficulties of developing countries, unlike developed countries, are not triggered by production and capital surplus, but by shortage. In many countries, most productive sectors, especially agriculture and food production, have been at a standstill.

With their weak economic bases, developing countries have long been embarrassed by the question of funding. Since the 1980s, domestic investment in many nations dropped greatly due to money shortages caused

Turkish tourism affected by the Gulf war: The desolate Hotel Hilton International in downtown Istanbul.

WANG JIYU



by falling exports and the flow of capital back to Western countries. The domestic investment rate of developing countries decreased from 26.6 percent in 1980 to 22.7 percent in 1989: Middle East from 25.9 percent to 17 percent, Africa from 25.7 percent to 19.3 percent, Latin America from 23.4 percent to 18.2 percent. Only the Southeast Asian and South Asian countries maintained their previous levels.

Lack of experience has contributed to developing countries' economic problems. For example, the pursuit of massive investment and high-speed growth has led to biased national economies. Some countries excessively stressed economic independence and domestic development while negating relations with the global market. Yet other countries overlooked domestic industrial reorganization and self-reliance while focusing on foreign economic ties. Many developing nations have strengthened the state's role as economic intervener and participant, developing state-run economies in order to supplement the weak private capital base. However, they often tend to overlook the roles of pri-

vate economy and market mechanism.

### Outside Factors

Outside factors have aggravated the difficulties of third world countries. Unfair international economic relations and the economic policies of Western countries have played a key role in the current problems facing developing countries. Since the 1980s, the main aspects of this are as follows:

1. The economic readjustment and slowdown of economic growth in Western countries further cut the demand for primary products, whose prices have fallen to their lowest levels during the post-war period. Owing to the expanding price gap between finished products and primary products in the international market and the increasing trade protectionism carried out by developed countries, most developing nations' foreign trade has shrunk during the past decade.

2. High interest rates greatly reduced the amount of money flowing into developing countries. According to the World

Bank, the actual interest rate in the 1980s was double that of the 1960s. Developing countries have borne the burden of progressively higher interest on foreign debts. From 1981 to 1989, the total of the capital plus interest paid back reached US\$1,298 billion, outstripping the total foreign debt of developing countries in 1989. At the same time, international commercial banks stopped voluntary loans to major debtor nations from 1983 on. During the 1980s, Western countries reduced direct investment in developing countries by half, and their limited official assistance and loans available were provided under increasingly strict conditions.

3. The economic development of developing countries has been affected by Western countries' turbulent exchange rates, the strengthening of European and North American economic integration and the changes in the international political pattern in recent years.

The way out for developing countries is to improve domestic and foreign conditions. Internal rectification must be combined with the improvement in international economic environment and policy readjustment by developed countries. At present, however, Western countries have still not altered their positions on debt reduction or exemption, funding, trade in finished products and primary products and the least developed countries. Their stubborn attitude undoubtedly will cast shadows over the future development of developing countries. ■

Kuwaiti oil wells destroyed in the Gulf war.

ZHANG XUN



# 'We Won't Change Our Direction'

A Conversation between President Yang and Salisbury

by Our Staff Reporter Dong Yuguo

When Harrison E. Salisbury, an American correspondent and author of "The Long March—The Untold Story," was in China January 23-30 to collect material for a new book, he met separately with Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic, and Yuan Mu, spokesman for the State Council, who briefed him on China's Eighth Five-Year Plan, its Ten-Year Programme and other matters. The minutes of their discussions will be published in this and the next issue of Beijing Review.

**Yang:** How far along are you on your current work?

**S:** It's nearly finished except for the last two chapters about China's future and a description of what the country will be like in the year 2000. My work gives me the opportunity to better understand what's in store for China in the future by listening to the views of those who know China best.

Mr President, I think you're pragmatic and do not want to predict future happenings, but I will be very grateful if you can give me your opinion.

Most importantly, I want to know about the economy, because I think the economic situation determines policies. I've a clear understanding of Marxism-Leninism, but I want to hear your views.

**Yang:** First, welcome to China.

Your previous work on which you spent a lot of energy writing, *The Long March—The Untold Story*, exerted positive influence on China because you give a fair and objective report on the Red Army's Long March.

I hope your current work will soon be completed and, like the previous one, give a fair and objective reflection of reality.

You've come to China at the right time. The Seventh Plenary Session of the 13th

Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party has just been held. At the session we discussed the Eighth Five-Year Plan which begins this year and, at the same time, took the Ninth Five-Year Plan into consideration. Therefore, the Seventh Plenary Session studied issues associated with this decade, such as economic issues for the remaining ten years of the 20th century. Today, we can only look as far as ten years into future developments; it is hard for us to predict how things will stand after this decade. Therefore, I think the way we put both the Eighth and Ninth Five-Year plans together for consideration at the session was correct.

Generally speaking, we'll continue to implement the policy of reform and opening to the outside world. We will continue to put into effect the blueprint devised by Comrade Deng Xiaoping and endorsed at the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee held in December 1978. According to the Party document, our first task was to get enough food and clothing for our people and, in the second stage, provide them with a comfortable life. Now that our first task has been fulfilled, we must double the gross national product (GNP) of the 1980s and become well-off.

We will meet the magnificent goal set by Comrade Deng Xiaoping to quadruple the 1980 GNP by the end of this century. In a word, the Third Plenary Session formulated the policy of reform and opening to the outside world as specified by Comrade Deng Xiaoping. We need to continue the implementation of this policy which has remained unchanged over the past decade.

Of course, under this policy, the rate of development may fluctuate, sometimes high, other times low, and there is the possibility of a slowdown due to internal and external influences within a certain period of time. Whatever the case, we'll never change the policy of reform and opening to the outside world. Why do I bother to emphasize this point? I do so because we encountered some difficulties after the "June 4 incident" in 1989. For a certain period of time, we need to readjust our policies and, therefore, our rate of development will be slow. Under these circumstances, our readjustment of some internal factors will meet considerable external difficulties. In the days to which I just referred, for example, the resident staff of foreign businesses in Beijing were, with some exceptions, withdrawn. Already established foreign business relations ground to a halt. Not only new projects, investment and introduction of technology and funds could not continue, but old ones were suspended. Under such circumstances, some foreign friends unaware of the details of the situation said

that our open policy had slammed shut. They have a mistaken impression that our policies have changed. Some even claim that an end had been declared to Deng Xiaoping's policies. At the time, I told some American friends that such speculation is inaccurate; China's open door is closed from the outside, not from the inside.

Within a year, foreign business staff in China all returned and, since their return, there has been a large increase in investments and transfer of technology by some new businesses. Moreover, loans which were suspended have been restored and some countries have lifted and some have loosened the economic sanctions which they imposed on the Chinese government. The current situation is far better than what it was in June 1989.

Domestically, after the "June 4 incident," we readjusted the national economy, overcame many difficulties and scored enormous achievements. In short, after the "June 4 incident," the situation in China is not as has been claimed by some people who say that China is finished because its policy of reform and opening to the outside world has come to an end. As a matter of fact, in less than two years since the "June 4 incident," we have overcome both internal and external difficulties. We have managed to reach our current level of development precisely because we have implemented the policy of reform and opening to the outside world. In this regard, I think, Yuan Mu, spokesman for the

State Council, will provide you with more detailed information.

**S:** I'm very grateful to you for the summary you've made of the overall situation in China.

**Mr. President,** I'm a firm believer in Mr. Deng Xiaoping's economic development plan. I think his plan is imbued with an innovative spirit and has been very successful. It has, however, also encountered difficulties in some areas and has had mixed reviews from different people. I wonder whether this represents a serious difference of opinion.

**Yang:** Yes, as you've said different people have different views. In 1988, there did exist inflation, a shortage of consumer goods and problems with the sale of grain in rural areas. This situation did exist in 1988 and still exists even today. The point is that we need to see whether the difficulties can be overcome or not and whether the government has adopted the necessary measures to deal with the problem.

**S:** I fully agree with you, Mr. president. I've visited China's rural areas and I perhaps give an even higher appraisal of rural China than you do.

**Yang:** Thank you. In 1988, problems such as rapid price hikes, a high rate of inflation, insufficient market commodities and difficulties in the rural areas did exist. I suggest you go and have a look at the markets which have greatly expanded. There is a rich store of goods in the market from among which customers can choose the best commodities and so even a sluggish



President Yang meets Salisbury.

market has emerged. Although we are now not confronted with great problems, do we still have difficulties? Yes. But we won't change our direction.

Mr. Salisbury, you've mentioned the possible problem of a change in China's established guidelines and policies after Mr. Deng Xiaoping passes away. I've noticed that this is a subject of discussion abroad. I can assure you, Mr Salisbury, that the policies and lines formulated by Comrade Deng Xiaoping are correct and viable and have taken deep root in people's hearts. Even when Deng passes away in the future, the line of reform and opening to the outside world will not change, but will instead be further developed and improved. Internationally, some people like to label China's leaders as conservatives or re-

formists. Chinese leaders are ideologically identical, however, and, as for different opinions on specific issues, that is an entirely normal situation. That Comrade Deng Xiaoping's line has stood firm despite the changeable international situation has proved its correctness. Therefore, the discussion by some people about problems which may follow his demise is futile, if it is not out of ulterior motive, because the basis for such discussion is completely wrong. If one approaches issues of importance to China in such a perspective, one simply cannot come to a correct conclusion.

**S:** I agree with your view that it is incorrect to peg Chinese leaders as conservative and reformist. Such thinking shows a lack of knowledge about China and its leaders. Differences of approach to is-

sues among leaders also exist among foreigners and so the above-mentioned practice of aligning Chinese leaders along rigid lines disregards the international situation. In my opinion, even when Deng Xiaoping passes away, his policies will remain valid. Although some people often speculate how the successor to a certain leader continues his predecessor's policies, I have no doubt China's policies will continue. China's history tells me that even after a leader passes away his successors, even if they have a different understanding of his policies, will continue to follow them.

**Yang:** Well, that's all I want to say today. As for details, please talk with Comrade Yuan Mu and ask him as many questions as you like. ■

# Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme on Tibetan Issues

by Our Staff Reporter Jing Wei

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the peaceful liberation of Tibet. Requested by some Chinese and foreign reporters, Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, gave a press conference and answered questions relating to Tibet at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on March 12.

## Peace Agreement

When a reporter asked about the Agreement on the Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet, signed by the Central People's Government and the local government of Tibet in 1951, Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme, now close to 80 years old, recounted that he was working as the governor of Chamdo when the city was liberated in October 1950. He saw with his own eyes the deeds of the People's Liberation Army which were in contrast to rumours. With a clear understanding of the central government's policies, he twice wrote to the Dalai Lama, suggesting he send a delegation to negotiate with the central government. At that time, some patriotic members of the upper strata in Lhasa also encouraged representatives to be sent to negotiate with the central government so that a war could be avoided.

"The appointment of representatives for peace talks was personally decided upon by the Dalai Lama," Ngapoi said. The Dalai Lama appointed him the chief delegate with full powers of the Tibetan local government and dispatched Thupten Lekmuun



XU XIANGJUN  
Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme at the press conference.

and Samposey Tenzin Thundup, also in Lhasa, to join Ngapoi in Chamdo so that they could go to Beijing together. At the same time, the Dalai Lama sent Khemey Sonam Wandri and Thupten Thanthar, two personal representatives of the Dalai Lama, to Beijing from Yadong by way of India and Hong Kong. After meeting in Beijing, the five representatives started negotiating with Li Weihan (chief delegate), Zhang Jingwu, Zhang Guohua and Sun Zhiyuan—the four representatives appointed by the Central People's Government. The negotiation was held in a friendly and consultative atmosphere and in no way any opinion was imposed upon the local government of Tibet. It goes without saying, Ngapoi said, that in the course of talks they had divergent views on some issues. However, after a frank consultation, they reached a consensus and concluded the agreement.

Ngapoi noted that it was the Dalai Lama who personally ap-

pointed all five delegates of the former Tibetan local government to negotiate with the central government and afterwards approved the agreement. After their return to Lhasa, the local government of Tibet immediately convened a meeting attended by local officials. With regard to the process and content of signing the agreement, the plenipotentiaries reported on their negotiations to the gathering. After earnest discussions, these officials unanimously supported the agreement. On October 24, 1951, Ngapoi said, the Dalai Lama sent a telegram to the Central People's Government and Chairman Mao Zedong, which said, "On the basis of friendship, delegates on both sides concluded the Agreement of the Central People's Government and the Local government of Tibet on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet on May 23, 1951. The Tibetan local government as well as the ecclesiastics and secular people unanimously support this agreement...." The original copy of the telegram is now kept in the state archives.

The vice-chairman described as a fabrication the allegation that the agreement bears a false seal of the Tibetan local government. The seals on the agreement were the personal seals of the representatives which, together with their names, were written in Tibetan. The original copy of the agreement will soon be on display at the Nationality Cultural Palace in Beijing. People will clearly see that there was no seal of the local government of Tibet on the agreement.

Ngapoi also told the press that



he had some contacts with the Dalai Lama after 1980 and that the two once wrote to each other. In his letter, Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme urged the Dalai Lama to stop activities for "Tibetan independence" and to hold negotiations with the central government, which, he said, are in the interests of the Tibetan people.

### 40 Years of Changes

When asked what changes have taken place in Tibet over the past 40 years, Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme said that guided by the Communist Party's national policies and the Agreement on the Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet and through the efforts of the people of all nationalities in Tibet, there had been profound changes in the region. He said that world-acknowledged achievements have been accomplished in all fields over the past four decades.

"With the implementation of the democratic reform and the overthrow of the feudal serfdom system," Jigme said, "the 1 million Tibetan serfs who had no political right became the masters of society and the country. Tibet now has regional national autonomy and people's congress systems. "Today, the majority of the deputies to the people's congresses at all levels in Tibet are farmers, herdsmen, workers and intellectuals," he noted.

Ngapoi introduced to the press Tibet's economic achievements with a host of data and materials. In the past, he said, Tibet only had a few handicraft industries. Today, it boasts 260 small and medium-sized industrial enterprises, and agriculture and livestock breeding—the backbone of Tibet's economy—have developed apace. The region's grain output rose from 150 million kg in 1959 before the democratic reform to 550 million kg in 1990.

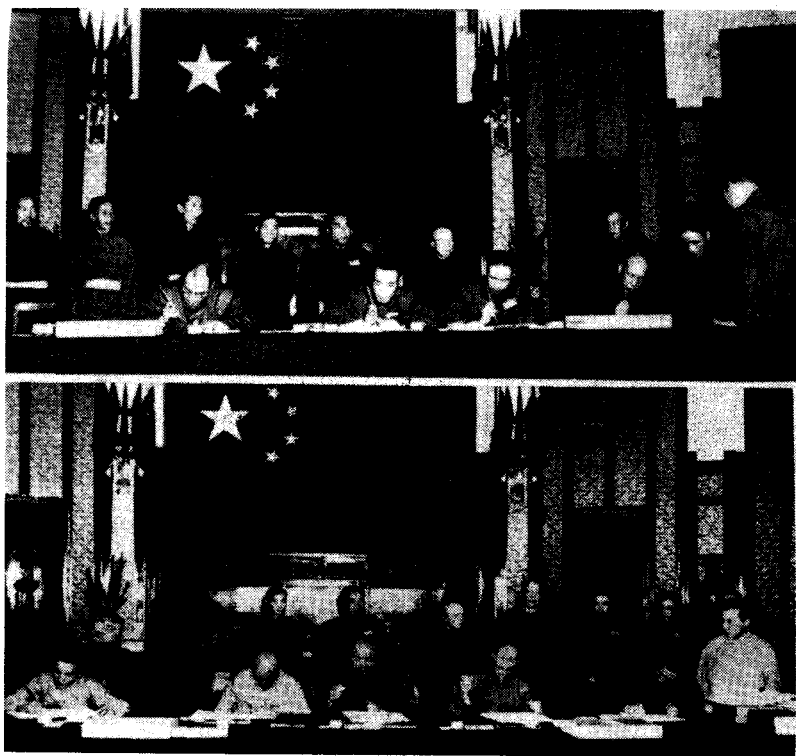
The number of livestock on hand increased by more than 100 percent, reaching 22.8 million head in 1990. The income of Tibetan peasants and herdsmen was pitifully low in the past. In 1990, however, the per-capita income of the region's farmers and herdsmen averaged 430 yuan.

According to Ngapoi, Tibet's culture, education, medical service, science and technology have also developed rapidly. Traditional culture and medicine have been passed on and developed. Tibetan hospitals have been established in all parts of the autonomous region, and many county hospitals have established departments of Tibetan medicine. In the past, each county had only three or four private Tibetan doctors. The number of Tibetan medical workers in the region now tops 1,500. In a word, Ngapoi said, after 40 years of efforts, tremendous changes have taken place in poverty-

Journalists from various countries at the press conference.

XU XIANGJUN





Upper: Representatives of the Central People's Government (from right to left) Li Weihan, Zhang Jingwu, Zhang Guohua and Sun Zhiyuan sign the Agreement on the Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet. Bottom: Representatives of the Tibetan local government (from right to left): Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme, Khemey Sonam Wangdi, Thupten Tenphar, Thupten Lekmuun and Samposey Tensin Thundup sign the Agreement.

XINHUA

stricken, backward Tibet, changes which are there for all to see.

### 'Soul Boy' Scouting

Responding to the question about the search for the "soul boy" incarnate of the Tenth Bainqen Lama, Ngapoi said that a set of religious traditional rites have been formed for the search of the "soul boy" incarnate since the death of the Fifth Dalai Lama and the Fourth Bainqen Lama. First, searchers are sent to observe the inverted reflection in the Holy Lake in Jiacha County, Shannan Prefecture. After the location and time of the birth of the "soul boy" are assessed according to the inverted reflection in the water, the searchers will begin to look for the candidates.

If only one candidate is found, there will not be any disagreement. If more than one candidate is found, a selection will be made from among the candidates. During the reign of the Tenth Dalai Lama, the central government of the Qing Dynasty made it a rule that the "soul boy" was to be chosen by drawing lots from a golden urn. According to this method, the names of the candidates will be written on ivory slips which will be put into a golden urn. Lots will then be drawn, and the candidate whose name is on the lucky slip will become the "soul boy." With the approval of the central government, he will be officially installed as the successor to the Dalai Lama or Bainqen Lama.

Ngapoi said that this time searchers will be sent everywhere

to look for the "soul boy" in places within the territory of China. It is impossible to send searchers abroad. Currently, the search for the "soul boy" incarnate of the Tenth Bainqen is managed by the Zhaxi Lhunbo Monastery, the host monastery of the Bainqen Lama.

### Religious Freedom

While answering questions about religious belief, Vice-Chairman Ngapoi noted that the Communists do not believe in religion but that the Chinese Communist Party does adhere to a policy of freedom of religious belief. The people have the freedom to believe in religion and also the freedom not to believe in religion. Tibet used to practise the system in which politics was integrated with religion. Under this system, the masses of Tibetans were cruelly oppressed and exploited by religious forces. This system evidently had to be abolished. To date, the Tibetan people enjoy full freedom of religious belief, a freedom protected by the law and free from any interference. But, Ngapoi noted, religion is not permitted to carry out criminal activities or plot to split the motherland. These activities will be punished according to the law, as they are questions irrelevant to religious belief.

### Public Mood

Ngapoi said more than 95 percent of the Tibetan farmers and herdsmen support socialism and are satisfied with their lives. They are exceptionally pleased with the government policies adopted in 1980 which allow farmers to use the land they till, herdsmen to own the livestock they raise, and exempt farmers and herdsmen from all taxes. ■

# Tours Keep Deputies Well-Informed

by Our Staff Reporter Wu Naitao

Keeping in touch with their constituents is an important activity of the deputies to the National People's Congress (NPC). Grass-root inspection tours help them keep abreast of current developments and do their job more effectively.

Director Wu Zongjiang was pleased to learn that NPC deputies were coming to inspect his Beijing Heavy Machine-Building Plant. More than 30 years old and with over 7,500 employees, the plant is one of China's eight largest heavy machine-building enterprises. In recent year, however, the sluggish market and a shortage of funds have resulted in under-capacity operation and losses for the plant. Wu believed the visit by the NPC deputies was a rare opportunity for him to make known the current problems facing the plant and to offer suggestions on economic policies. He hoped they would make some motions to bring about policy changes beneficial to the plant.

Almost every unit that receives deputies on inspection tour cherishes the same hope as Director Wu.

On their part, the deputies examine matters very closely when they visit the grass-root units. They go to factories, countryside or schools to see a site with their own eyes and thus learn of matters which might never come to their attention. The knowledge they gain helps them better fulfil their legislative responsibilities.

## Multiple Forms

The grass-roots' inspections by the NPC deputies are generally arranged before NPC sessions so that they can familiarize themselves with the issues which come



CAO JINGPING  
NPC deputies discuss improvements as they inspect the Beijing Heavy Machine-Building Plant.

up for discussion or approval by the National People's Congress.

The NPC deputies generally visit places in their own localities. Some Beijing deputies, for example, made a ten-day inspection tour in the capital from January 24 to February 2 this year.

The inspection tours are done either collectively or individually. A voluntary undertaking, more than 160 of the 300 or so NPC deputies from Beijing participated in a recent collective inspection activity in the city. Among the 160 deputies, 29 were members of the NPC Standing Committee. Other deputies travelled back to the electoral district in which their unit is located.

To provide information on specific areas to the deputies, relevant State Council depart-

ments and the Beijing municipal government each issued a work report. The reports included a discussion of the implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China Governing Administrative Procedure by Ma Yuan, vice-president of the Supreme People's Court; China's population growth and family planning by Peng Peiyun, minister in charge of the State Family Planning Commission; the correction of malpractice in railway departments by the Railway Minister Li Senmao; the implementation of the national economic and social development programme in 1990 by Beijing Vice-Mayor Zhang Jianmin; strengthening honest and clean government construction and correcting unhealthy work

styles by Lu Yudong, director of the Beijing Supervisory Bureau; and the situation in the tourist industry by Bo Xicheng, director of the Beijing Travel Service.

In addition, the deputies divided themselves into groups to inspect approximately 30 grass-root units, including factories, township enterprises and tourist hotels. They inspected both losing and profit-making enterprises and, in the tourist field, both state-run and joint venture hotels.

Usually, a leader of the inspected units will make a report and provide deputies with brief written materials. Some other units, because of the limited time and in order to allow the deputies to clearly understand the issues they consider important, prepare a special package of material. For instance, when deputies encountered the issue of free medical care during their inspection of the Beijing Tiantan Hospital, the Beijing health department provided them with more than 70 pages of material on "the history and current situation of medical fees in Beijing," "the reform of the medical service system in Beijing," as well as a report on the reform of free medical care in the city.

### Direct Talks

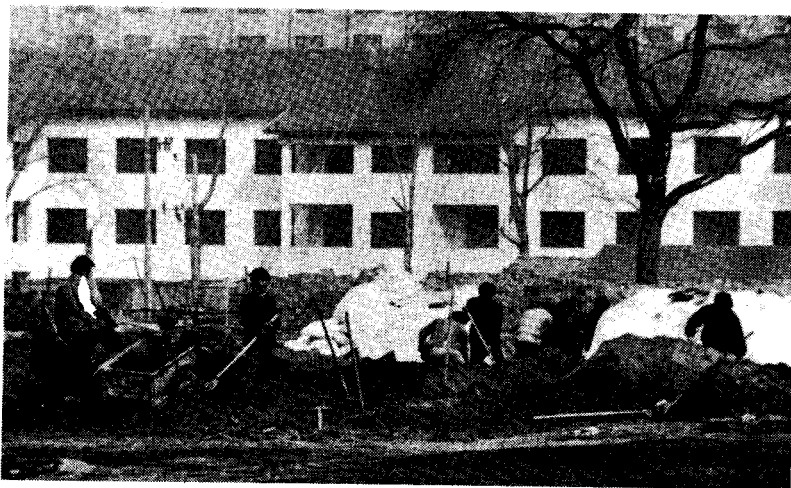
In previous years, inspections stressed both reports from unit leaders and on-site visits. This year, however, the deputies held extensive discussions as well, with unit leaders and ordinary people at the grass-roots and soliciting opinions from the masses. For example, the deputies visited some farmers to learn first hand their opinions and needs. When the inspection was over, they in turn reported to the heads of the Beijing municipal government and the Party committee and put forward their opinions and suggestions.

After listening to the recent report by Ma Yuan, vice-president of the Supreme People's Court, the deputies universally acknowledged that the court had done a great deal of work in the short three months following the implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China Governing the Administrative Procedure. They also made criticisms and suggestions concerning the existing problems. Deputy Deng Jiatai, member of the NPC Standing Committee, said that after the Administrative Procedure Law came into effect the number of

cases received by the court increased considerably. Many cases, however, were mistakenly appealed because publicity about the new law did not explain in sufficient detail the purpose of the law and the issues to which it was addressed. Deputy Xie Tieli, a well-known film director, suggested that some current or retired cadres undertake a public information campaign about the law. The difficulties and issues in implementing the law were also pointed out by many deputies who called for improving the quality of enforcement personnel.

After Zhang Jianmin, vice-mayor of Beijing, made his report, a variety of opinion was expressed by the deputies who themselves are Beijing residents. Many of them expressed satisfaction with the work of Beijing municipality, and in particular, spoke highly of the work done by the city in holding the successful 11th Asian Games last year. They also appraised the city's achievements last year in industry, agriculture and other fields. Deputy Yang Keng, member of the NPC Standing Committee, noted that the recent rapid construction had given the city a much needed facelift but that there were still many dangerous, old buildings needing renovation. He suggested that attention be given to the older units and that the city's scale of new construction be reduced. He added that the necessary facilities such as water, electricity, gas, commercial network and so on should be built in new residential areas. Deputy Luo Yifeng, senior engineer of the Beijing Synthetic Fibre Experimental Plant, pointed out that some enterprises were inefficient and suffered serious losses because of excessive imports. He gave as an example a chemical plant which imported a plastic packing production line worth 60 million yuan several

Workers of the Beijing No. 1 Construction Co. prepare to construct a new building following the demolition of the old houses in the Western District. YANG LIMING



years ago. Instead of making a profit, it became a financial burden. He insisted that enterprises should conduct feasibility studies before purchasing imports for any project in the future. In response to the many questions and suggestions raised by the deputies, Vice-Mayor Zhang tried his best to answer them or explain the situation in detail. Some deputies asked for the data

ity in the local area, hoping that the department concerned would build a thermo-power plant to meet their needs.

The deputies in their talks with Beijing municipal officials were confronted with not only immediate problems but with an array of related concerns expressed by their constituents. Deputy Li Peng, member of the NPC Financial and Economic

the deputies will be incorporated into the city's Eighth Five-Year Plan and Ten-Year Programme currently being drafted by the city government. Third, efforts will be made to further improve daily work. The vice-mayor also reminded the deputies that city government would always be available to listen to their suggestions and recommendations.

### 'Home' Visits

The deputies conducted thorough investigations both publicly and privately. Private investigations involved one or several deputies who chose to look into special matters brought to their attention. One deputy, a teacher, privately visited the families of five students to talk with them about the excessive financial demands placed on middle and primary school students, a serious problem for the past two years. The deputy also discovered that parents considered the text books too expensive.

Several deputies from the Financial and Economic Commission of the NPC Standing Committee went on a one-day inspection tour of the Shoudu Iron and Steel Co. Deputy Yan Renying, honorary president of the First Hospital attached to the Beijing Medical Sciences University went to the Beijing People's Hospital and had talks with the medical workers there on some of the issues facing medical institutions. Several other deputies, doctors who had a special interest in the problems, went with her, as did colleagues from other hospitals. After the visit, all of the deputies were more aware of the fact that many problems, such as price hikes for medicines, cannot be solved by the public health departments alone. In response, they sorted through the material gathered during the inspection and prepared a joint proposal for the forthcoming Fourth Session of the Seventh National People's Congress. ■



YANG GUODONG

NPC deputies on an inspection tour of the Shoudu Iron and Steel Co.

and other information about the city's joint ventures and foreign-funded enterprises. The vice-mayor promised to provide relevant materials to them as soon as possible.

Lu Weide, a deputy from the Sonar Energy Research Institute, learned during her visits that there was a pig farm with 1,000 head of commercial pigs in the Dagao Village, suburb of Beijing, and that the pig manure was only used in fields. She introduced the farmers to a method for making marsh gas from the manure, expressing her willingness to co-operate in developing the procedure with the village and help them expand their agricultural industry. The local farmers were quite interested in her suggestion. They asked her to look into the shortage of electric-

Commission, made a report on the losses incurred by large and medium-sized state enterprises. He took the Beijing Heavy Machine-Building Plant as an example and analysed in detail the reasons for the losses. City leaders conscientiously listened to the deputies' speech and answered questions raised by them. Vice-Mayor Zhang concluded that the deputies had 17 major concerns which included the city industrial structure, control of capital construction and a curb on price hikes. He told the deputies that the issues would be dealt with in three ways. First, in regard to the issues beyond the reach of the city government, he asked the deputies to appeal to the National People's Congress for assistance. Second, some of the recommendations raised by

Exercising their democratic right, China's 700 million voters, by direct and competitive election, have elected the organs of state power—the new people's congresses—in counties and townships throughout the country.

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## **Local Elections: A Nation Goes to Ballot**

**by Our Staff Reporter Wu Naitao**

**I**n an 18-month period that was finished towards the end of 1990, Chinese people's congresses at the county and township levels across the country were re-elected. Some 700 million people in 2,825 counties, prefectures and city districts and 56,323 townships and towns took part in the elections. The new people's congresses replaced the old, and new leaders were elected to local governments in some places. This was an extensive democratic activity and a major event in the political life of the Chinese people.

The Constitution stipulates that all power in the People's Republic of China belongs to the people. The National People's Congress (the highest organ of state power) and the local people's congresses at various levels (provinces, municipalities, autonomous regions, autonomous counties, autonomous prefectures, townships and towns) are the organs through which the people exercise state power.

The establishment of the local people's congresses allows people to decide important issues in their res-

pective administrative areas. The local people's congresses at these two levels, under the unified leadership of the central government, must not only ensure the observance and implementation of the Constitution and the laws and the administrative rules and regulations in their respective administrative areas, but also adopt and issue resolutions and examine and decide on plans for local economic, cultural and public service development within the limits of their authority as prescribed by law. They have the power to appoint or remove leaders of state organs in their administrative areas.

According to the Organic Law of the National People's Congress, the term of the office of the people's congresses in counties and townships is three years. The last session of the people's congress was elected for a term of office from the second half of 1986 to the end of 1987.

According to the Electoral Law of the NPC, deputies to the National People's Congress and to the people's congresses of provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities and

autonomous prefectures are elected by the people's congresses at the next lower level; deputies to the people's congresses of cities without districts, districts under the jurisdiction of cities, counties, autonomous counties, townships, nationality townships and towns are elected directly by their constituencies. During this recent election of local people's congresses, the constituencies all cherished their sacred vote and seriously exercised their electoral rights in order to elect outstanding deputies. For example, in Hunan Province, 123 counties and 3,444 townships successfully held elections from November 1989 to March 1990. Some 36.09 million, 90.59 percent of the registered voters voted. When the Lingling Prefecture of the province suffered its rarest drought in over 100 years in 1989, more than 50 percent of the voters left the area in search of a living. However, when the election began, 80 percent of them came back to vote, with the voting rate in the area hitting 84.9 percent.

According to the Electoral Law, candidates recommended by political parties and organizations, jointly or independently, and by more than ten voters are legal and equally placed among the list of preliminary candidates.

Ding Lingyu, an official of the Liaison Office of the NPC Standing Committee, who is in charge of the election work of the local people's congresses, said that the difference from the past in this election was that most of the preliminary candidates were elected by more than ten voters instead of through the nomina-

tion of political parties and organizations. For instance, Hunan Province nominated 233,352 preliminary candidates for the first round of voting for deputies at county level, 93.6 percent of whom were nominated jointly by ten or more constituencies, and constituting 91.72 percent of the deputies at the township level. The same situation occurred in the election of officials of state organs at the county and township levels.

Statistics from the Electoral Committee of Hunan Province revealed that 11 of the candidates nominated by more than ten voters were elected chairmen of local people's congress standing committees, 39 vice-chairmen, three county magistrate, mayor, district head, 29 deputy county magistrates, deputy mayors or deputy district heads. In addition, three were elected court justices, six chief procurators of procuratorates and 408 township or town heads or deputy heads. Generally speaking, the political and professional qualification of the leaders at the county and township levels nominated by deputies were outstanding. For example, a director of a state-owned enterprise in Wenzhou city, Zhejiang Province, was nominated for the deputy county magistrate in the 1987 election but lost by four votes. After this, he redoubled his efforts to turn his factory around. He was again nominated by the voters at this election and elected as deputy county magistrate.

The people's congresses must consider opinions and demands from every aspect. Deputies from all walks of life are thus needed for their var-

ety. For example, women are an important force in China's socialist construction. They make contributions on every front and so there are a large number of women deputies at all levels and in the governments at county and township levels. In addition, under the law, deputies of the minority nationalities must also make up a certain proportion. However, China adheres to the principle of an extensive and a mass character and can not designate certain electoral districts to elect a deputy of a particular nationality, sex, profession and family background. Generally speaking, deputy candidates nominated jointly or independently by political parties or organizations are balanced and elected after repeated discussions and consultation. Generally, they represent their constituencies well.

The method of voting for officials of state organs from a large number of candidates, which was implemented in 1986, is an important part of the reform of China's electoral system and an important step to improving the electoral system and furthering socialist democracy. The electoral committee at all levels, during the election, emphasized legal procedures and respect for electoral returns. Helong County of Jiling Province wanted to elect a new head of the standing committee of people's congress. They chose from a large number of candidates nominated by the presidium of the congress and from candidates nominated jointly by groups of more than ten voters. Such a situation is now very common. ■

# Electing Deputies to County Congress

by Our Staff Reporter Huang Wei

**L**ocated on both sides of the Beijing-Guangzhou Railway, Yongnian County in Hebei Province has a population of 670,000. Since April 1990, a series of changes have taken place in this little known county 139 km south of Shijiazhuang, the capital of Hebei Province. Muddy, nearly impassable roads have given way to cement roads, construction of a rural hospital for farmers has started, nursing houses for the elderly have been provided with refrigerators and radios, and a well-equipped farmers' kindergarten is serving growing numbers of children....

According to a local official, all these changes have taken place since the county government adopted the proposals of the newly elected deputies to the county people's congress. Despite what others might think, most people in Yongnian are satisfied

with the deputies they elected.

## A Major Event

Huo Wenshan, re-elected deputy director of the standing committee of the Yongnian county people's congress, said that the election of deputies to the people's congresses at the county and township levels is a major event in the democratic life of the masses and is, therefore, highly valued. Like the previous elections, the election held in April 1990 was conducted strictly in accordance with the state election law and a relevant local ordinance. Each step in the process, the establishment of the county and township election committees, the division of electoral districts, the registration of voters and the final casting of ballots, is carried out in a methodical way. Some dates such as

date for the election, publication of voter lists and the final list of the official candidates cannot be changed.

As deputy director of the standing committee of the last people's congress, Huo Wenshan was a member of the county election committee composed of members from the Party, government and mass organizations responsible for county election work.

Prior to the election, the most painstaking work is registration of all 420,000 voters in the county and none of whom can be doubly counted, missed or otherwise mistakenly registered. Although the permanent residence of many farmers in the county is in the rural areas, they often are casual labourers in factories and live in the county town. There are also some street peddlers in the county who came from other parts of the country. With regard to the former, the election committees require that they register through their factories and, in regard to the latter, the election committees will first ask them whether they want to register in the county and, if so, they need to write letters to their original units or former dwellings. Huo said that in order to guarantee the democratic rights of each citizen, the election, with the help of the public security bureau and procuratorate, also included those who received re-education through labour in the county. When the voter list was made public, no objection was raised.

The election committees and leading groups in the electoral

Voters cast their ballots.

SHE LIANJI





districts must print and issue various legal articles and questionnaires, publicize the election law among the farmers and explain in the simplest language the meaning of democratic rights to the full-time farm labourers, most of them have a primary school education. Almost all members of the leading groups in the electoral districts have done so in farmers' houses and they enjoy the trust of the farmers. Shan Yiyong, a farmer of Miaozhuang Township, said, "In the past, I did not pay much attention to the election. Whoever was elected really didn't matter to us. It wasn't until the responsible township member had a friendly conversation with me and told me that those who were elected would become township and county heads that I realized the importance of the election." Shan was very active in the election activities and was elected supervisor of the election meeting. Zhang Xainwen, a responsible member of the township for election, said, "Several months before the election, the township broadcasting station broadcast legal information in the evening and the county TV station broadcast special election programmes for farmers. All of the programmes were easy to understand."

Zhang also noted that township election committees required that each electoral district be divided into several voter groups and that each group be composed of about 100 people. Those who have enjoyed high prestige and were respected by the people would be appointed responsible members of these groups. The regularly held electoral district meetings attended by these members discuss the voter situation. In addition, the district electoral committees also put up announcements regarding the election, such as the list of candidates and meeting sites, in



Election personnel check the results.

SHI LIANJI

spacious and eye-catching places, always reminding farmers to pass the news on to others.

All these measures are aimed at overcoming as much as possible the difficulties posed by vast area, scattered population and slow dissemination of information. Success of their effort is reflected in the fact that the polling rate reached over 94 percent at the election of deputies to the county and township people's congresses.

### Introductions

Most important for voters is a clear understanding of the candidates. "Some candidates," Huo Wenshan said, "are also from the same village or colleagues of the same unit as the voters. But, in most cases, they don't know each other. To this end, the election committees need to print resumes of candidates and distribute them among the voters. In some electoral districts where conditions permit, some small discussions or meetings are held at which the candidates can give an account of their situation to the voters and answer any questions raised, thus enabling voters to know more about them."

Some candidates visit voters at home. Hou Jinsheng, 60, an intelligent and capable farmer, was nominated as a candidate for the county people's congress by more

than ten farmers from the village. Prior to the casting of votes, he went on his own initiative to the homes of some farmers whom he did not know, expressing his desire to be a deputy to the people's congress. Zhang Xianli, a farmer, said, "I was moved by his sincerity. I think I can trust him and that's why I voted for him." Hou Jinsheng was elected a deputy to the county people's congress.

In recent years, some methods used in Western election campaigns have found their way into election activities in China. In Yongnian County, however, most voters are not satisfied with a "formal speech" made by a candidate who is a perfect stranger to them. During the election, 326 deputies to the county people's congress and 2,317 deputies to the township people's congresses were elected. Of them, 60 percent of the candidates were jointly nominated by more than ten voters. Most are nominated by farmers who believe they will work for the benefit of the masses in a down-to-earth way.

Guo Rongqi, a Chinese-language teacher of the No. 1 Middle School in Yongnian County, said that the voting must be based on a good understanding and trust of the candidates. "The two candidates in my electoral district happened to be my students. Although I know

and like them very much, I don't believe that both are fully qualified to be deputies to the people's congress." He added, "I voted for the one who was lively and straightforward in her manner."

Restricted by regional conditions and affected by traditional concepts, Chinese voters are not accustomed to volunteering their services in political activities. Some voters would like to better understand the candidates. Xu Shaochuan, an English teacher, said, "Direct elections enable citizens to truly exercise their democratic rights. If more opportunities to meet candidates are offered to voters, it will help us to better cast our votes."

### Election Meeting

The election meeting is the climax of the election process. Early in the morning on April 1, 1990, a notice broadcast over loudspeakers installed under the eaves of each farmer's house reminded voters that it was election day in Yongnian County. At 9:30 in the morning in Miaozhuang village, a crowd had already gathered at the election site which opened at 10:00 in the morning. Ma Jinxia, a female farmer, said it was the first time she had seen such an exciting scene since her marriage in the village two years before.

Ma Jinxia noted that except

for the election, no other activities brought so many people of the village together. Even the number of farmers who attended an evening party given by a provincial song and dance ensemble in the village two years ago was less than the figure on election day. Ma also noticed that people were neatly dressed. Many girls and newly married women wore in gaily coloured woollen sweaters and colourful kerchiefs. Occasionally, as some young men arrived at the meeting-place on their bikes and lit off firecrackers, the crowd would erupt in good natured laughter. One 50-odd-year-old farmer, Li Dengming, caught the attention of the crowd. Despite the fact that he suffered from hemiplegia which had kept him in bed for years, he wanted to personally cast his vote. He was pushed to the election site in his wheelchair by his son.

In contrast, Ma Jinxia was not surprised that Grandma Xu, 88, sat beside her because she knew the elderly woman considered the election a very important event.

When the host announced the start of the election meeting in a straightforward but dignified voice over a megaphone, Ma noticed that the platform was brightly decorated. A large red flag inlaid with the national emblem was placed on the centre of

the platform usually used for film shows for farmers. Behind a table covered with a piece of red cloth sat the members of the township election committee. In front of the table were two wooden ballot boxes painted in red. Even the megaphone was wrapped with a piece of red cloth. A dignified silence reigned over the meeting-place as everyone waited for election to begin.

On the morning of the election day, no stalls were open in the usually bustling and noisy Yongnian county town market. As well, a number of department stores suspended operations. The farmer projectionist named Zhang Lei said that a film originally scheduled for showing on the afternoon of the election day would be shown the evening of the following day. The day's event was the election and only a few people were concerned with other matters.

Zhang Xiaquan, the host of the election meeting in Miaozhuang village, said, "I memorized the election procedures some weeks before." He announced the election procedures in a loud voice. Although a total of 780 voters would participate in the election, only 730 voters attended the election meeting. After the election of ballot inspectors, counters and supervisors, the voters changed their elector certificates for ballots, marked the names of their candidates on their votes and then placed their red votes into the ballot boxes.

While the election was in progress, several dozen floating ballot boxes were used to gather elector votes throughout Yongnian County. These ballot boxes were available for voters who could not leave their posts, for the seriously ill or disabled and for people being re-educated in labour camps. ■

Liu Shiqi (second left), elected a deputy county head in 1990, talks with farmers.

YANG LIMING



# The Goal of a People's Deputy

by Our Staff Reporter Huang Wei

To residents of the Dacheng Lane in the Western District of Beijing, Liu Xiangzhi, over 50 years of age, small in build and with a ruddy healthy face, is more than a kind, warm-hearted and helpful woman to whom neighbours can voice their complaints. She is also a deputy to the Western District People's Congress who has a deep-rooted understanding of the problems confronting the public, appreciated by voters because she brings these problems to the attention of the congress. So great is the people's admiration for her that it is no surprise that she has been elected a deputy to the Western District People's Congress four terms in succession and that a critically ill man, while being rushed to the hospital on the election day, told his son to vote for Liu Xiangzhi.

Liu Xiangzhi was born into a poverty-stricken family whose parents died when she was very young. She managed to eke out a living by working as a child labourer at a factory. Liu often contrasts this painful time with her present experience of discussing state affairs in bright, spacious congress halls. "It is the Communist Party and the people of New China who have given me what I have today," Liu says. "My only wish is to work hard for the Party and do things helpful for the people."

In 1980, Liu was elected a people's congress deputy when she was chairwoman of the Dacheng Neighbourhood Committee, which, like the others throughout the country, manages and organ-

izes mutual help projects in the local community. Although she received only a meager salary of 45 yuan for her work in the neighbourhood committee, her interest in being a people's deputy remained high. Before and after her election as the deputy, she was often seen in the neighborhood helping to resolve residents' problems. Thus far, she has been the conduit for some 100 recommendations generated by her constituents for the Beijing Municipal People's Congress, the Western District People's Congress, and the government departments concerned, and helped resolve 80-odd local problems.

During her term as a deputy to the Ninth Western District People's Congress (1987-90), for example, residents in her neighbourhood complained about inadequate electricity. The transmission lines were old and the voltage was low owing to an increase in the number of household electrical appliances. Though the matter had been previously brought to the attention of the Beijing Power Supply Bureau, the problem continued to get worse. Liu then brought the matter to the congress and wrote a letter to the district head about this problem. As a result, soon after the 1991 New Year's Day, all the transmission lines were replaced and the residents were finally able to have clear TV pictures.

But not every problem was resolved as smoothly as the issue of the transmission lines. The sewage in one residential courtyard, shared by several families,

in Liu's electoral area, had been blocked for a long time. Filthy water lay all about in the street skirting the courtyard. In the summer, the odor caused passers-by great discomfort and, in the winter, the flooded street was transformed into a dangerous ice rink. Liu demanded a thorough settlement of the problem at the congress meeting and, together with other district deputies, made a motion at a congress session.

After a survey of the area, the department in charge of sewage projects discovered that it was a low-lying area and criss-crossed underneath by many cables. Due to the technical problems, however, the problem has still only been partially resolved and, today, Liu is still working on a final solution.

With the deepening of the reform, there has been an increasingly democratic life of the Chinese people. "The grass-root people's congress now has a lot of authority, such as electing leaders to the district government, court and procuratorate and supervising, impeaching and dismissing government workers. Whether a problem has been solved in a satisfactory manner is evaluated by the deputies who raised the issue. If they find that the department concerned has simply gone through the motions and not effectively dealt with the problem raised, they may refuse to sign on to the report submitted by the department. In this case, the department will have to do the work once again.

Among the deputies to the



Left: Liu Xiangzhi (second left) discusses neighbourhood committee work with her colleagues: Right: Liu Xiangzhi and a widower.

Western District People's Congress, Liu Xiangzhi is particularly known for her outspokenness, and her supporters often speak highly of her ruthless criticism of bureaucracy.

"We must not use the power given to us by the public for self-interest," Liu said. "Instead, we should better serve the people."

After Liu's suggestion, the power transmission lines on her neighbourhood were replaced as local residents can now receive crystal clear TV pictures.



Liu said that being a deputy does not mean riding in cars and attending meetings in air-conditioned rooms as is sometimes thought by some people.

"As the chairman of the neighbourhood committee and a people's deputy, I often work overtime," Liu said. "In the last 20

years, I've seldom knocked off before seven in the evening although I started work very early in the morning." While visiting people in her electoral area and mediating disputes between local residents, she also has to prepare motions for the next session of congress. She shows care for almost every matter brought to her attention: the economic situation of a widow, the need to build an overpass at a street bottleneck, lunches for primary school pupils, the shortage of kindergarten teachers, the quality of service in state-owned stores, dishonest businessmen, etc.

"No others can match Liu Xiangzhi

in cracking the hard nuts," said Zhao Xiuqin, a colleague of Liu's. "Once, in preparing a motion on birth control, she visited an expert for advice. Even though the expert lived far away and it was summer, she braved the scorching sun and bicycled there."

During the 1990 election, Liu won some 1,800 votes out of a total of 2,000 voters. "That day, three colleagues of mine could not cast their vote because of a tight schedule of their work," a retired teacher named Yan said. "They all asked me to vote for Liu Xiangzhi. We supported her because of her outspokenness and the warmth she shows the people."

As a people's deputy, Liu said, she wishes to do more for the masses. "Showing less interest for the work of the people's congress, some departments fail to give a timely reply to the motions of the deputies. The deputies, sometimes, have to tackle the problems which should be dealt with by departments concerned," Liu said.

"I have drawn lessons from this," Liu said. "I always go directly to the person in charge, such as the mayor, the district head, bureau directors or others in power. In doing so, I can bypass some of the intermediate links and settle problems quicker." ■

## Foreign Banks In Shanghai

Gong Haocheng, president of the Shanghai Branch of the People's Bank of China, on March 6 officially announced the acceptance of applications of six foreign banks for opening Shanghai bank branches as of March 5.

The six banks are the Citibank and the Bank of America of the United States, the Banque Indosuez and Credit Lyonnais from France, and the Sanwa Bank, Ltd., and Industrial Bank of Japan, Ltd. Since China's introduction of the reform and open policies, these have been the first foreign banks officially approved to open branches in other areas of China outside of the special economic zones.

In order to build Shanghai into the country's largest financial centre, Shanghai has quickened its development pace by introducing foreign financial institutions. In April 1990, the Party Central Committee and the State Council decided to speed up the development of Shanghai's Pudong Area and carry out policies on economic and technological development zones and certain special economic zones, and agreed to set up foreign financial branches in Shanghai. In September 1990, the People's Bank of China promulgated the Administration on Shanghai Foreign and Foreign-Funded Banking Institutions.

Gong said, "After this first group of foreign banks have established their branches in Shanghai, the municipality will better understand the modern administrative methods used by foreign banks and be thus better able to attract foreign capital."

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, Gong added, the Bank of East Asia, Ltd., the Overseas-Chinese Banking Co. Ltd., the Hong Kong and

Shanghai Banking Co. and the Standard Chartered Bank, all of which had branches in Shanghai previously, carried out re-registration procedures and were approved by the People's Bank of China to continue business in Shanghai. Recently, the bank also approved the establishment of two foreign-funded finance companies in Shanghai.

by Li Ming

## Archaeological Rules For Foreigners

The promulgation and enforcement of the Regulations on Administration of Archaeological Activities Concerning Foreign Affairs or Foreign Nationals on the Territory of the People's Republic of China, approved by the State Council at the end of February, marks the official opening of Chinese archaeological work to foreign countries.

Zhang Deqin, director of the State Bureau for the Protection of Cultural Relics, said that China's ancient and splendid cultural heritage has always attracted numerous foreign archaeologists. Increasing numbers of departments have requested permission to carry out archaeological surveys and excavations. Also foreign archaeological students and visiting scholars have often asked for permission to participate in excavation of cultural relics when doing field work. Previously, there were no regulations allowing foreigners to conduct excavation work and so all requests were rejected.

The new regulations, in conjunction with cultural and archaeological laws already in effect, will further improve the administration of China's cultural relics and archaeological work, enhance Sino-foreign archaeological academic interchange and raise China's capacity to protect

its archaeological treasures.

In order to maintain China's legal rights and to ensure a steady development in foreign archaeological work, the regulations clearly stipulate that any foreign group or international organization carrying out archaeological investigation, survey, or excavation in China should co-operate with us. The regulations also stipulate that China's sovereignty is the basic condition for such co-operation and the basis of all benefits and rights of both sides regarding cultural relic samples, natural samples, archaeological data and material, research achievements and publication of research reports.

Zhang said that applications for the co-operative investigation and excavation by foreign or international organizations should be submitted to the State Bureau for the Protection of Cultural Relics for examination and later to the State Council for approval.

The regulations also specify rules for visiting historical and archaeological sites not usually open to the public by private Chinese and foreign groups as well as international organizations.

To those who violate the regulations and other laws and regulations concerning cultural relic protection and archaeology, the State Bureau for the Protection of Cultural Relics is authorized by the regulations to issue warnings, temporarily halt work or cancel projects and levy fines or other punishment. Those who violate public security or carry out criminal activities will be dealt with according to the law.

## Import Licence System Works Well

According to an official in charge of the State Administra-

tion for the Inspection of Import and Export Commodities, China has done a good job inspecting the quality of imported commodities since its introduction of an import licence system for some imported commodities last May. The import licence issued by the commodity inspection bureau has become an important certificate when contract payments are arranged for imports.

The official went on to say that China had received 450 applications from exporters and producers in 27 countries and regions including Japan, Singapore, the UK, Germany, the Soviet Union, the United States and Brazil by the end of 1990. Automobile import applications took up 2.6 percent, 1 percent for motors of the total, 5.5 percent were refrigerators, 5 percent were air conditioners, 28 percent were compressors for refrigerators and air conditioners, 12.5 percent were televisions and 45.4 percent were kinescopes. For commodities that meet quality control, China's commodity inspection bureau has issued about 200 import commodity quality licences and about 7 million safe signals for over 600 varieties of products.

If key components of sample products do not meet Chinese safety requirements, China will inform the applicants to replace the samples. Among the samples sent for examination 17 models of kinescopes and one type of motor failed to pass quality controls. As a result, China prohibited the import of them to China. Statistics showed that 3 percent of all samples did not meet the required standards.

Since the introduction of the system of import licensing, the Chinese Commodity Inspection Bureau has established inspection relations with some foreign organizations. At present, such foreign inspection organizations as the Japanese Appraisal Asso-

ciation for Sea Accidents, the Japanese Machine-Building and Electronics Appraisal and Inspection Association, the Italian Society of IMQ Quality Symbol, the German TUV Association do some investigation and some factories and inspection of factories and production for China.

In addition to adopting import licensing measures, the commodity inspection bureau has also adopted more flexible ways to exempt a small number of imported products from licence procedures and imported 2,408 vehicles and 644 motors for technological and scientific research. Of these, 95 percent of products are made in Japan. This flexible policy speeds up import approval for vehicle and motor licences. There are now 12 factories from eight countries applying for vehicle import licences and five factories from two countries and one region for motor import licences, including the Honda Co. of Japan.

by Li Ning

## **Chinese Films go International**

In recent years, outstanding Chinese films have gradually gained recognition in the world market. In the past three years alone, approximately 1,000 new films and 500 videos from China's mainland have been distributed to 30 countries and regions.

The Chinese Film Import and Export Corp. (CFIEC) has already established friendly trade relations with more than 100 foreign film distributors which have the right of distribution to cinemas, TV and video and for exhibitions.

Presently, Chinese films are distributed by the CFIEC's Paris office for showings in cinemas, or on TV in European cities including Paris, London, Rome

and Madrid. In July 1990, the Spanish Central TV for the first time showed nine Chinese-made feature films among which the *Great Parade* and *My Memories of Old Beijing* were warmly received. The CFIEC Los Angeles office distributes over 300 films annually. Since co-operation between the CFIEC and the Japanese Tokuma Co. was established in the 1970s, Chinese films have been shown at special film exhibits and other cultural activities in Japan. In 1988, *Hibiscus Town* caused such a sensation that it was shown for eight weeks straight in Japan. The film *Red Sorghum* was also a big hit. Japan purchases several Chinese feature and short films each year.

In 1989, the film *Grand Founding Ceremony of New China* had a 141-day run in Hong Kong and ticket sales of 50,000. This was a record run in Hong Kong for a mainland-produced film. In the past three years, 178 films from the mainland have been shown at 11 film exhibitions in Hong Kong. At present, the distribution rights for many mainland films such as *Red Sorghum* and *A Dream of the Red Mansions* have been bought by Taiwan. A part of the film serial *Forbidden City* has appeared on Taiwan TV and more than 90 cartoons have entered the Taiwan film market.

Between 1988 and September 1990, more than 300 Chinese films were shown at 50 international film festival competitions. Among them, 61 garnered 72 awards. ■

## **A Venture Between China, Malaysia**

The first Sino-Malaysian domestic appliance joint venture, the Golden Horse Domestic Appliance Co. Ltd., will formally open in Penang, Malaysia in April.

The co-operation between the Shandong Golden Dragon Domestic Appliance Factory and two Malaysian companies will enable China's domestic appliance producer to export both software and hardware.

The contract stipulates that China will design and install an assembly line, a test line for electric fans, and will send engineers and managerial personnel to work in the joint venture. Malaysia will provide four plastic injectors. The venture will lease 80,000 square feet of workshops and warehouses.

The venture will produce 240,000 electric fans, beauty ware, massage apparatus and other small domestic appliances annually.

The factory director said that his factory's products have been sold in 24 countries and regions in Southeast Asia, Europe and America. The amount of products ordered in 1991 has already expected to exceed last year's output by 1.5 times.

At present, the factory has also reached agreements on establishing joint ventures in Armenia of the Soviet Union and Thailand.

## First E. China Export Fair

Following trade fairs in Tianjin and Dalian, China's third regional trade fair, the 1991 East China Export Commodity Fair, was held in Shanghai from March 5 to 14.

The fair, sponsored by Shanghai and its neighbouring Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui and Jiangxi provinces as well as Nanjing and Ningbo, attracted participants from 607 specialized foreign trade corporations, industry-trade enterprises, foreign-funded enterprises and joint ventures.

Some 20,000 square metres of floor space housed 15 exhibition

halls at the fair. Seven trade groups exhibited textiles, metals, minerals, machinery, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, light industrial products, handicrafts and farm and sideline produce. About 10,000 businessmen from over 100 countries and regions discussed import, export, processing with supplied materials, compensatory trade, technological trade and investment opportunities.

The seven host provinces and cities in east China are ideally situated and enjoy a flourishing industrial and agricultural production and commodity economy. The area's exports make up one-fourth of China's total. In 1990, the value of total exports reached US\$11.76 billion, of which Shanghai generated US\$5.32 billion, Jiangsu US\$2.95 billion, Zhejiang US\$2.26 billion, Anhui US\$650 million and Jiangxi US\$560 million. After their independent planning power was granted by the State Council, foreign trade in Nanjing, the capital of Jiangsu Province, and Ningbo, a coastal city of Zhejiang Province, made striking progress. At present, east China's seven provinces and cities have established sound economic and trade relations with tens of thousands of clients from more than 170 countries and regions.

by Dai Gang

## News in Brief

● The Telecommunication Bureau of Hunan Province signed a contract in mid-February with the Bull S.A. Co. of France for buying five DPS7000/A1 medium-sized computers and five high-speed Mathilde MP6090.2 non-impact printers with a French loan of 8.8-million francs.

Computers, respectively installed in Changsha, Hengyang, Yueyang, Zhuzhou and Xiangtan, will be used for automatic

charging systems and enterprise management. The Bull S.A. Co. will send experts to Changsha for technical guidance.

● The Airport Technology and Equipment Seminar sponsored jointly by the 48-Member British-Chinese Trade Group and China Air Material Co. was opened in Beijing February 25.

The seminar is the first of its kind held in China. The participants were representatives of more than 40 Chinese units, including the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), China National Electrics Import & Export Corp., Bank of China, National Meteorological Bureau, Ministry of the Aeronautics and Astronautics Industry, and those from more than ten British company groups including the Airport Groups and the Barclays Bank Ltd.

The 48-Member British-Chinese Trade Group was established on January 1, 1991. An integration of two organizations which engaged in trade with China for over 35 years, the British-Chinese Trade Association and the 48-Member British-Chinese Trade Group, the group is now the only governmental organization working for the promotion of the trade with China. Its members are major corporations in Britain.

By the end of 1990, the Bank of China had established business relations with more than 3,800 branches of 1,422 banks from over 153 countries and regions.

At present, in addition to settling accounts of international trade and non-trade, the Bank of China signs reciprocal agreements, distributes and releases capital, invests and issues securities. It also sets up foreign-funded financial institutions at home and abroad, sponsors seminars, trains personnel and provides trust and consulting services.

by Kou Zhengling

## Sino-Soviet Opera Collaboration

Despite the deafening noise of building construction in the Central Opera Theatre, Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* was presented in the cold, poorly equipped rehearsal hall. Directed by G. Anssimov, a well-known Soviet opera director, and staged in Beijing by the Central Opera Theatre on New Year's day, 1991, this was the first time China has presented a Shakespearean play on the opera stage.

The opera was first adapted from Shakespeare's play by composer V. Shebalin in the 1950s. Anssimov worked with Shebalin to make improvements, and directed its first performance in 1957. Later, Anssimov directed the second libretto of the opera. The recent performance in Beijing was the third libretto he has directed. Anssimov said a repertoire should often be altered and adapted to suit the different casts, audiences and social conditions. Otherwise, the opera would lose its appeal.

As a comedy written with opera seria techniques, the opera combines modern opera music

with Shakespeare's superb characterization, containing a Russian flavour.

For Anssimov, an opera actor or actress should be an artist who participates in the artistic creativity of the opera with his or her voice. He or she should lend their voice to the music rather than stand apart in order to portray the nature and fate and the nuances of the play.

So, when Anssimov selected the cast, he went against the usual procedure that begins with singing auditions. Instead, he held acting auditions and asked each participant to act what was to be sung. Sometimes, he would play the provisional characters and create the situations to enhance the participant's performance. During the rehearsals, he realized that many of the young cast lacked stage experience, so the rehearsals became acting training classes. He would vividly describe the characters' psyche and the main thread of the play so that the cast could play the roles based on a deeper understanding of the libretto and characters in it, rather than just imi-

tating a stereotype. He made a humorous analogy of his process: "A blank film is placed in a chemical liquid. By shaking it, a vague figure will appear, and then from the blurred film a clear, sharp image will appear." After two months of training, all the cast were able to play their roles with ease.

The cast's acting ability improved on the whole throughout the rehearsal period, according to Liu Shirong, a renowned theorist in play music and chairman of the Art Committee of the Central Opera Theatre. He attributed this to the eternal appeal of Shakespeare, the superb adaptation of Shebalin and the marvellous direction of Anssimov as well as the cast's dedication.

Anssimov said, "The young actors and actresses of the Central Opera Theatre are very promising. As a director, what I can do is to 'open the box' and display what is in it. What I see is the theatre's potential and bright future," he added.

Founded in 1953, the Central Opera and Ballet Theatre took part in numerous exchanges with the Soviet Union in the 1950s. National Chinese operas such as *Liu Hulan, the Heroine*; *Song of the Grassland* and *The Marriage Under Chinese Scholar Tree* were performed in the Soviet Union. Meanwhile, the theatre's early productions of *Camille*, *Madame Butterfly* and *The Young Guard* were finished with the help of Soviet directors.

These exchanges were suspended for nearly 30 years after the late 1950s. In 1985, as a member of the first Soviet Artists China-Visiting Delegation, Anssimov talked with personages from the Central Opera Theatre and the Central Conservatory of Music. This is the fourth time he has come to China, in Anssimov's words, "to continue a new chapter for the Sino-Soviet opera art exchanges since the 50s."

by Feng Jing

G. Anssimov directing *The Taming of the Shrew*.

ZHOU HUAYIN





## Drama Tells Life of First Chinese Railway Engineer

The drama, Zhan Tianyou, was recently performed in Beijing by the China Youth Art Theatre.

Zhan Tianyou, one of the pioneers of modern Chinese science and technology, was born in Nanhai County, Guangdong Province in 1861. At a very young age, Zhan was enrolled in a teenage training class where Chinese students received preparatory studies before going to study abroad. Zhan later studied in the United States for ten years and returned to China to become China's first railway engineer.

From 1905 to 1909, Zhan was put in charge of the construction of the Beijing-Zhangjiakou Railway Line, the first railway designed and built by Chinese engineers. The completion of the railway line struck a hard blow to the imperialists who clamoured that "A Chinese railway engineer has not been born yet," and greatly inspired the Chinese people.

The drama focuses on the construction of the railway line—the most brilliant part of Zhan's life and career. At the very beginning of the play, Zhan is faced with the most difficult and complicated section of the railway line. Apart from technical problems, there were also social and human obstacles; the bureaucrats of the Qing government obstructed the project for various reasons and foreign powers tried every possible means to obtain rights to build the railway line. Under such circumstances, Zhan did not give up but showed unusual courage and persistence. He even guaranteed the Qing Court with his life that the railway would be a success. However, just as the project was about to be completed, news came that the Qing government had decid-

ed to sell the construction rights. This was a fatal blow for Zhan. It was not only a tragedy for Zhan but for the whole nation.

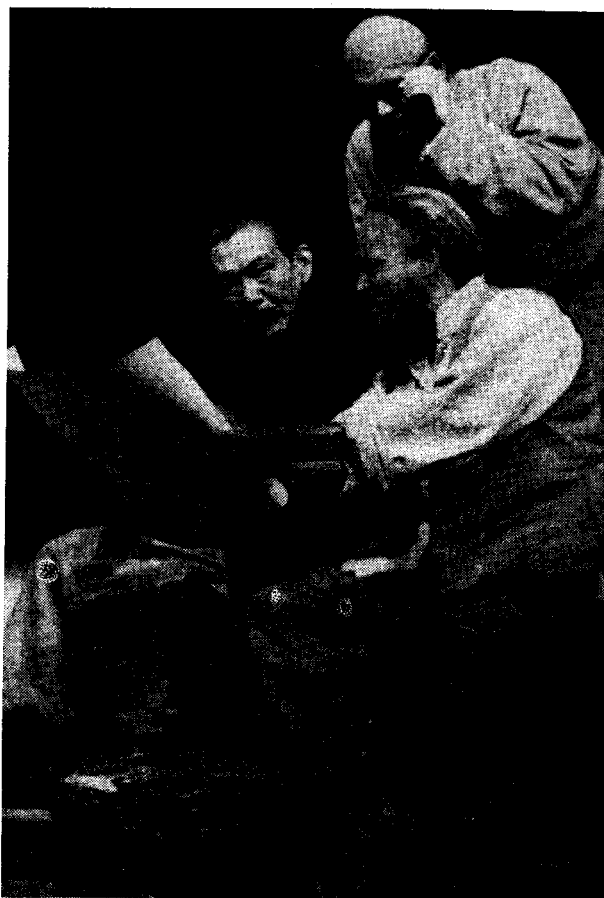
Although the drama gives an ample description of Zhan Tianyou, it is not simply a historical or biographical play. Set against a vast historical background, the drama describes the courage, personality and idealism of a patriotic Chinese engineer.

"We attempted to expose the great patriotic spirit and national dignity that Zhan possessed and the sacrifice he made to his motherland," said Zhang Qihong, director of the drama. Using realism, the drama also possesses romantic and legendary colour with a tragic element which all contribute to the ideological and artistic unity of the play.

The theme song of the drama is particularly poignant; "At the foot of the Great Wall Wild grasses grow. We chisel out tunnels, build up bridges and railway lines to wipe out our national shame. We struggle hard for prosperity In the country's name."

The song is the expression of those who built the railway and the heart beat of the Chinese people.

The stage setting was very innovative and deeply impressed the audience. The front setting



CAO ZHIGANG

A scene from the drama: Zhan Tianyou (left).

was created by borrowing some techniques from traditional Peking Opera whereby the settings are not always actually depicted, but rather indicated by the performance of the actors. The distant scenes, by contrast, are more realistic.

An Guotao, who plays Zhan Tianyou in the drama, is a veteran actor who excels in historical plays. He said, "To play a character well, you need not only acting skills, but you must also understand your hero."

The script of the drama won a national award in the early 1980s.

by Cai Tiliang

## Yandi Emperor—From Legend to History

At the end of 1990, a seminar on the study of the Yandi Emperor and related ancient Chinese culture was held in Suizhou City, Hubei Province in southern China. Over 100 scholars attended the seminar.

Yandi, also known as Shennong (the God of Agriculture), is one of the two earliest ancestors of the Chinese civilization as recorded in Chinese historical writings and popularized by Chinese mythology. The other one is Huangdi, the Yellow Emperor, who, though he lived in a later historical period, has a more popular image among the Chinese people. Consequently, the Chinese all refer themselves as the descendents of the Yandi and Huangdi emperors.

At the seminar, scholars confirmed that the Yandi Emperor was a native of Lishan in Suizhou City, Hubei Province, negating the long-time controversial belief that Yandi was a native of Qishan in Shaanxi Province.

Scientists agreed that the Yandi Emperor was the father of the ancient civilization of the Yangtze River area, a fact supported by geographical books, historical documents, unearthed relics and local customs.

Suizhou is a mountainous area, abundant in rivers, lakes and verdant forests. The city, with its mild temperatures and plentiful rainfall, was an ideal dwelling place for ancient Chinese tribes. Not far away from Suizhou is the world-famous ancient Shennong Forest, a name derived from the Yandi (Shennong) Emperor. The environment and the climate are still ident-

ical to that of the Yandi time as described in historical records. But Qishan, part of the Loess Plateau, is dry and desolate, hardly an ideal birthplace of ancient Chinese civilization.

The large number of historical finds also lend weight to the belief that Suizhou was one of the cradles of ancient Chinese civilization. The "Shennong Cave" in Lishan is believed to be one of the dwelling places of the ancient tribes where a large number of stone ware, bone needles and fire remains have been found. In addition, there are other historical sites such as the "Shennong Well" and the "Shennong Temple" as well as a large number of ancient cultural relics and tombs that have been found.

At the seminar, scientists delivered dozens of research papers, making a detailed analysis into the subject. They discovered that more than 100 Chinese historical books state that Lishan was the home of the Yandi Emperor.

The local people, generation after generation, have worshipped Yandi as their ancestor. They hold various celebrations each year in memory of Yandi, a practice seldom found in other parts of the country. In many parts of Hubei Province, Yandi is worshipped as the God of Fire. Yandi, in Chinese, means the Fire Emperor, a title given by his descendents to remember his invention of fire, just as he is also called Shennong, God of Agriculture, for his inventions in agricultural technology.

Also discussed at the seminar were the great contribu-

tions made by Yandi to early Chinese civilization. Yandi is the most eminent father of Chinese agricultural civilization. He played a great role in promoting the transition of Chinese society from a primitive level to an agricultural age. He invented many agricultural tools and developed agricultural technology. The special Chinese historical work, "Shennong" contains 14 articles devoted to the life story of the Yandi Emperor.

Yandi is also believed to be the father of Chinese herbal medicine. Many historical works give accounts of his medical practices. The first Chinese medical work is called "Shennong's Book of Medical Herbs."

At the seminar, scholars pointed out that Yandi was an actual historical person but not a god. His great achievements were actually the common work of the ancient people among whom Yandi was the most celebrated.

According to Li Wenlie, mayor of Suizhou City, since 1980, Suizhou has received over 10,000 visitors from both at home and abroad. A national Yandi Culture Research Society has been founded and memorial organizations have been set up in 30 countries and regions. The city has allocated over 10 million yuan to establish tourism and a huge statue of the Yandi Emperor. In February this year, representatives from Yandi memorial organizations throughout the world came to Suizhou to take part in celebrations and academic activities.

by Liu Jianjun



Liu Bei, a historical figure  
in *Romance of Three Kingdoms*



He Xiang'ou, an immortal in the  
legend the Eight Immortals.



Zhuge Liang, a clever  
strategist in  
*Romance of Three Kingdoms*.

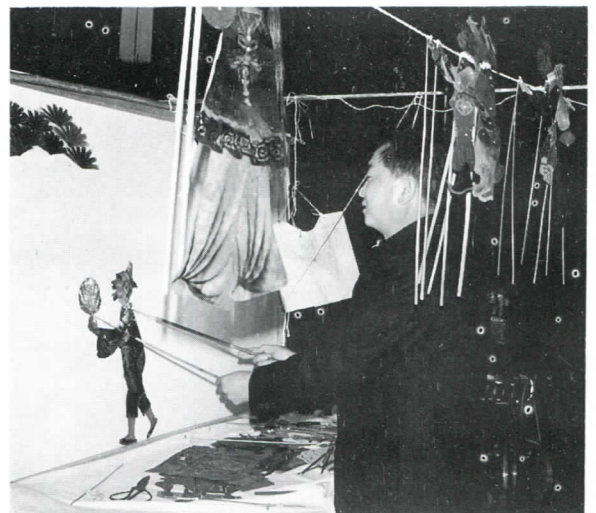
## Shadow Play Art

In a shadow play, one of China's ancient folk arts, puppeteers manipulate figures carved out of cow and donkey hide in front of a bright light and behind a translucent screen. The shadow play figures here were created by shadow play artist Wang Changsheng who was born in Nanjing in 1938.

ART PAGE



Monkey King (Sun Wukong) Fighting  
Against the Yellow Wolf Spirit in  
a scene from *Journey to the West*.



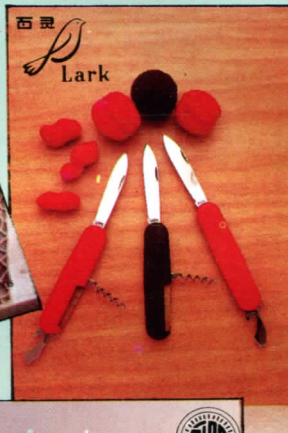
Wang Changsheng manipulates a  
figure during a shadow play.

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