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NATIONAL CHILD IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMME



Tibet's Special
Economic Policies



"Let's see who is the strongest!"

Photo by Ying Saigong

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Special Economic Policies for Tibet

□ The central government has implemented a series of special policies towards Tibet in such areas as taxation, foreign-exchange retention and prices in order to facilitate the region's economic development. Each year, the central government provides Tibet with 1 billion yuan in subsidies. As a result, Tibet has made remarkable progress in its socialist construction during the 40 years since its peaceful liberation in 1951 (p. 4).

Harnessing the Huaihe River

□ The work to harness the Huaihe River, started 40 years ago, has been a success, bringing about tremendous changes in the Huaihe River valley. It required scientific planning, drainage of flood zones, protection against sea water infiltration, desalinization and the construction of many irrigation projects (p. 12).

Immunization for Children

□ A survey of 284 counties shows that the inoculation rate for Chinese children has reached well over 85 percent in the nation's 2,827 counties, freeing at least 300 million Chinese children from the threat of infectious diseases. By 1995, moreover, China plans to eliminate poliomyelitis (p. 20).

US and Soviet Leaders Visit the Middle East

□ After the Gulf war, the Middle East problem commanded world attention. US Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh each visited several Middle East countries seeking a solution to the confrontation between the Arab nations and Israel. However, no substantial progress towards a reasonable solution has as yet been made. (p. 10).

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COVER: "Thirsty for Knowledge"—winner of the first prize at the 1990-91 "Black-Diamond" Cup National Photo Competition sponsored by *Beijing Review* and the Huaibei Yangzhuang Coal Mine of Anhui Province.

Photo by Wang Guonian (Shanghai)

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Special Economic Policies for Tibet

by Our Guest Commentator Ling Bin

The Agreement of the Central People's Government and the Local Government of Tibet on the Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet, signed on May 23, 1951, marked the most decisive turning point in Tibetan history. Over the past 40 years, the Tibet Autonomous Region has experienced epoch-making changes as a result of its socialist construction carried out under the leadership of the Central People's Government and has scored remarkable achievements in various fields of endeavour.

Considering Tibet's harsh natural conditions due to its special geographical location on the "Roof of the World," the central government has adopted a host of special policies for the region. The feudal serfdom instituted in Tibet before the democratic reform and the area's closure to the outside world resulted in a backward economy and culture. In view of this situation, the central government implements a more flexible policy towards Tibet in order to speed up the region's economic development. For example, while the land, grassland and forestry are publicly owned, the farmers have the right to use the land and the herds-men own all the livestock they raise. And the policy will not change for a long time.

In the past 40 years, the state has given much financial and material support to Tibet for its modernization, with the annual amount reaching 1 billion yuan in recent years. Tibet is allowed to retain all its foreign exchange earnings. The state has started 43 key projects in Tibet in recent years, and the scale of investment in Tibet is larger than in any other autonomous regions. Moreover, Tibet's agriculture and animal husbandry are all tax free.

In regard to price policy, the state announced on May 20, 1988 that except for unified state stipulations on trans-provincial, trans-regional air freight charges, basic postal and telecommunication fees, oil pipeline fees, customs charges as well as the ceiling price for musk that must be enforced, the prices of various material and commodities and labour service charges within the Tibet Autonomous

Region can be set or readjusted by the people's government of the autonomous region on a trial basis. If the setting or decontrolling of prices involves areas outside the autonomous region, the people's government of the Tibet Autonomous Region is asked to consult with neighbouring regions to co-ordinate their policies.

Additionally, over the past three years, in order to improve the economic environment and rectify the economic order and curb inflation, the State Council Price Commission and the State Price Bureau, while exercising targeted control on the country's general retail price level, assign annual retail price rise limits (specific controlled targets) to the people's governments of all the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities except the Tibet Autonomous Region. As a matter of fact, the price departments of the Tibet Autonomous Region, following the central government's pricing guidelines and policies and taking Tibet's specific conditions into account, have formulated realistic and suitable measures to control local prices.

Because around 90 percent of Tibet's daily necessities and foodstuffs are brought in from the inland, price rises outside the region directly boost Tibet's price level. The capacity of the region's financial departments and enterprises to bear price hikes is weak and their financial resources are insufficient to control prices. The individual economy makes up a fairly large proportion of the region's economy and quite a number of individual commercial and service households have entered the region from various parts of the country. All these factors make it more difficult for Tibet to control prices than inland areas. Nevertheless, in recent years, the Tibet Autonomous Region has not only made timely readjustments of prices for farm and animal by-products and for industrial goods and vehicle transport fees, but has tangibly reduced the rate of retail price rises by adopting various measures. The market supply of non-staple foods has also greatly improved.

Peaceful Liberation Remembered in Tibet

Lhasa, capital of Tibet, looked its festival best on May 22 as more than 4,000 people from all walks of life in the Tibet Autonomous Region gathered at Tibet Gymnasium to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the peaceful liberation of Tibet.

Tens of thousands of Tibetans, clad in their holiday best, stood on both sides of the road leading to where a central delegation was staying, dancing and waving flowers to greet guests from Beijing and other parts of the country.

Among the celebrants were Li Tieying, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and head of the central delegation which arrived earlier to mark the occasion, and Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC).

A joint message of congratulations from the CPC Central Committee, the NPC Standing Committee, the State Council and the Central Military Commission was read at the celebration meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Li conveyed the greetings and best wishes of the Party and central government to people of all nationalities and from all walks of life in Tibet, to the People's Liberation Army troops and armed policemen stationed in the region, and to the people who came to help in the construction of Tibet.

He said that the peaceful liberation is a turning point in the history of Tibet under new historical conditions.

He said that the course of events over the past four decades since the peaceful liberation has testified to the indisputable truth: without the Communist



ZHANG YANHUI

On May 22, members of the central delegation and leaders of the Tibet Autonomous Region, together with tens of thousands of local people, participate in a big rally in Lhasa, celebrating the 40th birthday of New Tibet.

Party of China, there would not have been a new socialist Tibet.

Tremendous changes have taken place in Tibet in the intervening years. Agriculture, animal husbandry and industry have developed rapidly and the people's living standards saw marked improvement.

According to Li, the central government allocated more than 17.77 billion yuan to Tibet between 1952 and 1990. Li pledged that the central government will continue to provide Tibet with all necessary support so as to enable the local people to speed up economic construction and cultural development.

The state will not change any of the policies which have proved beneficial to the economic growth and improvement of people's life in Tibet, he said.

To ensure smooth development in the region, Li said, an importance task is to improve the regional national autonomy system and carry out in an all-round way the Party's policy on religious affairs.

Further efforts should be made to improve the democratic administration of the various religious establishments such as

monasteries and temples, he said. The administration of the monasteries should be improved to ensure all religious activities to be carried out within the scope of the Constitution and state laws.

Li hoped that a united, prosperous and civilized new Tibet would emerge on the "Roof of the World" in the near future.

Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme, who was the chief delegate of the local government of Tibet when a 17-article agreement on the peaceful liberation of Tibet was signed in Beijing 40 years ago, said that the event promoted the unity of China's mainland and that of all nationalities to a new historical level, and paved the way for the Tibetans' own progress.

He said that the socialist system has become deep-rooted on the Tibetan plateau and the old Tibet, which was poor and backward, has been replaced by a new socialist Tibet enjoying the initial taste of prosperity.

He said that the unity of the motherland and of the various nationalities is the basic guarantee of the development and prosperity of Tibet.

He emphasized that only by

upholding the Party's leadership and embarking on the socialist road can Tibet have bright future.

Raidi, deputy secretary of the Party Committee of the Tibet Autonomous Region, said that over the past four decades, the Tibetan people have made great achievements and laid a solid foundation for future development.

He said that looking ahead to the future, the Tibetans are confident of the great cause of building a united, prosperous new Tibet with a high level of socialist culture and ethics. ■

Science, Technology Pivotal to 90s Economy

Party chief Jiang Zemin says that the 1990s is a golden period for scientists to accomplish great historical missions.

Jiang was talking to more than 1,500 outstanding scientists who gathered in Beijing on May 23-27 to discuss their historical missions with Party and state leaders. Other leaders attending the meeting were Li Peng, Qiao Shi, Song Ping and Li Ruihuan.

The CPC general secretary called on the nation to update the country's science and technology. "Only thus," he said, "can China stand on its own in a world full of contradictions and competitions."

He warned his Party and the people that backward science and technology will only make the country vulnerable.

"Economic development should rely on advanced science and technology," Jiang said. "China's scientific and technological community is facing heavy tasks in the 1990s to meet with the country's big economic plan during the period."

Jiang listed four major tasks for the 10 million scientific and

technological workers:

— To renovate the traditional industries and build up an energy-saving economy with the aid of advanced science and technology, especially information and automation techniques, with electronics as its core;

— To develop and industrialize some priority high technologies;

— To make considerable progress in adjusting the relations between men and nature, especially population control, environmental protection, reasonable utilization of natural resources and energy;

— To make remarkable progress in fundamental research.

Resources and investment should be concentrated on key projects that have an important bearing on the national economy and security and the people's lives, the Party leader suggested, so as to make some world-standard breakthroughs with great practical value.

He said his Party and the State Council will take further measures to deepen the reform of the science management system in a bid to encourage the initiative and creativity of scientific workers.

In the past decade the state invested some 5 billion yuan (about US\$1 billion) in its 114 key research projects, with technology in biology, astronomy, information, laser, automation, energy and new materials being the mainstay.

The development of technological markets has promoted the application of science and technology in China's economy. The total business volume of technological markets across the country in 1990 amounted to 7.5 billion yuan, according to the latest statistics.

Consequently, the application rate of industrial research results reached about 70 percent, as compared with less than 30

percent in the 1970s.

Qian Xuesen, chairman of the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) urged China's scientists to follow Deng Xiaoping's concept that science and technology is the primary productive force and do their share to promote modernization, reform and opening to the outside world.

In the past 40 years, Qian said, the country has caught up with international standards in some important scientific and technological fields and become the pace-setter in some others. However, he said, there is still a lot of chatching up for China to do in this regard.

Qian who is also a world-famous physicist, stressed that exchanges and co-operation with the outside world should be promoted.

"A democratic and lively academic environment is necessary for scientific development," the CAST chairman said. ■

Enhancing Awareness Of Youngsters' Health

The China Student Nutrition Promotion Association (CSNPA) has worked out a ten-year strategy to enhance public awareness of the need to help the nation's children grow up healthy and intelligent.

The strategy calls for enhanced attention to school children's nutrition and personal hygiene. Parents will also be involved as they need to be informed of the latest dietary requirements and taught how to prevent and control the most common diseases related to malnutrition and intestinal parasites.

To improve the children's health standards, some schools in urban areas have been serving food and milk between classes. Other measures will also be taken to improve the youngsters' liv-

ing conditions and educational environments.

Statistics show that about 30 percent of the children in China suffer from malnutrition due not to insufficient food but to parental ignorance of what constitutes a healthy diet.

Obesity is also a rising problem: 1.7 percent of the children in some northern cities are overweight.

Local public health and education departments are being asked to implement the ten-year strategy with the CSNPA as an adviser.

Apart from government subsidies, the cost of the programme will be borne by students' families and donations from establishments and enterprises both at home and abroad.

The CSNPA, a non-governmental organization composed of well-known people in such fields as education, public health, nutrition, the press and the food industry, was set up in 1989 to draw public attention to students' health and help the government work out regulations and measures for the health of the Chinese people.

The association has set up branches in provinces and cities including Hainan, Chongqing and Chengdu. ■

Sino-Pakistan Ties: Turning Forty

Premier Li Peng called the Sino-Pakistan ties "a fine example of nation-to-nation relations on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence."

"We sincerely hope the friendly relations between China and Pakistan will continue to grow on a long-term and steady basis," Li said in a meeting in Beijing on May 21 with Gohar Ayub Khan, speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, who led a delegation to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Sino-Pakistan diplomatic relations.

The two countries established formal diplomatic relations soon after China was liberated. The signing in 1963 of a number of important agreements marked the beginning of a new stage in bilateral relations.

The exchange of visits between top leaders of the two countries over the last 40 years has helped further deepen and broaden the bilateral relationship.

The friendly relations of cooperation between China and Pakistan have withstood the test of time, Li said. ■

Since the establishment of formal diplomatic relations, the two countries have co-operated in the political, defence, economic, commercial, cultural, scientific and technological fields. They support each other in international affairs while frequently exchanging view on major regional and international issues. Both countries seek peace and justice in the world and are opposed to global and regional hegemonism.

The two countries have developed close economic and commercial ties since the mid-1960s. In 1982, the two countries set up a joint ministerial commission to promote co-operation in the economic, commercial, scientific and technical fields. This body meets annually to review progress and co-operation in these areas and to seek new avenues for mutually beneficial co-operation.

Bilateral trade has also continued to grow. It quadrupled in the 1987-89 period.

During the meeting, both leaders expressed their satisfaction over the achievements in bilateral relations. They agreed that there are broad prospects for continued growth of co-operation between the two countries. ■

Visiting Pakistan Speaker Gohar Ayub Khan hosts a reception on May 22. Wan Li (right), chairman of Chinese NPC Standing Committee attends the reception. XUE CHAO



Pakistan Reforms Its Economy

by Guo Ji

The Pakistani government is introducing a series of economic reforms to boost the economy and realize self-reliance.

The reform measures include privatization of public sector enterprises, liberalization of the economic environment, provision of fiscal incentives for industrialization, and changes in the taxation and payments systems.

These reforms are far more comprehensive and quite distinct from the piece-meal efforts made in the past. They are designed to create a totally liberal environment in all spheres of economic activities by distributing government powers and authority formerly used as a means of political

patronage.

Privatization

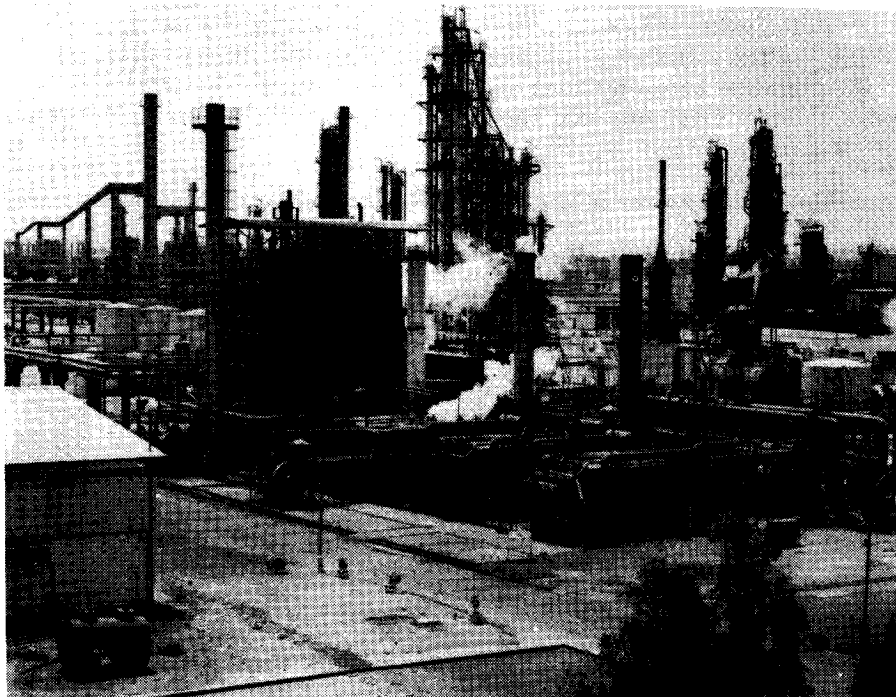
The present government is implementing a fast track programme of privatization on a scale far beyond any conceived in the past. The manifesto of the ruling party provides for the denationalization of major public sector industries and financial institutions, as well as the privatization and decentralization of the distribution of gas and electricity. It also proposes reform of the banking and the financial institutions and the establishment of private commercial banks.

As for public sector manufacturing enterprises, the government is pursuing a much wider

and more comprehensive programme of privatization. It is intended to follow a fast track procedure for these enterprises similar to the one adopted in the case of banks. The government appointed on January 22, 1991 a Privatization Commission headed by Senator Saeed Cadir. This includes representatives from the Parliament, chartered accountants from the private sector and secretaries of the Ministries of Production and Industries. The Commission is empowered to invite applications for the total or partial privatization of public sector industries and enterprises, to evaluate bids and to formulate recommendations for consideration by the government. The commission has initiated action on 115 enterprises, including 42 units under the Ministry of Industries and 73 under the Ministry of Production.

To ensure success of privatization, it is important that the government's policy encourages private investment. The Pakistani government has therefore given close attention to creating a liberal economic environment in which the private sector enjoys complete freedom of enterprise. There are three principal elements of this policy: (1) Deregulation of the industrial sector through extensive reforms in the area of investment regulation, fiscal and financial systems and payment regimes; (2) Involvement of the private sector in infrastructure development like power generation, telecommunications and

The National Oil Refinery in Karachi.



roads; (3) Extensive privatization.

As a first step, an industrialization package was announced by the government on December 13, 1990. Industrial investment has been completely deregulated and the whole country is now open.

The policy instructions that give encouragement to private investment in industries are:

1. Abolition of the requirement of any official sanction irrespective of size and location and of clearance of sponsors;

2. Tax holiday for periods ranging from three years for the entire country to eight years for specified areas;

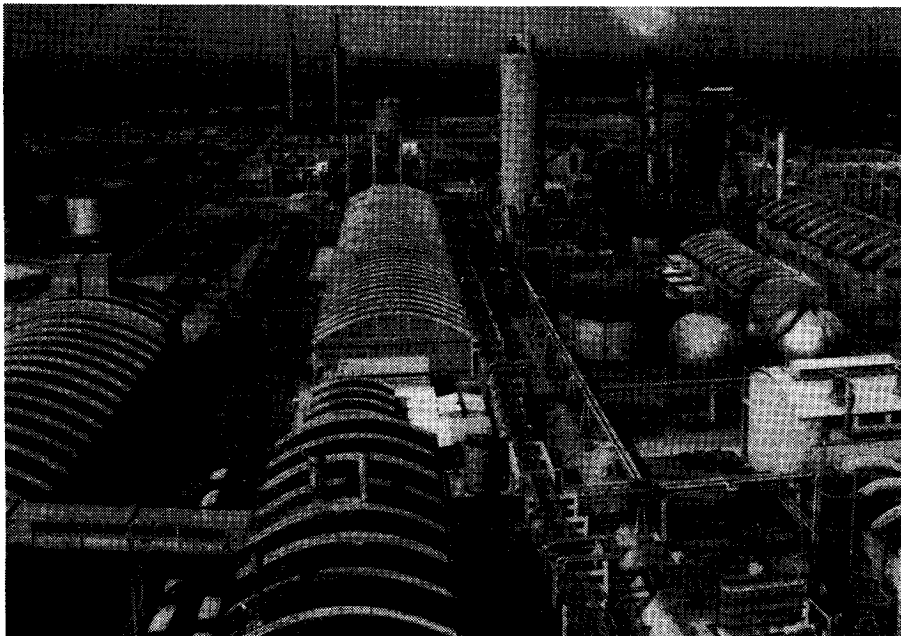
3. Relief in incidence of customs duty, customs surcharge, and sales tax ranging from 50 percent to 100 percent of the applicable tariff;

4. Waiver of scrutiny of the sources of finance for investment in industries to be set up in rural areas up to June 30, 1992.

The government has also given a greenlight to the private sector to build infrastructure, which was hitherto the preserve of the public sector. To this end the government has inducted the private sector in road building. Also the establishment of another airline in the private sector is being considered and the shipping industry is now open to the private sector.

Self-Reliance

Self-reliance has always been the cherished goal of Pakistan. With the suspension of US aid and the installation of a new government in Pakistan, the need



The Pak-Arab Fertilizer Factory in Multan.

for a self-reliant growth has gained more prominence. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan told the people that Pakistan cannot enter the 21st century confidently riding on the shoulders of others, while Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif promised not to mortgage the future generations.

The Pakistani government has appointed a Self-Reliance Committee to suggest ways and means for realizing self reliance over a short period and with minimum cost to the people in the transition from aid-dependent growth towards self-reliance.

Pakistan started relying heavily on foreign aid to finance its development efforts in the early 1960s. It was argued that dependence on aid in the short run would ensure self-reliance in the long run. However, that did not happen. Instead, the need for foreign aid has continued to grow and at present one quarter of investment is being financed

through foreign capital. Foreign debt accounts for 35.8 percent of the country's gross national product and 15.7 percent of the country's foreign exchange earnings is being used to service foreign debt. The growing foreign debt and debt-servicing is threatening the prospects of growth.

The new government has advanced a policy that opts for efficient industrialization through export-oriented strategy rather than protecting industries behind steep protection walls. Accordingly, a number of initiatives are being taken to rationalize the tariff structure and to liberalize the foreign exchange market. Recognizing the role of savings in economic development effort, the government has appointed a taxation committee to suggest measures for mobilizing domestic resources.

Although the government is committed to the self-reliance policy, it will implement it gradually to avoid severe hardships on its people. ■

Joint US-Soviet Efforts to Resolve Mideast Problem

by Wang Lianzhi

Resolution of the Middle East problem has increasingly become a major concern of the international community since the Gulf war. In this context, and because no breakthroughs came out of US Secretary of State James Baker's three visits to the Middle East, foreign ministers from both the Soviet Union and the United States recently joined hands at shuttle diplomacy. They hoped to find a solution to the 43-year-old confrontation between the Arab world and Israel.

Several encouraging trends have emerged from the joint Soviet-US efforts towards resolving problems in the Middle East: closer ties between the Soviet Union and Israel; participation of the Gulf Co-operation Council in any negotiations; co-operation rather than competition between the Soviets and Americans in the region; and significantly, agreement in principle for a peace conference.

From May 8 to May 15, Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh visited Syria, Jordan, Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Wrapping up his visit, he met with Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), in Geneva.

At almost the same time, May 11-16, James Baker visited the same countries as Bessmertnykh except for Saudi Arabia and did not see Arafat.

Bessmertnykh and Baker held two rounds of discussions in Cairo and exchanged views on the prospects for peace in the region with Egyptian President Mu-

ammed Hosni Mubarak.

In March and April this year, Baker conducted three separate tours to the Middle East in an attempt to resolve long-standing conflicts in the region. However, most analysts say his efforts made little substantial progress towards that goal.

At the end of his third trip to the Middle East, Baker made a special visit to Kislovodsk in Caucasus area of the Soviet Union and held talks with Bessmertnykh asking for help in the peace process of the Middle East.

During the talks, the Soviet Union, which is seen as eager to revive its role in the Middle East, demonstrated a constructive attitude towards the US peace plan for the region, and expressed willingness to co-chair an international conference for peace in the troubled area. It was at those talks that the two sides hammered out the strategy to jointly travel to the Middle East.

Co-sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union, the proposed peace conference would be attended by Israel, its neighbouring Arab nations, Gulf states and Palestinians and would later break into separate negotiations between Israel and Arab nations and between Israel and Palestinians.

Bessmertnykh's visit to Israel was the first for a Soviet foreign minister to the Jewish state since its founding in 1948. Commenting on the visit, the Soviet foreign minister said that the relations between his country and Israel have entered a new and important stage.

Although he rejected the Israel-

li precondition that the Soviet Union first restore diplomatic relations with Israel before it could co-sponsor the proposed peace conference on the Middle East, Bessmertnykh said the resumption of state-to-state ties would be resolved naturally in a timely manner. After a meeting with the Israeli leaders the Soviet foreign minister said that both sides will join efforts in calling for a Mideast peace conference.

Another potentially significant development was the agreement by the six member countries of the Gulf Co-operation Council to send its secretary general as an observer to the Mideast peace conference. This move shows great support for Baker's peace efforts. US President George Bush also looks at it as a sign of some progress.

A third important event is the constructive atmosphere in which the United States and the Soviet Union are working together towards resolving problems in the Middle East—a sharp break from their past confrontation in the region.

The two ministers stated after talks in Cairo that both sides share the same view on many problems concerning the realization of Middle East peace. They also expressed their determination to continue promoting the peace process in the region.

Finally, on May 14, Baker said all concerned parties he had talks with have agreed in principle to participate in the peace conference to be co-chaired by the United States and the Soviet Union.

At the end of his Middle East journey, Bessmertnykh concluded that although there is an opportunity emerging to settle the Mideast problem, the solution will be more complicated than expected.

Analysts note that the Middle East peace efforts by the two powers failed to make a significant breakthrough.

At present, the main obstacles in the region are differences between Israel and Syria in defining the role of the United Nations in the peace process, the capacity of any international peace conference to solve seemingly intractable issues and how the Palestinians will be able to participate in any conference.

On that last point, there are three possible ways the Palestinians may be involved: by forming

their own group for the conference; Palestine as a part of an Arab delegation; or together with Jordan as a joint delegation.

However, up to now Israel remains intransigent on the issue of Palestinian participation, refusing to talk directly with the PLO. The key to the solution of the problem remains how much pressure Washington would like to bring to bear on Tel Aviv to bring it in line with the US Middle East policy. ■

groups by the end of April. On April 25, the Progressive Socialist Party, headed by Walid Joumblatt, and its Druze militia took the lead to execute the government order. It sent the weapons received from Syria back to the Syrian army stationed in Lebanon and handed over the rest of weapons to the government army.

On April 28, the Shiite Amal militia followed suit. On the same day, Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, during his visit in Damascus, persuaded the Party of God militia to hand over its weapons to the Lebanese government and disband the organization.

On April 29, one day before the time limit, the Christian Lebanon Forces, Lebanon's major militia organization, finally agreed to surrender its weapons according to the Taif Agreement. Also it expressed support for the government's efforts to administrate the state and restore Lebanon's independence and sovereignty.

Thus far, all Lebanese militia organizations except for the Party of God began to lay down weapons and some proclaimed to be disbanded, paving the way for national reconciliation.

However, a real reconciliation between various political parties and religious communities needs time to remove long-term rancor and to unravel the labyrinthine contradictions within sundry religious factions of different international backgrounds. Disarmed though they were, many factions still exist.

In addition, the Lebanese government finds it hard to exercise power in the whole country because Israel has a so-called "security strip" of 800 square kilometres in southern Lebanon. Furthermore, the Syrian army controls the Beka Valley and parts of northern Lebanon. The Taif Agreement gave no timetable for Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon.

The road towards Lebanon's peace will be tortuous. Nevertheless, the people's longing for stability and peace will prevail. ■

Lebanon Buries the Hatchet

by Zhang Xiaodong

The peace process in Lebanon has accelerated since late April when various militia factions handed over weapons to the government. Beginning May 1, the Lebanese government's army began to move into northern, eastern and southeastern Beirut, capital of the country, taking over districts occupied by militia groups. Thus Lebanon has entered a new stage on the road towards national reconciliation.

Lebanon, hampered by split and turbulence since 1975, suffered an estimated casualty figure of 150,000 people during the civil war, or 5 percent of its population. Lebanon became a synonym for turbulence.

The war-stricken Lebanese people and the Arab nations hope to see a peaceful and stable Lebanon. Moroccan King Hassan II, Saudi King Fahd Ibn Abd Al-Aziz and Algerian President Bendjedid Chadli pooled efforts to bring peace to Lebanon. With their help, the Lebanese parliament adopted the Taif Agreement in the Saudi city of Taif in October 1989. The agreement asked for the formation of a government of national unity which would conduct political re-

form and exercise power within the territory of Lebanon. It also called for the disarmament of all militia organizations and non-governmental armed forces, thus ending division and realizing reunification.

Last October, when Michell Aoun, the former Commander-in-Chief of Lebanese government army, was forced to exile, the Lebanese government embarked on implementation of the "Greater Beirut Plan." Within the next two months, all militia organizations withdrew from Beirut. The chronic snarl of fighting in Beirut gradually drew to an effective end.

To further carry out the Taif Agreement, the Lebanese cabinet decided to dismantle all non-governmental armed forces. On March 28, the cabinet ordered that all non-governmental armed forces hand their weapons over to the government before April 30 and decided that the government began to deploy its army in the country May 1.

On April 13, when Prime Minister Omar Karami visited Syria, an agreement was reached with Syrian President Hafez Assad on the question of dismantling militia

The Huaihe River Successfully Harnessed

by Wang Yuan

Harnessing the Huaihe River, a gigantic project begun some 40 years ago, has involved scientific planning, drainage of flood zones, protection against infiltration by salty sea water, desalinization and the development of many irrigation works. Overall, the work has been a success and brought about tremendous changes in the Huaihe River valley.

Renmin Ribao" (People's Daily) reported on February 24, 1991 that the lower reaches of the Huaihe River, near Suqian City in Jiangsu Province, have been turned into a crop cultivation, fish breeding and poultry raising base. In the past few years alone, the local people have developed and harnessed 2,000 hectares of unexploited water area and wasteland, transformed and reclaimed 15,000 hectares of grain fields, dug 333 hectares of fish ponds, cultivated 1,000 hectares of fruit trees and planted 300,000 trees along dykes and embankments.

Although such developments are very common in rural China today, people with some knowledge about the history of Suqian will realize that such achievements have not come easily.

On the lower reaches of the Huaihe River, China's most treacherous river, an area of 50,000 square km used to be hit by mountain torrents and floods rushing into the sea. The average annual flow of 5-10 billion cubic metres in flood waters created a "flood corridor" in this area, which was fraught with misfortune because whenever waters reached a flood stage, there were death, devastation of houses and

the submergence of large tracts of farmland.

Suqian, an ancient town, was called Suyu Prefecture until the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and was later renamed Suqian (overnight removing) because the merciless flooding compelled local dwellers to remove frequently. There used to be endless floods in the area. The worst recorded flood in August 1949 inundated over 63,000 hectares of farmland, destroyed more than 30,000 houses and killed or injured more than 800 local peasants.

Though Suqian is only a small part of the Huaihe River valley, the suffering sustained by the Suqian people in the past is representative of the suffering experienced by people throughout the whole river valley. The same change as in Suqian today has been seen throughout the whole river valley.

The Huaihe River

The Huaihe River is China's third largest river, lying between the Yangtze and the Yellow rivers in the hinterland of China. The Huaihe River valley starts from Tongbai Hill and Funiu Hill in the west; borders the Yellow Sea in the east; is separated

from the Yangtze River valley by the Dabie Mountain and the Wanshan Mountain ridges in the south; and has the south dyke of the Yellow River and the Yimeng Mountain as its common boundary with the Yellow River valley in the north. The total area is 270,000 square km. One third of the Huaihe River valley is hilly in the west, the south and northeast, and the remaining two thirds are vast plains. This land, less than one-35th of the country's total area, supports 140 million people, one tenth of the country's total population. The population density of the Huaihe River valley is the highest of all the world's large river valleys.

The Huaihe River used to flow independently into the sea. Its riverbed was wide and deep and its flow smooth and unimpeded. Before the 12th century, there were many folk songs in praise of the river, such as the following, "Of the thousands of places one travels, the best place one finds is the two banks of the Huaihe River."

Due to changes in the river's course brought about by the encroachment of the Yellow River and other factors, the present Huaihe River valley consists of

two water systems: the main Huaihe water system and the Yihe-Shuhe-Sihe water system.

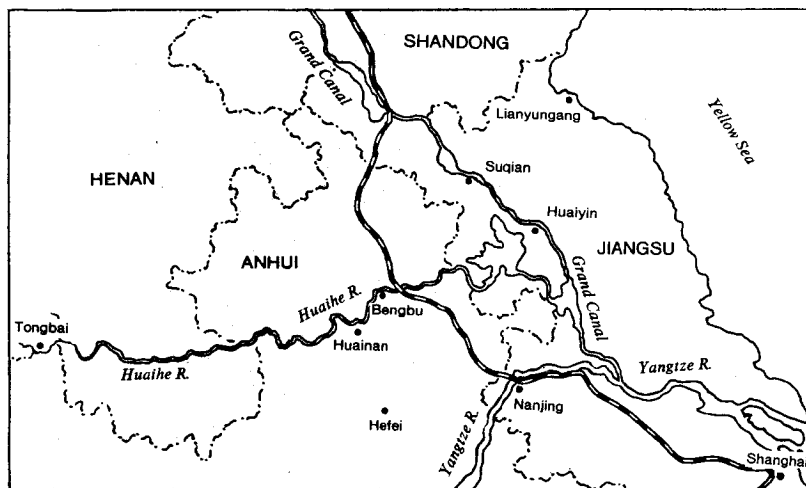
The Yellow River once cut the complete Huaihe River valley into two parts. Later, however, efforts were made to dredge and transform the original Grand Canal and dig a new Huaihe River, once again linking the river up at the lower reaches of the Huaihe mainstream water system and the Yihe-Shuhe-Sihe water system.

The Huaihe River valley has nearly 13 million hectares of cultivated land, or 0.1 hectares per capita, greater than the per-capita share of cultivated land in south China's agricultural areas; it has 85.9 billion cubic metres of water resources, or 630 cubic metres per person, and 425 cubic metres per-hectare of land, higher than that of the agricultural areas in north China. The rich and balanced water and land resources, plus long sunny weather, sufficient light and heat and mild climate make the Huaihe River valley an important commodity grain, cotton and edible oil production base.

The 90,000 square km of hilly terrain gives the Huaihe River valley a rich mountain resource. The agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry and fruit trees plus abundant labour resources provide excellent conditions for the development of a diversified economy.

In addition, the 1.33 million hectares of water surface abound in fish, shrimp, crab, shellfish, lotus, reed and other aquatic animals and plants.

The mineral resources in the Huaihe River valley are also rich with verified coal reserves reaching more than 50 billion tons. In addition to the important salt-producing areas in the coasts north of Jiangsu, several large salt mines have been discovered in recent years in areas south of the Huaihe River, west of Henan



and north of Jiangsu. Rich oil resources, the Zhenwu Oilfield in particular, have been exploited in the Lixiahe area and part of the Zhongyuan Oilfield and Dongpu Oilfield are located in this area.

Communications

The area is easily accessible by both land and water ways. Two north-south arteries of China's railways—the Beijing-Guangzhou Railway and the Beijing-Shanghai Railway—run through the west and middle parts of the valley, and the Lanzhou-Lianyungang Railway which links up China's east coast and western inland area runs through the north of the valley. In addition, the Xinxiang-Heze and Yanzhou—Shijiusuo railways, as well as the crisscrossing highway networks radiate in all directions to link up all parts of the Huaihe River valley.

The water transport network of the valley, with the Huaihe mainstream and the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal as the trunk lines, and supplemented by many newly opened and newly harnessed river tributaries, links up all rivers and lakes within the valley and along the coast. The ocean ports of Lianyungang

and Shijiu are two international transport centres.

Situated in the transitional belt of China's north and south climate, there is a wide disparity in the area's amount of rainfalls in different seasons and different places. Between June and September, the precipitation generally accounts for over 80 percent of the total annual rainfall and the rain falls in torrential downpours.

Historically, when the Yellow River intruded into the Huaihe River course, it brought disasters to the Huaihe River valley. A sandy river, the Yellow River deposited large amounts of silt in the Huaihe River and salinized large tracts of farmland in the valley. This was accompanied by a variety of disasters such as frequent droughts, drifting sand, locust and excessively high tides and strong wind.

Harnessing the River

Although many far-sighted people had put forward various proposals to harness the Huaihe River for thousands of years and had even organized and led the work, there was little progress made in carrying out the projects.

In 1950, soon after the found-

ing of the People's Republic of China, the Government Administration Council, in accordance with the decision of the Central People's Government, held a conference to discuss how to control the Huaihe River. At the meeting, the Decision on Harnessing the Huaihe River was formulated and a committee set up. When the Central People's Government made this decision, Chairman Mao Zedong took note of the peasant uprisings which took place on both banks of the Huaihe River and the fact that a leader of one uprising even became an emperor. Mao noted that the peasants there had staged uprisings because the area was poor and hit by frequent natural disasters. The government's determination to harness the Huaihe River was a symbol of its conviction to eliminate poverty and backwardness.

At the time, the mainstream and tributaries of the Huaihe

River were seriously silted up and the embankments and dykes damaged and insufficient for flood control. When the high-water season came, mountain floods raged and the river water rose steeply, breaching the embankments and dykes and flooding the surrounding lands. To overcome this adversity, the most pressing task was to control the mountain waters and find the means for the Huaihe River to release floodwater along its middle and lower reaches. The Committee for Harnessing the Huaihe River, after carrying out a conscientious and intensive study, put forward an overall programme for harnessing and developing the river.

Along the upper reaches of the Huaihe River, the limited area is hilly and crisscrossed with numerous tributaries. Yet there was a shortage of adequate embankments. The only solution was to build a number of small reser-

voirs, mainly for irrigation as well as for flood control and power generation purposes. The flood drainage capacity of the river along the middle reaches was also insufficient. Fortunately, the many lakes and large tracts of low-lying land made the task of flood control easier. Therefore, besides expanding the river course's flood-drainage capacity, the emphasis was laid on the use of lakes and depressions to control floods. Along the lower reaches, the emphasis was on opening up and expanding the channels leading to the sea in order to increase the river's drainage capacity.

Developing Irrigation

Although the Huaihe River is subject to flooding, available surface water resources amount to only 62.1 billion cubic metres and a per-capita share and per-hectare share of water less than

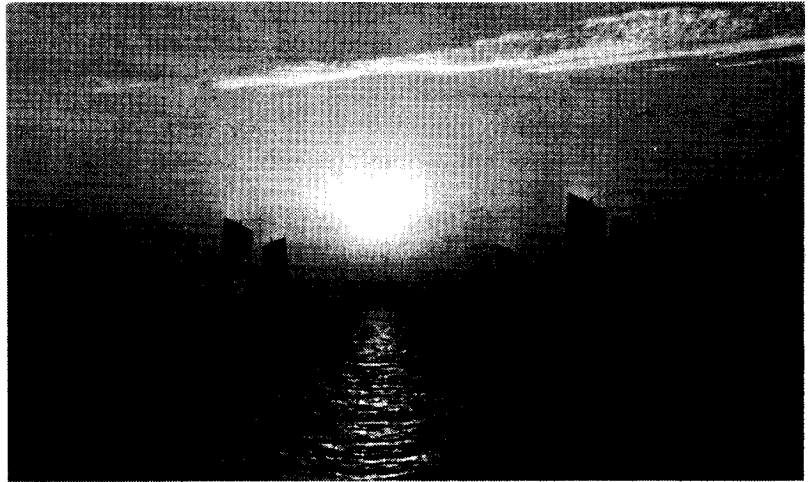
Farmers of Baoying County, Jiangsu Province, gather a bountiful harvest of lotus roots grown for export to Japan.



one fifth of the country's average. Additionally, the distribution of water in different seasons and different places is sporadic and unequal and the control measures insufficient, so that the volume of usable water is quite low. Statistics indicate that the river valley's annual volume of water used in industrial and agricultural production over the past few years was about 45 billion cubic metres, some 30 billion cubic metres of which is surface water, and that the utilization rate is less than 50 percent. The valley's underground water resources are 8-9 billion cubic metres and the utilization rate is less than 40 percent. The shortage is made up by water from the Yangtze and Yellow rivers.

In 1988, the grain output of the four provinces in the Huaihe River valley averaged 3,750 kg per hectare, the average per-hectare grain output of Henan, Shandong and Anhui provinces was 3,540 kg and the per-hectare grain output of Jiangsu Province reached 4,995 kg. The main reason for the difference was that the volume of water used in agriculture was varied. The gradual improvements in water conservation projects ensure that Jiangsu Province's irrigated farmland accounts for 40 percent of the river valley's total farmland. In the past few years, the average annual volume of water used in Jiangsu's agriculture made up more than 50 percent of the river valley's total water consumption in agriculture (45 billion cubic metres). In view of this situation, the various provinces have made full use of reservoirs, lakes, river courses, drainage and irrigation stations, power-driven wells and other water conservation facilities to tap water resources.

The Jianghuai hilly area in Anhui Province is near the Huaihe River in the north and close to the Yangtze River in the south. Since it is situated in the



Fishermen of Gaoyou County, Jiangsu Province, on the Gaobao Lake.

middle reaches of these two major rivers, the local people have used the reservoirs and the many small and large irrigation works along the two rivers to build the country's largest irrigation network—the Pishihang irrigation district—with an area of 730,000 hectares. After more than 30 years of development, the irrigation district is now a multifunctional, comprehensive flood control, irrigation, navigation, power generation, tourism, urban water supply and aquacultural area. In eastern Anhui Province, the Nushanhu Huaihe River-Diversion Irrigation Project complete with its medium-sized and small reservoirs, embankments and dams and pumping stations, is in operation. In the past, when Fengyang County was hit by drought, even crops needing little water were affected. Now, the county's 40,000 hectares of paddyfields ensure high yields despite drought or excessive rain.

The greater part of Jiangsu Province is located along the lower reaches of the Huaihe River and the area makes full use of the Hongze Lake for water storage to develop agricultural irrigation resources. The province's

Jiangdu and Huaian pumping stations, currently China's largest, can draw the Yangtze River water at a rate of 400 cubic metres per second while the northern Jiangsu general irrigation channel, the Erhe, the Huaihuixin and Xinyi rivers can irrigate 670,000 hectares of farmland in northern Jiangsu. Most projects yield economic benefits even as they are under construction. For example, during the drought spell in 1966 and 1967, when the flow of the Huaihe River was interrupted and Hongze Lake dried up, the Jiangdu Pumping Station, though still incomplete, ran for 414 days and drew 3.77 billion cubic metres of water from the Yangtze River. As a result, the grain output in all the irrigated area exceeded past records.

In places far from rivers and lakes and with insufficient ground water sources, underground water has been used to build up well-irrigation districts. Over the past 40 years, 800,000 motor-pumped wells were sunk and 2.06 million hectares of land irrigated by motor-driven wells. Motor-pumped wells in Henan Province on the upper reaches of the river make up half of the

total in Henan Province.

Overall Efficiency

By the end of 1989, state investment in key projects to harness the Huaihe River totalled 9.232 billion yuan and this investment, plus funds raised by local governments and pooled by the masses with the value of labour contributed, added up to 47.604 billion yuan. The massive-scale project of harnessing the Huaihe River has played an enormous role in developing local economies and improving living standards.

By the end of 1989, soil erosion in a total of 18,000 square km of land area on the upper reaches of the river was brought under control and 35 large reservoirs, 153 medium-sized and more than 5,100 small reservoirs with a combined total capacity of 25 billion cubic metres were completed. In areas along the middle reaches of the river, low-lying land and lakes were used to build 21 flood-control districts and 12 flood-detention and storage districts with a combined capacity of 32 billion cubic metres. A total of 12,000 km of river courses were harnessed and embankments on the mainstream and tri-

butaries built. The water channels on the lower reaches were expanded and new waterways leading to seas opened up, increasing the flood-release capacity from less than 9,000 cubic metres per second before the founding of the People's Republic of China to 24,000 cubic metres per second. Thus, a flood-control project system composed of reservoirs, flood-drainage districts, flood detention and storing districts, river embankments has initially taken shape.

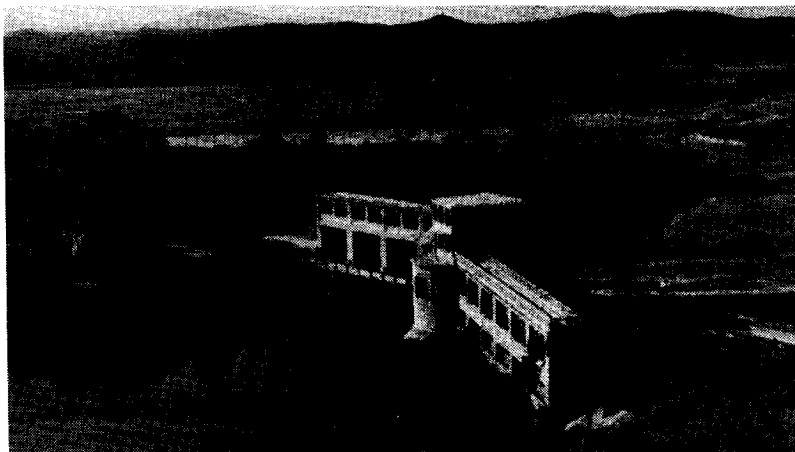
The key water-drainage courses on the plains were initially controlled and dredged and a surface water-drainage system was established. More than 5.33 million hectares of land was desalinized and free from flood threat. In addition, 49,000 motor drainage and irrigation stations were completed, over 10 million kw of power equipment and 540,000 auxiliary power-pumped wells added, and nearly 500 irrigation districts on 600 hectares of land built. The effective irrigated area increased from 800,000 hectares shortly after the founding of the People's Republic to 7.53 million hectares, accounting for 60 percent of the river valley's existing cultivated land. Hydropower, with an in-

stalled capacity totalling 280,000 kw, now makes up 30 percent of the area's total power output; navigable mileage has exceeded 20,000 km; annual production of freshwater aquatic products reached 360,000 tons; and 45-50 billion cubic metres of water can be supplied annually for industrial and agricultural production and for urban and rural household use.

In the past 40 years, the Huaihe River project has undergone the following stages: flood control and disaster prevention in the 1950s, development of irrigation in the 1960s, carrying out farmland capital construction in the 1970s and the all-round construction of auxiliary projects and strengthened management in the 1980s. These efforts have brought tremendous changes to the Huaihe River valley.

Huaiyin City in northern Jiangsu Province, located on the lower reaches of four rivers—the Huaihe, Yihe, Shuhe and Sihe—was known as a “flood corridor.” In 1949, the city's 843,000 hectares of cultivated land only produced 800 million kg of grain because, besides flood, 141,000 hectares of crops were attacked by locusts. After decades of efforts to construct water projects, China has established five large water conservation systems and ensured that both drainage and irrigation requirements could be met. In 1983, despite an exceptionally strong rainstorm, the city's grain output still hit 5.29 billion kg. Farmland capital construction has eliminated 90 percent of the locust breeding grounds. The construction of water conservancy projects has also boosted agricultural mechanization. The tractor-ploughed area in Huaiyin City now exceeds 60 percent although it did not have a single hectare of tractor-ploughed land in the early 1950s. In addition, to facilitate

The Hongshizui project, a key part of the programme to harness the Huaihe River within Jinzhai County, Anhui Province, irrigates more than 180,000 hectares of farmland in Henan and Anhui provinces.

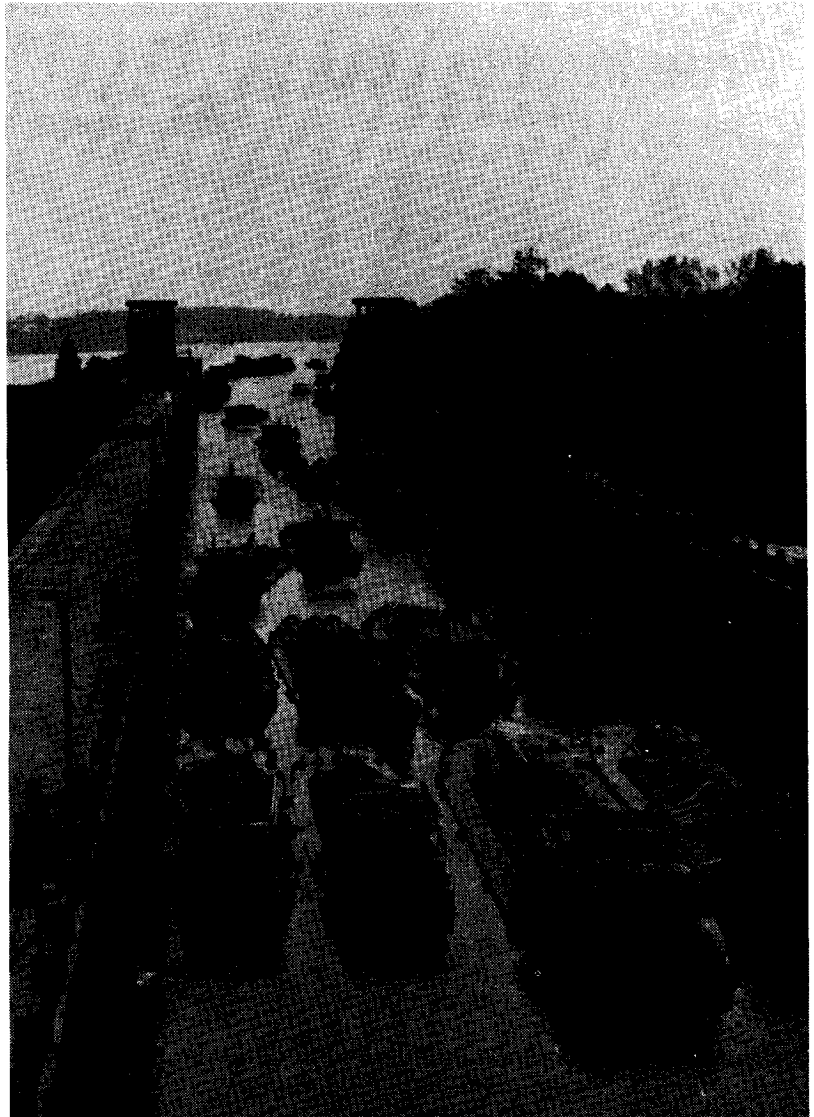


its industrial and agricultural development, Huaiyin has widened the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal to enable the section within city limits to handle 2,000-ton ships.

The development of the water transport service of Huaiyin City is just one part of the development of the water transport service of the entire Huaihe River valley. The straightened and widened Grand Canal, the transformation of the mainstream of the Huaihe River and the dredging of key river courses have increased shipping mileage in the entire river valley to 20,000 km and freight volume to 60 million tons.

The numerous lakes and reservoirs on the lower reaches of the Huaihe River valley are rich in inorganic nutrient salt and organic substance brought by the large amounts of freshwater. They provide a favourable environment for the development of aquatic products industry. A survey shows that in the lower reaches of the Huaihe River valley there are 106 kinds of fish, seven kinds of shrimps and crabs, 31 kinds of shellfish, 49 kinds of common aquatic plants, as well as many wild ducks, red crested cranes, swans and other rare fowls. The continued improvement in water conservancy conditions over the past decades has resulted in a rapid development of the fish breeding industry. A commodity production and export trade base centred around fish, shrimp, shellfish and algae, has been set up along coastal beaches.

A State Council official once made the following analysis: There are roughly three kinds of agricultural development in China: (1) Highly developed area with small potential for agricultural growth. For example, in the high-yielding grain-producing area in southern Jiangsu Province, cultivated



Photos by ZHANG WENLI

The Siyang ship lock on the Jiangsu section of the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal.

land is limited but output is quite high. It will be very difficult to further increase output in the future unless great advances are made in science and technology and management level is raised to a new level. (2) Areas with poor natural conditions, a weak economic base and limited investment in construction. It will also be difficult for these areas to make major achievements within a short period of time without putting in a large amount of investment. (3) Such

locations as the Huaihe River valley where, on the one hand, a lot of investment has been made, large numbers of projects have been built and a good foundation has been laid, and, on the other hand, there is more cultivated land but output is relatively low. In this area, there is obvious development potential. Given this situation, over the next ten to 20 years, the Huaihe River valley has the greatest potential for development and will be able to achieve great economic results with little investment. ■

Free Medical Care in Tibet

by Our Staff Reporter Li Rongxia

On our first trip to Lhasa, the shortage of oxygen at the high altitude caused one of my companions to feel ill and so I went with him to a hospital located in front of the Jokhang Monastery.

Unlike hospitals in Beijing, it was not crowded. Some people in Tibetan or Han clothes were quietly sitting on long benches, waiting for their turns as a doctor in his fifties diagnosed my companion. He first felt his pulse and then asked him some questions, in the same way a doctor of traditional Chinese medicine would have done in Beijing. He then prescribed for him some Tibetan medicine which is said to be very effective.

Chatting with Tibetans waiting there, I learnt it was very convenient for them to see a doctor there. Both the Tibetans and other minority nationalities all enjoy free medical care. In the

inland, on the other hand, only state workers and staff enjoy free medical service. It was clear that a special policy was in effect for the autonomous region of Tibet.

Past and Present

Old Tibetans and people with a good understanding of Tibetan history all know that under the feudal serf system, the overwhelming majority of Tibetans had little to wear or to eat and no chance of seeing a doctor. Small pox, plague and other serious infectious diseases often struck the population, killing countless numbers of people. The former government did nothing to save the ill but instead sent soldiers to keep those infected in the mountains where they died. They cruelly burnt or buried infected people alive.

After Tibet was peacefully liberated in 1951, the central gov-

ernment implemented a free-medical-care policy for the Tibetan and other minority nationalities. It was then very convenient for all the people in Tibet to see a doctor in the hospital no matter what kind of illness.

In the early period of liberation, the Tibetan people faced such infectious diseases as small pox, cholera, plague, venereal disease and other acute and chronic diseases. Thanks to vast numbers of medical workers who actively launched a nationwide campaign of inoculation and prevention, the diseases were basically brought under control within a couple of years. By the early 1960s, small pox was eliminated as was cholera. In recent years, as planned immunization campaign spread throughout the autonomous region, the overall rate of infectious diseases was gradually reduced. For a while in 1988, there was an outbreak of typhoid fever, a disease for which the death rate is generally 5 to 10 percent, in Lhasa. However, there were no deaths whatsoever, despite the poor environment because of the timely and effective control measures.

As health conditions constantly improved, the average lifespan of Tibetan people increased from 35.5 of age in the days of early liberation to over 65 years old, and the population increased rapidly. In 1952 total population in Tibet was 1.15 million, while by 1990 it had soared to 2.2 million.

Medical Networks

Before the peaceful liberation of Tibet, Lhasa had only a small Menzikang engaged in astronomical calculation and Tibetan medicine and one clinic opened by a British. Beginning in 1952, however, the state invested and went all out to develop Tibet's public health. The Lhasa People's Hospital, now the people's

Li Huizhen (first left), president of the Lhasa People's Hospital, examines a patient.

MA JINGJIU



hospital of the autonomous region, was established in September 1952. In the early 1950s, Tibet set up a two-level medical institutional system for the autonomous region and prefectures and cities. County-level hospitals were also founded after the democratic reform in 1959. By the 1970s, medical care and public health institutions had been set up in township and village levels and, in the 1980s, a medical care and public health network was basically formed throughout Tibet with Lhasa as its centre.

In the past 40 years, the state has allocated 700 million yuan to develop Tibet's medical care and public health undertakings. There are now 900 public health organizations in the region, 15 times more than the number in 1959. The number of hospital beds is more than 5,000, nearly 11 times over 1959 and the region has 9,000 medical personnel, 12 times more than 1959.

Medical workers in Lhasa treat the public during a holiday.

TANG ZHAOMING



CELONG

A doctor of the Tibet Autonomous Region Hospital feels a patient's pulse.

The standard of medical instruments and equipment has also greatly improved. Tibet now possesses 1,250 milliamperere X-ray machines, automatic biochemical analysis instruments and other equipment of advanced international level. The equipment is as advanced as any in other hospitals of the country.

Along with the improvement the existing medical organizations, minor medical problems and illnesses can be cured within rural clinics and common diseases can be treated at county-level hospitals. Difficult and complicated cases can be treated within the region.

As a disease prevention and health care network has initially taken shape, the number of related medical personnel has reached more than 1,000.

The state has attached great import-

ance to training Tibetan medical personnel. Since 1980, the public health department of the autonomous region has invested more than 1 million yuan for almost 200 training courses in which some 6,890 medical personnel improved their professional level. With the support of the Ministry of Public Health, 23 physicians-in-charge under the age of 40 have been sent to the Chinese Medical Sciences University and nine other key medical institutes for further study. After three years of study, they reach the level of associate chief physicians. At present, Tibetan medical and public health personnel constitute 77 percent of the region's total.

Tibetan Medicine

Tibetan medicine has a history of more than 2,000 years. With its unique theoretical system, rich clinical experiences and vast accumulation of medical documents, it is an important component of China's treasure-house of medicine.

Tibetan medical organizations have increased from three clinics and one small hospital in 1958 to the present ten hospitals, three

pharmaceutical factories and one Tibetan medicine institute at the regional, prefectural and county levels. Seventy-one county-level hospitals have set up Tibetan departments of medicine. The number of Tibetan medical workers number more than 1,700.

Tibetan medical scientific research personnel have gained remarkable achievements in clinical treatment and pharmaceutical research. The Tibetan medicine used to cure atrophic gastritis won a medical scientific research award from the Ministry of Public Health. The Tibetan patent medicine of the Pearl 70 Medicinal Herbs which cures diseases of nervous system twice won a silver medal. The form of Tibetan medicine has developed from pills to powder medicines, injections and syrups.

Entrusted by the Ministry of Public Health, the autonomous region organized medical personnel to work out State Work Rules of Tibetan Medicine, Typical Cases of Tibetan Medicine and Nursing Rules of Tibetan Medicine, and to make both qualitative and quantitative analyses on more than 1,000 kinds of medicinal herbs' names and families, their pharmaceutical composition, functions and their methods of use. Tibetan medicines are now on a standard and scientific track.

The development of Tibetan medicine attracted international attention and every year large numbers of foreign experts and scholars come to Tibet to make researches on the Tibetan medicine. Britain, the United States, France and other countries import many Tibetan medicines and it is now common for students from abroad to study Tibetan medicine in Tibet. Japan and Tibet will soon jointly research how to cure liver diseases by using both Tibetan and Western medicine. ■

Immunization Campaign Targets Children

by Our Staff Reporter Cui Lili

The inoculation rate for Chinese children has reached well over 85 percent in the nation's 2,829 counties and China's next step in its immunization campaign is to eliminate poliomyelitis by 1995.

In March this year, Chen Minzhang, minister of Public Health, visited an epidemic prevention station in Jinxiu Yao Autonomous County, a place deep in Dayao Mountain in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. He was told that each and every child in the county had been inoculated against six common infectious diseases—tuberculosis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria and whooping cough. The county had done such an excellent job of immunization that no diphtheria cases have been reported in 11 years, no poliomyelitis cases in nine years and no whooping cough or tetanus cases in five years in the county.

Between March and April this year, 284 counties across the country, including such outlying and backward counties as Jinxiu County, were investigated by teams made up of 24,000 people, such as the government officials headed by Minister Chen, epidemic prevention experts (including 16 foreign experts from eight countries) and other personnel. They were satisfied with the immunization of children under 12 months of age and concluded that the inoculation rate

of children in all the 2,829 counties reached well over 85 percent.

Such an achievement indicates that at least 300 million Chinese children, including those living in poverty-stricken areas, have been freed from the threat of infectious diseases. "It is an amazing accomplishment," said James Grant, the executive president of the United Nations Children's Fund. He noted that the Chinese children constitute a significant part of the world's total and that the immunization campaign was among the best in the world.

Achievements

Between 1938 and 1949, only 7,500 Chinese people were inoculated with BCG vaccine (Bacille Calmette-Guerin) to prevent tuberculosis. At that time, the incidence of the four major infectious diseases—diphtheria, measles, whooping cough and poliomyelitis—topped 10 million cases annually from among the 400 million Chinese people. These diseases were the main causes of child deaths.

Since the 1950s, the government has put the prevention and control of these acute infectious diseases high on its work agenda.

After the successful development and mass production of BCG, measles vaccines, the mixed vaccine for diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus and a vaccine for poliomyelitis, the incidence of these diseases began to plummet. According to 1979 statistics, the incidence of measles had dropped from 9.445 million in 1959 to 1.717 million cases; whooping cough from 1.583 million to 736,000 cases; diphtheria from 148,000 to 17,000 cases; and poliomyelitis from 17,000 to 5,500 cases. The number of children infected with tuberculosis and tubercle meningitis also dropped drastically.

In 1982, the government promulgated a series of regulations to effectively promote its immunization work, such as regulations for the planned national immunization, the goals for the immunization campaign between 1982 and 1990, basic immunization procedures and measures for assessing the planned immunization.

Early in the 1980s, China participated in activities designed to expand global immunization efforts which were initiated by the

Children are more precious in the eyes of one-child parents. UNICEF



Children of a border village. Chinese children account for 20 percent of the world's total. UNICEF

World Health Organization. In 1988, the inoculation rate per province reached 85 percent. China's fulfilment of its target won the Chinese Ministry of Public Health in 1989 the United Nations Child Survival Silver Medal.

In accordance with the principles of the World Health Organization's planned immunization work, new standards for the campaign were formulated. The procedures require that inoculation clinics be operated nationwide and that children be inoculated monthly, bimonthly or quarterly. In the past 30 years, however, except for such large cities as Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin, most small and medium-sized cities and towns and the rural areas have managed to implement the inoculation programme once a year. The new procedures also stipulate the date, amount and testing standard for various vaccines. For instance, each child should be inoculated with BCG vaccine three times, four times with poliomyelitis vaccine,

four times with diphtheria-whooping cough-tetanus vaccine and two times with measles vaccine before the age of 12.

The central government has made a herculean effort to inoculate the 350 million Chinese children living in the 9.6 million square kilometres of territory while the local governments have played an important supporting role. The immunization technical consulting committee of the Ministry of Public Health composed of a variety of experts has held regular meetings, discussed work progress and put forward its opinions and recommendations on how to improve and speed up the programme. The Chinese Academy of Prevention Sciences has set up a special technical guidance centre, monitoring epidemic diseases and editing and issuing epidemic bulletins. The centre is also responsible for providing technical guidance to the national programme and offering a scientific foundation for planned immunization tactics by the Ministry of



FAN XINGYUN

Madan M. Arora, an official of the United Nations Children's Fund, takes a survey for the planned immunization of the rural children in Yichuan County, Henan Province.

Public Health. In addition, under the leadership of the Ministry of Public Health, the national co-ordinating group and six regional planned immunization committees provide unified regional information and consultation services.

Hospitals or epidemic prevention stations and other medical organizations in urban and rural areas have offered immunization services for children. To ensure quality services, between 1985 and 1989, they held tens of thousands of training classes at and above the county level, providing nearly 1 million personnel with immunization training.

In addition, public involvement and the participation of each household has been a major goal of the campaign in recent years. To achieve this goal, efforts were made by government departments and mass organizations. The All-China Women's Federation, for example, has often publicized immunization

through its 37 newspapers and magazines. It has also provided pamphlets, pictorial posters and slides for women in remote areas through its subordinate organizations. The All-China Women's Federation has also run more than 300,000 parent schools in various localities, and an important part of the course is information about proper inoculation.

Technical Guarantees

Cold-chain construction was one of the major achievements in immunization in the 1980s. Cold-chain construction refers to the series of refrigeration equipment including refrigerator cars, cases and medical kits required from the time the vaccine is produced until it is shipped and delivered to villages via various provinces, prefectures, counties and townships. The refrigeration system ensures the quality of vaccines, guards against ineffec-

tive inoculation of vaccines caused by improper preservation and, at the same time, enables various localities to provide regularly scheduled inoculations.

In 1982, in co-operation with the United Nations Children's Fund, the Chinese government tried out a pilot cold-chain system in hot Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Yunnan, Sichuan, Hubei and Fujian provinces with a population of 80 million. Take Sichuan Province for example. In addition to the funds from the World Health Organization, and the Chinese Ministry of Public Health, the provincial and local governments at various levels as well as the public generated some 100 million yuan for the construction of cold-chain facilities throughout the province. There are currently cold-chain facilities providing services to 97.09 percent of the area's population.

By the end of 1989, the United Nations Children's Fund offered

refrigeration and transport equipment valued at US\$20 million for immunization work targeted towards Chinese children while the central government invested several hundred million yuan. At present, at least 2,600 counties in China's 30 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities have been equipped with cold-chain refrigeration equipment.

Vaccine Inoculators

The main task of Mao Yuanmei, 42, who became a rural doctor at the age of 19, is to prevent diseases. Mao has established a comprehensive registration system of all the children in her home village, the Changzhugeng Village in Jiangsu Province. Before any inoculation, she checks her records and afterwards, notifies children of the type of inoculation and the date given. Prior to an inoculation, she gives each child a check-up and then arranges a follow-up for a fixed time in the future. Her long-term, warm and satisfactory service has provided villagers with basic health and disease prevention knowledge. If an inoculation for a certain child is missed, she tries her best to ensure that the missed inoculation is made up.

Mao Yuanmei is only one of the hundreds of thousands of doctors specializing in inoculations in China. These medical workers live in grass-roots units and have a meagre income. They, however, have a strong sense of responsibility and, although their work is both ordinary and at times trivial, they offer the most elementary guarantee that the nation's children will remain healthy.

Zhejiang Province in East China has, since 1984, introduced a method of offering vaccine inoculations by the township hospitals. Sometimes, however, there are only two medical



UNICEF

The improved "cold-chain" system has contributed to the regular immunization for children in poverty-stricken areas.

workers available to immunize children in a township or a town with a population of 20,000. Each month they must give children of different ages vaccinations or pills.

A considerable number of prefectures and counties in Yunnan Province, southwest China, are located in mountainous areas. Some villages are located on the top of hills and cannot be reached by vehicles. At inoculation time, rural doctors must travel by foot for a day or more to the county town or townships and then return with the vaccinations.

In order to compensate the hard-working medical workers, some 50 percent of the Chinese counties have adopted an insurance compensation system which stipulates that after birth, each family must pay 10-20 yuan per child to the local commune hospital. The funds are used primarily to compensate rural doctors who offer child care services at

regular intervals. If the child for whom the money has been paid gets ill, he or she will be able to draw on a lump-sum premium ranging from 30 to 200 yuan in order to pay for medical charges. This system has not only benefited the rural doctors and further strengthened their sense of responsibility, but also enhanced parents' awareness of immunization of their children.

Poliomyelitis

In 1988, the 41st World Health Conference decided to eliminate poliomyelitis by 2000 and the western regions of the Pacific put forward the target of eliminating poliomyelitis by 1995. The Chinese Ministry of Public Health responded to the call by formulating and promulgating the "Plan for Eliminating Poliomyelitis Between 1988 and 1995," a plan which demands that the incidence of poliomyelitis be kept below 0.01 per 100,-

000 and the disease be basically eliminated throughout the country by 1992. No paralytic case of poliomyelitis arising from the virus is expected to be found in 1995.

Poliomyelitis is the second infectious disease to be eliminated by man since the eradication of smallpox worldwide in the 1970s. Poliomyelitis is an infectious virus disease of the intestines. Most sufferers of the disease will be lame with some dependent on a wheel-chair for the rest of their life. In countries where the immunization and treatment level is comparatively low, the disease also brings about a fairly high death rate. Children under the age of five can easily contract the disease, commonly known as infantile paralysis.

Practice has proved that inoculation is an effective way to eli-

minate poliomyelitis. If the effective inoculation rate reaches 85 percent of all children, the epidemic disease can be effectively controlled. If the rate reaches well over 90 percent, poliomyelitis can be eliminated.

According to analysis of poliomyelitis epidemics in 1989, there were 4,633 cases of poliomyelitis in China. Although the figure is lower than the incidence reported at the end of 1979, it is much higher than the 1,000 cases reported in 1987. In 1990, the epidemic situation was still not under control as, by November of that year, 3,942 cases were reported throughout the country. Children suffering from the disease numbered more than 100 in 12 provinces and autonomous regions. All of the cases were in rural areas.

After the investigation of poliomyelitis cases in Shandong Province, Zhang Rongzhen, associate research fellow of the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medical Sciences, discovered that most poliomyelitis patients had not had vaccinations and that many of those who missed the inoculation were children born outside of the family planning target. Since the parents had violated local family planning stipulations, they often moved to other places with their newborns, thus missing out on inoculations. Another important reason is that farmers do not fully understand the need for immunizations; some 88 percent of the people questioned did not know about the value

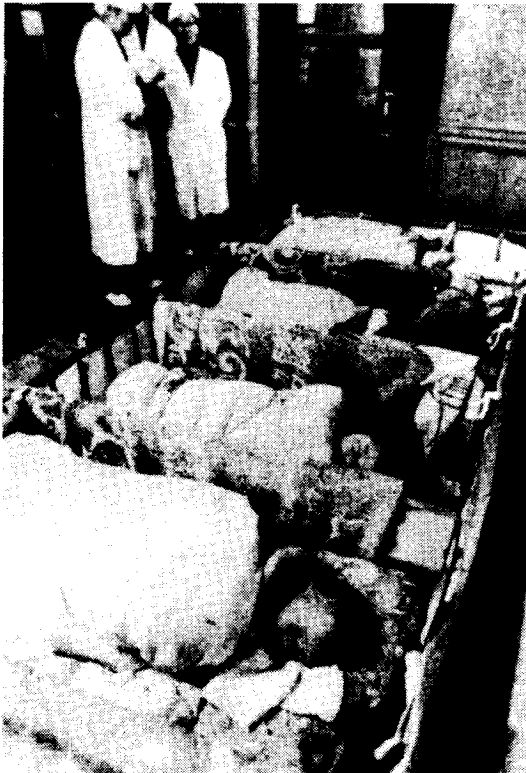
of inoculations. Another problem is that a small number of the children who had taken pills were struck by the disease because they took ineffective vaccines or their hygienic situation was poor. The Shandong investigation pointed out that in areas with a high poliomyelitis rate some pigpens or lavatories were built near wells. This offers poliomyelitis an easy way to spread from excrement to the mouth. In addition, those stricken by the disease drank unboiled water and did not wash their hands before eating and after going to the bathroom.

While the immunization campaign is making progress in large, small and medium-sized cities, there are still a variety of problems in rural areas where 80 percent of the population lives. In addition to the problem created by those born outside the state family planning target and the low educational level of farmers, there is a serious shortage of funds. At least several hundred epidemic prevention stations at the county level are not equipped with refrigerator vehicles for shipping vaccines. Also, the cold-chain equipment put into place some years ago needs maintenance and renovation but there are no funds available for their fulfilment in the near future.

The three documents on eliminating poliomyelitis formulated by the Ministry of Public Health in the first half of 1990 have been issued to grass-roots units. The documents include an overall plan for the implementation of the task, the plan for training professional contingents, the demand for more scientific research and the specific measures which need to be taken. Finally, various localities are now trying to strengthen their management over the floating population so as to ensure that this group of people is immunized. ■

The UNICEF is collecting and analysing data on Chinese children so as to improve the immunization plan.

UNICEF



Although China's tens of thousands of orphans in the country's more than 5,000 child welfare homes enjoy a healthy, well-rounded environment, some orphans need a home of their own. This story tells of a female teacher who has not only adopted orphans but helps other orphans find new homes.—Ed.

Hu Manli: A Loving Mother to Orphans

by Wu Biwen

At the age of 35, she was a teacher at the Ganghua Middle School in Wuhan City, capital of Hubei Province. She had a typical Chinese family—a devoted husband and a seven-year-old daughter—and lived a quiet, happy life.

It was a pure accident one day in May 1989, therefore, that an event occurred which changed her life and transformed her into the “mother” of eight orphans.

On that day, Chen, a widowed neighbour, died suddenly of a heart attack, leaving behind two teenagers. The children's plight broke Hu's heart, particularly when she found the 14-year-old Binbin and the 12-year-old Yanyan huddled in the corner of a room. They looked so frightened and unsure of their future that Hu immediately scooped the pair up and took them to her home.

That first night, the children sobbed and called for their father in their dreams. Hu also had a restless night. It was clear to her that the children would not get



On September 16, 1990, Hu Manli held a farewell dinner party for orphaned children.

XIAN TIECHENG

the care they needed despite the financial help provided by their father's unit.

Thinking it over for many days, she finally decided to adopt the pair.

A mother without a blood bond is in a difficult position. Binbin and Yanyan felt lonely

and out of place in the first days. Though they called her “Teacher Hu,” she consoled them with the love of a mother.

Not only did she provide all of their food and clothing but both she and her husband also often took them for walks in the evening and on outings on holidays.



XIAN TIECHENG
New mother (first right) of Lin Fu, second of four sisters, changes her daughter's clothes.



XIAN TIECHENG
Screenwriter Xu Yinhua of the Shanghai Film Studio gives his ball pen to Lin Qiang, the third child, as a reward for his good test results.

Long before June 1, Children's Day, arrived, Hu had gathered many gifts for the children. In addition to a new set of clothes for each, she bought Binbin a *erhu* (a two-stringed bowed musical instrument in China) and a watch for Yanyan. It was the first time the pair smiled since their father had passed away.

When Yanyan developed strabismus, Hu took her to the hospital and, when Binbin became ill, she took care of him day and night.

To cultivate the children's artistic talent, she and her husband bought a piano and, two nights each week for months, she made sure that they had piano lessons. Financial problems made her cut

short the lessons for her daughter, Tiantian, but she continued to pay for Yanyan's lessons.

On New Year's Eve of 1990, Binbin and Yanyan on their own agreed that they would call teacher Hu "mother" the next morning. When Hu heard her new appellation, she was moved to tears.

Her new family was publicized in the press and she was praised by the people as "a loving mother of orphans." She then began to be told about the plight of other orphans.

By the end of August 1990, a letter from Wuchang County in Hubei Province informed her that four orphaned girls needed a new home.

Hu and her husband travelled to the remote village by bus. When she saw the four helpless sisters, she was again heart-broken. A 12-year old, Lin Hua, the oldest of the four, firmly held her hand and asked that Hu take her away: "Teacher Hu, we want to have a home..."

With tears in her eyes, she turned to her husband, who had already told her not to adopt other orphans. At that moment, however, he lowered his head. They took the four sisters home. Hu was not able to officially adopt them, however, because government regulations forbid it. When she placed a notice in the local newspaper, searching a new home for them, more than 60 couples came to adopt them. Hu investigated the families and consulted with the neighbours of the potential parents. After an in-depth review of all the couples, she found a home for each of the four sisters within a week's time. The new parents included a teacher, cadre, scientist and engineer. All of them were financially secure and capable of giving their new child the love she needed.

Afterwards, Hu found new parents for another two orphans. Throughout the whole process, Hu has had the support of her husband and daughter.

"They understand me and care for and love the orphans like myself," Hu says.

Hu also said that new parents who adopted the four sisters and the social workers who took care of them deserve special recognition. In her eyes, they have all contributed to improving the conditions of orphans in China. ■

Lin Sheng (front), the lively fourth child, is now a primary school pupil.

XIAN TIECHENG



The oldest child, Lin Hua (centre), is a 5th grade pupil of the Wugang No. 1 Primary School.

XIAN TIECHENG



Foreign Exchange Market Opens Wider

According to the State General Administration of Foreign Exchange Control, the State Council has, in principle, approved the individual foreign exchange to enter foreign exchange regulation market. At present, the administration is formulating detailed rules and regulations which will be promulgated and put into effect within the year. Ordinary citizens in China will then be able to go to the foreign exchange regulation market to buy or sell foreign exchange.

Starting on September 1, 1989, the Shanghai Foreign Exchange Regulation Centre took the lead in trying the new system out. As of now, it has dealt with 33,960 business buyers worth US\$19.4 million; 17,786 business sellers worth US\$460,000. But the experiment in Shanghai put certain restrictions on individual foreign exchange regulation. Only those participants with foreign exchange resources and certificates for the use of foreign exchange could take part in the buying and selling of businesses. However, the new regulations, which allow individual foreign exchange to enter the foreign exchange regulation market, only stipulate the use of foreign exchange bought and has no restriction on the foreign exchange resources sold. It allows the purchase of foreign exchange for Toefl examination, for membership dues of international academic community, purchasing foreign scientific and technological materials, travelling fees for the Mecca pilgrimage and visiting relatives abroad.

China has, for a long time, curbed individual foreign exchange activity in the foreign

exchange regulation market. The regulation of foreign exchange between individuals instead was conducted through the black market. The state's permission to allow individual foreign exchange activity not only indicates the great change in China's policy towards foreign exchange administration, but also is a stimulus to the foreign exchange regulation market.

According to forecasts, currently individual foreign exchange volume in China totalled US\$4 billion. Because there is a price difference between official exchange rate and the actual business price in the foreign exchange regulation market, once individual foreign exchanges are allowed to enter the regulation market, there will be more resources for the foreign exchange regulation market.

At the same time, restrictions on other foreign exchange regulation will be further relaxed such as allowing enterprises to use bank loans (in RMB) to purchase foreign exchange, cancelling the price difference in the service charge for the use of foreign exchange by setting quotas and a spot exchange regulation.

Experts believed that the measures to relax the foreign exchange administration mean that China is paying more attention to the regulatory function of the foreign exchange regulation market on the one hand, and, on the other hand, is reacting to the rapid development of the foreign exchange regulation market in recent years.

Statistics indicate that in 1990 the nation's business volume on the foreign exchange regulation market reached US\$13.164 billion, representing a 53.8 percent increase over 1989, two times higher than 1988.

The markets for foreign exchange regulation have also ex-

panded from the open coastal regions and a few provincial capitals to every province, autonomous region, municipality and city with independent planning power. By the end of 1990, there were more than 40 foreign exchange adjustment markets in the country. The State General Administration of Foreign Exchange Control published the exchange price in the main foreign exchange regulation markets every week through the media for the convenience of business dealers. Currently, the foreign exchange regulation price in the country is 0.50 to 0.53 yuan higher than official exchange rate (using RMB to purchase US dollars). In addition, in order to balance prices in all of the country's foreign exchange regulation market, the State General Administration of Foreign Exchange Control allows transregional regulations. In 1990, such regulated volume was more than US\$2.8 billion, thus encouraging the foreign exchange regulation market to move from a diversified operation to a national integrated market.

by Han Guojian

Guangdong to Attract More Investment

Guangdong Province will introduce US\$10 billion in foreign investment for the construction of infrastructure facilities and industrial and agricultural production.

Foreign capital will be channelled into the following projects:

The establishment of a batch of large power projects in coastal areas. It is expected that some 1.15 million kw of the generating capacity will be added each year during the Eighth Five-Year Plan period;

The construction of an expressway in the Pearl Delta and a special highway and the building of the Guangzhou-Meixian-Shantou Railway Line;

The building of the Huangpu Xinsha, the Yantian and the Aotou harbours and the expansion of the Huangpu, Shantou and Zhanjiang harbours;

The installation of 1.35 million channel-programme controlled telephone exchanges, some 30,000-channel long-distance telephone and 50,000-channel long-distance telephone exchange equipment to form a telecommunication network linking other provinces and cities as well as Hong Kong and Macao;

The construction of large chemical works in Maoming, Huizhou and Guangzhou; the renovation of the Guangzhou and Shaoguan and Zhujiang iron and steel companies and the establishment of a large iron and steel complex with an annual capacity of 3-5 million tons;

The introduction of new technology and equipment for poultry raising and for agricultural processing, packaging, fresh preservation and storage.

In addition, several tens of thousands of processing enterprises in the Pearl River Delta are now seeking co-operation with foreign firms for the import of special technology and patent technology and advanced equipment in order to develop intensive processing and technology-intensive industries.

Guangdong Province was one of China's earliest provinces to implement the open policy. By the end of last year, the province had signed contracts for more than 100,000 projects involving some US\$12.4 billion in foreign capital. Of 7,000 foreign-funded enterprises now in operation, 4,600 export their products.

Their export value reached US\$3.6 billion or 35 percent of the province's total export value. The majority of foreign enterprises in the province make profits. Over the past decade, Guangdong has invested 10 billion yuan in power construction, with one-third of the sum contributed by foreign businessmen.

by Zhang Zhiping

Shanghai Leases More Land

Public bids for the right to use another piece of land in Shanghai will be submitted July 8-10 by the Hong Kong Shanghai Industrial Co. Ltd. and the Shanghai Land Administrative Bureau. The bid will be opened in Shanghai July 14. The winner, after having paid lease rents, shall have land-use rights for a term of 70 years. The piece of leased land, covering an area of 55,400 square meters, is located in the Gubei District. Project use is for the construction of two- or three-storey garden apartments and other auxiliary facilities.

This is the sixth time Shanghai leased out land-use rights since 1988. The previous five pieces of leased land are for commercial office buildings, hotels, factories land and garden apartments.

Public bidding for the right to use the piece of land began to be invited on May 10.

Sino-Tunisia Trade Develops Steadily

According to a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, the total trade volume between China and Tunisia reached US\$53 million in 1990, an increase of 15

percent on 1989. Of this figure, China's export volume was US\$25 million and the import volume US\$28 million. China's exports included tea, textiles, light industrial products, filature silk, machinery and electronic products; While its imports included ammonium dihydrogen phosphate and chemical fertilizer.

Sino-Tunisia trade began in the 1950s. In 1955, the bilateral trade volume was US\$120,000. In September 1958, the two governments signed their first trade agreement and later the second and third agreements and an agreement for barter trade, thus promoting the development of bilateral trade. In 1986, the two countries' trade volume amounted to US\$95.87 million.

The economic and technological co-operation between China and Tunisia has expanded gradually since 1984 in addition to trade exchanges. By the end of 1990, the number of construction projects contracted signed by China in Tunisia and contracts for technological co-operation totalled 27 and were worth more than US\$60 million. The flood control and reservoir projects built by China in Tunisia are regarded as models for water conservancy construction by certain responsible Tunisian departments.

Since 1959, China has constructed a 5,231-square metre "family of youth" including a 500-seat theater, indoor swimming pools and a football field; a 120-km canal with an annual water supply capacity of 470 million cubic metres and the capacity of irrigating 19,000 hectares of land annually, and four complete sets of assistance projects including small reservoirs in mountainous areas and small acupuncture centres.

Economic and trade experts noted that since both China and

Tunisia are third world countries and face the same task of developing the national economy, the economic and trade relationship between the two countries will be further developed as long as they adhere to the principle of "equality, mutual benefit and mutual respect."

by Jiang Fan

China to Export Anti-Cancer Drugs

Ma Zishen, director of the Zhenan Pharmaceutical Factory of Zhejiang Province, announced at a recent news conference that the factory would like to export its product Mitoxantrone to other third world countries through the World Health Organization (WHO). After a state-class appraisal at the end of 1989, the factory began to produce batches of blue Mitoxantrone injection, thus making China one of the few countries in the world able to produce such advanced anti-cancer drugs.

Mitoxantrone, which began to be used in the mid-1980s, is one of the few strong anti-cancer medicines. Clinical practice indicates that it has high effect on leukaemia, breast cancer, malignant lymphosarcoma and stomach and intestine cancers. Currently, the chemotherapy for tumour all use integrated prescriptions consisting of several different kinds of drugs. Clinical practice shows that Mitoxantrone is important in integrated chemotherapy and is still effective when patients are resistant to other medicines. Moreover, Mitoxantrone causes less toxicity and has few side effects. In particular, it causes very little damage to the heart. Sun Yan, professor of the Tumour Hospital affiliated to the

Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, said that Mitoxantrone is another important new weapon in the fight against cancer.

"The hydrochloric acid mitoxantrone manufactured by our factory is almost the same as that of the Lederle Pharmaceutical Factory of the United States in quality but is much cheaper in price," said Ma Zishen, director of the Zhenan Pharmaceutical Factory. Zhang Shichang, professor of the Shanghai Research Institute of Medicinal Industry who was in charge of the research and development of the medicine, said Mitoxantrone is quite stable and can be shipped over long distances.

by Chen Gan

Future Development for Shanghai Volkswagen

Dr. Burkhard Welkener, deputy chief manager of the Shanghai Volkswagen Corp., said in a recent interview by our reporter that his corporation's short-term programme for development had been approved by the 13th session of the German Volkswagenwerk's board of directors held recently.

The programme includes:

- The Shanghai Volkswagen Corp. will merge the Shanghai Automobile Factory in order to increase its annual production capacity from 60,000 to 150,000 Santana cars.

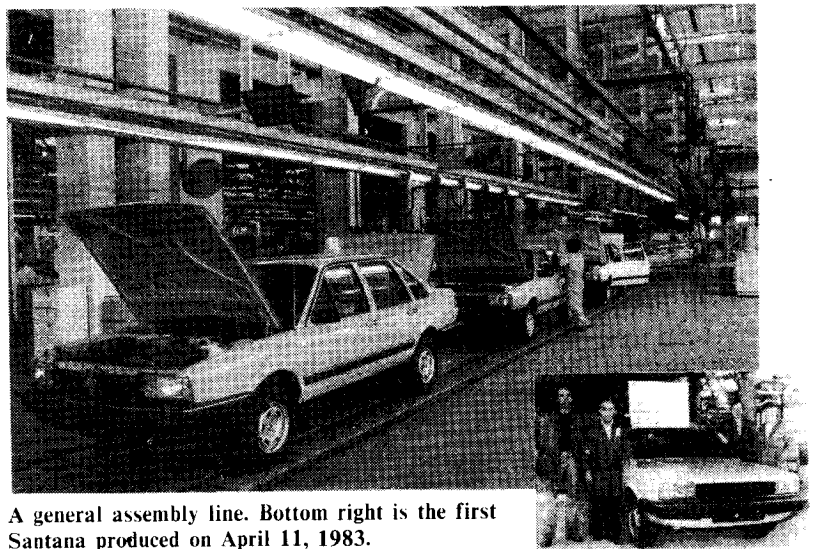
- The corporation plans to set up a large factory producing engines for the German Volkswagenwerk Corp. and the joint ventures in China it invested;

- The number of special Shanghai Volkswagen maintenance stations will be increased from 53 to 100 in order to provide service both for products made by the Shanghai Volkswagen Corp. and for all vehicles produced by the German Volkswagenwerk Corp.

Welkener said that he is confident of the programme's implementation because his corporation has a contingent of well-trained workers and managerial personnel.

The Shanghai Volkswagen Corp. is a Sino-German joint venture. Thanks to good management and operations as well as after-sales service, the corporation was listed again this year as one of the ten best joint ventures in China.

by Li Ming



A general assembly line. Bottom right is the first Santana produced on April 11, 1983.

Review of 'The Core of Chinese Classical Fiction'

The Core of Chinese Classical Fiction

Published by the New World Press in Beijing

Distributed by the China International Book Trading Corp.

Page 489, first edition 1990

Reviewed by Richard Kunst

Fiction in China has a history of almost 2000 years. In *The Core of Chinese Classical Fiction*, Professor Chen Jianing has compiled an anthology of short stories and selections from novels which represent well the outstanding "core" of this tradition.

The work is divided into five units, each of which highlights a stage in the development of the craft of fiction, and, in turn, the particular genre which enjoyed favour during that era. Professor Chen prefaces each unit with an introduction to the historical and social milieu in which the stories arose, and presents a skillful summary of the characteristics of the fiction at that time. Her literary analyses often include enlightening comparisons with traditional Western fiction. Each selection from a longer work in Units Four and Five also has its own introductory paragraph, telling the reader something about the history and major themes of the overall work.

The English translations included by Professor Chen are for the most part those which have been previously published in China or abroad. The quality of the English prose is thus uniformly excellent. Where necessary, the compiler has converted the transliteration to consistent *pinyin* usage throughout the book and tried to standardize the always difficult problem of unfamiliar Chinese names.

Scattered through the book are illustrations reproduced from old original woodblock editions. There is also an opening essay on the origins of fiction and a concluding essay, "Timeline of Important Historical and Literary Events," about works in China and in the West.

Unit One presents an ample selection of 15 anonymous tales from the Six Dynasties period in the fourth, fifth, and sixth centuries. Antecedents for these can be found in the anecdotes and fables sprinkled throughout the great historical works of the Warring States and Han periods as well as in the *xiaosuo* "trivial talk" popular in those days. These tales, rarely longer than one or two pages, establish some of the characteristics which stayed with fiction throughout much of its early history.

Unit Two continues with four stories in the

chuanqi genre of romances popular during the Tang Dynasty (618-907). As with the earlier tales of marvel, these were written by and for members of scholar-official class in classical language. The authors are now known by name and the public's interest in the fantastic was still strong. There was an increase in stories of swordmanship and love, especially those describing the devotion of lowly but good-hearted courtesans to shameless and undeserving young scholars who betray their love for the sake of careers or out of fear of parental wrath. Characters are more clearly drawn than previously and there was more attention to plot and detail.

Unit Three includes three of the most famous story-tellers' scripts originating in the Song Dynasty (960-1279), *The Jade Worker*, *Fifteen Strings of Cash*, and *The Foxes' Revenge*, and one "imitation script" from the early 16th century, *The Courtesan's Jewel Casket*. Song Dynasty stories were based on scripts used by story-tellers, and are the earliest examples of fiction in the vernacular language which was to become the dominant language of fiction throughout later times. They were polished and gathered into collections by men of letters who were story-telling enthusiasts. They reflect their origins in their concern with the lives of ordinary shopkeepers, craftsmen, peddlers, maids, monks, and nuns, rather than the scholar-officials of previous stories. Plots are more elaborate and reflect the tastes of the new urban class. Characterization is achieved through well-developed speech and acts. The narrative conventions of stories continues to reflect their oral origins. There are occasional questions and comments directed to the reader, a "warming-up" period at the beginning before the real story begins, while the audience gets settled, and pauses at the most exciting moments in the plot, where the story-teller might originally have passed the hat or enticed his audience to return again the following day.

In Unit Four, after a brief eight-page excerpt from Chapter 45-46 of *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, describing Zhuge Liang's famous stratagems against Cao Cao in the Battle of the Red Cliff, Professor Chen has selected a generous 65 pages from *Outlaws of the Marsh*, telling of Wu Song's heroic battle with the tiger at Jingyang Ridge, the treachery of Golden Lotus and her accomplices, and Wu Song's subsequent gruesome, dramatic, avenging act for his elder brother's death. The unit concludes with a 21-page



General Manager Gao Wenzhong



Liaoning's Phoenix Hotel

A three-star tourist hotel, the Phoenix Hotel of Liaoning Province is located in the beautiful Beiling area of Shenyang, Liaoning Province. Equipped with advanced facilities, the hotel has 260 elegantly decorated guest rooms. The seven dining halls serve Cantonese, Liaoning and Shandong delicacies as well as the Western-style food. Service facilities include a tourist company, taxi-cab team attached to the hotel, booking ticket agent, foreign currencies exchange, credit card services, IDD telephone, business centre, satellite TV, conference facilities, market, laundry, medical massage, sauna, billiards and tennis court and karaoke bar. They provide convenience and comfort for tourists and businessmen. The well-trained hotel personnel offer courteous, high-quality services.

The phoenix is a symbol of luck and beauty, and, likewise, Liaoning's Phoenix Hotel is certain to please you.

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excerpt from *Journey to the West*, in which Pig is subdued by Monkey and recruited for the pilgrimage. It shows the irreverent humour, narrative vitality, and imaginative brilliance which have made the novel so popular.

Unit Five opens with a 26-page excerpt from *Jin Ping Mei* (also named *The Golden Lotus*), the first novel composed in its entirety by one writer and the first with family life as its central theme. It is seen as China's first "novel of manners" which, despite some pornographic passages, exposes the seamy decadence of late the Ming society. The six "Strange Tales of the Tale-Telling Studio," an interesting blend of fantasy and social satire, reflects the changed, often bourgeois, social value of a very different era.

Wu Jingzi's famous satirical novel *The Scholar* is well represented by the episode in Chapters 2-3 which actually begins the main narrative, a lampoon of the examination system and its winner-take-all, rags-to-riches mentality. In the novel, Zhou Jin finally succeeds in the provincial exam and subsequently recognizes Fan Jin's similar tal-

ents, leading to a complete reversal of their respective fortunes.

A Dream of Red Mansions, by Cao Xueqin, deservedly considered the crowning masterpiece of Chinese fiction, is thought of as the greatest classical Chinese realistic novel, describing the crisis-ridden feudal society on the verge of collapse and the frustrations of the young who rebel against the Confucian social conventions of their day. The 60-page selection focuses on the affection between Jia Baoyu and Lin Daiyu by piecing together passages from as many as 15 or more different scenes throughout the novel. The book concludes with an episode from *The Travels of Lao Can*, Liu E's autobiographical novel condemning the injustice and social decay of the late Qing society.

Professor Chen has done an excellent job of selecting and integrating the "core" of fiction into this attractive anthology. The book should find a welcome audience not only among English readers interested in sampling this rich tradition, but also as a text book for Chinese literature in translation courses. ■

Beijing Cultural Relic Festival

Beijing, a city with a history of thousands of years and the capital of five dynasties, will organize a cultural relic festival autumn this year. The festival will reach a climax in late September and early October.

During the festival, all historical site protection and cultural relic preservation units, museums and the nine main parks of the city which are famous for their important historical sites and cultural relics will sponsor a variety of activities such as cultural relic exhibitions, special tours, cultural exhibitions and sales, simulated archaeological digging, cultural knowledge competitions, informational tours and identification of cultural relics.

Exhibitions. Various kinds of exhibitions will be held by more than 20 museums during the festival, including an exhibition of golden knife and enamel collections sponsored by the Palace Museum, an exhibition of rare paintings and calligraphic works from 30 provinces and municipalities at Chairman Mao Memorial Hall, a national cultural relic photo exhibition by the Museum of Chinese History, a tea culture exhibition by the Capital Museum, a Buddhist art exhibition of several hundred copper

statues of Buddhas from different historical periods by the Cultural Relics Preservation and the Management Institute of the White Dagoba Temple, an exhibition of fan cover drawings from various historical periods collected by traditional Chinese painter Xu Beihong sponsored by the Xu Beihong Memorial Hall, an exhibition of ceramics produced by the Ming and Qing imperial kilns by the Beijing Arts Museum, exhibitions on one-man collections of postage stamps, match box drawings, calligraphic works and paintings, cigarette cases and trade marks by the Cultural Relic Preservation and Management Institute of the Zhihua Temple, a demonstration of renovation techniques for historical buildings on one of the preserved gate towers, the Zhengyang Gate, an exhibition of Beijing's achievements in preserving cultural relics by the Ancient Building Museum, an exhibition of unearthed bronze ware of Henan Province and an exhibition of fine cultural relics preserved by the Famen Temple in Shaanxi Province arranged by the Ancient Bell Museum of the Big Bell Temple, an exhibition of signboards of Beijing's old shops to be held on the Beijing Drum Tower, and an exhibition of hard

wood furniture of the Ming and Qing dynasties on the Beijing Southeast Corner Tower.

Informational Tours and Park Visits. The Beihai Park, Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace, Zhongshan Park, Grand View Garden built according to a classical novel *Dream of Red Mansions*, Yuanmingyuan (Ruins of the Park of Perfection and Brightness), Temple of Earth and the residence of Prince Gong of the Qing Dynasty, well known for their historical sites and cultural relics, will provide informational services and other activities such as the Kunming Lake Evening at the Summer Palace and an offering ceremony at the Temple of Heaven.

Cultural Relic and Handicraft Sales. Liulichang, an arts and crafts street in Beijing, established in the 18th century and well known for the sale of paintings, calligraphic works and stationery, will hold an exhibition of its long history during the festival. The Rongbaozhai Shop, famous for painting and calligraphy business, and the Municipal Cultural Relics Shop will sponsor exhibitions of preserved fine cultural articles. Other shops on the street will also exhibit excellent folk handicrafts.

Special Tours. In addition to the well-known Forbidden City,

The west end of Liulichang (left), an arts and crafts street in Beijing. The east end of Liulichang (right).



Great Wall and Ming Tombs, there are many unique historical and cultural sites in Beijing. During the festival, four special tours will be organized to former residences of historical personages, monasteries and temples, the Great Wall (including sections newly opened to the public) and to other cultural sites.

Simulated Archaeological Activities. Some 20 dig sites will be offered for inspection during the festival in Yanqing County in the northern suburbs of Beijing. Archaeological fans will be able to dig under the guidance of archaeologists; they may keep any

replicas of cultural relics they discover.

Symposia and Other Activities. Some symposia will be held during the festival such as the symposia on excavation work of Beijing, on museum work for museum leaders, on ancient buildings and on the Grand View Garden. Other activities will be organized by Beijing's districts and counties to publicize the Law on Cultural Relics and knowledge about cultural relics. Knowledge competitions and summer camping will also be held for young people.

by Wei Liming

Lost Writing Style Interpreted

Qidan writing has been regarded as one of the world's enigmas. Now, however, part of the writing has been translated and a book on the achievement entitled *Tentative Inquiry Into a Puzzle* has come off the press.

The Qidan people were a nomadic nationality in north China. During the 10th century, Yelu Abaoji, headman of the Qidan people, unified all the tribes and established the Liao Dynasty that dominated most of China at the height of its influence. During the 12th century, the Liao Dynasty was conquered by the Nuzhen people, another northern nationality, who established the Jin Dynasty (1115-1234). Some of the Qidan people fled westward to central Asia where they established the Western Liao which thrived until 1218 when it was destroyed by Genghis Khan.

Qidan writing is so unique that it is divided into two categories, small type and big type. The small-type writing, including more than 390 words, is actually alphabetic writing created in reference to strokes of the Chinese

characters. The big-type writing, however, is actually typical ideography, some being directly borrowed from the Chinese characters. Including more than 1,600 characters, the big-type writing was often used in tablet inscriptions and epitaphs and in writing the name of a tribe or a village, or in writing poems or translating books. After the Jin Dynasty exterminated the Liao, Qidan writing continued to be used, playing a significant role in forming Nuzhen writing until

1191, when the Jin emperor abolished its use. Qidan writing was used for about 300 years.

As the Qidan nationality no longer exists and Qidan writing has been lost for more than 600 years, this written language has become extremely difficult to translate.

In addition to a few drawings of Qidan writing in some books of the Song Dynasty (960-1279) and Yuan Dynasty (1206-1368), inscriptions by a Jin prince on the tablet of Wu Zhetian are the most valuable example of the writing. Wu Zhetian (624-705) of the Tang Dynasty, was the only empress in Chinese history. According to her will, a large tablet, 6.3 meters high and 1.8 metres wide, was erected in front of her tomb with no words on it at all, meaning that her greatness was beyond any description by words. In the Song and Jin dynasties following the Tang Dynasty, people made inscriptions on this tablet. Experts have proven that the inscriptions by the Jin prince in 1134 were small-type Qidan writing translated from Chinese, thus are of great importance for the study of Qidan writing. Being only five lines in length, the inscriptions have taken more than 60 years for ex-

Murals found in a Liao Dynasty nobleman's tomb.



perts to only partially understand.

In the 1920s, books about the life of the Liao emperors and empresses in the Qidan language were unearthed for the first time at Ju Ud League in Inner Mongolia. In 1951, a tablet with inscriptions about a Liao general in the Qidan language was unearthed at Jingxi County in northeast China's Liaoning Province. These, together with a number of burial articles with some Qidan words found in the tombs of the Qidan nobles, offered new information.

In 1977, starting from Chinese characters in the Qidan writing, Qingge Ertai, a renowned Mongolian scholar, determined the pronunciation of 132 small-type Qidan words. On this basis, another Mongolian scholar named Batu, who is a research fellow of the Liaoning Historical Research Institute, put forward an idea different from previous methods. In Batu's opinion, in order to solve the puzzle of the Qidan language, it was necessary to retrieve the language and find its remnants in the existing local dialects of the northern nationalities.

Batu managed to collect Qidan words and phrases from Chinese historical documents and from languages of the Mongolian and Manchu nationalities. Through comparative study in etymology, Batu made substantive progress and promoted the study of the Qidan language to a new level.

By means of reciprocal method, Batu has not only distinguished more than 150 small-type words, but also interpreted about 600 words in Qidan writing concerning ordinal numbers and titles of relatives and officials. Ten years of assiduous efforts have rewarded Batu with an understanding of one-third of the total number of small-type words.

According to Batu, due to such

historical reasons as book banning and warfare, *The History of the Liao*, which includes the history of Qidan, is not as comprehensive as other Chinese historical books. Interpretations of Qidan writing will supplement information in the book and correct errors in it, further enhancing the study of the history of north Chinese nationalities.

by Wei Liming

Arts Festival to Be Held in Shandong

The first China Travelling and Calligraphic and Painting Festival will be held in Jinan City, capital of Shandong Province, on September 27.

Calligraphy and traditional painting are two of the most brilliant cultural heritages of China. Shandong is the hometown of Confucius and one of the birthplaces of ancient Chinese culture. Jinan is one of the most known cultural and historical cities in China.

The festival contains eight major activities including an international forum on Chinese calligraphy and painting, a ceremony in which famous Chinese calligraphers and painters will receive foreign students, an exhibition and sale of calligraphic works and paintings, and a fair of calligraphic and painting tools and materials.

This festival has received strong support from the Ministry of Culture and the China National Tourism Administration and an enthusiastic response from well-known Chinese artists.

Other forms of cultural activities will also be held before or after the festival, including an international traditional *wushu* (martial arts) demonstration on September 20 with participants from 15 countries and regions, and a celebration of the World

Day of Travel on September 27. Qufu City will host the Third Confucius Cultural Festival on September 28.

by Han Guojian

News in Brief

Construction of the Shouhua Scientific Park, China's biggest computer research, development and production centre, was begun recently in Huizhou, Guangdong Province. The start of construction shows that China's computer research and production has entered a new stage of design and manufacture of large-scale integrated circuits.

The park covers an area of 110,000 square metres and costs US\$20 million. A technology-intensive economic entity for personnel training, technological development and production of computers, the park will develop the up-to-date technology and products demanded in the international market by taking advantage of the mainland's strong scientific and technological forces and Hong Kong's position of being well-informed about scientific, technological and market trends. The park's scientific research centre will import a series of advanced technology and equipment including design systems for computer accessories and invite domestic hi-tech personnel to study and develop the state-of-the-art computer technology.

The Shouhua park was financed jointly by the Huizhou Municipal Electronics Communication Industries Corp, the Juko Industrial Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong and the Beijing-based Suman Group Corp. The first-phase construction will be completed in June this year. The park, when commissioned on schedule, will produce US\$250 million in output value annually.

by Hong Lanxing



A Portrait of Myself.



A Goat.

Gao Ying's Clay Sculptures

Gao Ying, born in Beijing in 1984, is now a pupil of the Beijing No. 1 Experimental Primary School. As an adept drawer and clay sculptor, she creates a variety of simple works based on her experience. Her clay sculptures were awarded first prize at the Competition of Children's Clay Sculpture of Beijing.

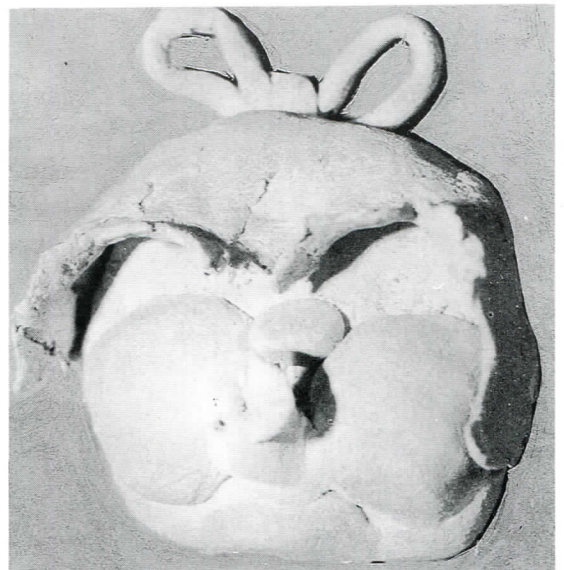
ART PAGE



A Good Hand at Knitting.

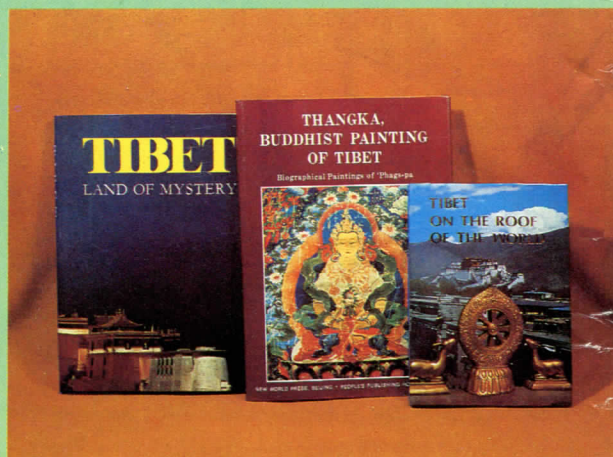


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