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A MAJOR STAGE OF TIBETAN HISTORY



**China Firm in
Its Policies**



Two young Peking opera fans.

Photo by Shi Xinde

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

A Historical Turning Point for Tibet

□ Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme was the fully authorized delegate of the former local Tibetan government in 1950 to negotiate with central government delegates in Beijing on the peaceful liberation of Tibet. Now vice-chairman of the NPC Standing Committee and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Tibet Autonomous Region People's Congress, he wrote an article on the signing of a 17-article agreement on the peaceful liberation of Tibet and the changes that have taken place in the last 40 years (p. 15).

Dalai Lama's Human Rights Records

□ Despite the Dalai Lama's glib talk about human rights, historical records show another picture of old Tibet where people were divided into ranks, human beings traded and used to pay off debts, and kangaroo courts set up by the large monasteries and manorial lords to mete out horrible punishments to "offenders" (p. 4).

MFN Status Is of Mutual Interest

□ The economic and trade ties between China and the United States are one of the pillars of overall Sino-American relations while the MFN status issue is a cornerstone in bilateral economic and trade ties. Cancellation of such treatment to China will severely harm the interests of both countries (p. 6).

United States Troubled by Economic Recession

□ This article provides an in-depth analysis of the current economic recession in the United States. It answers such questions as how serious it is, why it occurred, what the unfavourable factors impeding the US economic recovery are, and what impact it has produced on US politics and foreign relations (p. 10).

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COVER: On May 5, 1988, Tibetan mountaineers Ringen Puncog (right) and Daceren climbed to the top of the Qomolangma, the world's highest mountain, and displayed the Five-Starred Red Flag of China to express their ardent love for the motherland.

Photo by Xin Cheng

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The Dalai Lama's Human Rights Records

by Bu Wen

The Dalai Lama is now travelling around the world giving glib talk about human rights, "love and sympathy" and "non-violence," and, in a compassionate tone, appealing for the restoration of the Tibetan people's "human rights." Since the Dalai Lama is the leading figure of Lamaism and a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, people naturally believe that under the rule of the Dalai Lama the Tibetan people were in their happiest time and that they enjoyed their highest level of freedom and human rights. To discover the truth, this author studied many records and files. The following, however, is just a small portion of the voluminous records about the human rights situation in Tibet under the rule of the Dalai Lama.

To begin with, this is a copy of a contract regarding the compensated transfer of a young girl:

"Hereupon, the daughter of Soinnam Butri, serf of zhangang of the Nechung Monastery. After her mother died, the girl, named Lhaba, was adopted by Aidingba. The butler of the chief lama of the Nechung Monastery has paid Aidingba 12 zhanggak (old Tibetan monetary unit) of silver for the adoption. Now this girl is to be transferred to Chaiba [a kind of serf] Drongdopa, and a contract specifying additional corvee is signed. According to the contract, in the future, Drongdopa must unconditionally render corvee services both inside and outside the monastery and accept at any time the assignment of the Living Buddhas and other officials. The girl must also spare no effort in rendering her services. Drongdopa may consider and decide on the girl's marriage in the future. But the descendants of the girl will continue to be included in the register book of zhangang of the Nechung Monastery. This term may not be violated. Should any deceitful behaviour or similar action occur, it will not be tolerated and, no matter whoever this person may be, severe punishment will be meted out to him.

Contractor: The Drongdo
Family Lhaba (finger print)
Guarantor: Jebu (finger print)
The 10th day of the 2nd
month of the Fire Dragon
Year of the Tibetan calendar"

It should be noted here that at that time 95 percent of the Tibetans belonged to their masters for generation after generation, and that those in this position were called "shumin (serf)." chaiba was a serf who tilled the land for their masters gratis and rendered all sorts of corvee services. The owners of serfs, the estate-holders, accounted for 5 percent

of the Tibetan population and were composed of lamas of the monasteries, officials and aristocrats.

In old Tibet, human beings could be traded. The following is the full text of a contract on the trade of serfs between two estate-holders:

"After negotiation, the Riqu Monastery and its benefactor Pongyashung have agreed to trade Ngodrup, son of the Buddhist hall guard and serf of the Riqu Monastery, with Tenzin Wangyal, son of Zhegya Jamyang Wangyal and serf of Pongyashung. In the future, Pongyashung will become the owner of all the descendants of the above-mentioned Ngodrup, while the Riqu Monastery will become the owner of all the descendants of Tenzin Wangyal. The agreement has been reached. To ensure that none of the two parties will make any alteration or raise any objection in the future, this contract is hereby concluded. With two copies, this contract serves as a proof.

Treasurer of Shenri (seal)
Treasurer of the Riqu Monastery
(official seal)

The 1st day of the sixth month
of the Water Tiger Year of
the Tibetan calendar"

In old Tibet, human beings could also be used to pay debts. The following are two indentures on the payment of debts by giving members of the debtors' family to the creditors.

Indenture I: The text of the indenture signed by serf Cewang Raodeng and his wife on paying their debts by selling their daughter and baby son:

"Cewang Raodeng and his wife, serf of the Duosong Manor, unable to pay the large amounts of silver for the grain they owed to Dekang of Nedong, have to pay their debts by giving their daughter Gensong Dundan and baby son Bema Danzin to Dekang. The descendants of the above-mentioned two children will all become the serf of Dekang."

Indenture II: The text of the indenture by which Zhaxi Quda agreed to let his sister Cering Lhamo pay his debt to Lharang by rendering free labour service to Lharang for ten years:

"Zhaxi Quda of the Nari Manor, who is unable to repay the 40 ke (about 520 kg) of grain owed to Lharang, has agreed to pay the debt by letting his sister Cering Lhamo render corvee service to Lharang for ten years. Should any slight violation occurs, the responsible party will be punished according to local decrees."

There did have been laws under the rule of the Dalai Lama before 1959. They included the

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

13-Article Code and the 16-Article Code which had been in force for more than three centuries. Under the two codes, "people were classified into three ranks—the upper, middle and the lower—each rank was sub-divided into the upper, middle and lower levels" according to their blood relationship of the noble and the lowly and with their position. The Tibetan king, major and minor Living Buddhas and the nobles belonged to the upper rank, while merchants, staff members and herds-owners belonged to the middle rank, and blacksmiths, butchers and women belonged to the lower rank and lower level. The life value of people of various ranks was also different. The code stipulated, "As people are different in rank and level, so are their life prices." According to the two codes, the life price of the people at the upper rank and upper level was "priceless," and "their remains are equal to gold in amount"; the life price of people at the upper rank and middle level was equivalent to 300-400 taels of gold, while the life price of blacksmiths, butchers and women was as cheap as "a straw rope." The reparations price for a murdered blacksmith or a butcher was just as the price of "a straw rope." (see Rules on the Life Price of a Murdered" under Article 7 of the 13-Article Code).

In order to safeguard this "three-rank-nine-level" system, the code laid down severe punishment meted out for acts by the lower offending the upper. Article 3 of the 13-Article Code clearly stipulated, "The lowly who squabbles with the honourable should be arrested." Article 8 stipulated, "Punishment meted out to the upper and the lower who hurt others is different: the civilian who hurts an official will be punished by cutting off his or her hands or legs according to the seriousness of the injury; while any owner who accidentally hurts a servant will be responsible for the cost of treating the wound but will not be punished. Owners who beat and wound servants will not have to compensate them." In "Rules on Corporal Punishment for Felony" under Article 4 of the 13-Article Code, corporal punishment was laid down as follows: "Gouging out the eyes, chopping off limbs, cutting off the tongue, pushing the "offender" down a cliff or drowning him.

In old Tibet, not only local governments at various levels set up tribunals and prisons, but large monasteries, manorial owners and tribal chiefs also could handle cases. In an order signed personally by the Dalai Lama to Zomgbon and other officials, it was reaffirmed that the Zhaibung Monastery had the right to handle various lawsuit cases, convict the "offenders" and take measurement of penalty. Therefore, meting out various corporal punishments was very common in old Tibet. Among the existing materials, there are many photos taken during the 1950s under the Dalai Lama rule, these include a serf named Babu whose eyes were gouged out by the manorial owner, herdsman Beimo Hongzhen whose right hand was chopped off by his manorial owner

simply because he stole half a small bag of qingke (highland barley), herdsman Tuituo of Amdo County whose leg was chopped off by a tribal chief, and herdsman Bude whose eyes were gouged out. Various kinds of dreadful instruments of torture are still kept intact to this date.

Among the archives, macadre things have been discovered. The following are some original documents:

Letter I:

Tribal Head Radao,

In order to congratulate the Dalai Lama on his birthday, all staff members of the school of Lamaism need to recite Buddhist sutras. In order to conscientiously complete this religious service, it is necessary to offer sacrifice on the day, and a pair of wet intestines, two heads, various kinds of blood, a man's skin are urgently needed. It is hoped that you will immediately send them in.

Shusji Xiaoxia Pakong

Letter II:

Ragal,

As it is necessary to carry out the religious service with the goddess serving food, four heads, ten pairs of intestines, pure blood, stained blood, ruins soil, a widow's menstrual blood, a leper's blood, various kinds of flesh, hearts, blood, shade land's water, whirl wind soil, thistles and thorns growing northward, dog's dung, human wastes, and the butcher's boots are needed, be sure to send them to Cerqoikang.

Cerqoikang
the 19th

The above historical records are the most convincing evidence of the human rights situation in Tibet under the Dalai Lama's rule.

Today, there are no more "manorial owners," and "serfs," nor are people regarded as an individual's property which can be bought, sold, transferred, exchanged or used to pay a debt. People are no longer classified into three ranks and nine levels, and blacksmiths, butchers and women are no longer worth just as a straw rope, instead, as stipulated in the Constitution, they are members of the working class leading the country and women are equal to men, "holding up half the sky." There are no more tribunals set up by monasteries, manorial owners and tribal chiefs and punishments like gouging out people's eyes, chopping off people's hands and legs and cutting off people's tongues, nor are there anyone who dares to claim for human's heads, skin, intestines and blood. The Dalai Lama, once the biggest manorial owner and the top man in Tibet, now runs around campaigning for restoring human rights to the Tibetan people, what kind of human rights does he want to restore? ■

Party Chief Starts Tour of Moscow

Chinese Party chief Jiang Zemin said that he was convinced that the Soviet people would overcome their temporary difficulties and achieve "final victory" in their cause of reform.

Jiang made the remarks on May 11 during an interview with Soviet correspondents from the Central TV, *Tass* and *Pravda*, four days before he left for an official visit to the Soviet Union.

The Party General Secretary, who worked as an intern at the Moscow Motor Vehicle Manufacturing Plant 35 years ago, believed his visit would enhance the Sino-Soviet relations, which are "not only in keeping with the fundamental interests and aspiration of the two peoples, but also conducive to safeguarding world peace and stability."

China and the Soviet Union are neighbouring countries, sharing a border of over 7,000 kilometres.

While reaffirming the historical significance of the establishment of the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, Jiang noted that the socialist system needs a reform as a means of self-improvement.

China has come a long way in reform and opening to the outside world in the past decade and more, enjoying fairly rapid development of the economy, considerable progress in society and noticeable improvement of people's material and cultural life, he said.

The Party chief characterized the role of the special economic zones, including Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Xiamen and Hainan, as a boost to the economy in the coastal and other areas of the country. Meanwhile, they have provided the overall economic reform programme in the country with new ideas and new experiences.

During the Eighth Five-Year Plan period (1991-95), he said, China will run the economic zones still better. At the same time, it will develop the New Pudong Area in Shanghai.

Jiang also talked about the Party newspapers' roles in mobilizing the

people's participation in reform.

But if the Party newspapers make mistakes as opinion-shapers, it will derail the cause of reform and opening to the outside world. "In this respect, we have already learned our lessons," the Party General Secretary said. ■

MFN Status: Two-Way Traffic

The economic and trade ties between China and the United States are one of the pillars of Sino-American relations; China hopes the United States will renew its most-favoured-nation (MFN) status to China, said Chinese Premier Li Peng.

Li made the remarks on May 9 in Beijing while meeting with Roger Sullivan, president of the US-China Business Council, and Donald Anderson, Sullivan's successor.

During the two-hour talks, Li said that his government and people have always attached importance to Sino-US relations, including bilateral economic and trade ties.

Any far-sighted statesmen would understand that the restoration and development of bilateral relations are in the common interest of the people of the two countries, the premier said.

The US Congress will decide on China's MFN status on June 3. Li pointed out that China's basic attitude towards this is that it will make every effort to achieve the best result while preparing itself for the worst. If the United States suspends the MFN status to China or adds conditions, both China and the United States will be the losers, and the economy in Hong Kong and other regions will be severely affected.

Such a situation is what the Chinese side does not want to see, Li said. Should it happen, he added, Sino-American relations would be seriously impaired. American industrial and business interests in China would lose a potential huge market.

The premier noted that the suspension of the MFN status would also do harm to China's reform and

open policy. This will be in contradiction with the US statement that the United States hopes China will continue with its reform and opening to the outside world.

But, should China's MFN status be suspended, the country's reform and opening will continue as usual as it is a basic state policy drafted according to China's particular needs.

During the meeting, Sullivan said that he has exchanged views with leaders of various Chinese departments during his stay and his impression is that China is sincere in improving and developing its ties with the United States.

He said that his council does not want to see US-China relations harmed, and the extension of China's MFN status is also in America's own interests.

Meanwhile, Wu Jianmin, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, called the MFN treatment between the two countries a "cornerstone in Sino-American economic and trade relations." It benefits both, but is not a unilateral favour bestowed by one side to the other.

Wu was answering an American correspondent's questions on US Under-Secretary of State Robert Kimmitt's recent visit to China and on China's attitude to the MFN status issue. Kimmitt came to China for political consultations.

Wu said that the mutual offering of MFN treatment between China and the United States benefits both countries.

In 1979, the total Sino-US trade volume was only US\$2.45 billion; but the figure rose to US\$11.76 billion in 1990, he said.

Quoting a Chinese saying that "one palm cannot clap," Wu said, "the rapid growth of Sino-American economic and trade relations is obviously based on mutual interests."

Cancellation of such treatment will not only affect China's exports to the United States and US exports to China, but also harm the interests of American consumers at home and American investors in China, as well as the economy in Hong Kong, Wu said.

Also, the US economic relations with the Asia-Pacific region, which

remains the most dynamic region in the world economy, will be affected, he said, adding that China's role in the region is "self-evident."

The spokesman pointed out that China will not accept conditions attached to the extension of the MFN status.

Attempts to make the Chinese government change its policies by exerting pressure will not succeed, he said. "China's policies, based on the fundamental interests of the Chinese people, will not be changed because of external pressure."

"We are unwilling to see the deterioration of Sino-US relations, but that does not depend on China alone," he said. "If such a situation does occur, there will be nothing to be afraid of, and China is prepared for it."

However, China always attaches importance to its relations with the United States, he added, hoping that "by placing their fundamental interests above everything else, China and the United States will surmount their differences in social systems and ideologies to gradually improve and develop bilateral relations on the basis of the three Sino-US joint communiques. ■

China Backs DPRK Reunification Efforts

China supports the active efforts made by the Korean people for peaceful reunification of their country, reaffirmed Chinese Premier Li Peng on May 3 at a banquet given in his honour by the Korean government in Pyongyang. Li arrived there earlier in the day for a four-day official goodwill visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) at the invitation of Premier Yon Hyong Muk.

Li said: "The Communist Party of China and the Chinese government and people have always been following with interest the Korean cause for independent and peaceful reunification of the country. They have consistently supported the active efforts of the Korean Party and government towards that end."

"We are glad to see that positive changes have taken place on the Korean Peninsula in recent years, particularly the trend of relaxation of the tension," he stated.

The Chinese premier cited the high-level inter-Korean talks between the North and South last year and the gratifying progress in sports, art and culture as proof of such developments.

The Korean Party and government have put forward a series of proposals for an early reunification of Korea. In his New Year's Day message, DPRK President Kim Il Sung said that Korea should be reunified as a confederation on the basis of "one nation, one state, two systems and two governments."

Premier Li said: "The Chinese Party and government highly value every reasonable suggestion on peaceful reunification put forward by the Korean Party and government." "Korea's reunification should be accomplished under the condition of non-interference from the outside and through dialogue and consultation between the two sides of Korea," he noted.

On the new international order, Li said: "The world today is by no means tranquil despite a relaxation of tension in US-Soviet relations

and a reduction of military confrontation," he said.

"Hegemonism and power politics still exist but new regional conflicts may still happen, the North-South contradictions are becoming ever more outstanding and the vast number of developing countries are faced with even more rigorous challenges," Li added.

He pointed out that "the decade of the 1990s is a crucial period in mankind's march towards the 21st century, and the people of various countries are even more concerned about the establishment of a new international political and economic order."

"We hold that the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence embody the most fundamental norms governing international relations and they should serve as the basis for a new international order to be established to facilitate the fight for a lasting world peace and the efforts of all countries to seek common development," the Chinese premier stressed.

China will keep to its independent foreign policy of peace and make unremitting efforts to safeguard global peace and promote common progress, he said.

Prior to the banquet, the premiers

Kim Il Sung, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, meeting with Premier Li Peng on May 4.

LI WUEREN



of China and Korea reached the understanding during their talks that under the present international situation, it is absolutely necessary to strengthen the unity between China and the DPRK, and that the exchange of views and information between leaders of the two countries is of great importance to the strengthening of the traditional friendship and co-operation between the parties, governments and peoples of China and Korea.

Li had visited DPRK in 1985 as head of a Chinese Party and government delegation. ■

Taiwan Announces End of 'Mobilization'

The Taiwan authorities lifted the so-called "period of mobilization to suppress the Communist rebellion" and abolished the "Temporary Provisions for the Mobilization" on May 1, 1991. The move, which indicates that the Taiwan authorities have formally given up the so-called "state of civil war" against the Communist Party of China, will help reduce hostility and develop relations between the two sides, according to May 11's *People's Daily* commentary.

The so-called "period of mobilization" and the "temporary provisions" were adopted by the Kuomintang (KMT) ruling clique more than four decades ago as part of its anti-communist and anti-people policy. From the very beginning, the policy was opposed by the CPC, various democratic parties and the people.

The policy met its utter failure and the old "legal KMT authority" came to an end with the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the commentary said.

The KMT ruling clique fled to Taiwan, and under the signboard of the "Republic of China," imposed martial law there, depriving the local people of the basic democratic rights and impeding reunification of the motherland, the article said.

Under internal and external pressure, the Taiwan authorities had to put an end to the "period of mobil-

ization" in a gesture to stabilize the political situation and conform to the development of the relations between the two sides of the straits.

The commentary pointed out that with the common efforts of the people of the two sides in recent 10 years, great changes have taken place in the relations across the straits.

During this period, the Taiwan authorities lifted the ban on visits to the mainland by Taiwan compatriots, gave greenlight to indirect economic, trade, sports and academic contacts between the two sides, and repeatedly affirmed the stand that "there is only one China" and "China will be finally reunified," the commentary said.

"It is expected the Taiwan authorities will adopt further measures to promote the relations between the mainland and Taiwan in the direction of peaceful reunification."

However, the commentary noted, the Taiwan authorities have not "forsaken its basic anti-communist policy" and are seeking the position of a "parallel political entity." They even cherish the illusion of "peacefully transforming the mainland" with the "Taiwan experience." "All this is unrealistic and will get no-

where," the commentary said.

The commentary stressed that China should be reunified by peaceful means. "That we do not commit ourselves to renounce military means is aimed not at the Taiwan people but at foreign interference and 'independence of Taiwan,'" it said. ■

Soviet Marshal Visits China

Senior Chinese leaders met with visiting Soviet Defence Minister Marshal Dmitry T. Yazov and his party on May 7 in Beijing.

This friendly visit was the first by a Soviet defence minister since the two countries established diplomatic relations.

In his meeting with Yazov, Party chief Jiang Zemin briefed him on achievements the Chinese people have made since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China in 1978.

Summarizing his impression of China, Yazov said, "The Chinese people are working, labouring and creating while safeguarding their achievements."

Chinese Defence Minister Qin Jiwei meets with his Soviet counterpart Marshal Dmitry T. Yazov on May 3 in Beijing.

CHENG ZHISHAN



In a meeting that afternoon, President Yang Shangkun said that he hoped more and more friends from the Soviet military circle would visit China, adding that the Chinese people have always cherished deep feelings towards the Soviet people.

Yang cited Gorbachev's visit to China in 1989 and Jiang's upcoming visit to the Soviet Union as evidence that the Sino-Soviet relations have reached a new stage of development.

In a separate meeting, Premier Li Peng told his Soviet guests that as a friendly neighbour, China sincerely hopes that the Soviet Union will soon get over its temporary difficulties and maintain its unification and stability.

Li said that Yazov's visit to China is a major event in the relations between the Chinese and Soviet armies as well as an important aspect in the ties between the two countries.

He said Sino-Soviet co-operation is developing smoothly. To develop good-neighbourly relations between the two countries on the basis of the Five Principle of Peaceful Coexistence is not only in keeping with the interest of the two countries but also conducive to peace in Asia and the world as a whole, he added.

Yazov said that during his delegation's tour of Guangdong, Shanghai and Beijing, he saw the creative work and achievements scored by the Chinese people and by the military in particular.

It is a very great achievement for China to have solved the problem of feeding and clothing its 1.1 billion people, he said.

Li said, "We still have a long way to go and the future task is arduous." In the 10 years of reform and opening to the outside world, he said, China has laid the foundation for an economic mechanism that combines planned economy with market regulation. "We plan to finally establish the mechanism and improve it in the next 10 years, and continue our efforts to properly handle the relations between reform, development and stability," he added.

Preferential Treatment To Continue in Tibet

Vice-Minister in charge of the State Nationalities Affairs Commission Chen Xin said the Chinese government will continue to carry out special and preferential policies in the Tibet Autonomous Region.

Speaking at a May 6 press conference, Chen told Chinese and foreign correspondents that the central government will adopt even more preferential, flexible and special policies in Tibet than in other autonomous regions on account of Tibet's special social, geographical, natural and religious conditions.

Before the Democratic Reform of 1959, theocratic Tibet was under feudal serfdom and ruled by a government which was actually the united dictatorship of hereditary aristocrats and estate-holders of the various monasteries. In addition, it was a closed land in the past, lagging behind economically and culturally. The central government's preferential policies are designed to boost Tibet's economic development and improve the local people's lives, Chen said.

Now Tibetan farmers have the right to use and manage the land independently and while herdsmen manage their own livestock breeding business, she said, adding that farmers and herdsmen are exempt from agricultural and livestock taxes and can freely sell their own products.

The central government has also granted Tibet the right to issue import and export licenses. Tibet now retains all foreign exchange earnings and enjoys a tax rate on import and export goods that is much lower than in other parts of the country, Chen noted.

When asked about the central government's attitude towards the activities of the Dalai Lama, Zhol

Jyal, another vice-minister of the commission, said that the Dalai Lama is stepping up his separatist activities in an effort to internationalize an internal affair of China.

On the issue of negotiation between the Dalai and the central government, he said, the Dalai Lama repeatedly changes his tune and contradicts himself, hindering the negotiation. Therefore, he added, it is not the central government's fault that the negotiation has not yet been



CHEN ZONGLIE

Zhol Jyal, vice-minister in charge of the State Nationalities Affairs Commission, is speaking at a press conference on May 6; Chen Xin, another vice-minister of the commission, also attends the press conference.

held.

Zhol pointed out that some foreign countries recognize Tibet as a part of China on the one hand, but on the other hand, they support and incite the Dalai clique to engage in separatist activities. "We oppose any foreign interference in Tibetan affairs," he stressed.

Zhol reiterated that the Chinese government's policy towards the Dalai Lama will remain unchanged. The Chinese government is willing to negotiate with the Dalai Lama and welcome his return as long as he sincerely improves his relations with the government and renounces his stand for Tibetan independence.

On the influence of minority riots, the vice-minister said that the people throughout the country have greatly heightened their awareness of patriotism and laws. The riot in Lhasa in March, 1989 was initiated by only a few lamas and nuns. But no disturbance happened in other places of Tibet. This shows the majority of the Tibetans love their country, he said.

US Economy Sees Recession

by Zhen Bingxi

Beginning in the fourth quarter last year, the US economy, after eight years of growth, experienced the eighth recession since World War II. Although not so virulent as before, its influence is not to be underestimated.

The current economic recession, as in the past, is a complex crisis caused by many factors related to surplus production. It is a general norm that a continuous negative growth of the actual gross national product (GNP) in two successive quarters is interpreted as an economic recession.

In the fourth quarter of 1990, the US GNP declined by 2 percent compared with the previous quarter, and it continued to drop by 1 percent in the first quarter of this year. From last October to February, the index of overall US industrial production fell for five months in a row. In last November, it dropped by 1.7 percent, the biggest drop since December 1982. During this period, the utilization of capacity in manufacturing sectors decreased from 82.5 percent to 78 percent, the low-

est point in the past eight years. Many manufacturing sectors showed decreased profits and faced a shrunken production. The automobile industry, in particular, was in bad shape; its output in the fourth quarter of 1990 decreased by 24 percent.

Last year saw a drastic increase in bankruptcy filings. Firms declaring bankruptcy in the United States reached 60,000 with arrears totalling US\$70 billion. Since last August, about 1,500 companies closed down each week. In terms of the amount of debt that was in arrears and the number of enterprises that declared bankruptcy, the situation was the most serious since World War II.

In addition, employment fell off. Before the overall economy was mired in a quagmire of recession, many enterprises began to lay off employ-

ees. According to the United States Labour Department, the unemployment rate rose from 5.2 percent last May to 6.5 percent in February. Unemployment figures rose from 6 million to 8 million. The semi-employed people surpassed 5 million and the figure continues to rise. It means that one person in every 19 lost his job or is in a state of semi-employment.

Recession not only damaged material production, but also stunned the service industry thought to have strong resistance capacity to production fluctuation. Banking and retailing businesses have been most seriously harmed as a result of the recession.

Last year, the US banks met a record US\$30 billion in loans that could not be returned, four times that of 1982. The number of bank failures reached 170, much more than that recorded in 1982.

Retailing became increasingly sluggish. The growth rate of overall retail volume decreased from the average 3 percent in the 1980s to 1 percent in 1990. In the fourth quarter of last year, the retail volume fell by 4 percent.

The civil aviation industry slumped, taking tremendous financial losses. Among airline corporations that filed for bankruptcy was Pan America, a 70-year-old company. Financial and insurance firms, stock exchanges, advertising,

legal and accounting firms were also hurt by recession.

Of jobless "white collar" employees, many are managers, brokers, financial experts, lawyers, accountants and senior functionaries. They account for about 60 percent of the total number of the unemployed people at the close of last year, a 10 percent increase compared with 1982.

Reasons

Following the most serious post-war economic crisis from 1980 to 1982, the US economy experienced a comparatively long period of growth. Why has an economic recession arisen now? The reasons are many and are complicated but one is a sharp contradiction between supply and demand.

The contradiction between production and marketing is particularly manifest in construction and retail sectors, which saw a blind development in the 1980s. Affected by sluggish rise in income and increased inflation, actual purchasing power of working people dropped, resulting in a sharp reduction in demand for housing and consumer goods.

The debt factor, which once supported US economic growth, has now hindered economic activity. By the middle of last year, government bonds and private debts had reached US\$12,800 billion, 2.4 times the country's GNP. For a period, the situation created a false prosperity in which domestic demand was strong, consumption greatly increased and imports grew by a big margin. But such a debt-stimulated economic prosperity did not last. Now, the federal debts have surpassed US\$3,000 billion, and annual

payment of interest amounts to US\$150 billion. In order to pay bond interest, the US government vied with private enterprises for funds in monetary markets. This led to a rise in interest rates, which affected investment and production. Huge debts made the government unable to stimulate the economy with an expansionary financial policy. Non-financial enterprise debts reached US\$3,500 billion. The funds used to repay the principal and interest by enterprises accounted for 60 percent of their after-tax income in 1990, while the proportion was only 40 percent at the beginning of the 1980s. This weakened the investment capacity of the enterprises. Individual debts amounted to about US\$3,600 billion, and the purchasing power of many families was almost exhausted because of debts. In addition, the reduction in actual income caused them to defer buying consumer goods, including houses and cars.

In order to cool down an overheated economic operation and check inflation, the Federal Reserve Board began to pursue a monetary retrenchment policy in 1988 and has raised discount rate for many times since then. Subsequently, commercial banks increased their preferential interest rates, which climbed to 11.5 percent in 1989. This restricted individual consumer demand and the investments in fixed assets of enterprises, further slowing down economic growth. The high interest rate caused less individual consumer demand and investment in fixed assets, both responsible for economic growth. As a result, the US

economy continued to decline and moved into recession in the fourth quarter of 1990.

Unfavourable Factors

The US economy, though in trouble, still maintains some favourable factors. At present, inflation rate is not very high, giving the Federal Reserve Board room to readjust monetary policy and lower interest rates. Because the exchange rates of US dollar are soft and the economic situation of its principal trade partners, Japan and Germany, is better, the export products and especially manufactured goods maintain momentum. In the past 10 years, the capabilities to readjust economic recession and oppose the price increase of oil have been strengthened. Many manufactured goods are not over stocked. Agricultural production continues to grow.

However, some unfavourable factors exist.

First, the consumers' and investors' confidence continues to weaken. Consumers don't want to increase spending and this year many corporations have cut their production investment plans. The actual expenditure of the whole manufacturing industry has decreased by 1.3 percent.

Second, the federal budgetary deficits have continuously expanded and the US administration lacks the financial means to prevent the economic recession from deepening. According to official estimates, the federal budget deficit in fiscal year 1991 will amount to US\$300 billion or to US\$350 billion, the highest in history. If the expenditure of the Gulf war is included,

the budget deficit will be higher. The unprecedented budget deficit will prevent the Bush administration from using an expansionary financial policy to push the economic recovery just as the Reagan administration did in the early 1980s.

Third, the flow of foreign capital into the United States has thinned out and even a part of it has been withdrawn. Because the world deposit rate has decreased and Japan and Germany have sharply reduced capital export, there is a global shortage of capital. Meanwhile, because the interest rates of other Western countries are higher than that of the United States, the outflow of capital from the United States will increase, making the US shortage of money more keenly felt and economic recovery more difficult.

Fourth, the crisis of banks and savings and loan businesses has aggravated economic recession. It is estimated that the number of bankrupt banks this year will be 230, involving US\$90 billion in debt, both figures higher than last year. The economic recession aggravates the bank crisis, which, in turn, promotes the economic recession. Even if the monetary crisis does not deepen, the US banking circles will take more care of and strictly limit credits. A study report of last year shows that about one third of US banks have reduced credit funds, thus slowing the economic recovery.

Fifth, the sluggishness of real estate and building industries further worsens. The present office buildings are equal in number to those projected as needed for the future ten years. The number of married

families decreases every year and the demand for housing has been reduced. This not only sharpens the surplus and depression of housing construction, but also affects recovery of consumer confidence. It also constitutes a great danger to the banks which provide loans for real estate investments.

Finally, the room to expand export is narrowed. Some economists note that the US recession may lead to a global economic depression. Their view is not baseless. At present some developed countries such as Canada, Britain and Australia have fallen into recession. The economic growth of other developed countries may be slow this year. The economies of many developing countries are sluggish. Under such circumstances the US export growth this year will be lower than that of the two previous years, though it can maintain momentum to a certain extent.

Therefore, the present recession is probably not the gravest one since World War II, but it is not a "mild and short one" as the US official sources predicted.

Impact

The current recession will have a major bearing on the political and economic life in the United States as well as Washington's foreign relations.

First of all, the working people in the United States will be most affected by the recession. Massive unemployment has lowered people's living standards and widened income gap, increasing social problems.

Although the current unem-

ployment rate of 6.5 percent is lower than the November 1982 level of 10.8 percent, the damage inflicted upon the unemployed and their families by the current recession is no less serious than that of the last recession. Among the unemployed in the early 1980s, many were young people who didn't support families, but the majority of the jobless today are adults with families to support. For them, being out of job means a loss of income and welfare benefits. Mishaps such as children dropping out of school and a breakup of families can arise from unemployment.

Furthermore, today it is more difficult for jobless workers to qualify for welfare. In the state of Michigan, for example, during 1980-1982 one could sign on the dole as long as he had worked for a company for 14 weeks. But now the time limit has been extended to 20 weeks. Therefore, fewer people are eligible to be on the dole. It is estimated that in the last recession, 76.8 percent of the unemployed could receive unemployment compensation, while today only one third of them can do so. In the initial stage of recession, the jobless workers might find new temporary jobs, but with the deepening of recession, the number of the jobless snowballs and job opportunities are shrinking. Many company giants that used to employ workers for life have begun to fire workers and the number of life-employment companies has dropped from 30 five years ago to eight today. The International Business Machines still insists that it will adhere to the life employment sys-

tem, but recently it changed many full-time positions to half-time, rendering in effect many of its workers semi-employed. According to other reports, the average unemployment span this year will be nine months, almost two times the 1982 figure of 4.8 months. The longer the unemployment time drags on, the more the working people suffer.

Furthermore, the recession will widen the income gap between the rich and the poor. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that over the past decade low-income families that account for one fifth of the population have in fact witnessed a 5 percent decrease in their disposable income while the high-income families that also account for one fifth of the population have enjoyed a 33 percent increase in their disposable income. This widened gap will inevitably exacerbate social problems.

The economic recession will also make it more difficult for the US government to eliminate the huge budgetary deficit, the No. 1 headache besetting the US economy for many years. The administration and Congress have been resolved to wipe out the deficit. Last October the two branches made a new budget plan that demanded a cut of US\$500 billion in the deficit in the next five years through increased revenue and reduced spending. For the current fiscal year, the deficit must be reduced by US\$40 billion. This plan seems unlikely to materialize now, because the recession has forced the federal government to increase welfare spending, such as aid to child-raising fami-

lies, food stamp programme and medicare. Furthermore, with production declining, companies and individual citizens have witnessed decreases in income, resulting in a reduction in the federal government's income tax revenue. This will only enlarge the budget deficit. The burden of military spending on the Gulf war further compounds the deficit situation.

Especially noteworthy is the fact that the recession will bring about changes favourable to Japan and Germany but unfavourable to the United States in the balance of world economic power. This will complicate relations among the three economic giants. The current recession is not synchronic in the West. While a recession is racking the United States, Japan and Germany continue to witness economic growth, which will be over 3 percent this year. Even if a recovery occurs in the United States in the next few years, the speed will not be as fast as that of Japan or Germany. This will constitute a major factor in the interrelationships among the three nations. At present, the United States finds it very hard to co-ordinate economic policies with Japan or Germany as each is going its own way. Washington expects Bonn and Tokyo to stimulate their domestic demand and increase imports from the United States to help it out of the recession. But Japan and Germany refused to satisfy US demands on the grounds of domestic economic difficulties.

Aside from trade frictions, interest rates and capital have become focus of fresh conflicts between the three na-

tions. With their economic might increasing, Bonn and Tokyo will step up efforts to win a say and a right to decide in world economic affairs in competing with Washington.

Finally, the recession or low economic growth rate will inevitably reduce the demand in the United States and other Western nations for imports from developing nations. Western countries will attempt to lower the prices of primary products and even reinforce trade protectionism. This will further deteriorate trading conditions for developing nations and reduce their export earnings. The US government may also cut its official developmental aid to developing countries or attach austere economic and political conditions to the aid under the pretext of domestic financial difficulties. American commercial banks will not only cut domestic loans and credits but also reduce loans to developing nations and refuse to cancel debts of the debtor countries. Moreover, the contest between the United States and other developed nations for capital will lead to an increase of interest rates for international loans, thus aggravating the debt burden for developing nations. Therefore, developing nations' efforts to achieve economic growth will be thwarted and a recession may occur in some of these countries. The debt situation will worsen, and the possibility of another debt crisis cannot be ruled out. The worsening of the economic situations in developing countries, in turn, will add to the economic difficulties in the United States and the rest of the Western world, thus creating a vicious circle. ■

France Mends Ties with New Zealand

by Lu Wangda

A resumption of ties between New Zealand and France was marked in late April when French Prime Minister Michel Rocard visited New Zealand.

It is the first visit by a top French official since French secret service agents sank *Rainbow Warrior* in Auckland, a port city of New Zealand on July 10, 1985. The *Rainbow Warrior* is the flagship of Greenpeace, an international environmental protection group. The incident was a shock to the international community and New Zealand filed a suit against France in the International Court of Justice.

Rocard's choice of Auckland as the first leg of his New Zealand tour, commented *Le Figaro*, showed that France wanted to put a period to the incident. Rocard repeatedly expressed apologies to New Zealand over the incident and acknowledged that France had done wrong. He hoped New Zealand would be forgiving and open a new chapter in future relations.

France, according to the International Court decision of last May, has already provided US\$2 million to establish a "Friendship Fund" to promote friendly exchanges between the people, especially youth, of the two countries. For this purpose, Rocard and Jim Bolger, prime minister of New Zealand, signed an agreement.

France's "remorse" has eventually won understanding. The difference, as Bolger described, has been finally resolved and

now efforts are under way to develop friendly co-operative relations between the two countries. France supports New Zealand's stand to protect environment and oppose the exploitation of mineral resources in Antarctica; New Zealand backs the Matignon agreement rendering France to stabilize the situation in New Caledonia. Both sides hope to strengthen trade ties. New Zealand, the world's fourth biggest mutton producer, plans to enter the European market with the help of France.

However, Rocard's visit did not remove all differences of views between the two countries. French nuclear testing in South Pacific remains the outstanding consideration. Australia and New Zealand have consistently condemned France's nuclear testing on Mururoa Island in South Pacific and advocated turning their region into a nuclear-free zone.

Responding to New Zealand's opposition to French nuclear testing, the French prime minister took a strong stand on this problem. Rocard said, "France refuses to stop its testing unless the superpowers reduce their nuclear arsenals." But, he added that France's nuclear testing brings no threat to the countries there and France welcomes Greenpeace organization and relevant experts to visit there.

Rocard's visit to New Zealand, along with his recent travel to Australia, have paved the way for France to develop relations with nations in the South Pacific

region.

Since Paris moved the centre of its foreign activities to Africa in the 1950s, France has been "absent" in the Asian-Pacific region. Now that this region is growing in importance in the world stage, France is eager to restore relations with South Pacific countries in a bid to secure a bridgehead for its strategy in the Asian-Pacific region.

Additionally, France's overseas territories are in the Pacific region. New Caledonia, near Australia and New Zealand, abounds in products and is important strategically. To maintain good relations with the neighbouring nations remains pivotal to a stable situation on the island.

As a nuclear power, France needs its sole nuclear testing site on Mururoa Island. In the past, France's independent nuclear deterrent played a major role in maintaining its position as a big power in the bipolar world. In the future multipolar world, France will certainly stick to its nuclear policy.

As French President Francois Mitterrand repeatedly stressed, France's nuclear weapons can guarantee its position in the world. Although Rocard once again explained France's nuclear policy in New Zealand, France's position rests in the balance. It must find a way both to maintain its interests in this region and to develop friendly relations with South Pacific countries opposed to nuclear development. And this is by no means an easy job. ■

17-Article Agreement: A Historical Turning Point

by Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme

As a delegate with the full powers of the former local Tibetan government, Jigme was in Beijing in 1950 negotiating with central government delegates on the peaceful liberation of Tibet. Now vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Tibet Autonomous Region People's Congress, he recalls the signing of a 17-article agreement on the peaceful liberation of Tibet and the great changes that have taken place in the last 40 years.

May 23 this year marks the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Agreement of the Central People's Government and the Local Government of Tibet on the Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet, also known as the 17-Article Agreement. I was the fully authorized delegate of the former local Tibetan government who signed the agreement. All sorts of feelings well up in my heart as I recall the past and compare it with the situation today.

I was born in 1911. The signing of the 17-Article Agreement, one of the most important events I have ever experienced and a milestone in my life, has divided my 80 years into two periods. In the first 40 years, Tibet was stagnant under feudal serfdom. In the second 40 years, Tibet advanced along the road charted by the 17-Article Agreement, undergoing

earthshaking changes and prosperity with each passing day. The two 40 years form a sharp contrast between the old and the new Tibet. It tells that in this multi-nationality country founded, the people of various nationalities have, in the long period of historical development, cement-

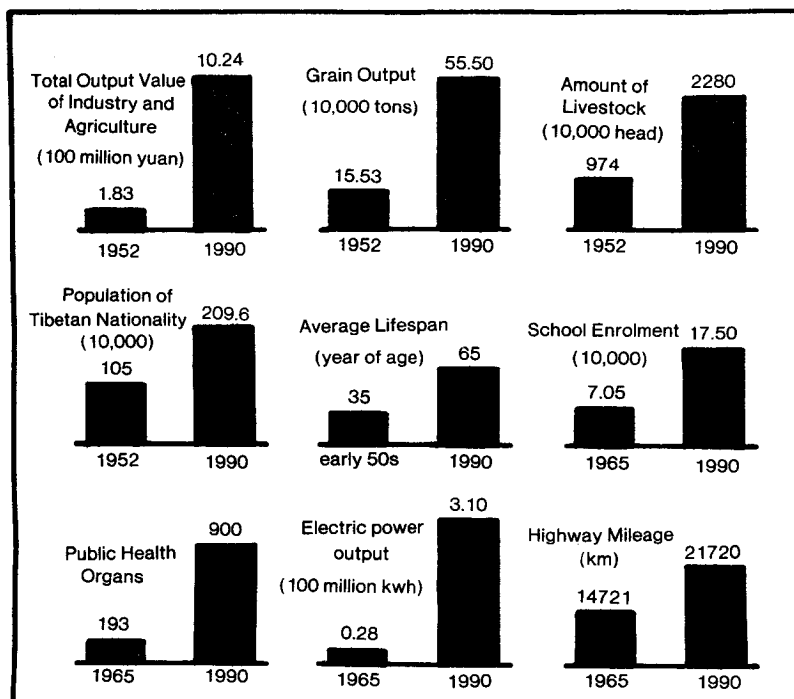
ed an inter-dependent relationship. Taking the road of joint development and common prosperity has become an irreversible historical trend. The signing of the 17-Article Agreement conformed with this general trend of historical development. I was happy to be involved in the process which was in the fundamental interest of the Tibetan nationality and was in conformity with the historical trend, a process which has stood the test of history.

The Signing

I remember that between 1949 and 1950, when the revolutionary war waged by the Chinese people under the leadership of the Communist Party of China was sweeping across the nation, the long-suppressed patriotic ideology of the Tibetan people ran high. Together with some upper-class patriots, I proposed that the Gaxag (the local Tibetan government) negotiate with the central government for the possible peaceful liberation of Tibet. Early in 1950, while the Communist Party of China and the central people's government ordered the People's Liberation Army to advance into Tibet for the consolidation of national defence, they also, in line with historical and actual conditions in Tibet, set forth the principles for the peaceful liberation of Tibet in order to avoid the destruction of a war. These principles



XU XIANGJUN
Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme.



The local Tibetan government shall actively assist the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in its advance into Tibet. The Tibetan army shall be regrouped into the PLA. (2) Practise national regional autonomy under the leadership of the central people's government. (3) Undertake various reforms in Tibet. The Tibetan local government should carry out, on its own accord, such reforms and the people's demand for reform should be dealt with through consultation with the Tibetan leaders. (4) Achieve unity within the Tibetan nationality, mainly the unity between the two sides represented by the Dalai Lama and the Bainqen Lama. (5) Follow the policy for freedom of religious belief and respect the customs and habits of the Tibetan people. (6) Gradually develop agriculture, animal husbandry, industry, commerce, culture and education in the light of the actual conditions of Tibet and improve the standard of living.

When I returned to Lhasa in September 1951, I reported to the conference of the local Tibetan government officials on the peace talks and the important contents of the agreement. I also refuted the rumours spread among the public in Lhasa at the time. After much discussion, the participating officials praised our work and expressed support for the 17-Article Agreement. On October 24, the Dalai Lama cabled Chairman Mao to express full support for the 17-Article Agreement.

The signing of the 17-Article Agreement was a turning point for the development of the Tibetan history. It indicated that the Tibetan nationality had, once and for all, rid itself of the aggression and yoke of imperialism, smashing the imperialist plot to split China. It also demonstrated that the various Chinese nationalities, the Tibe-

received support from the Tibetan patriots and the broad masses of the people.

In November 1950, when the Dalai Lama took over the power in Tibet, he dispatched a fully authorized delegation, composed of Tubdan Laimen, Sangpo Denzin Donzhub and myself as chief delegate, to go to Beijing directly from Qamdo. Other delegates, Kemu Soinam Wangdui and Tubdan Danda, went from Yandong to Beijing via India. The five of us were fully empowered to negotiate with the central people's government.

In April 1951, we gathered in Beijing and began negotiation with fully authorized members of the central people's government delegation composed of Zhang Jingwu, Zhang Guohua and Sun Zhiyuan, with Li Weihan as the chief delegate. Because both delegations held identical views on the fundamen-

tal issue to be ironed out, namely reinforcing Han-Tibetan unity and defending the reunification of the motherland, and because the central people's government delegation gave full consideration to the opinions we raised, the negotiation proceeded, from beginning to end, in an atmosphere of friendliness, sincerity and full discussion. This was true despite the disputes and different views on some issues. After frank and serious discussions, both parties concluded an agreement on all matters concerning the peaceful liberation of Tibet. The Agreement of the Central People's Government and the Local Government of Tibet on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet was officially signed on May 23.

The major contents of the agreement included: (1) Drive imperialist forces out of Tibet and consolidate national unity.

tan nationality included, had rallied together under new historical conditions.

Changes in 40 Years

The 17-Article Agreement opened up broad vistas for the progress and development of the Tibetan nationality, a fact which has been testified by the progress and development of Tibetan society over the last 40 years.

In the field of socialist democracy and legal construction, the People's Congress of the Tibet Autonomous Region and its Standing Committee have enacted a score of local regulations and decrees respectively on the construction of political power, social and economic development, marriage, education, written language, administration of justice, natural resources, and environmental protection. Their formulation and implementation provide legal guarantees for the Tibetan people to exercise their autonomy in their capacity as masters of the country. Remarkable headway has been made with regard to the construction of the political power and training of Tibetan nationality cadres. A contingent of cadres composed mainly of Tibetan nationality people has been formed. A large number of cadres of Tibetan and other nationalities have taken up leading posts at various levels and become chief leaders of the people's congresses and governments at various levels. As of the end of 1989, Tibetans made up more than 66.6 percent of the total number of cadres in Tibet.

The achievements made in the field of social production and economic construction have been great. In 1990, Tibet's grain output had reached 555 million kg, 3.58 times more than in 1952, and the number of livestock totalled 22.8 million head, 2.34 times more than in 1952. The total output value of agriculture

and animal husbandry reached 789 million yuan, compared to 183 million yuan in 1952. Modern industry, started from scratch, has grown gradually. There are now 263 small and medium-sized enterprises in Tibet's electronics, textile, timber, building materials, food processing, mining and other fields. There has also been great development in Tibet's national handicraft industry. Tibet has built a highway network with Lhasa as the centre which runs 21,800 km and begun flights from Lhasa to Beijing, Chengdu, Guangzhou and Kathmandu. The state channeled huge amount of funds into the construction of the 1,080-km oil pipeline extending from Gulmod to Lhasa. Tibet's cultural education and public health have also witnessed great progress.

with 1,500 medical workers. Medical books, passed down from ancient times, and many other classic works have been compiled and published in three languages, Tibetan, Chinese and English, for distribution at home and abroad.

With the development of construction, there has been much improvement in the standard of living of the Tibetan people. In 1990, the per-capita share of grain for farmers and herdsmen increased by 100 percent compared to the pre-liberation years as the per-capita annual income reached some 430 yuan. The overwhelming majority of people now have enough food and clothing.

With improvements in medical service, the Tibetan people are healthier today than in earlier



TANG ZHAOMING

Training classes like this are conducted in Lhasa for Tibetan agrotechnicians.

The region boasts 2,398 primary schools, 83 middle and secondary vocational schools and four institutions of higher learning with a total enrolment of 170,000 students. Tibet's brilliant traditional culture has been inherited and carried forward and Tibetan medicine developed in unprecedented ways. In Lhasa, there are now well equipped Tibetan medicine hospitals and factories,

periods. The mortality rate of new births has been much reduced. Tibet's population increased from 1.05 million in 1952 to 2.09 million in 1990; Tibetan people made up 95.4 percent of the region's total population. The lifespan of the Tibetan people has risen from 35 years of age in the early 1950s to 65 years today. All of these changes were impossible in old Tibet. ■

China's Tibet

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1. In the past four decades since the peaceful liberation of Tibet, earth-shaking changes have taken place there. As the system of regional national autonomy improves day by day, Tibet's economy has developed steadily and the people's living standards have been getting better and better. The various nationalities living on the "Roof of the World," each in its own ways, have cultivated peace and happiness. Lhasa residents here appreciate the Tibetan opera, an opera with a history of more than 1,300 years. It demonstrates its unique artistic charms by telling religious and folk tales mainly in the form of song and dance and ballad.

2. Actors and actresses from a Tibetan Opera Troupe of the autonomous region perform the traditional Tibetan opera "Zholwa Sangmo."

3. Tourists from all over the world flock to Tibet to enjoy the beautiful landscape and historical sites and cultural relics.

4. In 1990, the total output value of grain production in Tibet amounted to 550 million kg, triple that of the previous three decades. This is a wheat threshing-ground in Lhunzhub County, Tibet.

5. In the rural Tibetan area, it is now common for households to purchase tractors. Farmers of Doilungdegen County choose tractors at the Tibet Farm Machinery Co (Photo by Liu Lijia).

6. A Tibetan child with his pet lamb.

7. The north Tibetan plain.

8. The Tibetan people now enjoy full freedom of religion and are able to maintain their unique lifestyle. This is the annual grand festival where people prostrated themselves before the image of Buddha, a statue of Sakyamuni, in Zhaipung

Monastery in August 1990.

9. Residents of Lhasa City have a picnic in the Norbu Lingka Park.

10. These Tibetan handicraft women workers from Jedexiu township in Gonggar County are weaving "Pulo," and "Bangdi," a kind of traditional handicraft woollen knitwear.

11. Today there are 2,538 schools and colleges in Tibet, and the Tibetan language is taught in all primary and middle schools. Here a Tibetan scholar gives a lesson in Tibetan (Photo by Ma Jingqiu)

12. Students of the Tibetan Medical College of Tibetan University attend a lesson.

13. A technician working high above the ground. Many engineering projects in Tibet were completed with the help of engineers from inland provinces and cities (Photo by Cheng Xi)

14. Abundant geothermal energy resources hold magnificent promise for the development of energy. This is the geothermal steam power station in Yangbajain, Tibet.

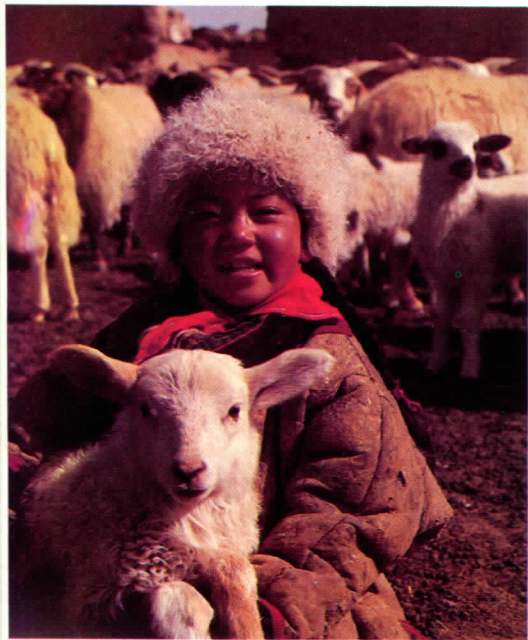
15. The Lhasa Holiday Inn, a Sino-US joint venture, is one of the 43 engineering projects built with special state allocations. Here general manager from the American side and deputy general Jigme (Tibetan) from the Chinese side have a chat.

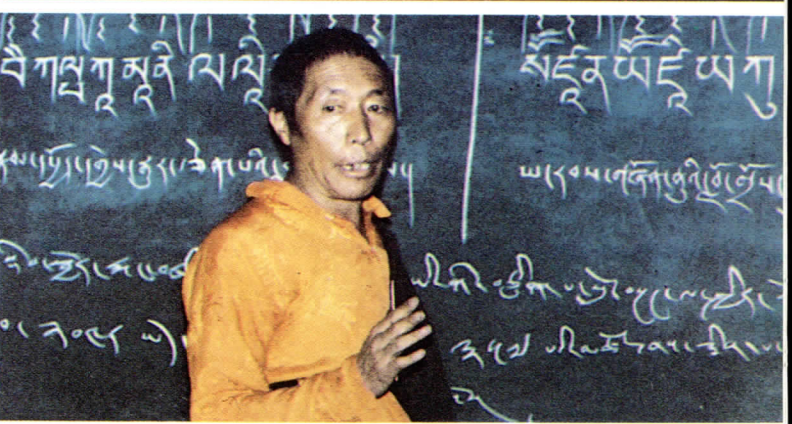
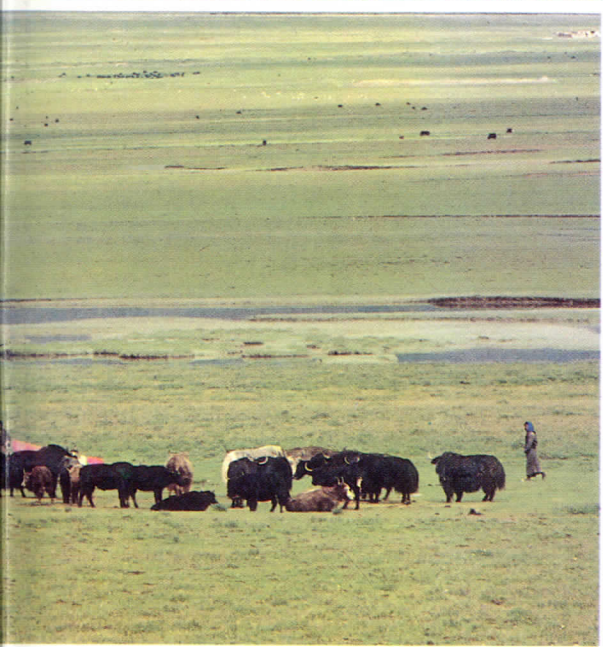
16. The Tibetan-style dining hall of the Lhasa Holiday Inn.

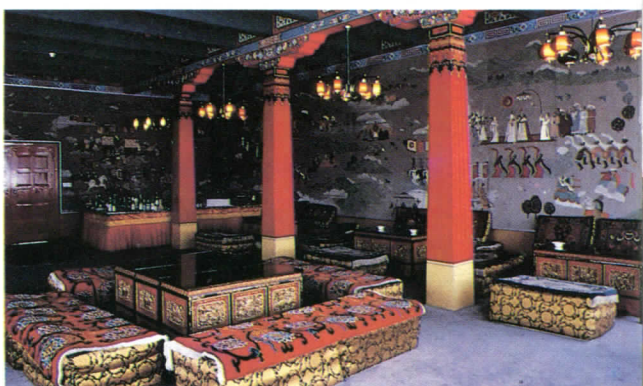
17. Lhasa's northern suburbs. In the past 30 years, wasteland has been reclaimed for cultivation. New buildings have sprouted up everywhere and there is little difference between rural and urban development.

(Except those stated, all photos were taken by our staff reporter Chen Zonglie.)









In the past 40 years since Tibet's peaceful liberation in 1951, tremendous changes have taken place in the autonomous region. The Tibetan people have become their own masters, the economy has developed rapidly and the standard of living has improved day by day. Educational, scientific and cultural undertakings have come a long way, as well. At present, the Tibetans are exploiting its resources, developing agriculture and animal husbandry, improving its transport facilities and alleviating the energy shortage to pave the way for future economic development.

Tibet: 40 Years' Economic Development

by Our Staff Reporter Li Rongxia

This year is the 40th anniversary of the peaceful liberation of the Tibet Autonomous Region. Only 40 years ago, Tibet was a feudal serf society with the overwhelming majority of Tibetan people suffering under the three kinds of estateholders (aristocrats, monastic autocrats and feudal officials). After the peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1951 and, in particular, following the Democratic Reform in 1959, the feudal serfdom was overthrown and the Tibetan people were emancipated. The tremendous changes which have taken place in Tibet, especially in the past ten years, is evidenced by the rapid development of the economy and peaceful social order.

Statistics show that in 1990 Tibet's gross product was 2.217 billion yuan, the income was 1.67 billion yuan and the total value of industrial and agricultural output was 1.024 billion yuan. The total industrial output value increased by 7.4 times over the 1965 figure, while the total agricultural output value was up 4.5 times over 1952.

In 1989 the total grain output in the Tibet Autonomous Region reached 530,000 tons, a record high. In 1990, the region's total grain output was 555,000 tons, higher than that of 1989 and a 200 percent increase over 1959.

Grain Output

Tibet is based on agriculture and animal husbandry with agriculture accounting for over 75 percent of the total output value of industry and agriculture.

Before the Democratic Reform, Tibet's agriculture was basically primitive, with an annual grain output of only 180,000 tons.

In order to develop agriculture and animal husbandry, the state earmarked a total of 13 billion yuan for Tibet in recent decades, most of which was made after the adoption of the policy of reform and opening to the outside

Growth in Grain Production

Year	1959	1985	1989	1990
output (tons)	180,000	450,000	530,000	550,000

world. The Tibet Autonomous Region has carried out the government's long-term policy that grants individual households the right to till their own land, own the livestock they breed and make their own production and management decisions. It has also implemented the policy of building water conservancy projects and spreading scientific and technological knowledge, thus, accelerating the development of Tibetan agriculture and animal husbandry.

In Gyangze County, we were told that the county's output of grain and oil-bearing crops in 1990 exceeded 50 million kg, making it a major grain and oil producing county in Tibet.

Puncog, Party committee secretary of Gyangze County, said that in the past 40 years, Gyangze's agriculture had constantly developed, especially since the reform and opening to

the outside world. According to statistics, the whole county's gross output of grain and oil-bearing crops in 1959 was 5.7 million kg, while in 1979 it was 19.36 million kg, a three-fold increase in 20 years. In 1989, the figure shot up to 45 million kg, a rise of 135 percent over 1979. The county's gross value of agricultural output in 1979 was 3.6 million yuan, and the average per-capita income of farmers was 127 yuan annually, while in 1989, it reached 45.58 million yuan and the average annual per-capita income was 699 yuan.

The development of agriculture greatly improved the living standards. Puncog said that his county had the six following specific improvements:

- 1) New houses. About 80 percent of farmers in the whole county have built new houses, totalling 37,000 with a construction area of 500,000 square metres, an average of 10 square metres added for every person.
- 2) Increased grain production. About 90 percent of farmers' households had surplus grain, enough for the whole family for one to three years.
- 3) Increased purchase of high-grade minority-style furniture.
- 4) Increased purchase of modern, high-grade and

5) durable consumer goods. 6) More oil. 6) Increased savings deposits.

Puncog attributed such a big progress in agriculture to the implementation of the central government's special policy for Tibet, adding that the policy stimulated the farmers' enthusiasm. The farmers also benefit a lot from water conservancy projects built over the past few years and agro-technology adopted.

During the past ten years, Gyangze County concentrated its resources on building water conservancy projects and harnessing the Nyang Qu River, constantly improving its production conditions. It newly built and renovated a total of 33 main canals and transformed 22 small ditches in hills, thus shortening the irrigation period of crops from the previous 30 days to between seven and ten days. It harnessed the Rinang, Tuanjie and Nagno rivers, built eight reservoirs and 39 water pools with a total storage of 5.35 million cubic metres. It established the first and second level Karmai pump-storage stations. At present, the efficiently irrigated areas in the county has reached 6,667 hectares, some 74 percent of the county's 9,000 hectares of culti-

vated land.

The use of agrotechnology has also been of importance. To spread agricultural science and technology in Gyangze, however, requires time. The farmers of the area are used to the traditional way of the plough and don't know about the benefits of improved varieties, chemical fertilizers and insecticides.

The county's Party secretary, Puncog, took the lead by experimenting with his family-contracted land and obtained a measurable increase in production. As the farmers saw with their own eyes the great impact that agricultural science and technology had on crop production, they accepted many new ideas. Now the rate of use of improved seed variety has reached 80 percent of the county's total land and areas cultivated by machinery reached over 50 percent. About 480 kg of chemical fertilizers are used per hectare.

Gyangze is the epitome of Tibetan agriculture.

Since 1987, Tibet has designated ten agricultural counties, all located along the Lhasa, Nyang Qu, Yalong, Nyang and Yarlung Zangbo rivers, as commercial grain bases. The dissemination and popularization of scientific farming in these counties has turned them into grain producers with high and stable yield.

Statistics show that Tibet has established more than 16,500 water conservancy projects, providing an annual water supply of 1.567 billion cubic metres, and that the effectively irrigated area has reached 54.3 percent of Tibet's total cultivated land area. Small hydropower stations in rural areas have a total installed capacity of 48,000 kw, producing 75 million kwh of electricity annually.

The number of people of Tibetan nationality involved in scientific farming has reached 10,476,

Tibetan people harvest their crops.

LI RONGXIA



accounting for 65 percent of the region's total. They have selected and bred 70 or so improved varieties of grain and other economic crops. After the varieties were used, production increased by 15 to 30 percent.

This year Tibet will arrange 12 million yuan for the construction of water conservancy works and provide an agrotechnical service. Currently, the number of farmland cultivated under technical guidance has reached 113,000 hectares.

Tibet's animal husbandry has also developed rapidly. The output value of animal husbandry in 1989 was 430 million yuan, an increase of 48.3 percent over 1978.

Tibet is one of China's five pastoral areas. It has 82.66 million hectares of grassland, 57.33 million hectares of which can be used. It has 23 million head of animals, a 2.41-time rise over 1959, and an average 10.8 head for each person, ranking the highest in the country.

At present, four animal product bases have been established in Damxung, Nagqu, Amdo and Nyainrong counties. They offer 1.25 million kg of mutton and beef annually. More than 60 percent of herdsmen have fixed residences, no longer leading a nomadic life.

Industry From Scratch

In Tibet, in addition to buttered tea, guests are often entertained with beer. And the hosts will also say with pride that it was brewed in Tibet.

In the past, beer was always transported from the inland. On May 16, 1988, construction of the Lhasa Brewery was begun with 24 million yuan in state investment. After one year of efforts, it was formally put into production on September 28, 1989, and now can produce 5,000 tons of beer annually.

Barley used is pollution free. And the water used, extracted from a 127-metre-deep underground source, is extremely soft. The quality of the water ranks among the best in the country.

Jiao Yongqing, deputy director of the Lhasa Brewery, said that his factory uses equipment manufactured domestically in the 1980s and imported a production line from Romania. Most of the equipment is controlled automatically.

Thirty years ago, Tibet was regarded as a "no-man's land" of China's modern industry. The industrial products needed by Tibetans for their production and livelihood were always supplied from other parts of China.

A modern industry didn't appear in Tibet until in the 1960s when a number of modern industrial enterprises, such as electrical power, processing of agricultural and animal husbandry products, food, building materials, machinery, light industry and textiles, as well as mining, were set up in Lhasa, Xigaze, Zetang, Qamdo and other towns.

Entering the 1980s, Tibet, proceeding from its actual conditions, readjusted its existing industries and decided to develop three major ones—power, textile and mining. Currently, there are more than 260 industrial enterprises with 500 million yuan in fixed assets. In 1989, their output value was 221 million yuan.

The power industry developed at a fast speed. There are 429 power stations distributed in various places of the region and 667 sets of generators with a combined installed capacity of 147,922 kw, producing 280 million kwh of electricity a year.



CHEN ZONGLI

Exquisitely woven products of the Lhasa Carpet Factory are loved by foreign businessmen.

The textile industry has reached a certain scale. More than 120 enterprises have been established one after another, producing 420 varieties and designs.

Tibet is rich in mineral resources. Reserves in some 70 places have been verified. The reserves of chromium, boron and copper rank first nationwide. There are now over 60 mining enterprises. The output of chromium and iron reach 87,000 tons, up 42 percent over 1986, and cement output was 120,000 tons, a seven-fold increase over 1986.

In order to speed up the development of Tibetan industry, the state invested a lot of funds in technical transformation. During the Seventh Five-Year Plan period (1986-90), of 123 million yuan in investment in technical transformation, 53.87 million yuan was earmarked by the state to update 74 projects of eight industries. Investment in

transport and communications was 60 million yuan, which was used to purchase over 1,500 vehicles. Investment in energy development was 25 million yuan, which was used to renovate seven power enterprises, basically ensuring a sustained and safe supply of electricity. Some 37.6 million yuan was put into the technical renovation of leather, woollen textiles, and nationality handicraft industries, which was used to renovate 30,000 square metres of workshops and revamp 280 sets of equipment, so that the production technique and product quality reached the domestic level of the late 1970s. Tibet's textiles and nationality handicraft have already reached an appropriate scale.

Tibet is unique nationality handicraft has a long history. The cushions of Gyangze, gold and silver utensils of Shannan and Qamdo, and Tibetan aprons, quilts and tents, which best symbolize Tibetan life and customs, are all well received by consumers. The current situation is quite different from the past when the development of nationality handicraft industry was slow.

In the late 1980s, the central government adopted a preferential policy for Tibetan handicraft industry, this, plus a total investment of 25 million yuan, has greatly stimulated Tibet industrial enterprises.

Tibet now has 108 nationality handicraft enterprises capable of producing 1,600 or so varieties of products, 18 varieties of which have won national awards for their high quality. The output value is 41.07 million yuan, an increase of 12 times over 1978.

The nationality handicrafts sell well at home and abroad. In 1989, some 32,000 square feet of Tibetan carpets were sold to the United States.



Lhasa Airport.

CHEN ZONGLIE

Transportation

Forty years ago, there were neither highways nor air lines connecting Lhasa to Beijing. If the Banqain and Dalai Lama wanted to come to Beijing, it would take them several months.

In December 1954, the Sichuan-Tibet and the Qinghai-Tibet highways were open to traffic at the same time. In 1965, construction of the Lhasa Gonggar Airport was completed and an air service between Beijing and Lhasa via Chengdu opened. From that time on, it has not been a difficult journey from Beijing to Lhasa, now taking only four hours. Lhasa is no longer a distant place.

Following the construction of the Qinghai-Tibet and Sichuan-Tibet highways, construction of the Xinjiang-Tibet, Yunnan-Tibet and China-Nepal highways was also completed. Currently, there are 21,695 km of highways and 720 or so bridges throughout the region. Some 15 trunk lines and 315 feeder highways crisscross the region. The highway network covers every county in the region but Medog and 77 percent of the townships.

Between 1974 to 1985, the

1,937-km Qinghai Highway was reconstructed into a second-class asphalt road, the longest and highest asphalt highway above sea level in the world. The state invested 3 billion yuan in the project.

After more than 20 years of efforts, there has been a growth of air flights from one to 16 each week and an annual increase in handling capacity from 4,000 to 140,000 persons. An international air route was also opened from Lhasa to Katmandu, capital of Nepal.

The posts and telecommunications have also helped to shorten the distance between Lhasa and Beijing and between Lhasa and the rest of the world. Last September, Lhasa began an automatic international and domestic telephone network and a telephone call from Lhasa to Beijing can now be connected in half an hour.

Tibet's post and telecommunication undertaking has taken shape gradually since the peaceful liberation and, in the past ten years, has developed at a fast pace. Before the Sichuan-Tibet and Qinghai-Tibet highways were opened to traffic in December 1954, postal matters had to

be sent by horse relay and it would take at least 29 day for a letter from Lhasa to Chengdu. The situation remained unchanged until that two highways were opened to traffic. Now, it takes only four or five days for a letter from Lhasa to its destination in various parts of the country.

Statistics show that compared with 1958, the number of region's post offices in 1989 increased from 12 to 118, a 9.83-fold increase. The total length of postal roads increased from 2,816 km to 71,449 km, a rise of 25.37 times. About 74 counties in the region are now accessible by postal communications, and 70 percent of rural areas have access to postal communications. Air postal routes had grown from scratch and the long-distance telephones had increased from 28 to 226, an 8.07-fold increase. The number of telephone exchanges within Lhasa grew from 150 to 10,740 channels, up 71.6 times. Old-style telephones made way to automatic ones numbering 9,290. Telegraphs can be sent out from every county in the region.

Satellite communication has also been introduced into Tibet. Currently the region has set up five satellite communication re-

ceiving stations respectively in Lhasa, Qamdo, Nyingchi, Ngari and Xigaze. Residents in seven prefectures and cities and 74 county seats can directly receive the CCTV news and other programmes along with the inland residents. Lhasa news, on the other hand, can be transmitted to Beijing and relayed to other parts of the country and foreign countries in the same day.

For the convenience of Tibetans, the region's post and communication departments have also opened a Tibetan-language telegraph business.

With the expansion of international exchange, Tibet has established two international postal roads between Lhasa and India and between Lhasa and Nepal and an international postal exchange business is in place between China and Nepal and China and India via Tibet.

Development

Great progress has been made in Tibet's economy during its 40 years of development and construction. However, its isolated location on the "roof of the world," relatively small population, vast land area and inconvenient communication have left it with a weak economic founda-

tion. The government of the autonomous region therefore decided to exploit its advantage in resources gave priority to the development of agriculture, energy and transport. A group of key-projects were undertaken to speed up economic construction.

The comprehensive development of the Yarlung Zangbo River, the Lhasa River and the Nyang Qu River (three rivers), for example, is the largest agricultural development project in the history of Tibet. Construction formally began early this year in a total area of 65,700 square km with an estimated total investment of 2 billion yuan. By the end of this century, the project will help Tibet to have a granary as good as those in the inland.

Located in the south central part of Tibet, the middle reaches of the three rivers are the region's heartland; it is Tibet's most densely populated area and a centre of politics, economics and culture. With a population of 764,200, one third of Tibet's total, the area now has 100,000 hectares of cultivated land, almost half of the region's total. Grain output and commodity grain production respectively account for 56 percent and 80 percent of the region's total. The area is rich in light energy and water resources. Some 53 sites have underground thermal water activity. About 80,000 hectares of wasteland can be reclaimed. Some 37 ore deposits have been discovered, the reserves of 17 of which have been verified. Of these, the reserves of chromite total 3.9 million tons, representing 40 percent of the country's total.

This river development programme includes 50 or so water conservancy and other projects. After the programme is put into practice, four large bases for the production of commodity grain, non-staple food, textiles and han-

A truck convoy carries goods to Tibet via the Qinghai-Tibet Highway. MA JINGQIU



dicraft and the dissemination of science and technology—will be set up. It is estimated that in five years, grain production will increase by over 45 million kg, meat 8.8 million kg, butter 470,000 kg and electricity 69 million kwh.

The construction of the Yamzhog Yumco Pump-Storage Power Station has been resumed. Located in Nanggarze County, south of Tibet, the Yamzhog Yumco Lake is about 800 square km in size and at an elevation of more than 4,400 metres. It is the largest fresh water lake north of the Himalayas Mountain.

Early in 1959, geologists found that the Yamzhog Yumco Lake possessed tremendous water resources. In 1974 engineers and technicians conducted an on-site survey and decided to build a power station using the 840 metre fall between the Yamzhog Yumco Lake and the Yarlung Zangbo River. In 1981, the power station was listed as a state project. Construction began in 1985, but stopped in 1986 because some top Tibetan personnel worried that the construction of the station would have an adverse impact on the environment. Later research proved that there would be no adverse impact on the environment and, in August 1989, the state approved resumption of construction and allocated 600 million yuan for the purpose. The power station will be installed with six sets of 15,000-kw water-pumping and power storage generators.

At present, construction is on schedule and the first generating set will begin operation in four years. The station will not only meet Lhasa's need for electricity, but also form a large generating network linking Lhasa, Xigaze and Shannan, helping the three-river development programme.

The government will continue to exploit geothermal resources.

In February this year, another two generating sets were installed in Tibet's Yangbajain Geothermal Power Station, expanding the station's installed generating capacity to 25,180 kw. After 16 years of development and use of shallow geothermal heat, the station has been changed from an experimental project to a major producer of electricity.

Tibet is very rich in geothermal resources. At present, more than 600 heat sources have been found. The Yangbajain station was the first geothermal power station built in Tibet in 1977. As of now, the state has invested a total of more than 200 million yuan and generated a total of 370 million kwh of electricity. It is the biggest station in Tibet and its annual output of electricity constitutes more than 40 percent of Lhasa's power network.

In recent years, the first- and second-phase projects for the No. 2 plant of the Yangbajain station were completed and construction of the third-phase project is in full swing.

The geothermal development in Tibet has attracted many Chinese and foreign geologists and energy experts. Geothermal experts from the United States, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Italy and the UN Development Programme have gone to Yangbajain on technical exchange programmes many times. After conducting a survey, the UN Development Programme and the Italian government thought the prospects for development were quite good and so provided US\$9 million in free assistance.

Tibet's geothermal resources are a unique type of energy. The industry has a prosperous future and will play an important role in Tibet's economic development.

With the rapid economic development in Tibet, the Lhasa Gonggar Airport cannot meet

transportation demands. Therefore, the state decided to invest 268 million yuan in the expansion of the airport. The project has been listed as a state key project.

The expansion project includes a new runway 4,000 metres long and 60 metres wide, parking apron, a booking office building and a set of communication and navigation facilities of advanced national level as well as a new office building for airport personnel. Design work for the expansion project began in March 1989 and construction in July 1990. At present, it is going smoothly. After the completion of the project, the airport, which can only accommodate Boeing 707 now, will be used by larger civilian passenger planes and cargo aircrafts including the Boeing 747. Its handling capacity will be expanded, related facilities added, and services improved daily, thus providing the conditions for opening new domestic and international routes.

A Ten-Year Plan

"We have many things to do, but according to Tibetan reality, priority should be given to the development of agriculture, animal husbandry, energy resources, transport and post and telecommunications in the next ten years," said Ma Lisheng, vice-chairman of the government of the autonomous region.

Ma said that agriculture and animal husbandry were the backbone of the Tibetan economy. Their gross output value made up 80 percent of the gross industrial and agricultural output value, and people engaged in farming and livestock breeding accounted for over 80 percent of the region's total. But currently the production of agriculture and animal husbandry is re-

lately backward. Every year about 150 million kg of grain has to be transferred from inland, thus putting a crimp into economic development. More emphasis therefore needs to be put on agriculture and animal husbandry in the 1990s. The first step of the process is to develop the three-river area.

Regarding energy development, hydroelectric power should be stressed as geothermal, wind and solar energy are used as a supplement. Efforts shall be made to complete on schedule the Yanzhog Yumco Station and the Yangbajain Geothermal Station. The installed capacity shall be increased at a rate of 8 percent annually. By the end of the century, the installed capacity of power in Tibet will be increased from 140,000 kw in 1989 to 360,000 kw.

In the field of transport, efforts shall be made to improve and maintain the Qinghai-Tibet, Sichuan-Tibet and Xinjiang-Tibet highways, and to accelerate the construction of the new section of the China-Nepal Highway (Zhasa-Zham), the Nagqu-Qamdo Highway and the Lhasa-Burang Highway, and to build the Bome-Medog Highway.

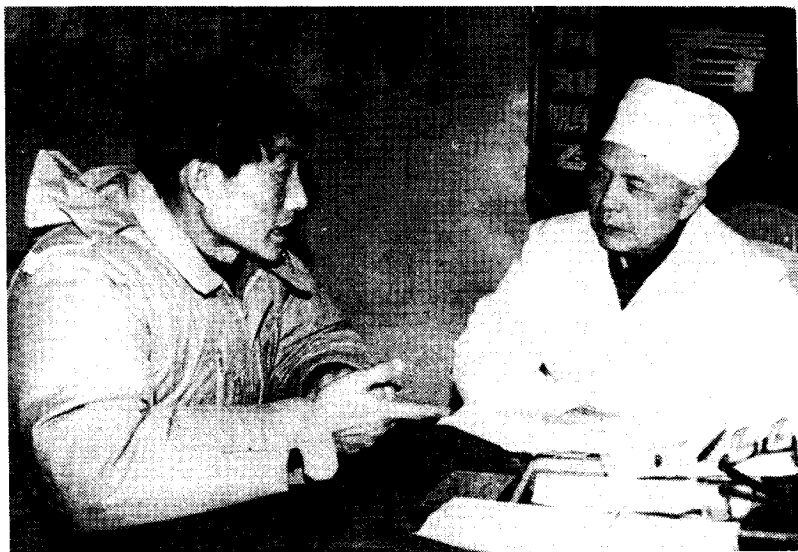
In the field of posts and telecommunications, efforts shall be made to emphasize construction of new satellite receiving stations, to gradually develop a programme-controlled telephone system linking Lhasa to various parts of the region. At the same time, there will be improvements in the border communication work and a strengthening of the rural power station construction.

Ma said that in the 1990s, there would be new breakthroughs in Tibet's construction. Every effort will be made to develop production, laying a solid foundation for the further development in the 21st century. ■

Winning Battle Against Cancer

Nan Shan and his "No. 1 Pharmaceutical" have brought relief to many cancer patients.

by Our Staff Reporter Kou Zhengling



Dr. Nan Shan at work.

NAN GONG

Born in East China's Zhejiang Province and a man who has aroused great attention in both the Chinese and foreign press, Nan Shan has been dubbed the "magic doctor" and the "cancer killer." "To ask Dr. Nan Shan" is now a common prescription given to patients of carcinoma. In an article entitled "The Rebirth of Hua Tuo (a famous ancient Chinese doctor)," the Japanese daily newspaper *Asahi Shimbun* introduced the public to Dr. Nan Shan and his medical techniques.

"Seeing is believing" and a visit to Dr. Nan Shan in Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang Province, on a mid-March day this year revealed the popularity he enjoys among his patients.

A First-hand Experience

It was a rainy spring day at the Nan Shan Tumour Clinic, a room of more than 20 square metres located at No. 195 Jiefang Road, Hangzhou City. More than 20 patients were waiting for treatment. Silk banners of red velvet, bearing golden characters, praised the doctor's medical success in bringing patients back to life. Presented by his patients, the banners hung proudly on the waiting room walls.

The doctor in his long white gown was diagnosing a patient's illness.

Liu Hezhou, a senior engineer at Hangzhou Tea Testing Factory, was among those waiting for treatment. Aged 84, Liu began to have blood in his stool on Octo-

ber 7, 1988. Since that day, his condition had gotten steadily worse. Doctors at the Provincial Tumour Hospital decided that he had developed a cauliflower-like carcinoma, 3 cm sq in size, in his rectum. Given his age, he was afraid of being operated on or being given chemical treatment. After reading a report in the *Hangzhou Ribao* (Hangzhou Daily), he turned to Dr. Nan Shan. After only one week since he began to take the "No. 1 Pharmaceutical" on November 8, 1988, his stool turned back to normal. Two months later, his tumour was reduced to half of its original size and seven months later it had disappeared completely.

Why had he returned to see the doctor? Liu answered with a smile, "I still fill ill at ease and so come to see Dr. Nan Shan every three or four months for some medicine. The medicine prescribed by Dr. Nan Shan not only doesn't have any side-effects but it does combat cancer. Now, after I take three small spoonfuls of his 'No. 1 Pharmaceutical,' I feel quite normal."

Among those who waiting was a middle-aged man who looked strong and healthy. He had come to express his gratitude to the doctor.

The man, age 53, was Li Shangjian, a native from Baizhang Town, Yuhang County. In 1987, after a physical check with a B ultra-sonic machine, he was diagnosed as having a late stage of liver carcinoma by doctors at the Hangzhou Tumour Hospital. He was so ill he could hardly get off his bed. A fellow patient suggested he see Dr. Nan Shan.

"My family members have prepared for my death. Still, I wanted to have a try with Dr. Nan Shan. With my medical record in hand, my daughter saw Dr. Nan Shan and brought back 30 bottles of his 'No. 1 Pharmaceutical.' After taking it for only

three days, I felt better. After half a year, I now can manage my daily life and one year later a medical check at the county hospital showed that the tumour had disappeared. I now work as a warehouse keeper at the factory," Li recalled.

In addition to carcinomas of the rectum and liver patients, Dr. Nan Shan also treats cancer patients of the stomach, esophagus, breast, lung and bladder at later period.

As news of his treatment has

handicapped man and his two legs paralyzed!

Born into a family of traditional Chinese medicine doctors in Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province in 1920, Dr. Nan Shan, instructed by his grandfather and father, began to treat patients as a teenager. After the founding of New China in 1949, he became a staff worker at a local township marketing and supply co-operative. He spent all his sparetime studying such Chinese medicine classics as *Compendium of Materia*



Former patients pay a visit to Dr. Nan Shan.

NAN GONG

spread, mainland Chinese patients as well as patients from Taiwan, Hong Kong, the United States, Japan and Southeast Asian countries have poured into his small waiting room.

In November 1988, Dr. Nan Shan successfully cured a Japanese cancer patient Musashi Nomi. Another Japanese, Yokogawa Nobuo, got the news and paid a special visit to the doctor. His treatment was the basis of the story in the *Asahi Shimbun*.

The Birth of His Medicine

It was a great surprise to see Dr. Nan Shan in person. He is a

Medica, Huang Di's Cannon of Internal Medicine, Synopsis of the Golden Chamber and the like. Moreover, under the guidance of his father, he began to explore ways to treat malignant tumour. His study was interrupted during the "cultural revolution," (1966-76) however, when he was labeled a "mountebank" who did not concentrate on his proper business. It was during this time that he became totally paralyzed in both legs.

Hearing the news, his father encourage him to continue in his work, giving him all of his secret prescriptions. Based on his love of traditional Chinese medicine

and a sense of his mission to become a doctor, he disciplined himself and concentrated all his energy on the medical research and experiments.

After more than 20 years of strenuous efforts, he finally succeeded in developing the "No. 1 Pharmaceutical," a product which is steamed and decocted out of more than ten types of herbal Chinese medicines and plant oils.

After the turbulent "cultural revolution" ended in 1976, he went back to Wenzhou to discover that a neighbour had contracted cancer which was already in its late stages. After repeated requests from the patient's family members, Dr. Nan Shan, for the first time put his medicine to the test. After three courses of treatment (one month for each course), the 60-year-old patient was relieved of his pain and resumed eating. Shortly thereafter, he took up his work as a carpenter again. He is now living a healthy life.

Since then the fame of Dr. Nan Shan's "No. 1 Pharmaceutical" spread from the countryside to cities and patients began to pour into his office. In 1984, with the approval of the county bureau of public health, he started his "Nan Shan Clinic" in Chaoshan Township. In May 1988, with the help of the Hangzhou Association for the Handicapped, the city's Massage Hospital asked him to start a special clinic for tumour patients.

Scientific Basis

On July 14, 1989, with the approval from Zhejiang Provincial Department of Public Health, the Hangzhou Association for the Handicapped commissioned the Zhejiang Branch of Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and the Tumour Research Institute of Zhejiang Medical University to jointly research the

drug's toxicity, effects on animals and benefits to patients. The study lasted half a year. In its conclusion, the experts wrote the following: the "No. 1 Pharmaceutical" has no toxicity or side-effects and effectively checks the growth of cancer cells.

Between May 1988 and February 1990, Dr. Nan Shan has treated more than 9,526 carcinoma patients. Some 3,100 patients were given initial treatment. Following the *Standards on Effects of Treatment by Chinese Herbal Medicine* of the Ministry of Public Health, the Hangzhou Wushan Institute for Multi-disciplinary Studies on Chinese Medicine traced 44 patients, through direct visits or correspondence. The results were encouraging: 18 patients treated exclusively with the "No. 1 Pharmaceutical" have all been cured and among 26 patients who were treated comprehensively with the "No. 1 Pharmaceutical," the effect on 12 was reported as satisfactory, 12 reported remarkable effects and two experienced a moderate effect. The Report pointed out that the "No. 1 Pharmaceutical" aids a person's health, eliminates unhealthy influences and strengthens bodily resistance to diseases. When taken as a part of a comprehensive treatment plan, including operations, radiation and chemical therapy, it plays a major role in rectifying and improving physical functions. For example, it increases the intake of the stomach, deepens one's sleep, reduces swelling, stops pain and vomiting, increases the white blood cells and reinvigorates the body. The trace investigation again showed that the "No. 1 Pharmaceutical" was an effective and safe medicine for tumour treatment and that patients experienced no side-effects.

The studies are far from over, however. According to regulations, only after clinical exper-

iments by three to five large hospitals can a medicine be approved by the State Pharmaceutical Administration. Due to the shortage of funds and other reasons, such a step has not yet been taken.

"I hope to get the support and help of other people and ensure that my medicine has further scientific scrutiny and final approval, thus making it available to more and more patients," Dr. Nan Shan said with a strong local accent.

"Although we are still not clear about the pathological mechanism of carcinomas, we can still make some progress. Chinese medicine emphasizes supporting the body's healthy energy and strengthening the body's immune system. Everybody had cancer cells in his body but only normally healthy people can control their growth. If one's immune system is corrupted, a cancer can develop. My goal is to improve the patients' immune capability and help them fight cancer," he added.

The main benefit of the "No. 1 Pharmaceutical" is that it has no toxicity or side-effects. While preventing the development of cancer cells, it does no harm to healthy cells. It is thus a great step forward compared with chemical therapy. Dr. Nan Shan has also developed the "No. 2," "No. 3," "No. 4" pharmaceuticals. These drugs are targeted at a variety of carcinomas and other diseases.

"Traditional Chinese medicine, with its history of thousands of years, is one of the great achievements of world medicine. Combining traditional Chinese with modern Western medicine is the correct direction by which to develop Chinese medicine. To extract the essence of traditional Chinese medicine and carry it forward is my life's goal," said Dr. Nan Shan. ■

UNDP Updates China's Machine Tools Industry

During the Eighth Five-Year Plan period (1991-1995), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will assist China with US\$12 million to improve the country's machine tool industry. This is the largest programme ever approved by UNDP.

The signing ceremony was held at the Beijing No. 2 Machine Tools Works on April 23, 1991. Roy D. Morey, resident representative of UNDP in China, and Long Yongtu, deputy director of the China International Centre for Economic & Technical Exchange (CICETE), signed the agreement at the ceremony.

According to Long, the US\$12 million fund will be used for the improvement of foundry machinery technology, computer numerical control systems development, pilot autonomous manufacturing island and three other projects. Sixty percent of the UNDP fund will be allocated for training and consulting services, and the rest will be used to improve equipment.

Morey said that because China had developed into a consumer society in the past 12 years, "the machine tool industry is fundamental to the manufacture of goods of sufficient quality to meet rising domestic consumer demands." In order to meet China's domestic needs and bridge the gap with the world's advanced countries, Morey explained, UNDP decided to provide China with the assistance.

The National Programme Manager and Chief Engineer of the Department of Machine Tools, Huang Zhe, stated that China has 1,000 machine tool enterprises manned with 680,000 employees and eight comprehen-

sive institutes and 37 product-oriented research institutions. Although China has established a relating complete industrial system, the technological standard has fallen behind. The technological level of the machine tool industry is only measured up to the world standards of the mid-1970s. With the help of the UNDP fund, the technical standing of China's machine tool industry is expected to be only 10 years behind by the year 2000, Huang said.

In order to modernize the machine tool industry, the central and local governments will invest 1.2 billion yuan (about US\$230 million) in 50 enterprises to improve their productivity and technological standards. ■

China to Launch Foreign Satellites

The China air and space departments are speeding up preparation to launch three satellites for foreign countries within two or three years, according to Wu Keli, executive deputy president of the China Great Wall Industrial Corp.

Wu said that China will use the recently manufactured Long March-2 cluster carrier rocket to launch two Australian telecommunications satellites manufactured by the Hughes Aircraft Company of the United States. The two satellites were originally expected to be launched this autumn and a year later but the launching will be delayed due to the demand of the satellite manufacturer. Currently, both sides have decided to shoot up one between March and May and the other between August and October next year.

The third satellite to be launched is Sweden's post and telecommunications satellite which will be placed in syn-

chronous orbit with the sun. It will be launched in either 1992 or 1993.

The China Great Wall Industrial Corp. is the only organization in China which provides satellite leasing services for foreign countries. It successfully launched the Asiasat-I communications satellite in April 1990, laying a foundation for China to enter the international space market.

At present, the corporation is making a satellite-launching tender in such countries and regions as the United States, Britain, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Brazil, Iran, Thailand and South Korea.

by Yao Jianguo

China Sends Big Shoppers Abroad

China's largest purchasing delegation ever to Western Europe since 1949 will leave in early June for the EEC member countries of Belgium, Italy, Spain, France, Britain and Germany for three weeks of trade activities.

Headed by Wei Yuming, former vice-minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, the purchasing delegation is composed of 16 high-ranking officials from the above-mentioned ministry, the State Planning Commission, the Ministry of Materials and Equipment, foreign trade companies and other industrial and trade firms.

In addition, in either May or June, other business groups will be sent to the EEC member countries to order such goods as chemicals, hardware, machinery, textiles, light industrial products, native and animal by-products, medicines and health products, packaging materials and electronics for 13 provinces

and municipalities including Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Jiangsu, Fujian, Guangdong, Zhejiang, Hebei and Liaoning.

Bringing with them a long shopping list, these groups have the authority to sign contracts directly with foreign firms.

by Zhang Zhiping

China and US To Co-operate on Gears

An agreement on the joint research and design of the four-wheel landing gear for the MD-90 airplane was signed by the US McDonnell Douglas Co. and the China National Aero-Technology Import & Export Corp. and approved by the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade recently in Beijing.

The MD-90 two-engine jet airplane is the newest to be developed by the US McDonnell Douglas Co. It has already been put into production and is expected to receive its readiness certificate from the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the third quarter of 1994. The new type of airplane uses the latest cockpit design, advanced electronic flying guiding system, data processing system and laser guidance system. At present, a large amount of orders have been received from five airline companies in the Asia-Pacific region. To make the plane meet the landing conditions of airports in different regions, the US McDonnell Douglas Co. decided to co-operate with China on the manufacture of a new sort of four-wheel landing gear which could reduce the pressure index required at different airports.

The project requires an investment of US\$2 million in the design stage alone and is to be jointly developed by experts of

the Shanghai Aeronautic Industrial Co. and the US McDonnell Douglas Co. The products will be manufactured in China. Prior to this, airplane components manufactured by Chengdu and Shanghai have been used in the MD-82 airplanes co-produced by China and the US.

Zhang Zhengzhong, president of the Asia-Pacific agency of the US McDonnell Douglas Co., said that the new gear is another milestone in the field of airplane manufacturing since the two sides began their close co-operation 12 years ago. "We sincerely hope to continue our present and future planning in China and consolidate and strengthen our friendly and co-operative relationship," said Zhang.

by Yao Jianguo

Trade With USSR And E. Europe

The 1991 Economic and Trade Symposium With the USSR and Eastern Europe, sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, will be held in Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang Province from June 15-24. This is the second of its kind held in China.

On display will be more than 70,000 products including light industrial products, textiles, garments, silk, down products, animal by-products, local specialties, food, arts and crafts for daily use, chemicals, mineral products, metals and their products, medical apparatus and instruments, medicine and health products, household electrical appliances, machinery and equipment.

In addition to a Chinese commodities exhibition, foreign businessmen are invited to exhibit their products so as to carry out trade between one another.

According to an organizing committee official, the fair will mainly focus on talks about barter trade and various flexible measures relating to it as well as other economic and technological exchanges and co-operation with the Soviet Union and East European countries. Qualified companies may engage in spot transactions.

The first such fair was held in Harbin on June 6, 1990 recorded 3.8 billion Swiss francs worth of transactions. It will be held once a year.

by Xu Shiming

China and Germany In New Materials

Shandong Dedashen Furniture Materials Co. Ltd., a large joint venture between China and Germany which uses cotton stalks to manufacture particle board, has completed the installation of new production equipment after more than two years of effort. Trial production will begin early next month.

The total investment for the project is 204.74 million yuan. Of this figure, foreign investment is US\$24 million, of which loans from BFG of Germany make up US\$8.5 million. There is a repayment term of eight and a half years. Loans from the government of Finland are worth US\$8.5 million with a repayment term of 15 years and a grace period of three years. The remainder is in the form of exported credit from Finland and has a repayment period of 11 years and a grace period of five years.

The contract for the project was signed on September 30, 1988 by the Dezhou Furniture Materials Industrial Co. and the Schenck Co. of Germany. Under the contract, the first phase of the project includes the import

of a complete set of equipment and technology from Schenck to manufacture 30,000 cubic metres of cotton stalk particle board annually, 30 percent of which will be sold to foreign countries by Schenck. In April 1990, the joint venture signed a contract with Ravma-Repola of Finland for loans to finance the second phase and the import of a cotton stalk particle board, secondary furring and glue production line. The production capacity of the Dedashen Furniture Materials Co. Ltd. could reach 80,000 cubic metres annually.

In addition, the joint venture signed a contract with Bacock of Germany on the import of equipment for manufacturing decorative surface for cotton stalk particle board. Currently, a production line with an annual capacity of 180,000 sets of composed furniture is being planned; many foreign businessmen have showed great interest in the project.

Dezhou in Shandong Province is China's most important cotton-producing area with output accounting for one-tenth of the country's total, thus providing abundant cotton stalk resources for the production of cotton stalk particle board.

by Li Ming

News in Brief

● The three provinces of Henan, Shaanxi and Shandong and the city of Qingdao will jointly hold the "91 China Qingdao Foreign Economic and Trade Symposium" in Qingdao on June 20-29.

These provinces in the draining area of China's second largest river, the Yellow River, have a variety of products. In May 1988, seven provinces along the Yellow River agreed to establish

a belt of economic co-operation and signed contracts on a series of economic and technological projects. The symposium is aimed at making use of the area's local advantages and attracting more investment.

● The Turpan Grape Festival on The Silk Road, featuring activities as cultural and handicraft exchanges, economic and trade talks and folkway tours, will be held in Xinjiang in August.

In addition to an opening ceremony with a strong local flavour, the local melon and fruit products will be tasted, and grape wine and its products, industrial products, textiles and handicraft will be on sale. At the same time, a Turpan tour and a visit to the grape vineyards will be provided and exhibitions of cultural relics and Xinjiang minority clothing and ornaments will also be held.

● The Beijing Micro-Film Technology Training Centre, a Sino-German joint venture, will begin business in Beijing on April 18.

With 2.6 million DM provided by Germany, the centre aims to train various kinds of administrative personnel for China's micro-film technology industry. The German side supplied basic facilities for the centre while China is responsible for the construction of the centre's building.

● The US-China Chamber of Commerce opened in the Beijing Sheraton Great Wall Hotel on May 3. This is the first such organization established in China by foreign industrial and commercial enterprises.

The chamber of commerce has more than 110 members, notably agencies and representative offices of United States firms and enterprises residing in Beijing. Its business scope includes trade with China and investment and

offering consulting services in China.

● On August 15-20, the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region will hold a "Nadam" Fair in its capital city of Hohhot. At the same time, the Mongolian Fair and the Grassland Tour Festival will also be held.

At the "Nadam" Fair, eight sports contests and including wrestling, horse racing and archery will be held and so will theatrical performances and fireworks activities. At the Mongolian Fair, talks on economic and technological co-operation will be held and more than 1,000 specialties exhibited. The first Grassland Tour Festival will make full use of such scenic sights and items of high interest as grassland, historic sites, deserts, lakes, forestry and folk customs so as to provide highly enjoyable tours.

In addition, the Hulun Buir League of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region will also have a "Nadam" Fair from July 14 through 18.

● The construction of the Hefei-Jiujiang Railway Line with funds co-raised by Anhui Province, the Ministry of Railways and relevant enterprises began on May 4.

With a total investment of 1 million yuan, the 347-km Hefei-Jiujiang Railway Line is Anhui's largest construction project to be undertaken during the Eighth Five-Year Plan period. The project will be constructed through two phases. The first-stage project is a 179-km Hefei-Anqing section which is to be completed in 1993 while the second-stage project is the 168-km Anqing-Jiujiang sector which is to be finished in 1995. The Hefei-Jiujiang Railway Line, when commissioned, will become an important trunk line linking northeast China, north China, east China and south China. ■

Economists on China's Economy

GAIGE SHIBAO
(Reform Times)

China's economic theoreticians have recently been debating about such sensitive questions as "rectification and reform," "economic stability and development," "planning and market," as well as price reform, the enterprise contract system, and loan distribution.

With regard to rectification and reform, some economists believe that the austerity policy carried out during the previous period was curbed too quickly and brought about poor industrial growth and a sluggish market. Instead of suggesting that retrenchment be halted, they recommend its readjustment.

Sun Xiaoliang, member of the State Commission for Restructuring the Economic System, considers that readjustment focus on the goal. He suggests that reform can be pushed forward by changing the operating mechanism.

Economist Liu Guoguang points out that economic rectification and restructuring cannot last long by relying solely on administrative measures. He says that such a step would result in superficial solutions to the problems at hand. The solution to China's economic difficulties is to deepen the reform and devise more reform measures while implementing rectification and restructuring programmes.

Some economists believe that the past slow economic readjustment resulted in the twists and turns of the economy and that lessons should be drawn from this. Economic rectification and restructuring, therefore, must not be brought to a halt carelessly.

There are two major opinions

evident in discussions about economic stability and development. One view is that the overriding task is to keep the economy stable. Reform should be subordinate to the economic rectification and restructuring and one should be patient for success. The other view is that economic reform should promote economic stability and seek development in a stable situation. Those who hold this view believe that the use of state subsidies to freeze prices, though temporarily bring stability, will eventually prove destabilization to the economy. Economist Dai Yuanchen says that economic rectification and restructuring aimed at stabilizing the economy does not mean the suspension of reform and development.

Economists have put forward all sorts of ideas on how to stimulate the sluggish market, including relaxing the money market, making enterprises dynamic by an infusion of loans, giving preferential treatment to commercial businesses so as to enliven the circulation of commodities, expand capital construction to stimulate supply and demand and loosen control on enterprise purchasing power in order to enliven consumer markets.

The most sensitive problem, however, is price reform. Most economists agree that bringing the unreasonable pricing system into better balance is the key to success for economic restructuring.

"The readjustment of the product, enterprise and the industrial structure is impossible if not done in conjunction with price readjustment. Now is a good time, though, to readjust price system, during the Eighth Five-Year Plan period (1991-95)," said Ma Kai, deputy director of the State Bureau of Commodity Prices.

Zhang Zhuoyuan, director of

Institute of Finance and Trade under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, noted that the problem of a double-track price policy (the co-existence of state planning prices and market regulation prices) should not be left unresolved. The time has come to deal with the double-track pricing system.

Zhou Shulian, director of Institute of Industrial Economics under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, asserts that the double-track price policy is "a hotbed of a variety of abuse, including the use of power for personal gains, bribery and graft, speculation and profiteering."

However, some experts believe that the double-track price policy not only has given an impetus to the expansion of primary economic organizations, but has also helped to push the national economy forward. They believe contributions of the double-track price policy to the economic growth cannot be ignored.

(December 6, 1990)

Policies for Private Businesses Unchanged

SHANGHAI GONGSHANG XINGZHENG
GUANLI TONGXUN
(Shanghai Administrative Dispatch for
Industry and Commerce)

Private industrial and commercial households have become indispensable to people's daily life and to the development of cities and towns in China today. They offer options and services which few state-owned enterprises offer. Therefore, "China's policies for private businesses will remain the same in the future," Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun said recently.

(No. 12, 1990)

TV Series on Country Life Appreciated

Twig Fence, Woman and Dog, a 12-part TV series on country life, won last year's "excellent TV play prize" of the eighth golden eagle awards sponsored by Chinese magazine, *Popular TV*. Recently, *Winch, Woman and Well*, the sequel to the series, was televised by Beijing TV Station, attracting not only rural audiences but also city residents.

Produced by Dalian TV, Jilin Province, the two series, with their strong country savour and simple, unsophisticated characters, vividly depict the customs and mores in China's northeast countryside. What's more important is that both series characterize today's Chinese peasants as experiencing conflicts and contradictions between the old and new ideology, culture and moral codes. Therefore, they are more than just ordinary productions of folk customs; instead, they reflect deeper social and moral dilemmas.

The two series are closed related. Ge Maoyuan, the hero, is widowed in middle age. He brings up his four sons and one daughter by himself. He helps three of his sons to marry and thus becomes head of a big family of three generations living under one roof. In the 1980s, waves of economical reforms in the countryside disrupted the seclusive tranquility of peasants' families. In the series, different attitudes towards love, marriage and family between father and sons, brothers and sister, and husbands and wives lead to estrangement, conflicts and quarrels. The elder Ge finds no way to mediate and the big family disintegrates at last.

Ge is a guardian as well as a victim of tradition. Raising five children is by no means easy for him, so he yearns for a suitable

woman not only to help him deal with the children but also to enjoy love. The woman he loves is his widowed neighbour. But, faced with the disapproval of the family clan and the villagers, he is unable to fulfil his wish and marry her. At the end, Ge lives in solitude and loneliness because of his family's disintegration. When the woman he loved dies, he receives a final bitter blow, tears rolling down the old man's cheeks. Ge's mixed feelings—nostalgia, despair, incomprehension and fatalism—reflect the indelible brand stamped by the old tradition on the old generation of Chinese peasants.

Tian Chengren, who plays the role of Ge, is a veteran in Chinese drama circles. He started his acting career in 1945, and since the 80s, he has been very active both on stage and screen. His portrayal of Ge is dignified and profound on the one hand, and stubborn and restrained on the other, vividly portraying a typical north Chinese peasant.

Zaohua is the heroine in both the series. A typically traditional Chinese woman, she is pretty, kind-hearted and hard-working as well as restrained. Although she falls in love with Xiaogeng, she allows her mother, the widow loved by Ge, to have her marry Tongsuo, Ge's third son, when the old couple can't get married. With the same restrained quality, she endures her husband's gambling, excessive drinking and mistreatment. Then Xiaogeng, her former lover, arranges for the unfortunate couple to divorce at a cost of 4,000 yuan. Zaohua, born to resign herself to adversity, marries her former lover, only to find herself in a different set of adverse conditions. Xiaogeng, an upstart of the economic reforms,

is narrow-minded, kind-hearted by nature and conservative, though he seeks a modern life. He loves Zaohua very much, but he can't respect, understand or help her. He selfishly keeps Zaohua in the house like a bird in a cage when he unreasonably suspects her faithfulness. As a matter of course, Zaohua is forced to leave Xiaogeng at the end of the play. Her eyes, melancholy and plaintive, tell people how difficult and painful it is to discard the past and pursue a brand-new life even for the younger generation of peasants.

Wu Yuhua, a graduate of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Art School in 1983, plays the role of Zaohua. Wu, pretty, gentle and agreeable, displays great promise as an actress. Her eyes silently express the inner sentiments of the meek Zaohua—depression, expectation and desire. Her role of Zaohua is as delicate and moving as a slender plant vacillating in the breeze.

The presentation of the two series has aroused interest among critics. Some critics emphasize their tragic quality because the two generations could have lived a better life if they had not been constrained by the environment and the old traditional ideology. Other critics say the significance of the series lies in the theme, i.e. reforms are touching people's lifestyle as they produce conflicts in the lives of those living in China's countryside. For example, Ge's fourth son and daughter are new-generation peasants who choose their own love and marriage independently rather than let it be decided by their parents. The re-marriage of Tongsuo, who turns over a new leaf after his divorce, to a widow is a novel situation encouraged by the new ideology. All these characters' love affairs and marriages not only give a humorous

flavour but also enhance the aesthetic value and underscore the theme.

What is also worthy of attention is the theme song whose words and melody have come into vogue.

The success of the two plays indicate that local TV stations like Dalian TV are maturing and coming to light.

by Cui Lili

Official Terra-cotta Figure Kiln Discovered

In the vicinity of the Mausoleum of Qinshihuang, first emperor of the Qin Dynasty (221-207 BC), at Lintong, Shaanxi Province, where great numbers of terra-cotta figures of warriors and horses—one of the greatest wonders of the world—were found, archeologists recently discovered 21 state-level kilns for firing pottery figures for emperors' tombs. Although they were constructed 2,100 years ago after the reign of Qinshihuang, their discovery will be helpful to explain the emperor's large-scale "underground army."

This significant archeological discovery is attributed to the Han Changan City work team of the Archeological Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. According to Liu Qingge, the team leader, and Li Yufang, a deputy research fellow in charge of the dig, these pits were located under a vegetable tract northwest Xian, the capital of Shaanxi, which had been the northwest corner of the Han Dynasty's Changan City. The local peasants had dug up some broken moulds for pottery figures before the work team devoted itself to unearth them last year.

The kilns are 70-80 cm under the ground. They are div-

ided into three groups and distributed in the shape of a triangle, with each group being orderly arranged every two or three metres. Similar in structure, all the kilns consist of a front chamber, a fire chamber, a pit bed and a smoke channel, most parts still intact. Thousands of pottery figurines were found in them together with moulds and some potter's tools.

The figures are of special interest. They are 50-60 cm tall and most of them are males. All are naked and armless and appear slender. The majority of them are not painted but coated with a white colour. The different facial features had been carved before firing and many were so finely made that they could be regarded as works of art. In two kilns filled with unfired modelling clay in moulds, archeologists found that the figures were placed up-side-down, a technique in accordance with the principle of gravity.

Experts say these were official kilns producing pottery figures for emperors' tombs in the middle and late Han Dynasty. Situated in the then handicraft district, they were administered by the royal family or handicraft departments under the central government. With such a large-scale production—two kilns had 350 and 400 moulds respectively, meaning that 7,350 or 8,400 figures could be fired each time by the 21 kilns—the requirements of an emperor's burial could be met.

Great resemblances exist between these figures and the hundreds of armless naked figures unearthed last spring at Yangling from the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-25 AD) in Xianyang, Shaanxi, and several other tombs. Obviously, they had been made in the same kilns.

Experts note that the discov-

ery of these official kilns is of academic significance for the study of the Han Dynasty's economy, especially its handicraft industry. Also, important information will be brought to light about the firing process of pottery figures in the Qin and Han dynasties and about the layout of Changan City in the Han Dynasty. ■

Beijing to Host the 13th INQUA Conference

The 13th conference of the International Association For Quarternery Research will be held in Beijing from August 2-9 this year. It will be the first INQUA conference to be held in an Asian country since the international organization was founded in 1928.

The quarternery period is the newest geological age in the development of the earth dating from 2 million years ago. The quarternery research comprises many scientific fields including geology, biology, environmental science, meteorology and anthropology and is closely related to the development of human society.

The topic of this conference is "The Relation Between Changes of Global Environment and Human Activity." Over 800 scientists from 54 countries and regions have submitted more than 1,000 treatise briefs to the conference.

During the conference, participants will have the chance to take 10 short sightseeing excursions to the outskirts of Beijing and visit 22 points of interest, including a great number of unique geological features, natural wonders and places of historical interest. ■

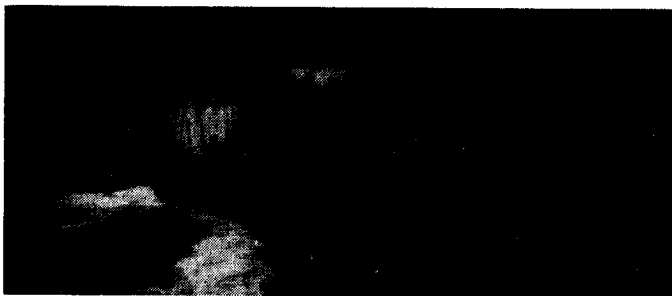
Ethnic Village in Shenzhen

On the banks of Shenzhen Bay, a village of unique houses of various ethnic groups, including the Dai bamboo and Bouyei stone houses, has begun to take shape and will be officially opened to the public on October 1 this year. The village will give tourists a close-up view of the customs and cultural background of some of China's ethnic peoples. It covers an area of 158,000 square metres and can receive as many as 8,000-10,000 visitors a day.

The village has houses built in over 20 different ethnic styles and a museum showing the various folk customs and splendid traditional cultures of China's 56 ethnic groups. The village displays articles normally used in daily life and production. Visitors can buy arts and crafts created by 17 national minorities and enjoy the nationality delicacies of nine nationalities. Each ethnic group will have its own nationality musical performance, and at dusk, tourists can enjoy watching a 400-strong grand carnival. ■

Largest Natural Bridge

The Gaotun Natural Bridge, the world's largest, was recently discovered in Liping County,



View of Gaotun Natural Bridge.

FENG JI

Guizhou Province, in southwest China.

Of a giant rock, the S-shaped bridge spans the Huangtuan River. It is 350 metres long and its widest section, 138 metres. The biggest arch stretches 118.92 metres and is 33.64 metres above water surface. Compared with two natural bridges in Utah in the United States, the Gaotun Natural Bridge is even more striking.

The bridge arches up from level ground. Round in the middle, smooth at both ends, and with a regular and symmetrical arch shape, it looks as if it had been chopped by a magical axe. On the top of the bridge are stone columns and bamboo

shoots; the surface of the bridge is overgrown with bushes and its edges are hung with vines. The area surrounding the bridge is highlighted by a variety of karst formations.

by Feng Ji

Grape Festival in Xinjiang

The Second Turpan Grape Festival along the Silk Road will be held in Turpan City, Xinjiang, in the latter part of August.

Situated on the ancient Silk Road, Turpan is known worldwide for its grapes. Around the city there are ruins of the 1,000-year-old cities of Gaochang and Jiaohe; the inland Aydingkol Lake, 154 metres below sea level; the Fiery Mountain described in the classic Chinese novel *Journey to the West*; and Kaier Well, a water conservation and irrigation project with a special feature. In addition, there are the ancient tombs of Astana-Karakjoja, known as the "Underground Museum" in the vast Gobi Desert, where visitors can examine 1,000-year-old corpses and burial objects.

Tiemur Dawamat, chairman of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, said that during the grape festival, traditional Uygur music and folk dances will be performed and a Turpan tour, a visit to the grape vineyards and handicraft and grape product exhibitions will be provided. Exhibitions of relics, a 1,000-year-old corpse and Xinjiang minority clothing and ornaments will also be held.

Last year, the First Turpan Grape Festival attracted 120,000 visitors from around China and abroad. Chairman Tiemur hopes that this year's festival will attract even more tourists.

by Kou Zhengling

News in Brief

- The Beijing Ramada Asia Hotel, situated west of the Workers' Stadium, has opened a special delicatessen Pizza & Noodles snack bar. In addition to spaghetti, it also offers special refreshments from Thailand, Indonesia and Viet Nam as well as American food.
- The House of Taishang, situated in the Asian Games Village in the northern suburbs of Beijing, recently opened for business. The restaurant provides Hong Kong-style Cantonese cuisine cooked by its chief chef Mr. Chen Zhong, one of the ten most famous Hong Kong chefs. His masterpiece is a complete Manchu and Han banquet for those guests able to enjoy a continuous supply of sumptuous food for ten hours! ■

Sketches by Lu Sha

Lu Sha, born in Yulin City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in 1963, is now a professional painter with the Guangxi Studio of Art and Calligraphy. She specializes in Chinese landscape painting. These sketches were created by Lu Sha while she lived in the minority area of southwest China.



Waterfall.



A Mountain Village.

ART PAGE



Pines.



Old Trees.



ANA 快適構想。

全日空がビジネスクラスの考え方を変える。
「クラブANA」誕生。

CLUB ANA



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