PEOPLE'S CHINA

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COVER PICTURE: A Peking exhibition commemorating the 85th anniversary of Lenin's birth
Photo by Sung Hsueh-kuang

Editor: Liu Tsun-chi

The Great Asian-African Conference

Ho Cheng

ON April 24, history's first conference of Asian and African nations ended its work at Bandung, Indonesia. Following the final ceremony, a thunder of applause and cheers filled the Independence Hall where its sessions had been held. These cheers, called forth by the tremendous success of the gathering, reverberated far and wide—they were echoed not only throughout the twenty-nine participating countries but by friends of peace and freedom the world over.

Vast indeed were the areas and populations represented. Delegates were sent by lands stretching from Japan in the east to the Gold Coast in the west. The people of Asia and Africa number 1,440 million. Everywhere among them, great changes have been taking place, changes which the conference reflected and which were well described by President Sukarno of Indonesia in his opening speech on April 18: "Nations, states have awakened from a sleep of centuries. Passive peoples have gone outward, tranquillity has made place for struggle and activity. Irresistible forces have swept the two continents. . . . Hurricanes of national awakening and re-awakening have swept over the land, shaking it, changing it for the better."

Lasting only seven days, the conference reached agreement on a number of important problems of common concern. This became possible only when all attempts to obstruct and subvert the discussions had been firmly swept aside. "The achievements of the conference," said Chou En-lai, China's premier and chief delegate, "lie in the beginning or furtherance of understanding among the Asian and African countries, and in the achievement of agreements on some major questions. These achievements will be a great help to our common task of opposing colonialism, safeguarding world peace and furthering the friendly co-operation between us. This conference has to a considerable extent satisfied the expectations of the peoples of Asia and Africa as well as of the rest of the world."

Colonialism Condemned

The call from Bandung shook the already tottering framework of colonialism.

Colonialism is an evil which should speedily be brought to an end, declared the Communique embodying the conclusions of the conference. "The subjection of peoples to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation constitutes a denial of fundamental human rights and is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and is an impediment to the promotion of world peace and co-operation."

Today the nations of Asia and Africa are still struggling to gain or preserve national independence. On both continents, the forces of colonialism still hold many positions, and what is more, are trying to deprive further countries of their sovereignty. Bloody colonial re-



Premier Chou En-lai, senior delegate of the People's Republic of China, addressing the Asian-African Conference on April 19

pression, racial atrocities, denial of human and national rights—all these persist in many places. Poverty and backwardness under colonial rule, or inherited from it, remain widespread.

This the peoples of Asia and Africa will no longer tolerate. The Chinese people support the conference in its condemnation of colonialism, and support its resolutions on the subject. West Irian must be restored to Indonesia, Goa to India. The just claims of Yemen in the matter of the southern parts of that region, and of Aden, should be satisfied. Colonial rule in North Africa must go. The question of Palestine must be peacefully settled by the inhabitants themselves, and the rights of the Arab people of Palestine must be respected.

A Victory for Peace

The results of the Asian-African Conference are a new victory for the forces of peace throughout the world.

The deep concern of the participants over current international tensions was shown in their declaration on the promotion of world peace and co-operation. The basic idea of the ten-point principle embodied in the declaration is in conformity with the well-known five principles of peaceful coexistence. It will help remove suspicion between countries with different social systems and outlooks and promote peaceful relations among them. It voices support for the reduction of armaments and a ban on the production, testing and use of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons. It calls on nations to live together in peace with one another and to co-operate in a friendly fashion and settle all international disputes by peaceful means.

Let there be no doubt about it. The common effort by the countries of Asia and Africa, embracing more than half the population of the earth, to preserve peace will not only help to relax tension in these continents but will exert

a deep influence on the whole world situation. No one should underestimate its importance.

Peace is dear to the hearts of the Asian-African nations, who have been the victims of so many aggressive imperialist wars. They are determined to overcome their economic and cultural backwardness as quickly as possible; and to do this they need a peaceful environment. Yet today they find themselves threatened by war at the hands of international war forces headed by the United States. It is the United States government that is organizing military blocs to divide the peoples of Asia and Africa; it is the Pentagon that is expanding its network of military bases on both continents; and it is the war maniacs in the United States who are clamouring and preparing for an atomic war.

The peoples of Asia and Africa will never forget that the first A-bomb was dropped on Asian soil, that the first victim of the H-bomb was an Asian. They will never consent to their region becoming either the hotbed or the cockpit of a new war. The declaration of the Bandung Conference is one evidence of their desire.

Closer Co-operation

The conference also paved the way for closer co-operation among the Asian-African countries themselves. In its communique actual measures for this purpose are put forward.

It was agreed that the participating countries should work for economic co-operation, based on mutual benefit and respect for national sovereignty. The nations concerned should give each other the maximum practicable amount of technical help. Trade arrangements, both bilateral and multilateral, should be extended. The development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, it is stressed, is of particular significance to the Asian-African countries, and an international atomic energy agency should be speedily established, with adequate Asian-African representation on its executive body.

In the cultural field, the participating countries urged the need for greater contact and exchange—for mutual cultural enrichment and the promotion of world peace and understanding. They denounced the suppression of national culture by the colonial powers. Since some countries in the region have not yet been able to develop their educational, scientific and technical institutions, it was recommended that countries in Asia and Africa which are more fortunately placed in this respect should give facilities for the admission of students and trainees from others.

These agreements show that the Asian-African nations have decided to help each other in many concrete and feasible ways.

Triumph over Sabotage

The achievements at Bandung did not come easily. They were won despite the efforts of the United States government, which does not want the Asian-African countries to enjoy independence, peace and co-operation. Both before and during the conference, the United States tried to wreck and subvert it.

Prior to its opening, Chiang Kai-shek's thugs in Hongkong under U.S. direction resorted to the dastardly act of sabotaging a plane carrying staff of the Chinese and Viet-Namese delegations, as well as Chinese and foreign press correspondents—eleven all told—to the conference. The plane exploded in the air and crashed into the sea—and sixteen of those on board were killed.

During the discussions, cross-currents designed to create differences among the participants were introduced one after another. But these did not succeed in gaining ground, thanks to the overwhelming desire of the conference to reach an agreement.

Though the United States was not a participant, it assembled, outside the conference hall, what came to be known as the "biggest delegation" in Bandung. This consisted of seventy "correspondents," some with no previous connection with the press at all, who reported "division," or "disunity," or "deadlock" each and every day. The editorials in U.S.

newspapers played the same game of bluff and threat.

But despite all attempts at sabotage, the spirit that prevailed at the conference was one of seeking common ground, not of pushing differences. The sponsoring countries — India, Indonesia and Burma in particular—worked hard to bring it to success. A number of other countries, notably Egypt, played a constructive part. The Chinese delegation, from beginning to end, worked tirelessly to achieve agreement. When the conference was in danger of being dragged into fruitless altercations, Premier Chou En-lai declared: "The Chinese delegation has come here to seek unity and not to quarrel. . . . The Chinese delegation has come here to seek common ground, not to create divergence."

Thus, 29 countries, different in their social institutions and ideologies, came to agreed conclusions on how to deal with problems that concerned them all—setting a good example to the rest of the world. This is a common victory for the Asian and African countries, and a triumph for negotiation.

Mutual Understanding Improved

Wide contacts among delegations outside the conference hall did much to promote mutual understanding.

A number of participating states showed deep concern over the situation in Indo-China. Talks between their delegates were of help to the consolidation of peace in that region. The Viet-Nam Democratic Republic and Laos issued a joint statement expressing readiness to promote good-neighbourly relations in accordance with the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

Various delegations were anxious over the tension in the Taiwan area, and this question, too, was touched on. The United States had plotted to make the conference quarrel over Taiwan—Dulles, in fact, had had a talk with Eisenhower on the eve of its opening, and emerged with the provocative statement that the United States considered the military situation around Taiwan "grave" and hoped that the conference would "condemn" what he called "using force to achieve national ambitions." This trick collapsed in the face of China's stand, which was clear, honest and just. In Bandung, Premier Chou En-lai declared before the whole world: "The Chinese people are friendly to the American people. The Chinese people do not want to have a war with the United States of America. The Chinese Government is willing to sit down and enter into negotiations with the United States Government to discuss the question of relaxing tension in the Far East, and especially the question of relaxing tension in the Taiwan area."

Determined to Safeguard Peace

Premier Chou En-lai's statement helps one to see who is working to relax the tension and who is seeking to maintain it. The Asian-African Conference turned out very differently from the way the United States expected. It marked another defeat and exposure of the U.S. rulers and their policy.

In Bandung, the delegation headed by Premier Chou En-lai worthily represented the sincere wish of the Chinese nation to co-operate peacefully with all others in Asia, Africa and throughout the world. It clearly expressed its willingness to negotiate and its conciliatory spirit. Everyone saw that China has erected no "bamboo curtain" around herself, but that, on the contrary, she is trying to lift the iron curtain that the war elements in the United States have placed between her and the world outside.

The success of the Asian-African Conference gave added proof that the peoples of these two great continents are united in the determination to take their destiny into their own hands, and to preserve peace. This is an historical tide that cannot be turned back.

The Chinese people greeted the results of the Asian-African Conference with joy. They applaud the proposal that the conference should be convened again. They heartily welcome the prospect of closer contact with the other peoples of Asia and Africa, and want to work closely with them to give full effect to the epoch-making Bandung decisions.

Lenin on the Transition to Socialism

Yang Hsien-chen

President of the Marx-Lenin Institute of the Communist Party of China

AFTER Marx and Engels, Lenin was the greatest proletarian revolutionary in history. His life-long effort showed the working class, the entire working people the world over, the path to take to complete emancipation. With Lenin as their leader, the heroic people of Russia were the first to break the front of world capitalism, build up a workers' state, and do away with the exploitation of man by man over one-sixth of the earth. It was under his leadership that they turned the idea of Marx and Engels, the idea of scientific communism, into a living reality, and so opened up a new historical epoch of human society—the epoch of socialism and communism. The great cause which Lenin stood for has been victorious, not only in the Soviet Union but in eleven other countries with a total population of over seven hundred million.

In the days which followed the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution and the setting up of a workers' state, Lenin lost no time in drawing up a full, scientific programme to turn economically backward Russia into an advanced, powerful socialist state. This programme embraced socialist industrialization of the country, the expansion of heavy industry by every means, electrification of all branches of the national economy, the carrying out of a co-operative plan to transform agriculture in Russia along socialist lines and the carrying out of a cultural revolution.

This is an excerpt from a speech delivered on April 21, 1955 at a meeting of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party commemorating the 85th anniversary of the birth of Lenin.

May 16, 1955

Since the completion of her democratic revolution and the founding of the People's Republic, China has entered the historical stage of transition from a new democratic to a socialist society. What Lenin taught about the transitional period has an immense practical value to China as she builds socialism.

"Between capitalist and communist society," Marx once said, "lies the period of the revolutionary transformation of the one into the other. There corresponds to this also a political transition period in which the state can be nothing but the revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat."[1] Lenin, developing this Marxist idea, worked out a complete theory on the period of transition.

Socialist Industrialization

The proletariat, Lenin pointed out, once it has seized power, must make use of its ruling position to accomplish the economic tasks of building socialism. To do so, it is necessary not only to foster the growth of industry, with heavy industry as the base, but also to put the national economy, including agriculture, on the technical foundation of large-scale production, and to turn a national economy made up of diverse economic elements into a unified socialist economy. The central task in the period of transition, therefore, is the carrying out of socialist industrialization of the country, while the most decisive link in socialist industrialization is to develop, first and foremost, a heavy

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1. Marx: *Critique of the Gotha Programme*, International Publishers, N.Y. p. 18.

industry. Heavy industry is the foundation stone of a socialist national economy. Only expansion of heavy industry can provide a basis for the expansion of the entire national economy. Only on such a basis can the economic independence of a country be assured; only so can a country make itself strong in national defence. As Lenin more than once told us:

> The real and only basis upon which we could consolidate our resources for the creation of socialist society is large-scale industry. . . . Without highly organized large-scale industry, there can be no thought of socialism in general, and still less can there be any thought of it in a peasant country.[2]

Lenin attached great importance to electrification. He held that it was a decisive and indispensable preliminary not only to the expansion of the national economy, but also to the transformation of small peasant economy and the total elimination of capitalist economic foundations.

It is an irrevocable principle that in building a socialist national economy, priority must be given to the development of heavy industry.

Lenin considered transformation of agriculture on socialist lines something inseparable from and an essential part of socialist construction. For, as he said:

> . . . If the old, poverty-stricken peasant husbandry remained unchanged there could be no question of building up a stable socialist society.[3]

Lenin's Plan for Co-operation

In his plan for co-operation, Lenin created the basis for the solution of the most difficult of all tasks the proletariat had to tackle after it had seized power—how to bring millions of small peasant households to take the road to socialism. What Lenin wrote on the forming of co-operatives gave the peasants themselves a programme showing them how they could march towards socialism; it gave the Party and the government a most important ideological weapon in the task of transforming their small commodity economy in the direction of socialism. It forms the basis of the Party's policy towards the peasants. In the Soviet Union, Lenin's theory led to a close alliance between the working class and the working peasants; and it was this alliance that, in the end, led to the economic defeat of capitalism and the building of a completely socialist society.

Lenin believed that if the plan of socialist construction was to be realized, it was important to cultivate the closest ties between state industry and peasant economy.

The New Economic Policy

He worked out the Party's "New Economic Policy" in the transition period.

The NEP was essentially an economic alliance of the working class with the peasantry. It was designed, by utilizing commodity production and the market, to make it possible for socialist elements in the economy to overcome the capitalist ones and pave the way for the creation of a socialist economy.

Lenin pointed out that during the period of transition there was bound to be acute class struggle. The proletariat, with political power in its hands and the key branches of the economy under its control, had to weight the scales against capitalist economy, and ultimately to wipe it out.

In circumstances when small producers still existed, when the roots of capitalism—inseparable from a small peasant economy—were still there, Lenin believed that to adopt a policy of drawing capitalism into the orbit of state capitalism was to a certain extent inevitable. He contended, to adopt a policy of state capitalism during the period of transition, for a limited period of time and to a limited extent, served the ends of socialism, not those of capitalism. He further said that the adoption of state capitalism only meant "the continuation of the class struggle in another form, and under no circumstances . . . the substitution of class peace for class war."[4]

On Socialist Education and Culture

Another important part of Lenin's theories on the period of transition, another part of his

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2. Lenin: *Selected Works*, Vol. IX, International Publishers, N.Y. p. 211.

3. Lenin: *Selected Works* (in two volumes) Vol. II, Part Two, Foreign Languages Publishing House, Moscow, 1951. p. 294.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 546.

programme for socialist construction, are his views on cultural revolution and the creation of socialist education and culture. For, as he said, to build a socialist society calls for high standards in this sphere. Without a cultural revolution it is impossible to achieve socialism.

Lenin not only foresaw the international importance of building socialism in the Soviet Union. He also foresaw that in different countries the transition to socialism need not, and would not, come about in exactly the same way. Social conditions in different countries varied; the economic structure of each had features peculiar to itself; and the revolution itself had different features in the course of its development in different countries. For these reasons, they would reach socialism in more or less different ways. As he himself put it:

> The concrete conditions and forms of transition depend on the conditions which give rise to the movement to establish socialism. They are, and must be, varied in form.

Socialist Revolution in China

As far back as 1945 in the report he made to the Seventh National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, subsequently published under the title of *On Coalition Government*, Comrade Mao Tse-tung said:

> After the realization of the political conditions of New Democracy, the Chinese people and their government must take effective measures to build up gradually heavy and light industries within a prescribed period, thereby turning China from an agricultural into an industrial country.

"Without industry," he added, "there can be no solid national defence, no people's welfare and no national prosperity and power."

In 1949, when the People's Republic of China was founded and a people's democratic dictatorship set up—a dictatorship led by the working class and based on the alliance of workers and peasants—the Chinese revolution began to enter a new phase, the phase of socialist revolution.

In 1952, when the national economy had already been practically restored, the Central Committee of the Communist Party headed by Comrade Mao Tse-tung summed up experience gained since the founding of the People's Republic and drew up the Party's general line of policy for the period of transition to socialism. In doing so it drew heavily on Lenin's teachings about the transition period.

This general line sets out to bring about the socialist industrialization of China and the socialist transformation of her agriculture, handicrafts, capitalist industry and commerce, step by step, in the course of some three five-year plans, and in so doing create a socialist society. This general line was subsequently embodied in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China adopted by the first National People's Congress on September 20, 1954. Now, given legal form, it outlines the fundamental task which the whole Chinese people are striving to perform during the period of transition.

While putting forward this general line, the Communist Party began to draft the first of its five-year plans to develop the national economy. In doing so, it based itself on Lenin's views on the transition to socialism, took into account actual social and economic conditions in China, and drew on Soviet experience in building a socialist society. The draft of the First Five-Year Plan set out in detail what had to be done to develop the national economy between 1953 and 1957. It is the first, and highly important, step taken to fulfil the general line.

The First Five-Year Plan

The general task of the First Five-Year Plan is, in broad outline, first, to devote our main efforts to the development of heavy industry as the foundation stone of socialist industrialization of our country. This involves the building of 694 large-scale enterprises, 156 of them designed with the help of the Soviet Union and forming the core of the whole; to encourage the growth of agricultural producers' co-operatives characterized by partial collective ownership and handicrafts co-operatives which pave the way for socialist transformation of agriculture and handicraft industry; and to bring capitalist economy, in the main, into the orbit of state capitalism in one form or another, so as to pave the way for socialist transformation of private industry and commerce.

The Draft First Five-Year Plan is an important economic programme. In carrying it

out, the Chinese people, led by the Communist Party, are fighting for the fulfilment of the fundamental task of the country in the transition period.

Since 1953, the Chinese Communist Party, in accordance with the programme, has been guiding the people in the work of large-scale socialist construction. The whole Chinese people have put their hearts into the plan, and as a result China has made considerable achievements in expanding the national economy. In the sphere of industry, heavy industry has made the greatest progress.

As it is outlined in the First Five-Year Plan, the emphasis in industrial development is on heavy industry. Because without heavy industry it is impossible to develop agriculture and transform individual into collective farming. Without heavy industry transport and communications cannot be improved. Without heavy industry light industry cannot develop and there can be no planned improvement of the people's livelihood. Furthermore, we are still surrounded by imperialists who constantly threaten us with aggression and war. Therefore we must strengthen our national defence and create a powerful, modern army to safeguard our country. Without heavy industry this, too, can never be achieved. The building of heavy industry, therefore, is the key factor in socialist industrialization and the creation of a strong national defence. This coincides with Lenin's theory of industrialization.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party headed by Chairman Mao Tse-tung pointed out that socialist industrialization of China was essential to socialist construction, and that the transformation of agriculture, handicrafts production, capitalist industry and commerce—also important parts of socialist construction—were inseparable from socialist industrialization.

Collectivizing China's Agriculture

Comrade Mao Tse-tung once said that "without the socialization of agriculture there can be no complete and consolidated socialism."[5] For thousands of years the peasants suffered because of their individualistic economy, and, as Comrade Mao said: "The only way to change this state of affairs is gradual collectivization, and the only way to bring about collectivization is, according to Lenin, through co-operatives."

The present campaign all over the country to promote mutual aid and co-operation is based on Lenin's teachings on co-operation.

The practical road which our country is taking to reach a socialist agriculture starts from temporary mutual-aid teams (whose members work together in a rather simple way), and the year-round mutual-aid teams, in which labour is pooled and a certain division and specialization of labour introduced, together with a small portion of property held in common.

At a later stage these teams turn into agricultural producers' co-operatives. In these land is pooled and represents shares in the co-operative; there is unified management and a larger amount of public property.

Later still we get a higher type of farming co-operative—the collective farm—collectively owned by the peasants who are its members and run on entirely socialist lines.

At present there are in China both socialist and capitalist economies. It is quite impossible for two conflicting types of production relations —socialist and capitalist—to develop without conflict in any given country. In the long run they must lead to either a socialist or a capitalist society. The Chinese people have no intention of permitting the latter. They are following the path to socialism, the inevitable outcome of our country's history.

The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party has said that transformation of capitalist industry and commerce, through various forms of state capitalism, is not only something essential, but something which, in conditions prevailing in China today, is perfectly feasible. This transformation will take place in two stages. First, private concerns will become state-capitalist; and then they will become socialist. Experience gained in the past five years shows that the policy pursued by the state—one of using, restricting and transforming capitalist industry and commerce —is practical. It is, in fact, the application to

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5. Mao Tse-tung: *On People's Democratic Dictatorship*, Foreign Languages Press, Peking, 1951. p. 19.

Chinese conditions of Lenin's policy on state capitalism.

Working for a New Culture

The launching of a cultural revolution is another important thing which our Party must do during the transition to socialism. At the Seventh National Congress of the Party, Comrade Mao emphasized that foreign and feudal oppression in China had afflicted the people in many ways, including attacks on their national culture. He said that one of the most important jobs of New China was to wipe out illiteracy among eighty per cent of the population. It is towards the peasants in particular, he said, that our cultural movement should be directed. We have to take appropriate steps to get rid, once and for all, of all that is slavish, feudal and fascist. A new sort of culture and education, one which is national, scientific and popular, will emerge, more or less on the same lines as it emerged in the Soviet Union.

Soon after the victory of the democratic revolution, when the Chinese revolution was about to enter the stage of socialist revolution, Chairman Mao Tse-tung, making the opening speech at the First Plenary Session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, said:

> Following the upsurge of economic construction, an upsurge of cultural construction will inevitably arise. The era in which the Chinese were regarded as uncivilized is now over. We will emerge in the world as a nation with a high culture.

Since the birth of New China our Party and state have introduced many important measures to carry through the cultural revolution. Educational advance has been rapid, and every year sees a greater proportion of students drawn from the workers and peasants. Many short-term schools to provide secondary education for workers and peasants have been established. A highly successful campaign has been waged to eradicate outworn ideas among intellectuals; and in the elementary and secondary schools, great attention has been paid to teaching students to recognize the dignity and importance of labour. Big advances were made in the fields of science, culture and arts in the past few years. We have successfully started the work of wiping out illiteracy.

Particular attention has been paid to education and culture in those parts of China inhabited by the national minorities, taking into account their special needs and customs. In the past few years upwards of a hundred thousand people belonging to these nationalities have been trained in schools or through other channels.

Another thing worthy of special mention is the recent campaign led by our Party to spread knowledge of dialectical materialism and expose the fallacies of bourgeois idealism. Spreading a knowledge of the Marxist-Leninist philosophy of materialism has always been the most important aspect of the Party's educational work. Without the spread of such knowledge, it would be impossible to foster a socialist culture in our country; and without such a culture it would be impossible to build a real socialist society in our country. This new effort to educate the masses of the people in the materialist philosophy of Marxism-Leninism will, therefore, play a tremendous part in building socialism.

We Are Confident

As Comrade Mao Tse-tung says, China is now in a new epoch of history. In a country like ours, with its six hundred million people and its heritage of economic and cultural backwardness, it is no easy task to complete our socialist revolution, and no easy task to fulfil the programme we have set ourselves for the period of transition. And we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that we shall meet with many more difficulties en route.

We are building socialism under favourable conditions. There exists the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union. We have Lenin's teachings about the transition period to guide us. We can draw on the practical experience of the Soviet Union in building socialism—and not only that, we have unselfish assistance from the Soviet Union in the economic and technical fields; and we have close co-operation with the People's Democracies. People the world over are far more politically conscious than they were before the Second World War.

In addition, we have a Communist Party, strong and united, with Comrade Mao Tse-tung at its head, which provides us with wise leader-

ship. We have the indomitable spirit of the six hundred million Chinese people, bold, industrious and ready to surmount any difficulties in order to build socialism. We have vast, rich natural resources at our disposal. Therefore, we have all the prerequisites for building socialism.

Foreign imperialists without and lurking reactionaries within our borders are working by every means to undermine and even destroy our socialist construction. We must be vigilant. But they can never stop the Chinese people building socialism. Chairman Mao spoke truly at the opening session of the first National People's Congress when he said: "We are fully confident that we can overcome all difficulties and hardships, and build our country into a great socialist republic."

Lenin's Works in China

An Tung and
Chiang Chun-fang

Lenin, the great teacher of the revolution, left a literary legacy that is a precious possession of the working class and the labouring people of the world. His works have been widely published and studied in the Soviet Union, in China, the other people's democracies and other countries.

Articles on Lenin's life and the cause he served began to appear in Chinese magazines and periodicals after the October 1917 Socialist Revolution. That revolution came as a great inspiration to the Chinese people. It was the eve of the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal May Fourth Movement in China in 1919, and the enlightened intellectuals (who played an important role in that movement) called for a reconsideration of all the problems of the revolution in China in the light of the experience of the Russian proletarian revolution.

After the May Fourth Movement

After the May Fourth Movement the Chinese proletariat stepped into the political arena. Communist intellectuals, recognizing the power of the proletariat displayed in political strikes, went to the workers to spread the theories of Marxism-Leninism and form communist organizations. The influence of Marxism-Leninism grew. Many periodicals began to publish Chinese translations of separate works of Lenin. In 1920, the monthly *New Youth* of Shanghai published, under the title "Self-determination of Nations" in its Vol. 8, No. 3 issue, excerpts from Lenin's "Report on the Party Programme," delivered at the Eighth Congress of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks), March 19, 1919. In addition to *New Youth*, magazines like *The Communist Party* and *Dawn* also published translations of a number of articles by Lenin as well as materials about Lenin's life and the cause he served. These articles aided the development of communist groups in various places and the founding of the Communist Party in China.

On July 1, 1921, the Communist Party of China was founded at the First National Congress of the Party convened in Shanghai. The new Party immediately undertook the task of further spreading the knowledge of Marxism-Leninism in China.



Some of Lenin's writings published in China since 1920. The top row shows some of the earliest: a copy of the monthly "New Youth" *(left)*, published in Shanghai in 1920, with the article on "Self-Determination of Nations"; and *(right)* the quarterly "New Youth" (Canton, 1924), with "The Chinese War." The page between them is the cover of "New Youth"

In September 1921 the People's Publishing House was established in Canton. Its very first plan of publication included fourteen of Lenin's writings. By September 1922, five of these important works were already in the hands of readers.

Guidance for Revolution

In 1922-1923, the Chinese revolution gathered momentum. There was nothing accidental about the way Lenin's works were introduced to China. What was translated and published had a direct bearing on the practical problems of Chinese revolution at the time.

When Lenin died in 1924 memorial meetings were held in many parts of China. *In Memory of Lenin*, a pamphlet published by the memorial committee in Peking, included the fifth chapter of Lenin's *The State and Revolution*, under the title "The Evolution of Communist Society." In the same year, the magazine *New Youth* of Canton published several of Lenin's works on the problems of Asia, the colonies and China. These were an important source of guidance for China's revolution.

As far as is known, from 1917 to 1921, on the eve of the founding of the Communist Party of China, only four of Lenin's works were translated and published in Chinese. After the founding of the Communist Party, from 1921 to 1927, nineteen more works by Lenin were translated and published. This is an indication of the role played by the young Communist Party in spreading Marxism-Leninism in China.

During the Second Revolutionary Civil War (1927-1937), the Communist Party of China, as the leader of the Chinese people in their heroic

struggle, used every available means, open and secret, to translate and publish the classics of Marxism-Leninism. During these ten years 38 of Lenin's works were published. They included *Imperialism—the Highest Stage of Capitalism*, *"Left Wing" Communism—an Infantile Disorder*, *The State and Revolution*, *Materialism and Empirio-criticism*, *The Development of Capitalism in Russia* and other important pieces.

Some of these works were published in the revolutionary bases while some were first published in Shanghai and other places and later reprinted in the revolutionary bases. At the same time, seven volumes in Chinese translation of the *Selected Works of Lenin* published by the Foreign Workers' Publishing House of the Soviet Union were reprinted successively in Shanghai and Yenan. This further expanded the circulation of Lenin's works in China.

During the War of Resistance

In July 1937 China entered a new phase of her history—the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression. In this period the Communist Party of China made great efforts to raise the theoretical and ideological level of its members. In October 1938, the Central Committee of the Party called on all of them to undertake an earnest study of Marxism-Leninism. During this period, the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin were published in great numbers in various places, but the most important centre of this work shifted to Yenan—at that time the guiding centre of the people's revolution.

During this time, the Liberation Publishing House in Yenan, in addition to reprinting the Chinese edition of the seven volumes of *Selected Works of Lenin* mentioned above, translated and published the other nine volumes from the Russian edition of the *Selected Works*, as well as other important works of Lenin not included in this selection.

In 1942, to further the campaign to rectify incorrect styles of Party work, including methods of study and writing, the Central Committee of the Party selected *Two Tactics of Social-Democracy in the Democratic Revolution* and *"Left Wing" Communism—an Infantile Disorder* for special study by all Party members.

It was in this period, during the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression, that several of Lenin's works on the nature of war were published by the Party.



Lenin's books on display in a Peking bookshop

Even in the Japanese-occupied areas Party publishing organizations, undeterred by the immense difficulties, made use of every available means, secret or open, to continue publication of Lenin's works. In the anti-Japanese bases, several of his writings were printed under most difficult war-time conditions on rough, locally-made paper. In some cases the shortage of paper was such that even coloured wrapping paper had to be used.

In this period, the Chinese editions of *What the "Friends of the People" Are and How They Fight the Social-Democrats* and other books by Lenin were reprinted in various places in China.

Between July 1937 and July 1945, it is known that 57 of Lenin's works were published in the liberated areas and the Kuomintang controlled areas.

In the four years of the Third Revolutionary Civil War (1945-1949), 66 of Lenin's works were published, most of them in the cities of the liberated areas. As the liberated areas expanded, a greater number of the classical works of Marxism-Leninism were published, and the technical quality—printing, layout, paper and binding—was also improved.

At the beginning of 1949, in order to raise the general level of knowledge of political theory among Party members to meet the needs of the coming nation-wide victory of the people's revolution, the Central Committee of the Party picked out ten of the classical works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin as required reading for all people working in Party, government and mass organizations. These included Lenin's *Imperialism—the Highest Stage of Capitalism, The State and Revolution* and *"Left Wing" Communism—an Infantile Disorder,* as well as *Lenin and Stalin on China.*

At the same time, a number of Lenin's works were reprinted in the Northeast, North China, northern Kiangsu and other liberated areas.

Publication on Mass Scale

On October 1, 1949, the People's Republic of China was founded. The victory of the people's revolution created favourable conditions for the publication and wide circulation of the classics of Marxism-Leninism, and the Communist Party of China and the government of the People's Republic has devoted great attention to this work of mass political education.

The state-owned People's Publishing House in Peking has become a centre for the publication of classics of Marxism-Leninism. In the first few years after the liberation, many have also been published in other big cities in China. Between October 1949 and March 1955, 72 of Lenin's works were published in 4,180,000 copies. In addition, between 1949 and the end of 1954, 37 of Lenin's works translated into Chinese were imported from the Soviet Union through the Guozi Shudian (International Bookstore) for circulation in China. They totalled more than 3,800,000 copies. At the same time, the People's Publishing House also reprinted the two-volume *Selected Works of Lenin* and other separate works of Lenin.

On the decision of the Central Committee of the Party, a translation and editing bureau for the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin was set up in February 1953 under its leadership. Its chief task is to translate and publish the *Collected Works of Marx and Engels,* the *Collected Works of Lenin* and the *Collected Works of Stalin.* This task is being systematically carried out. The first volume of the *Collected Works of Lenin* will be published this year.

In recent years, a start has also been made in translating some of the most important works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin into languages of the national minorities in China, including Mongolian and Korean. Some 17,000 copies of Lenin's *On Co-operation* and three other works have already been published in these two languages.

The great victory of the Chinese people's revolution was a new triumph of Marxism-Leninism. The Chinese people, now engaged in their great work of building a socialist society in China, are studying with ever greater enthusiasm and thoroughness the works of Lenin—that inexhaustible fount of wisdom and strength.

Free and Equal Family

Fei Hsiao-tung

Vice-President of the Central Institute for Nationalities

THE Constitution of the People's Republic of China lays down a new relationship between the country's many nationalities. This relationship, based on freedom, equality, friendship and co-operation, is one of the finest fruits of the people's revolution, which members of all the nationalities fought to bring about.

The Constitution provides that within the single multi-national state of China:

> All the nationalities are equal . . . . All the nationalities have freedom to use and foster the growth of their spoken and written languages, and to preserve or reform their own customs or ways. Regional autonomy applies in areas where people of national minorities live in compact communities.

A special section in the Constitution deals with the machinery of self-government in the various national autonomous regions. The Preamble to the Constitution gives us a clear idea of the foundation underlying unity between our nationalities. The strengthening of this unity is indispensable to the successful building up of a socialist society. At the same time, taking into consideration the different degrees of social development which the various national minorities have reached, the Constitution provides:

> In the course of economic and cultural development, the state will concern itself with the needs of the different nationalities, and, in the matter of socialist transformation, pay full attention to the special characteristics in the development of each.

Such principles can be found only in the constitutions of countries where national oppression does not exist. In countries where the ruling classes live by conquest and exploitation of people of nationalities other than their own, insoluble contradictions and implacable conflicts between nationalities will arise. Under such conditions, real national equality is out of the question. Our country, however, is a people's democratic state based on the alliance of workers and peasants and led by the working class. It has therefore been able to solve its knotty national problem once and for all, and build up a great family of nationalities on the principle of freedom and equality.

China's Many Nationalities

Among China's nationalities the Han people, who comprise over 94 per cent of the population, are by far the most numerous. There are scores of other nationalities with smaller populations. Between them they total about 35 million. Ten of them number over a million each. The most numerous, the Chuangs of Kwangsi, embrace over six million people. The others are the Mongolians, Huis, Tibetans, Uighurs, Miaos, Yis, Puyis, Koreans, and Manchus. There are also some very small nationalities. To cite one example, the Olunchun people living in the northeastern part of Inner Mongolia are only a couple of thousand all told.

All the minority peoples were oppressed in one way or another by the reactionary rulers of the past, in some cases severely. For centuries before liberation the Miaos of Kweichow Province were forced to live under such intolerable conditions that they rose repeatedly against rule by an alien nationality. The last of these desperate revolts was on so great a scale that it threw the Kuomintang reactionaries into a panic. Bombers were sent against the unarmed Miao people. Whole villages were destroyed, with high casualties.

Besides being subjected to many extortionate taxes and levies, and forced to do unpaid forced labour, the minorities were systematically swindled in trade. The reactionary rulers compelled them to sell fine furs, wool, tobacco, medicinal substances and other local products at ridiculously low prices. At the same time, trade monopolies cut most of them off, by sky-high prices, from the use of such daily needs as salt, tea and iron tools.



Local people in a state-owned shop. There are shops like this in all parts of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region

Most of the minority peoples engage in farming, though some are pastoral. Their economic condition is, on the whole, backward. Some, like the Kawas of Yunnan, the Yaos of Kwangsi and the Lis of Hainan Island, continued to use the most primitive methods of farming until very recent times. They burnt the forests to make fertilizers and did not know the use of either ploughs or manure. Some minorities, however, reached a fairly high level of agricultural skill. The Miaos, Puyis and Chuangs, for instance, are skilled wet-field rice farmers.

The minority peoples which lead a pastoral way of life number about 3,500,000. They include the Mongolians, Tibetans, Kazakhs, Khalkhas and Tajiks.

The Olunchuns and a few others still live by hunting.

The minority areas vary greatly in social development. In some, comparatively advanced methods of production are employed, and industry and agriculture are being rapidly developed. At the other end of the scale, there are still places where feudalism, and even still more antiquated forms of society, continue to exist. Taking into account the special problems presented by the different stages of social development of the minority people, the government has adopted measures of reform suitable to actual conditions. The peoples of the more backward nationalities are thus enabled gradually to catch up with their more advanced brothers and pass together with them into socialist society.

Regional National Autonomy

The policy of regional national autonomy carried out by the Chinese Communist Party and the People's Government aims at enabling the people of regions compactly inhabited by minorities to exercise their right to self-government. It also aims at paving the way for their future development and progress.

On May 1, 1947, before the founding of the Chinese People's Republic, the people of Inner Mongolia, under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, established the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region. At present the Region has an area of 424,710 square miles, about a ninth of the area of all China.

From October 1, 1949, when the Chinese people became the masters of their own country, to July 1954, sixty-six national autonomous regions of county or higher rank had been established.

The elected organs of self-government in autonomous regions consist mainly of local people. The organ of self-government of any locality employs the spoken and written languages commonly used in that locality in discharging its official duties. It may also administer its local finances within the limits of the authority prescribed by law. It is further empowered to organize local public security forces in accordance with the military system of the state; and to draw up statutes governing the exercise of autonomy or separate regulations suited to the political, economic and cultural characteristics of the nationality or nationalities in its own area, subject to approval by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. The form of the self-government machinery is determined in accordance with the wishes of the majority in the nationality or nationalities concerned.

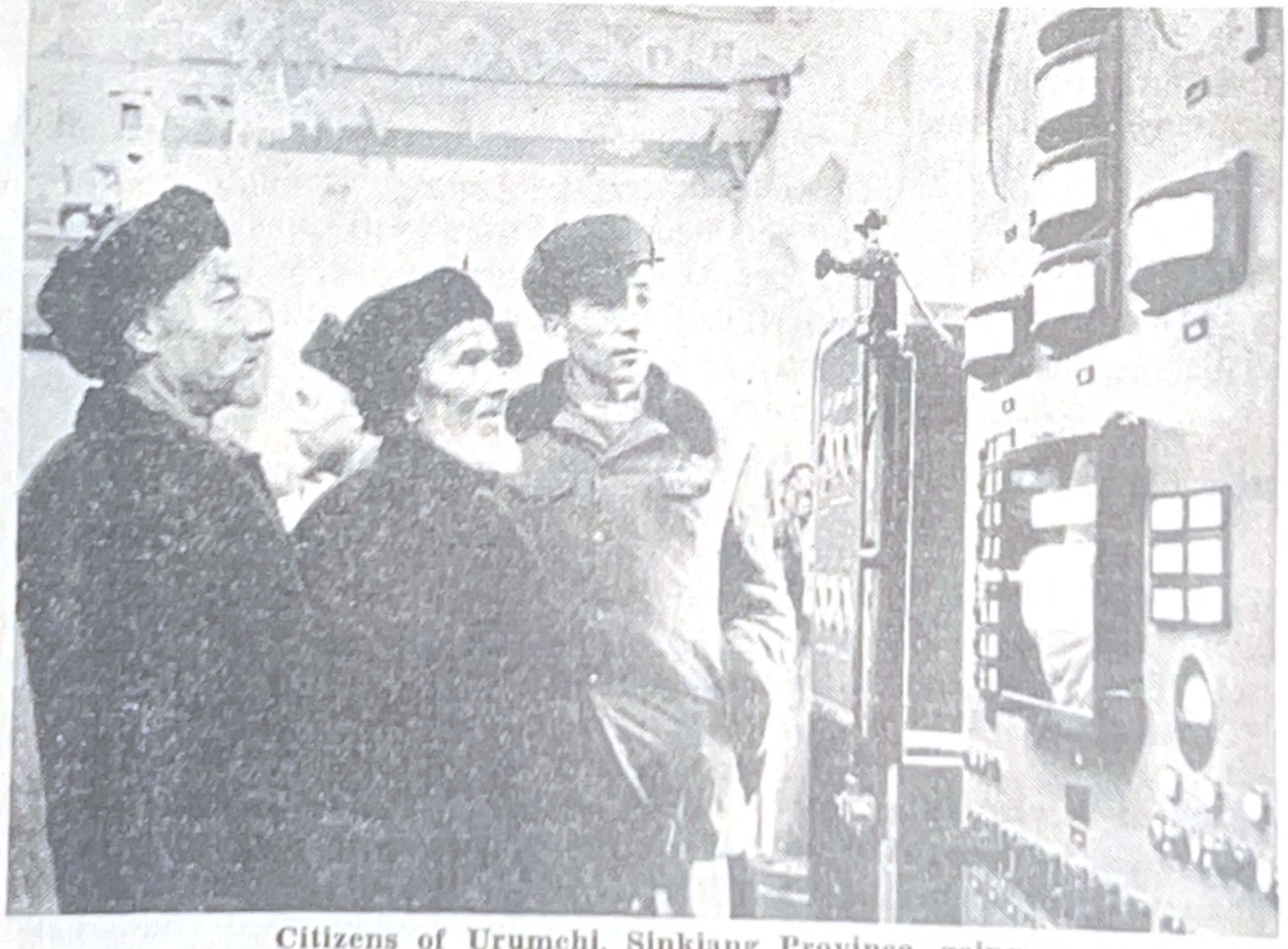
The system of regional autonomy has been introduced over several years, and has proved its advantages. It is clearly the key to the solution of the national question in our country. The following are its main results. It has fostered a patriotic, active and creative spirit among the people of various nationalities. It has increased unity between the various nationalities as well as within each of them. It has promoted the gradual political, economic and cultural development of all peoples among whom it has been applied.

Economic Development

In the economic sphere, the vast regions inhabited by the national minorities have made truly phenomenal progress during the past five years. One important reason is the disappearance of commercial exploitation. Imposed trade at unequal prices, one of the most persistent methods of reactionary exploitation of the minority peoples, has been virtually abolished since liberation. Generally speaking, the local products of the minority regions fetch prices three or four times as high as before liberation. At the same time, industrial goods intended for distribution in these places are sold at low prices. Thus the incomes of the minority peoples have been increased and their life improved.

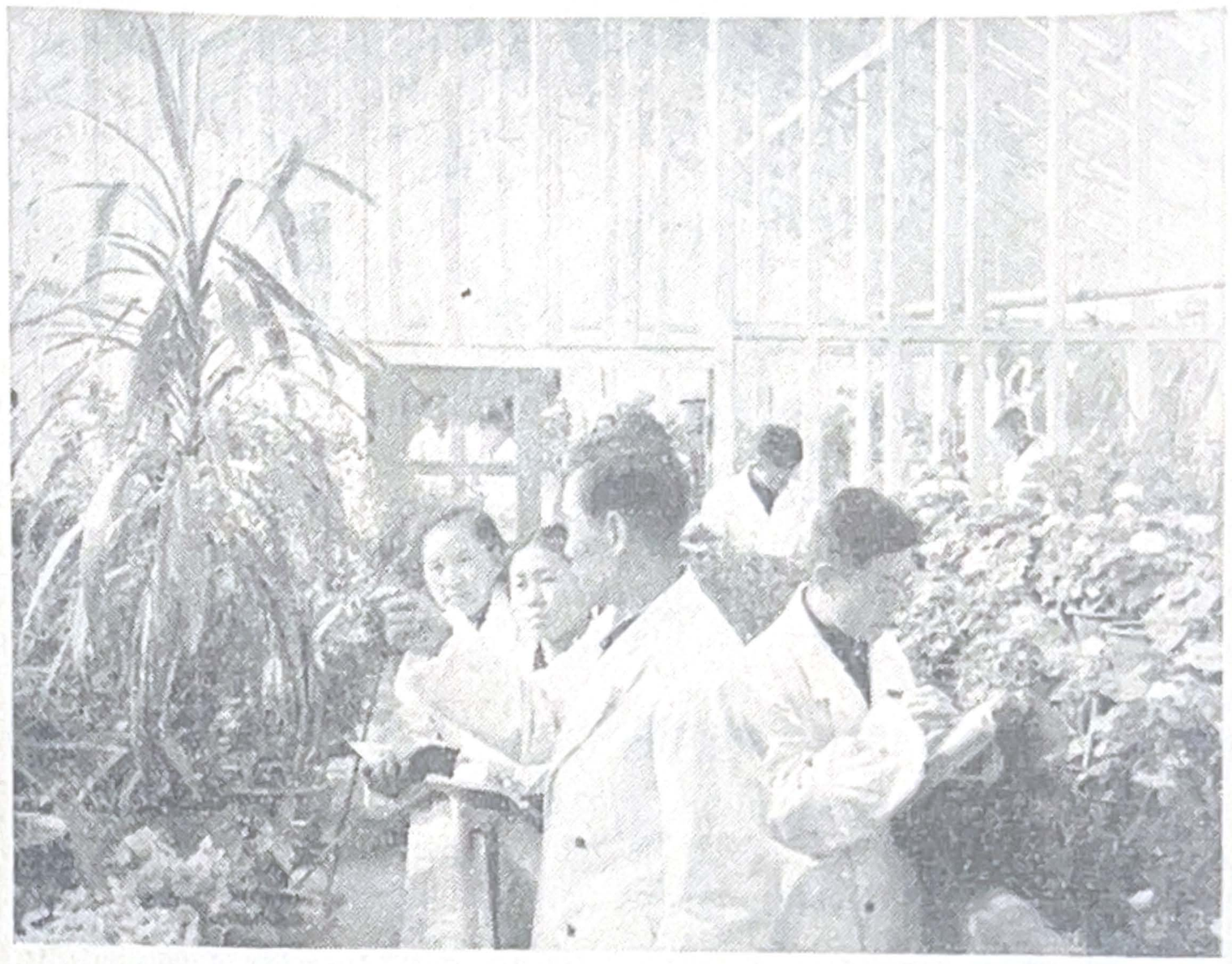
There are now some 2,400 state-trading organizations, including trading teams, in national minority regions, mostly in outlying areas. In Kansu Province, state-trading companies serving the local inhabitants can now be met everywhere—in the lonely mountains and on the vast plains. The total value of purchases and sales in the minority regions of Kansu in 1953 was more than six times what it was in 1951, and rose still more in 1954.

Increased and improved communications have been potent factors in accelerating trade with the minority regions. According to available figures, some 12,500 miles of highway have been or are being built or repaired in the minority regions — the Sikang-Tibet Highway and the Chinghai-Tibet Highway being the most important. These are new trunk lines linking the minority regions of Northwest and Southwest China with the rest of the coun-



Citizens of Urumchi, Sinkiang Province, going over the new automatic power plant there

try. Passing over many mountains and rivers, and built at great altitudes, they are marvels of engineering skill. Through them the nationalities are brought closer together—and the economic and cultural development of the minority peoples of Chinghai, Sikang and Tibet is promoted.



Students on a special agriculture course at Yenpien University in the Yenpien Korean Autonomous Region, Kirin Province, studying the effect of fertilizers

Since the adoption of measures to protect livestock in the pastoral regions, flocks and herds have increased rapidly. Sinkiang Province has enjoyed a constant increase of livestock, and fulfilled its year's breeding target in 1954. In that year it had 18 million head of stock, some 6 million more than before the liberation and an increase of more than 15 per cent over 1953. The life of the pastoral peoples of this province—the Kazakhs, Khalkhas, Mongolians and Tajiks, who number 600,000 altogether—is becoming more and more prosperous.

In national minority areas which are agricultural, the government helps the people to increase production by means of loans, subsidies and farm tools. Agricultural production here has already reached the pre-war average, and, in some cases the pre-war peak level.

Agricultural production in the Tibetan Autonomous Region of Sikang Province has increased year by year since it was set up in November 1950. By the end of 1953 about 10,000 acres of waste land had been reclaimed, enabling many peasants who formerly had little or no land to become well-to-do. To help solve production difficulties, the regional people's government has given the peasants some 240,000 farm implements, and granted large loans. State farms and agricultural instruction centres have been established at key points, and the peasants are being taught to use improved tools and methods. The grain output of the Region in 1953 was some 7,000 tons more than in 1951.

In the minority regions which were liberated earlier, the mutual-aid and co-operative movement is already under way. By the end of 1954 the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region had more than 1,300 agricultural producers' co-operatives. It is estimated that the number will be 6,000 this spring. The Region has also 5,000 or so pastoral mutual-aid teams. About 70 per cent of all its peasant households are organized in some way for production.

Industrial Production Growing

Some of the minority regions are beginning to build industry. Inner Mongolia, which had little in the past, now boasts more than two hundred factories, large and small. These are contributing to the nation's industrial growth and helping local people engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry. In 1953 the industrial production of the region amounted, in value, to 17.8 per cent of the total combined output of its agriculture and industry. As compared with 1950 the value of industrial goods produced had increased by 516 per cent, and the number of persons in industrial employment by 290 per cent. The 1954 plan provided for the building or expansion of 47 factories operated by the local government.

The People's Government pays great attention to public health work in minority areas. It allocated 22,700,000 yuan for such purposes in 1953, a figure more than double that for 1952. In the past there were practically no medical services in minority regions. By the end of 1953, they possessed 38 hospitals, over 700 county and district clinics, and a large number of anti-epidemic and mother-and-child health centres. The health of the people has been gradually improving. Owing to various endemic diseases, the numbers of some of the minority nationalities had been dwindling for a long time. Now they are going up.

Extension of Education

Economic improvement has led to an extension of education. In 1953 government appropriations for education among the national minorities amounted to 9,090,000 yuan, seven times the sum allocated in 1951. In the past many national minority regions had very few schools or none at all. Illiteracy in certain places was as high as 95 per cent. Now there are many more times the number of primary and middle schools and institutions of higher education established for the special benefit of the minority peoples, and many times the number of students.

The government and the Chinese Communist Party are doing a great deal to train administrative and professional personnel of minority nationalities. The country now has seven institutes for national minorities, with a total of over 12,000 students. Some 7,600 students have already graduated from them and over 4,000 are still studying there. With the graduates of these institutes taking up various posts, some highly responsible, in the national minority regions, the problem of shortage of trained staff is being solved. But it is not only in these institutes that training goes on. Apart from these national minority institutes, a great many other schools and training classes for national minority personnel have been set up in various places. By the end of 1953, about 140,000 had been trained.

Some national minorities have their own written languages, but they were seldom used in the past in the publication of books or periodicals. After liberation text-books and other teaching materials, as well as books and periodicals, began to appear in the Mongolian, Korean, Uighur, Kazakh, Sibo, Tibetan and Yi languages. By 1953 the total print of such publications exceeded 20 million copies, with over 1,000 titles. They include translations of the works of Mao Tse-tung, and books on Marxism-Leninism, the government's policy towards the nationalities and different aspects of national construction. There are now 21 newspapers and 26 magazines printed in the languages of different national minorities.

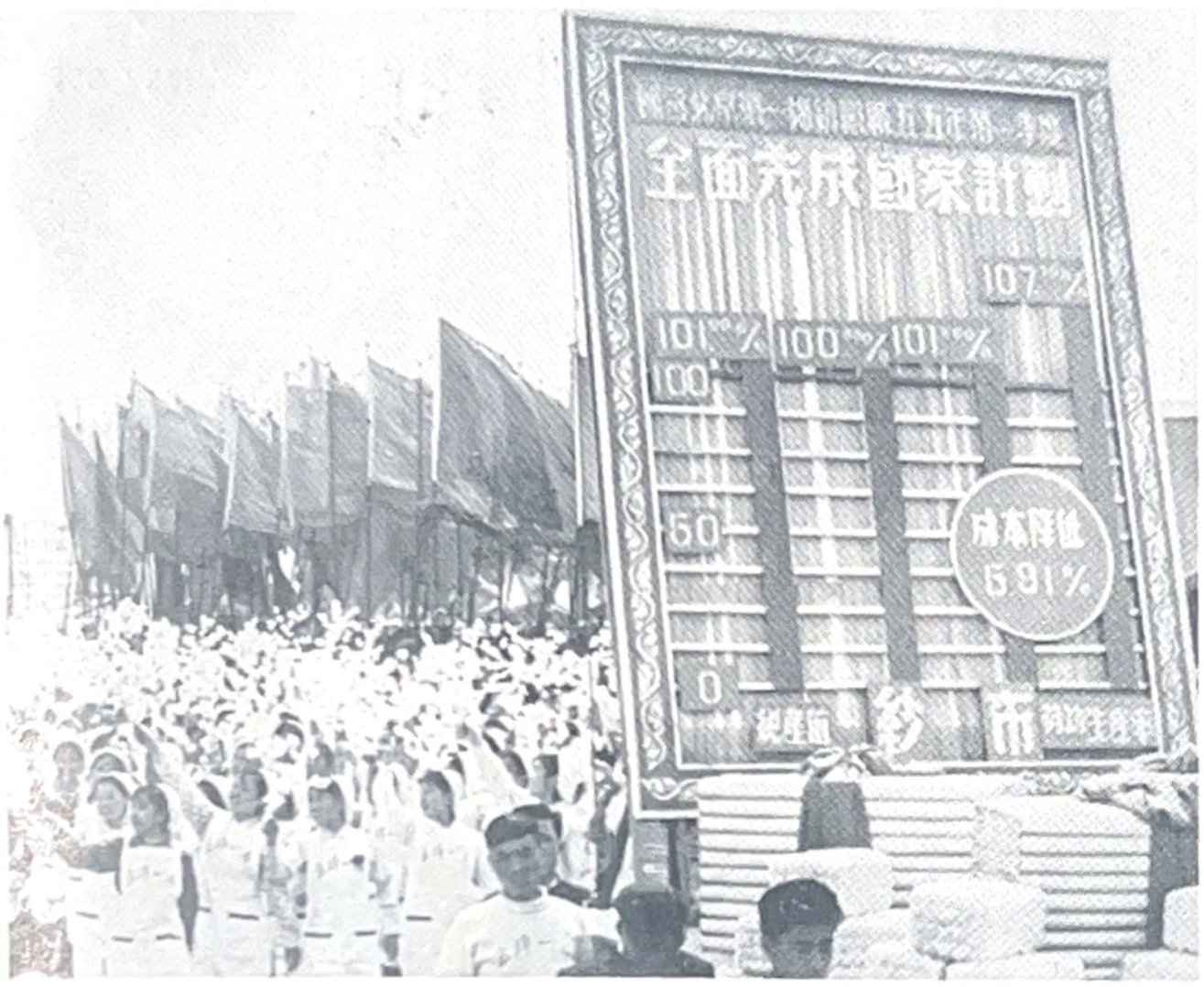
It is the settled policy of the new China that the customs of all nationalities in China must be respected. No interference with their religious beliefs and practices is allowed. With the help of the People's Government many temples and mosques long in disrepair have been restored and renovated.

Owing to the influence of the policy of national discrimination long carried out by reactionary rulers in the past, many Han people, not excluding some government workers, still suffer from vestiges of a "big-Han" chauvinist outlook in relation to the minorities. This has manifested itself in lack of respect for their customs, habits, languages, and religious beliefs, and in reluctance to accord the minorities the right to administer their internal affairs. On the other hand, some local nationalism still persists among the minority peoples. Both these attitudes harm unity between the nationalities and the carrying out of national regional autonomy. The Constitution therefore expressly points out that, to continue to strengthen unity between the nationalities, it is necessary to fight not only against imperialism and the public enemies of the people within the nationalities, but also against both dominant-nation chauvinism and narrow local nationalism.

New China, marching towards socialism, has basically solved its problem of nationalities. In the last five years, with great help from the Central People's Government, the national minority peoples have achieved important successes in political, economic and cultural construction. The Constitution registers these achievements and gives them a legal basis. It paves the way for the further consolidation of unity among our nationalities and will accelerate the progress of each one of them, unfolding before them a bright and glorious future.

MAY DAY PARADE IN PEKING

This chart carried by workers of the state-owned Peking No. 1 Cotton Mill proudly shows what they achieved during the first quarter of 1955





Chairman Mao Tse-tung on the rostrum at Tien An Men. Next to him are *(right to left)*: Chu Teh, Chen Yun and Peng Teh-huai

Happy children and their mothers in the parade

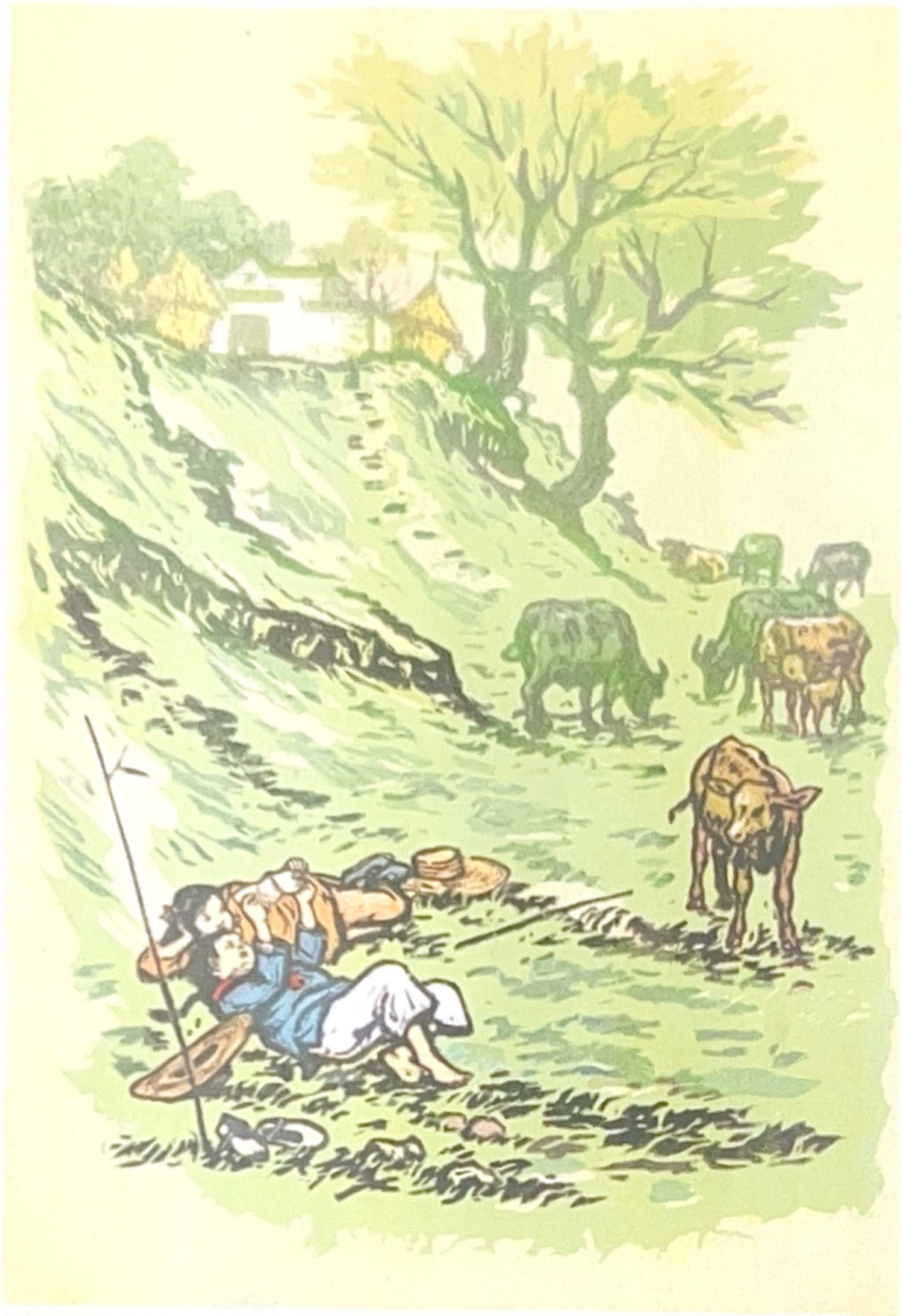


Farmers from Taipingchiao near Peking show how they intend to boost output



ENGRAVINGS

The exhibition of graphic art recently held in Peking included the work of many new young artists. The prints by Wu Jan and Li Huan-min reproduced on this page are typical of the new themes which they are introducing into Chinese art



"Thanks!"

Coloured woodcut (... × 13¾") by Wu Ja

Pastoral

Coloured woodcut (17¾" × 12¼") by Chang Yang-hsi



The First Doctor of Their Own (a scene from Tibet)

Copper engraving (10¾" × 16") by Li Huan-min

cut (12¼"
'u Jan



Sunset

Coloured woodcut (7¼" × 6½") by Yen Han





The Asian-African Conference opened in Bandung on April 18. President Sukarno of Indonesia delivering the opening speech

THE ASIAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE



Chou En-lai, senior delegate of the People's Republic of China, chats with Prime Minister Sastroamidjojo of Indonesia on his arrival at Bandung Airport



The Chinese delegation. *First row, right to left:* Chou En-lai, the interpreter, Chen Yi, Chang Han-fu and Yeh Chi-chuang

New Chinese Woodcuts

Li Chun

WE had an excellent opportunity of studying the new trends in wood engraving since the liberation when a recent Peking exhibition brought together over two hundred woodcuts from all parts of China. It left no doubt that the artists are striving for a socialist realist approach in their art. As a result of this, they have introduced many innovations both in subject matter and treatment.

Before the liberation woodcut artists made a splendid and effective contribution to the revolution by their pictorial exposures of the terrible conditions in which the Chinese people were forced to live. Today their dominant theme is the new life of the Chinese people. They deal with this from many aspects. This exhibition has prints showing both socialist industrial construction and the new life of the peasants. Many prints are devoted to episodes in the struggle of the Chinese people for world peace. Some of the most effective are inspired by the campaign to resist American aggression and to aid Korea. Taken together they give a faithful and many-sided reflection of China as it is today.

Works by Well-Known Artists

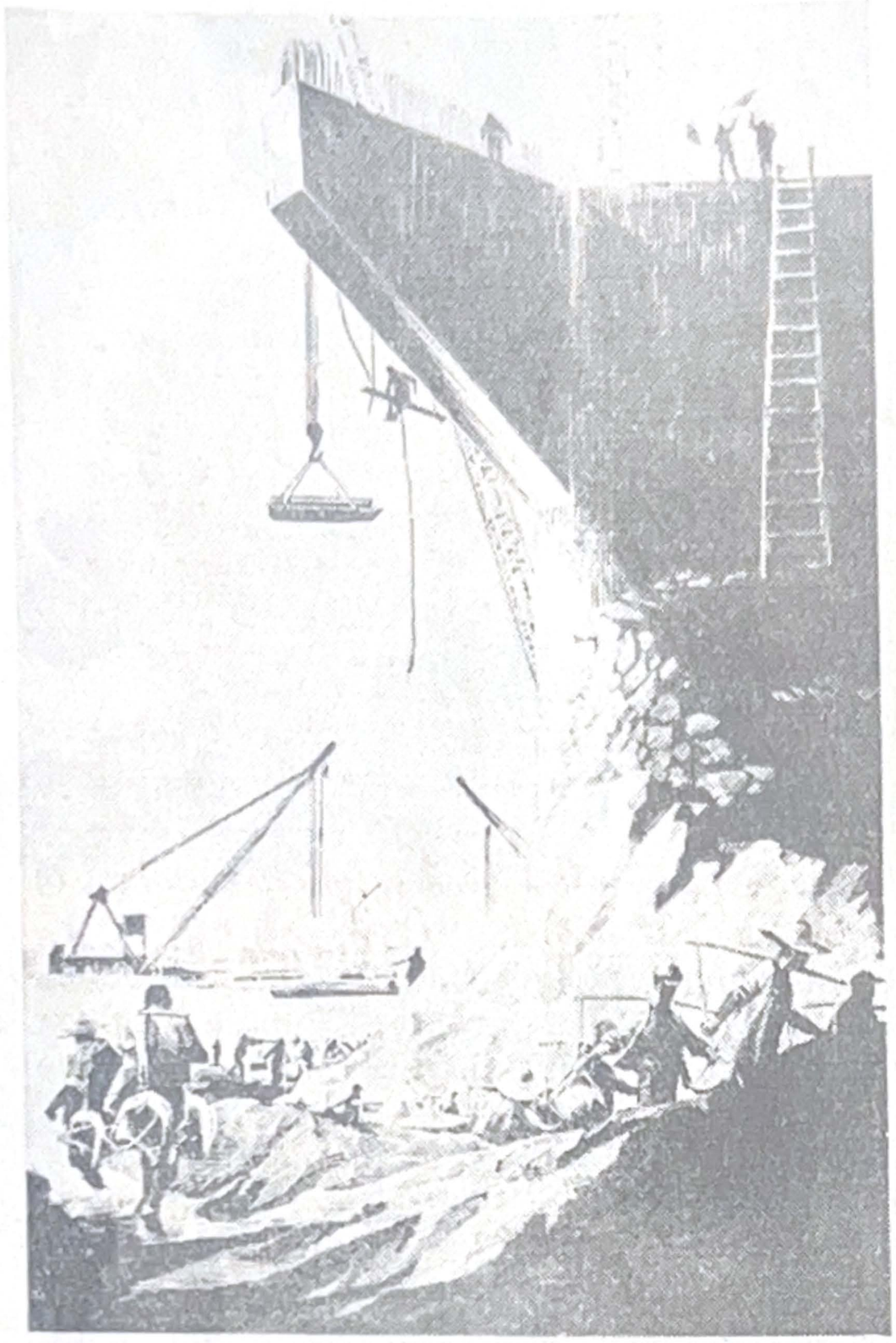
The exhibition contains several works by Ku Yuan, one of our best-known woodcut artists. He has in recent years turned out many fine things. His multicoloured print, *Restoration of the Anshan Iron and Steel Works*, one of the most expressive engravings in the exhibition, is an eloquent portrayal of Chinese workers engaged in peaceful construction. His *Crossing the Yangtze* is a vivid record of how the People's Liberation Army crossed that formidable natural barrier to the liberation of South China. It is a dramatic print deeply inspired by the heroism of the action it depicts. The figures of the P.L.A. men, illumined by gunfire, are thrown into sharp relief by the dark tones of the earth, smoke and clouds. It is skilfully executed and the strength and sweep of the cutting fully accords with the dramatic intensity of the action.

In *Boulevard in a Peking Suburb* (reproduced in *People's China*, No. 19, 1954) Ku Yuan strikes an entirely new note. This delicately coloured print of a suburban landscape conveys the atmosphere of peace, quiet and prosperity of Peking in spring. With a minimum of blocks the artist has succeeded in producing a print whose harmony and range of colour is entirely satisfying. The treatment of willows and young poplars shows not only the keen eye that he has for nature but also the grace with which he can handle his graver.

The works of Yen Han, another of our well-known engravers, have also attracted favourable comment. His *Apples Fresh from the Tree* is a little scene somewhere behind the front in North Korea. It shows a Korean girl

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Li Chun is one of China's best-known woodcut artists.



Building the Han River Bridge

Coloured woodcut (6½" × 8¾") by Huang Yen

offering newly picked apples from her basket to a horseman of the Chinese People's Volunteers. It is a simple but moving tribute to the profound friendship between the Chinese and Korean people. The great expanse of the sky and the deeply receding perspective of the hill and the muddy road, and the panorama of mountains elevate the significance of the group. The spaciousness of the landscape is excellently conveyed. The blue sky and its clouds is set off by the foreground of apple trees in luxuriant growth. The details of the print are well chosen to enhance the realism of the scene. Other expressive prints by this artist include *Our Blood Has Been Shed Together, Patrolling the Korean Coast* and *Sunset.*

There is a good selection of prints by other well-known woodcut artists, dealing with many other themes. *Building the Han River Bridge* by Huang Yen well conveys the enthusiasm of the workers on this job; *Selling Grain to the State to Support National Construction* by Wang Chi shows a gay group of peasants on their way to a government grain purchasing point. *Marching Beyond the Snowline* by Ai Yen shows men of the Chinese People's Liberation Army climbing a snow-capped peak with the help of the Tibetan people in their march for the peaceful liberation of Tibet. *Mending a Fishing Net* by Li Hua is a warmly conceived picture of fishermen on China's sea coast. Huang Yung-yu has a well executed print of *Forest Surveyors off to Work at Dawn* (see *People's China*, No. 4, 1955). Its action is set in the rich timber-lands of China's Northeast and its theme is the hardihood of the lumber-jacks.

Many New Artists

The exhibition also introduces for the first time to a wider public a number of new woodcut artists.

Tibetan Women Weaving a Carpet (see *People's China*, No. 21, 1954) by the young artist Li Huan-min, is a lyrical tribute to the Tibetan women and their beautiful handicrafts. The treatment of light and shade in this work is particularly successful. One gets the feeling of the hot rays of the sun and the cool of the shade beneath the trees. The treatment of the thick curtain of leaves and the women's skirts accentuates the facial expression and movement of the figures which form the centre of interest of the picture. The figure of the girl weaver is particularly attractive.

Wu Jan is a young artist of the P.L.A. who has only recently taken up wood engraving. His coloured print *Thanks!* shows a cavalryman of the People's Army, defender of the happy life of the Mongolians, coming to water horses at a well in the steppe. A girl, drawing water from the well, has poured fresh water into the trough. The face of the P.L.A. man expresses his gratitude for this kindness. Under a clear sky with white, windswept clouds the steppe stretches as far as the eye can see. Wisps of smoke spiral up from yurts. There is a flock of sheep. Wild flowers grow beside

the well. Such details set the time of the incident—autumn, and evoke the characteristic beauty of the steppes.

Chao Tsun-tsao is another promising young artist whose work is shown here. His *Wu River* has been singled out for special praise. This is a landscape in Kiangsi Province. Busy construction work is going on by the banks of a river. Boats ply back and forth and the outlines of a typically southern town show on the far bank. All this complex richness of detail and incident, however, is brought together in a clean-cut composition that expresses the idea of purposeful construction. The waters of the river are serene and clear, but the figures in lively movement, the troubled wakes of the boats, the towering masses of engineering equipment on the banks and the busy crowds impart a sense of energetic action.

The attractive colour print *Making Paper Cuts* by Chang Chien-wen and the monochrome print *More Livestock* by Huang Pi-mu also deserve special mention. The first shows a happy little moment in the life of the women of northern Shensi Province, while the latter shows members of a co-operative farm with the new animals they have bought after selling their surplus grain to the state.

Variety of Style

A great variety of style is displayed in the works exhibited. Some are forcefully executed and simply and unconventionally conceived. Others are precise and almost ornate in treatment. Some are realistic, others frankly decorative. A dominant tendency, however, is vigour, simplicity, and a straightforwardness of approach which characterizes the national style today. The overwhelming majority of artists, drawing directly on the life of the people of today for their themes, have creatively used the tradition set by the classical Chinese woodcut. They have also learnt from Western methods of composition and execution. The best have a uniquely national style which is exemplified most clearly in the works of Ku Yuan and Yen Han.

Half of the exhibits are colour prints made from wood blocks. This is a new departure in our modern wood engraving and it is good to note that the effects achieved are harmonious and attractively simple. Other forms of graphic art—dry-point, etching, lithography and so on—are not yet widely practised by our artists, but the present exhibition contains examples which show a good start.

Many woodcut book illustrations and decorations are also exhibited. This art has a long history in China, and the carrying on of its great tradition is regarded as an important task of present day engravers.

Wood engraving has the great advantage of cheapness of reproduction, and in its modern form has long enjoyed great popularity among the Chinese people. This exhibition shows that in the past three years, since the last national exhibition, the wood engravers of this country have made considerable progress in their art and are working hard to overcome their defects. It marks a starting point for further advances and successes.



A story of the Red Army

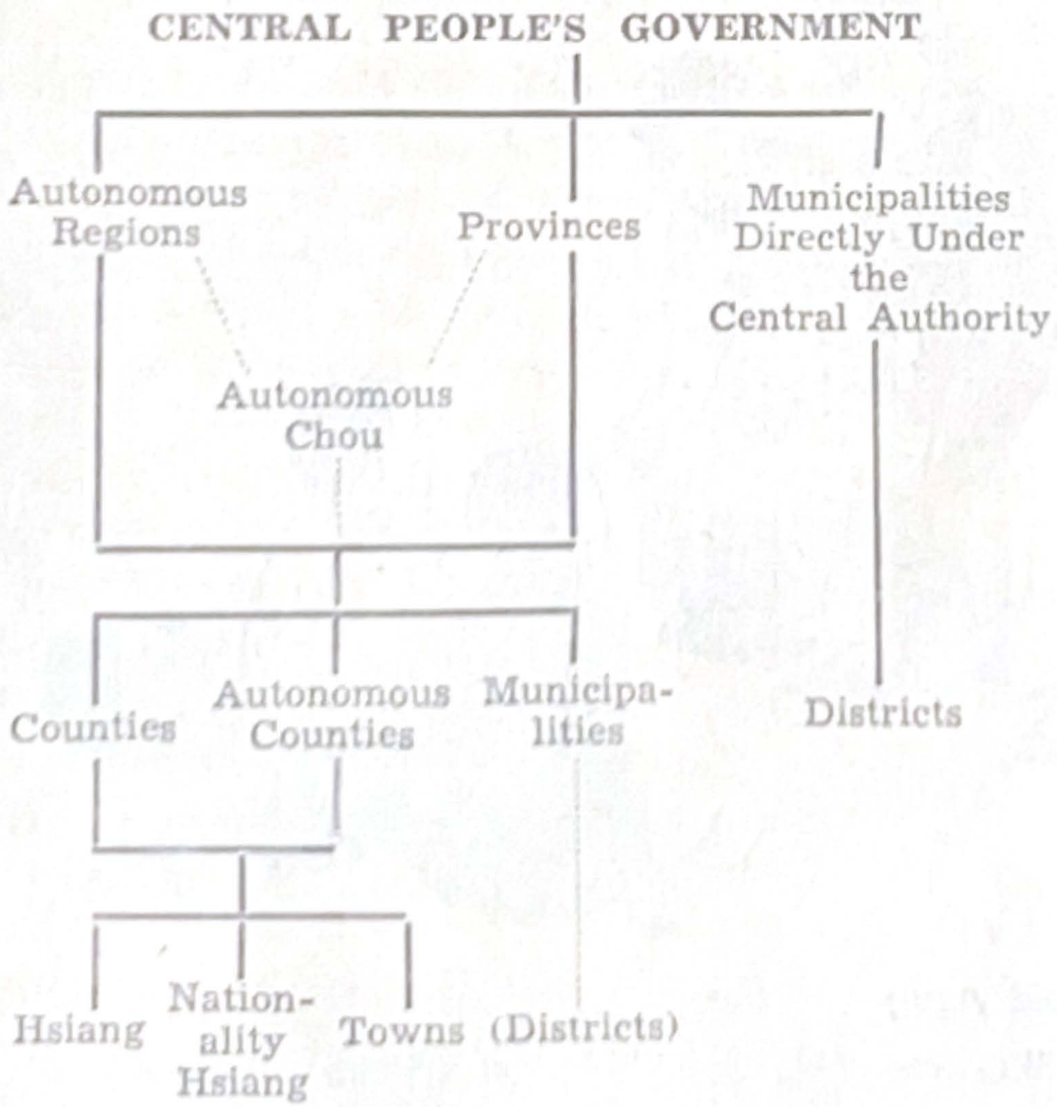
Woodcut (8¾" × 11⅜") by Chang Chien-wen

Changes in China's Administrative Divisions

Shie I-yuan

THE Constitution of the People's Republic of China, adopted in September 1954, made provision for three local levels in China's administrative system. The first consists of provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the central authority; the second of counties, autonomous counties, and other municipalities; and the third *hsiang* (a village or group of villages), nationality *hsiang,* and towns.

In some provinces and autonomous regions autonomous *chou* (which I shall explain later) are set up. In that case the autonomous *chou* become the second level, and under it the counties, etc., form the third, and the *hsiang,* etc., the fourth. Municipalities directly under the central authority, and other large municipalities, are divided into districts, but small municipalities form single units. The chart given below may give readers a better understanding of China's administrative system:



I propose to explain the local levels of China's administrative system and also say something about several important changes which took place before the adoption of the Constitution.* It may be more easily understandable if I divide the article into five sections: (1) provinces and municipalities directly under the central authority, (2) counties and municipalities, (3) *hsiang* and towns, (4) national autonomous areas, and (5) the abolition of the former Greater Administrative Areas.

(1) Provinces and Municipalities Directly under the Central Authority

Provinces are administrative units coming directly under the Central People's Government. Before June 1954, China had thirty provinces. To make administration easier, and the better to meet the needs of national construction, in June 1954 the Central People's Government amalgamated a number of provinces. In Northeast China, Liaotung and Liaosi were incorporated into a new province—Liaoning, while Sungkiang ceased to exist and was incorporated into Heilungkiang. In the Northwest, Ningsia became part of Kansu. In North China, Suiyuan, which had been formed in 1928, ceased to exist in early 1954, becoming part of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region. It is noteworthy that Suiyuan had been deliberately created by the Kuomintang to tighten its rule over the minority people by

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*For information about China's administrative divisions in the past, see "China's Administrative Divisions" by the same author in *People's China,* No. 1, 1954.

forcibly dismembering areas where Mongolians lived and placing them under different administrative units. Last year the Central People's Government, in furtherance of its policy of national equality, unity and mutual help for the national autonomous areas, incorporated Suiyuan in the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region.

As a result of these changes, China is now divided into the following 26 provinces—(the cities named in brackets after each are the provincial capitals)—Hopei (Paoting), Shansi (Taiyuan), Liaoning (Shenyang), Kirin (Changchun), Heilungkiang (Harbin), Jehol (Chengteh), Shensi (Sian), Kansu (Lanchow), Chinghai (Sining), Sinkiang (Urumchi), Shantung (Tsinan), Kiangsu (Nanking), Anhwei (Hofei), Chekiang (Hangchow), Fukien (Foochow), Honan (Chengchow), Hupeh (Wuhan), Hunan (Changsha), Kiangsi (Nanchang), Kwangtung (Canton), Kwangsi (Nanning), Szechuan (Chengtu), Kweichow (Kweiyang), Yunnan (Kunming), Sikang (Yaan), and Taiwan—which has not yet been liberated.

The municipalities directly under the central authority are Peking, Shanghai and Tientsin. There were formerly fourteen such municipalities. In June 1954, eleven of them were put under the provincial jurisdiction. Shenyang (Mukden), Port Arthur-Dairen, Anshan, Fushun and Penki were put under the administration of Liaoning Province; Changchun and Harbin under Kirin and Heilungkiang respectively; and Sian, Wuhan, Canton and Chungking came under the jurisdiction of Shensi, Hupeh, Kwangtung and Szechuan respectively.

The census of 1953 showed that Peking and Tientsin both had a population of 2,700,000, and Shanghai had 6,200,000.

(2) Counties and Municipalities

Counties are administrative units under the direction of the province, autonomous region or autonomous *chou*. Each province is subdivided into counties, the number of which may vary, suitable to its topographical features, economic conditions, population and size. A small province has about 20 counties, large ones as many as 140. The number, in general, is between 80 and 90. The population of a county ranges from over a million (the highest figure) to less than 10,000, but generally speaking, each county has 200,000 to 300,000 inhabitants. In areas populated by Mongolians and Tibetans, *Banners* and *tsungs* correspond to counties elsewhere.

By the end of 1954 China had 2,151 counties and comparable units.

A municipality is defined as a populated centre with over 50,000 inhabitants mainly engaged in industry and commerce. They come under the direct administration of provincial governments, or under the people's governments of autonomous regions or autonomous *chou*. By the end of 1954 China had 162 such municipalities.

(3) Hsiang and Towns

Hsiang and towns are administrative units under the administration of a county or autonomous county. The *hsiang* is the rural division. By definition it is a populated centre engaged in agriculture, comprising one or several villages, according to population and natural features. There are now over 220,000 *hsiang* in the country.

Towns are populated centres with roughly the same number of inhabitants as a *hsiang* (or sometimes more), with sufficient industry and commerce to serve as the local market towns. China now has over 5,000 such towns.

(4) National Autonomous Areas

Article 3 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China lays it down that "regional autonomy applies in areas where people of national minorities live in compact communities. National autonomous areas are inalienable parts of the People's Republic of China." Formerly all national autonomous areas were called "autonomous regions," irrespective of size. They are now classified, according to size, as autonomous regions, autonomous *chou* and autonomous counties. Autonomous regions and autonomous counties correspond to provinces and counties respectively. But an autonomous *chou* is an administrative unit intermediate between an autonomous region and an autonomous county. In other words, it falls between these two levels. Self-government bodies are, as

prescribed in the Constitution, established in autonomous areas.

In areas smaller than counties populated by national minorities it is, because of their tiny population and size, impossible and unnecessary to establish self-government bodies. But where a minority area corresponds to a *hsiang,* a "nationality *hsiang*" is set up. The difference between a nationality *hsiang* and an ordinary *hsiang* is that the people's congress of the former can, as far as the law permits, take any special measures it thinks fit for the benefit of the nationalities in its area.

As shown by the diagram, both autonomous regions and provinces may include autonomous *chou* and autonomous counties as well as counties and cities. An autonomous *chou* may embrace autonomous counties as well as counties and cities.

By the end of 1954, China had 70 national autonomous areas of a status equivalent or superior to counties. The largest of them is the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region with its capital at Huhehot (formerly known as Kweisui).

The Local Government of Tibet is located at Lhasa, and works under the direct administration of the Central People's Government. In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution the Tibetan people have the right to regional autonomy. On March 9 this year the State Council took a decision to establish a preparatory committee to work out the best way of setting up a Tibetan Autonomous Region. In preparing to introduce regional autonomy in the Tibet Region (which will include the Changtu area), the committee will act in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution and the Agreement on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet, and take into consideration actual conditions there.

(5) The Abolition of the Greater Administrative Areas

Before June 1954 there were six "Greater Administrative Areas" between the Central People's Government and the provincial people's governments—North, Northeast, Northwest, East, Central-South and Southwest China. In the early years following liberation these areas functioned as the highest local organs of state power. The Military and Political Councils of the Areas—in the Northeast the highest local government body was called the Northeast People's Government—guided provinces under their jurisdiction on behalf of the Central People's Government, and were, in conformity with law and the policy of the Central People's Government, entitled to work out and adopt practical measures concerning political, economic, and cultural matters within their areas. In the early years after liberation this organizational form was suitable to actual conditions and the uneven development of the areas. It played an important part in national economic recovery and in carrying out varied social reforms.

But, beginning from 1953, China started large-scale planned construction. To ensure proper co-ordination between the various economic links, the leadership of the Central Government needed to be further strengthened. As a first step in this direction, at the beginning of 1953, each Military and Political Council and the Northeast People's Government was reorganized as an Administrative Committee. Instead of acting as the highest local organs of state power these Committees directed and supervised the work of the local people's governments in their areas on behalf of the Central People's Government. Finally, in June 1954, to strengthen its leadership still more, the Central Government decided to abolish the Greater Administrative Areas. From then on the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities came under its direct administration. In this way the Central People's Government was enabled to cut out overlapping organization, raise administrative efficiency, and transfer the area government officials to its own service, or to various branches of the economy, as required, or, last but not least, to the provincial and city people's governments to add to their strength.

Master and Pupil

Lu Hao

AFTER a two months' trades' course in arc welding, Wei Shu-jen, a nineteen-year-old youngster, came with some nine hundred other young men to serve their apprenticeship at the Anshan Metal Bridge and Building Company.

On their first day the foreman of the arc-welding section assigned each apprentice to a master. Wei's master turned out to be a young man by the name of Wang Wei-chung, an eighth grade worker. Wei felt a bit put out. What on earth could he learn from an eighth grade worker only a bit older than himself?

Wang, his new master, voiced misgivings too: "Here I've got an apprentice to teach and it's precious little I know about this job myself!"

When the two met, Wang said frankly: "I'm not much of a welder myself but I'll pass on all I know to you."

Learning on the Job

Three days later the two were given a job on the building site of the seamless tubing mill. Wei made ready to carry the bulky welding set, but Wang put him in charge of the accessories and himself joined an older worker in carrying the set.

On the job, Wei looked down a bit dubiously at the narrow pit in which he would have to do the welding. Wang caught his eye and asked quickly: "Think you can do it?"

"I only learnt to do arc-welding standing up and with plenty of elbow room," Wei admitted. "I'm no expert."

Wang took his welders' helmet off and put it on Wei's head. He himself used a spare pair of dark goggles. He handed the holder to his apprentice with an encouraging "Have a try!"

Wei, a bit nervous, brought the electrodes to the metal and the sparks flew, showering his clothes. "Damn it!" he ejaculated with a frown.

Wang regarded him calmly: "I've been at this for two years now and I'm still a beginner. And you want to know all the tricks at one go! Don't be impatient, try hard and you'll soon know all there is to it."

At the second try he guided Wei's hand with his own and everything went well.

By the time the shift ended, Wei had got over his nervousness and with the help of his teacher was doing the job competently.

The next day Wang was up aloft on the steel frame of a new building. Wei was looking after the welding set. Wang called down: "Hsiao Wei!" (Little Wei—for that's what he called Shu-jen.) "Come on up and take a turn at this!"

Wei looked up at the spider-web of steel. He could see Wang's figure, reduced by the height to the size of a midget, sitting calmly astride a plank. It turned him giddy just to look up! He pretended not to hear Wang's call.

At the break, Wang clambered down. "You never worked at such a height before?" he asked.

The writer is a reporter on Peking *People's Daily*.

Wei shook his head, a bit ashamed of himself, for several of the other apprentices had gone up to work on the steel frame.

"That's all right," Wei replied. "I'll go up with you later."

Wei put on a safety belt and followed Wang up the girders. Wang offered to help him up difficult spots, but he refused. No one else was being helped up, he thought, so why should he be? When he got to the top, somehow he felt more confident.

Two weeks later he was practically doing independent work, confidently and well, on the frame, high above the ground.

Sincere Friendship

Another day they were given the job of welding metal covers for oil tanks. Wang welded two plates on one side as a sample and handed the other side to Wei to complete. Wei did well the first time, but on the second one, through overheating and clumsy application of flux, the welding was badly done and obviously a reject. Just at that moment the foreman of the arc-welding section came along. His eagle eye immediately spotted the badly welded part, and he asked rather sternly who had done it.

Wei hesitated a moment before owning up, and at that moment Wang answered: "I'm responsible for it." The team leader, however, wasn't to be fooled. "You may be responsible for it, but that's not your work," he said. Wei blurted out, "It's my work, not Wang's!"

The foreman said nothing more for the moment, but later, just before he left, he turned round and told Wang: "You should do that kind of job yourself."

Wang re-welded the piece as if nothing had happened. But Wei knew only too well that the reprimand had been deeply felt. "He treats me better than my own brother!" he thought. "I mustn't let him down again."

The longer they worked together, the more ashamed Wei was of the entirely wrong first impression he had formed of his master. Now he realized what sterling qualities he had. They worked well together now. He saw to it that before they started work everything was ready for the shift—helmets, electrode containers, gloves. When an important job was in hand he saw to all the details so that Wang could concentrate on the main work. When the shift was over he helped Wang to put things in order.

After five months' work together the news came that Wang was to be transferred to another site. Wei was downcast. When the time came for the truck with Wang and his other mates to leave, Wei felt sad. Wang jumped down from the truck, gripped his hand in a last handshake. Fumbling in his pocket he took out the pair of goggles which he had bought for himself and pressed them on Wei, saying: "You keep these as a souvenir."

At first Wei wouldn't hear of it. "You'll need them yourself!" But Wang insisted and finally Wei accepted.

The foreman knew how well these two, master and apprentice, got on together, so when extra hands were needed at the place where Wang was working, Wei was sent there to join his old master again.

He was a keen youngster, and drawing on Wang's experience he soon became a skilled worker. In ten months' time he passed his technical tests and became a seventh grade worker, skipping the eighth grade altogether. His master in his time had put in close on two years' practical work before he reached the eighth grade. Little Wei had climbed on Wang's shoulders and Wang was overjoyed at his apprentice's success.

Wei Takes a Pupil

It was only a few days after Wei's promotion that the foreman brought a sturdy young fellow to him and introduced him as Cheng Chang-hai. "He's your pupil and you'll be responsible for his training from now on."

Wei was a bit taken aback to find himself a master while he felt himself still little more than a novice. He felt much as Wang had felt in his place only ten months before.

"I'm still learning myself!" he exclaimed. "How can I teach others?"

"Teach him as much as you know yourself and that'll be enough," said the foreman, and went away without another word, as much as to say, "I know I can trust you."

Cheng was two years older than Wei and had previously worked as a labourer. He had had no experience of arc-welding at all, so Wei's first lesson to him was "always use goggles when working with the welder, otherwise you'll hurt your eyes"; and he gave Cheng the goggles which he himself had received from Wang.

But at lunch time that day he could see from Cheng's reddened eyes that his advice hadn't been followed. He took his clean towel, dipped it in cold water and wrapped it round his apprentice's forehead. Other welders, noticing Cheng's condition, began to criticize Wei. "How could you be so damn careless as to let him hurt his eyes the very first day? Why didn't you warn him?" Cheng rushed to his master's defence. "It's all my own fault!" he asserted. "He did warn me, but I was curious and didn't take any notice."

Wei proved an exemplary teacher. He passed on to Cheng all he had learnt from Wang and his own experience besides. He coached him by day, and after the shift explained to him more complicated technical details like the construction of the welding set. Two months later he had another apprentice assigned to him. This was Chang Pao-jen, also a former labourer and a year older than his master.

When Wei's father heard the news, he opened his eyes wide in surprise. "I've been a riveter for thirty years and only had one apprentice. Here you've been welding for just over a year and you have them two at a time!"

"Age has nothing to do with it now!" Wei answered.

After eighteen months on construction sites in Northeast China, Wei became a sixth grade arc welder, while Wang, his former master, was promoted to the fifth grade. Cheng Chang-hai had reached the seventh grade and Chang Pao-jen the eighth. Practically every one of the nine hundred youngsters who had begun their apprenticeship together were now skilled workers ranging from the eighth to the sixth grades.

A Factory Canteen

Cheng Yu-ho

A SPACIOUS room with sparkling white walls, spick-and-span, well furnished, with kitchen staff in spotlessly clean uniforms—that is the canteen of the State-owned Tientsin Textile Machinery Works. I was taken round the place by Chen Feng-ho, a planer in the factory's machine shop. The moment we entered the canteen, with the sunlight streaming in, I felt what a cheerful, comfortable place it was.

The menu for lunch was written on a small blackboard. There are seven or eight dishes, with prices ranging from 6 to 25 fen (100 fen make one yuan), to choose from. "The menu changes daily," Chen told me. "In the course of a month something like 150 different dishes are served."

Evidently members of the kitchen staff do their best to make the workers happy. There are golden fried shrimp cakes garnished with strips of tomatoes, egg custards with green peas,

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The writer is a reporter on the *Tientsin Daily*.

and lots of attractive things that make your mouth water.

At one corner of the canteen is a counter selling hors d'œuvres such as smoked fish, cold roast chicken, fried prawns, and various kinds of pickles.

Good Food Values

All very nice, you say—but what about food values? Of course that had not been ignored, either. A training class was set up for the express purpose of giving the cooks a working knowledge of dietetics. Every menu is carefully drawn up after a proper discussion and finally approved by Shih Tsung-ming, the chef. Shih is an old cook with twenty-seven years' cooking experience to his credit. Despite that, he is always ready to listen to anything the workers of the factory have to say, and is able to judge a menu from all angles: taste, balance, and the food values of the various dishes.

From their training course members of the kitchen staff have learnt which vegetables are rich in nourishment, and that fresh vegetables are better than ice-box stuff. The kitchen has a contract with a farming co-operative outside Tientsin, from which it is supplied every day with fresh vegetables.

Dr. Lu Feng-chi of the factory clinic told me that each of their workers needed 60 to 90 grammes of protein and 60 to 80 grammes of fat a day. A couple of dishes plus rice, bread or grain in some form or another, plus breakfast, are sufficient to meet this requirement. The great variety of dishes available ensures a good supply of vitamins. The number of calories which each factory worker gets from what he eats every day is as high as 4,000, though he actually needs only 3,000 to 3,500.

I made a copy of the menu and took it to Dr. Lu for dietetical analysis. The results were as follows: The steamed chicken with cabbage and pork dumplings (costing 25 fen) contains 33 gm. of protein, 20 gm. of fat, 3 gm. of sugar, plenty of phosphorus and vitamins A, B and C. The stewed beef with spinach, which costs only 16 fen, contains 12 gm. of protein, 13 gm. of fat, 4 gm. of sugar, plenty of iron, and vitamins A and C. The hotpot made of beef, bean-curd, ox-liver and tomatoes, one of the cheapest dishes, costing only 6 fen, contains 12 gm. of protein, 10 gm. of fat, 5 gm. of sugar, and certain amounts of phosphorus and vitamin C.

The provision of nourishing foods, coupled with far more satisfactory working and living conditions, have led to a marked improvement in the health of the men working here. Although their number has been increasing, the incidence of disease among them is falling fast. The number on sick leave in the first half of 1954 was one-third of what it had been in the same period in 1953.

Big Difference

All the workers I met in the factory were robust and strong. Chen Feng-ho, my guide, for instance. Looking at him now you would never suspect that he had once led a most miserable life. Before liberation he earned barely enough to keep body and soul together. His father, who was almost sixty, had to go into the country and do odd jobs. Chen and his family of six had to put up with a small thatched hut. However cold it was, they never had a fire in the house or a cooked meal in the daytime. Only at night could they make a bit of fire to heat some gruel and salted vegetables. Once when his daughter fell ill they hadn't enough money in the house to buy even a biscuit for her. "When I used to go to work in the morning," he said, "I took with me two cornflour buns and some pickles. In winter it was hard to find a stove to heat up the buns, and often they were frozen as hard as a rock. Hard work and lack of nourishment took its toll. My eyes became so blurry by evening that I could hardly see a thing. I couldn't take a day off—that would have meant the family going without food for the whole day."

What a difference now! Chen and his family have a roomy, airy place in a block of workers' flats. He earns about a hundred yuan a month, which makes the family fairly



The hors d'oeuvres counter at the canteen at Tientsin Textile Machinery Works

well off. He eats well in the factory canteen and food costs him no more than a sixth of his wages. His folks are, of course, getting along comfortably.

Special Kitchens

Besides the ordinary canteen, the factory runs a special dining-hall for people with bad digestion or stomach troubles. Workers who take their meals there are subsidized from the factory welfare fund. The meals are provided at about a third of actual cost. For every meal they have four courses specially prepared for them on the expert advice of the factory medical staff. Thus they enjoy not only free medical service but special care with their diet.

There are thirty workers in the factory who are Moslems. To enable them to live according to their own customs the factory has started a special Moslem dining hall with a special kitchen staff manned by people of their own faith. There they can eat the things and in the way their religion prescribes.

The staff of the various kitchens take their work very seriously. Shih Tsung-ming, the chef, gets to the factory every day before working hours. He usually makes a round of the three kitchens and carries out a general inspection. He sees to it that all foods are well prepared and properly cooked. Members of the kitchen staff make frequent visits to and learn from the kitchens of other factories and try to improve their own work. Chang Yin-tang, assistant director of the factory, often attends the meetings of the kitchen staff, and members of the trade union committees frequently bring up at these meetings suggestions from the workers.

The management of the factory is very solicitous of the welfare of members of the kitchen staff. When they learnt that Li, one of the cooks, was not feeling well, they sent him to Pehtaiho, a beauty spot, for rest and recuperation. In old China Li had been a cook in a restaurant for twenty years. He used to get to bed late at night, and had to be up again early in the morning. He never knew what life was like outside the kitchen. Certainly he never dreamt he'd ever visit such a fashionable summer resort as Pehtaiho, where once only the big-wigs went.

A Short Story

Old Queer Fish

Li Yang-cheng

CHAO Ah-shui—the people of his village have recently started calling him Grandad Chao with affectionate respect—is a jovial old man on the right side of sixty.

When he was a young man, his friends nicknamed him Queer Fish, partly because he was a good swimmer and could swim like a fish, but mainly because he *was* a queer fish. As he advanced in years, the young folks began to think it might sound a bit disrespectful, so they added the word "old" to it, as a mark of honourable age and also to distinguish him from the younger "queer fish" in the village.

Old Queer Fish started his fisherman's life on the sea as a boy. He liked to drink, crack jokes and sing snatches of Peking opera with a strong southern accent. Whenever the villagers paid homage to the dragon king by putting on operas, he would play the woman's part, singing in falsetto, at which the audience would split their sides with laughter. But he acted his part in dead earnest. When the opera called for laughter, he laughed uproariously, and when he wept, he wept with real bitterness, blowing his nose and pursing his lips.

Yes, he was a queer fish right enough; but he was also very stubborn, and if he thought he was in the right, ten buffaloes would not shift him. He had that sort of characteristic pride and stubbornness that you associate with fishermen.

He had his gloomy days too. That was after Kuomintang troops had killed his only son and stolen his boat at sea. For a long time he would neither speak nor smile. He'd stare you full in the face with his steely eyes under grey bushy eyebrows, as though he had an ancient feud to settle. Every day when he had finished fishing, he would pace to and fro along the shore, without saying a word to anyone. Nobody knew what he was up to, but they became apprehensive that one of these days he'd do something unexpected and terrible. They were right. The old man was not one to be trampled down without kicking. His mind was set on avenging his son.

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In a temple at the western end of the village a company of Chiang's troops was billeted. One New Year's Day, the soldiers gambled and drank till they didn't know whether they stood on their heads or their heels. About midnight, there was a loud boom, as though there had been a landslide on the mountain. Tiles on everybody's roofs came crashing down. The temple was on fire. When it got light, they found it a mass of debris, two rooms razed to the ground, and human arms and legs scattered all round the place. That, it was said, put paid to over sixty of the bandits. And the fishermen hadn't a doubt who had done it.

After this incident, Old Queer Fish disappeared from the village. He had taken his fishing gear and fled in a small boat to a desolate island. There he led a savage life—living in a cave and eating wild herbs and dried fish.

But six months later, the People's Liberation Army came, and shortly afterwards he returned home. He was very happy. "We have a new world now," he said, "and Heaven smiles on the poor. Old Queer Fish will live better now." He still lived in the small cottage at the end of the village. Every morning, throwing his net over his shoulders, he would set out in his boat and go fishing. At sunset, he would be back at home. Then he'd drink a few cups of wine, and tuck into boiled fish.

Old Queer Fish, in fact, wasn't so queer, after all. He was fond of visiting friends and

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helping others. He always attended all meetings in the village, big or small, and talked with great enthusiasm. He wore a perpetual smile. When he got tipsy, he would crack jokes incessantly, and seemed even more spirited than when he was young. Though he was going grey, he would perform country dances with the girls and boys in the village. People would chaff him and say, "You've got a new lease of life, eh, Old Queer Fish?" "Now Chairman Mao's at the helm," he rejoined, "all is peace and prosperity. Everyone is younger now. I might even think of getting married again, you know." And people would rock with laughter.

* * *

Last January, it rained for days on end. When it finally cleared up, Old Queer Fish prepared to go fishing. Whenever there was a shoal, he would go along with the other fishermen. But at ordinary times, he would take his boat and go off by himself.

In the morning, he closed the door behind him and threw his net over the shoulder. As he stepped forward, as usual, he began to sing snatches of opera:

Rum tiddy tum, rum tiddy tum,
We fish on the river, my daughter and I.
Tra la la la,
Poor as we are,
They can laugh, they can chaff,
But we hold our heads high.

Arriving at the seashore, he gave his boat a shove and jumped in.

Rum tiddy tum,
Kueiying, my daughter, stand fast at the helm,
While I cast the net . . . .

Happily he sang away. "And where shall I cast my net?" he said to himself, looking about him.

It was a glorious day after the rain. The sky was particularly blue and so was the sea. The waves surged softly. The morning sun dyed the crest of the waves, and played on the grey eyebrows and short silvery beard of the old man. Today he seemed in particularly high spirits.

Not far away was a small desolate island. Fish and shrimps were plentiful there. Old Queer Fish decided to go there and fish.

The boat cut through the waves and soon he was alongside the island. As he stooped to put the net in order he hummed happily:

The trouble is that I'm old . . . .

As he was casting the net, he suddenly heard a swish—and from the thick of the reeds and rushes darted a bird. Old Queer Fish, his wits keen as usual, turned his head. The reeds and rushes parted, and out peered a man with a black face, revolver in hand.

"Hey, you!" shouted the intruder.

Old Queer Fish, his hands resting on the oars, thought to himself, "A man hiding on a desolate island these days is certainly up to no good." So he replied, "Sorry, mate, I'm just going back to breakfast." And he turned the boat to push off.

"You come here, or I'll kill you!"

"All right, all right, I'll come," said Old Queer Fish, pretending not to notice the threat. "Don't be so bad-tempered!"

"Come on then, and no nonsense! Or I'll blow your brains out!"

As the boat beached, the fellow strutted over with his gun. "Right!" he grunted. "Follow me!"

Old Queer Fish followed mutely, though not without giving him a savage glance. The fellow had an unprepossessing face, a pair of shifty eyes and a stubble of beard, and wore a trilby cocked to one side. He was thin as a lath, and dressed in a black jacket and trousers.

Old Queer Fish followed him for quite a long time through the thicket till they came to a spot where he found two other men lying on the grass, their faces pale as those of opium smokers.

"Oho," he thought, "so there's more of them! Looks as if my number's up!"

One of them was working a field telegraph, looking very worried and uneasy. The other, who had a mouthful of gold teeth, was puffing hard at a cigarette butt as he stared at Old Queer Fish.

"You're a spy of the Communists, aren't you?" he said at last.

Old Queer Fish wasn't expecting this.

"Me?" he said, "me! I'm just an ordinary fisherman. My family have been fishermen for generations."

"What's your name?"

"They call me Old Queer Fish."

"H'm," ejaculated the fellow with gold teeth, non-committally. "Tell me: where is the Communists' army? Where's their fleet? Tell the truth and we'll let you go."

Old Queer Fish kept calm, and thought furiously, "I know what your promises are worth. This isn't the first time I've had dealings with you gentry."

"Oh," he said aloud, pretending to be affable, "you mean the army? I don't know anything about it."

The fellow with gold teeth jumped up all of a sudden and landed a box on the old man's ears.

"Oh, so you don't know, eh?"

"No, I don't." Old Queer Fish bit his lips and glared at him. "Don't you bully me—I'm an old man!" he said with quiet dignity, but obviously growing angry. Secretly he vowed that he would repay them with interest if he got a chance.

The ruffians eyed the stubborn old man for quite a time. Then they decided to change their tactics. One of them said, in a wheedling tone, "We won't ill-treat you. Tell us what you know. Out with it all, and we'll make it worth your while. Look here!" And he fished a piece of bright bar gold out of his pocket.

"Trying to bribe me?" thought the old man, "you've come to the wrong house, you swine!"

He rubbed his hands, blinked his eyes and stepped forward curiously. "Is that real gold?" he asked.

"Sure it is—and it'll be yours if you tell us what you know." They shot one another a knowing glance. "Money makes the mare go," they thought.

"It would be worth having," said the old man wistfully, "but the trouble is, I don't know anything about the army."

"You won't need to go fishing any more once you have this gold. Time you retired, anyway. You ought to be enjoying yourself under your own vine and fig-tree." They tried their best to worm something out of him.

"But the trouble is that I don't know anything about the army. I can't make things up." The old man seemed very sorry for himself.

* * *

These intruders were, as Old Queer Fish had guessed, special agents who had been landed there stealthily one pitch-dark night by an American motor boat.

It was a desolate place. Weeds and rushes grew rank. Poisonous snakes were everywhere and seagulls shrieked like ghosts. Nobody lived on the island, and fishermen seldom came there. But to be on the safe side, they lay low and kept to the thickets. They intended to stay there, in the hope of kidnapping some fishermen and getting enough information out of him to satisfy their chief and get away from the damned place.

Even the weather seemed to have a down on them. On the very night they landed, pouring rain had soaked them to the skin, and rolling thunder and flashes of lightning scared them out of their wits. It was bitterly cold, and they lay around, all huddled up like mangy dogs.

The rain lasted for three days and they had finished all the food they had brought with them. But not a single fishing boat had made an appearance, nor had the motor boat that was to take them back. On top of everything they now looked like starving to death. Then, luckily they got this old man, but not a thing could they get out of him. They were bitterly disappointed and fretful.

"We've got to get away from this blasted place!" muttered the fellow with the gold teeth. He turned his fishy eyes on the old man with a gleam of hope, "Look, old 'un, take us to such-and-such an island."

The old man gave a turn. "Good Heavens!" he thought, "it's a nest of American and Kuomintang bandits. I wouldn't go there, not for the life of me!"

Aloud he said, "Well, you see how big my boat is, and I'm not all that strong. And if we run into a storm. . . ."

"Do as you're told. Now we've got you here, we'll take our chance."

"All right, if you insist. I'll get my boy to row you. How's that?"

"No—suppose you don't return?"

Old Queer Fish straightened his collar and said, "Let's do it this way, then. One of you go along with me to pick up my son. See, that's him over there, fishing." He pointed to a boat some way off. It was, of course, a flat lie. You remember his only son had been killed by the bandits.

They agreed, rather reluctantly.

The old man led the skinny agent to the boat. While he was working the oars, his face lit up and he smiled secretly.

The special agents left on the island dubiously watched them go.

As they reached the open sea, the old man had an idea. He'd see whether this skinny monkey could swim. Deliberately he rocked the boat. "Hold tight," he said, "it's a nasty sea!"

The agent shot a glance at him and sneered, "Think I'm a landlubber, do you?"

So that line wouldn't work. Evidently the fellow was an old hand at sea and could probably swim like a fish. "I must watch my step," he thought.

The old man could still see the two agents watching them. Adroitly he guided the boat round a big rock which hid them from view.

Then, all of a sudden, he became quite another man, his face cold as iron and his heart hard as steel.

Throwing all his weight to one side and giving a quick tug at the oars, he capsized the boat.

Skinny gave a yell, the whites of his eyes showing. He tried to grab something with his hands, but failed, and went under. When he reappeared, he struck out for the rock. The old man dived under him, and caught his legs in an iron grip. The special agent, as though held in a vice, was helpless. The old man dragged him down. He'd caught ducks that way in his young days. Skinny couldn't see a thing. The salt water forced itself up his nose and into his stomach. Soon he felt himself as heavy as lead, but the old man moved more easily than he did on land. Gripping the agent by the hair, he made him swallow a lot more water. Then he tied him up with his belt, swam back to the boat, retrieved his net and threw it round the agent. Of course, when you get into a net, the more you struggle, the tighter it gets.

Then the old man righted the boat, hauled his prisoner aboard, and rowed happily over to a People's Navy unit stationed on a nearby island.

* * *

The sun was at its zenith and the heat unbearable.

The two special agents gazed out to sea, sweat streaming down their bony faces.

"I wonder what can have happened. No sign of the boat for ages," said the one with the gold teeth.

"Do you think. . . ?"

"No, of course not. Our chap has a gun. . . ."

The other special agent grunted. He wasn't convinced.

The two of them went on waiting anxiously. Suddenly a noise was heard behind them.

"What's that?" ejaculated gold teeth, turning on his heel. He went pale. On a rock in front of him was a man with a revolver; and turning round, he found another covering him. He was just thinking about his own revolver and the chances of putting up a resistance when a shout rang out.

"Hands up!"

The special agents dropped their revolvers and put up their hands helplessly.

Several marines then made their appearance, and along with them came Old Queer Fish, looking as proud as a peacock. He stroked his beard, straightened his collar. Then he walked up to the special agent with the gold teeth and slapped him across the face several times.

"That's my own back, with interest," he bawled.

Old Queer Fish was smiling, but a terrible anger lurked under his smile. He was trying to follow up the cuffing with a sound kicking when one of the marines dragged him off.

"Stop kicking him, Grandad," he interposed. "We'll give what's due to him!"

But all the same he couldn't refrain from grabbing the special agent by the ears. "You dirty dog," he said, "recognize me? You asked where our troops were. Well, they're here—I brought them!"

The special agents looked utterly dejected.

"Come on, stir your stumps!" someone shouted, and off they were taken.

* * *

From then on, Old Queer Fish used to sing a new snatch of opera—the one about Huang Chung, the brave old general of the time of the Three Kingdoms:

Rum tiddy tum, tra la la la!
Huang Chung am I—though grey and old
I bravely take command,
All mounted on a war-horse bold,
A good sword in my hand.
Rum tiddy tum. . . .

And from then on, too, the young folks in the village didn't call him Old Queer Fish any more, but Grandad Chao, as a mark of greater respect.

NOTES AND VIEWS

The Asian-African Conference

The success of the Asian-African Conference was welcomed by the whole Chinese press. The Peking *People's Daily* on April 26 described it as "a reflection of the radical changes that have taken place in the Asian-African region and of the common aspirations of its peoples." The Chinese people, it declared, were ready to work with the other peoples of Asia and Africa to carry the resolutions of the conference into effect.

"The achievements both inside and outside of the conference hall," it said, "are due to the spirit of seeking common ground. They have shown the rest of the world how problems of common concern can be dealt with. If such negotiation is possible among the Asian-African countries, and if they can reach agreement on major problems, there is no reason why common efforts should not be made, in the same spirit, to solve European problems affecting international security. The peace-loving people the world over know that the Soviet Union is making such efforts, and they expect Western countries do the same."

The Peking *China Youth* of April 26 described the efforts of the Chinese delegation to bring the conference to agreement.

Premier Chou En-lai's speeches further exposed the nonsensical propaganda about the "threat of communism," citing concrete examples to show that friendly co-operation between countries with different outlooks and social institutions was possible. There was no attempt on China's part to subvert the governments of other countries. On the contrary, Premier Chou showed, and gave evidence to prove it, that it was actually the United States which was trying to subvert the governments of the People's Republic of China and other Asian-African countries.

Premier Chou En-lai's appeal for co-operation and unity was applauded by the Asian-African countries and the rest of the world. His speech pulverized the U.S. plot to undermine the conference from within.

China Youth also mentioned the conclusion of a treaty on dual nationality between the Governments of China and Indonesia. With the signing of this treaty, the problem of dual nationality of overseas Chinese is settled in a reasonable manner. The malicious propaganda by the United States, which tried to make this problem a pretext to undermine relations between China and other Asian countries, thus failed in its purpose.

At the meeting of the senior delegates of eight nations on April 23, Premier Chou En-lai officially declared that the Chinese Government was ready to enter into negotiations with the United States Government to discuss the question of relaxing tension in the Far East, especially in the Taiwan area. This statement was a big step towards relaxation of tension throughout the world. All this provided the conference with favourable conditions and atmosphere for making the conference a success.

"That," said the paper, "is why public opinion has spoken so highly of the attitude of the Chinese Government and its delegation. It considered such an attitude—insistence on peace and co-operation—one of the factors that made the conference such a success."

International Murder

Public opinion in China is insistent that the British authorities in Hongkong should make a thorough investigation into the sabotage of an Indian airliner chartered by the Chinese delegation to the Asian-African Conference. The plane went down in the sea on its flight to Indonesia, with a loss of 16 lives.

"The Air India International plane *Kashmir Princess* arrived in Hongkong from India without any incident," Chao Wen wrote in the Peking *People's Daily* of April 23. "But after its Hongkong stop-over an explosion suddenly occurred in the air. It is very important to note that this happened after prior notice by the Chinese Government to the British Government that U.S.-Chiang Kai-shek agents in Hongkong were preparing acts of sabotage. The matter is clear. The plotters were the secret-service agencies of the United States and the Chiang Kai-shek gang in Hongkong. The scene of the crime was Kai Tak airport, Hongkong. The perpetrators were secret agents of the United States and Chiang

Kai-shek who sneaked into the airport."

People all over China were fiercely indignant at this dastardly murder. In the big cities, mass meetings were held to mourn the victims and to voice wrathful protests. The Tientsin *Ta Kung Pao* voiced the common sentiment in its editorial of April 16: "The U.S. imperialists have played their filthiest trick. They have neither human feelings nor the slightest idea of international decency."

"This is a case of carefully planned murder," the *People's Daily* had written earlier, on April 13. "The American imperialists are particularly uneasy and angry because the People's Republic of China is taking part in the Bandung Conference. They fear that broad contacts at the conference will result in better understanding and friendship between China and many countries of Asia and Africa, and that these countries will begin to actively oppose American aggression against China and the whole U.S. war policy. This explains why the U.S. worked hand-in-glove with Chiang's agents in plotting the despicable murder of members of the Chinese delegation."

Hongkong has long been a nest of U.S. and Chiang agents, as many comments in the Chinese press pointed out. Since the liberation of China's mainland in 1949, the United States and the Chiang Kai-shek clique have used this British colony as a base for its intelligence network. Many spies and saboteurs caught in China testified that they had been sent in from Hongkong. The consular representation in Hongkong is abnormally large — with a consul-general and 35 consuls and vice-consuls, besides staffs of hundreds. This huge staff is obviously not needed to serve the needs of the few American civilians resident in Hongkong; its true role is to serve as a nucleus for under-cover activities.

It was also noted, in articles on this subject, that Chiang Kai-shek agents, trained and supported by the U.S., have carried on many lawless activities detrimental to public order in Hongkong itself. Hongkong newspapers have reported many cases in which they were proved to have been engaged in extortion, blackmail, robbery, murder and arson.

Examples included the assassination of the patriotic General Yang Chieh in September 1949; the destruction of seven Chinese civil airliners at Kai Tak airport in April 1950 and the seizure of five Chinese fishing craft two months later in Hongkong by U.S.-Chiang agents. The British authorities in Hongkong, by tolerating all these outrages, were in effect guilty of connivance.

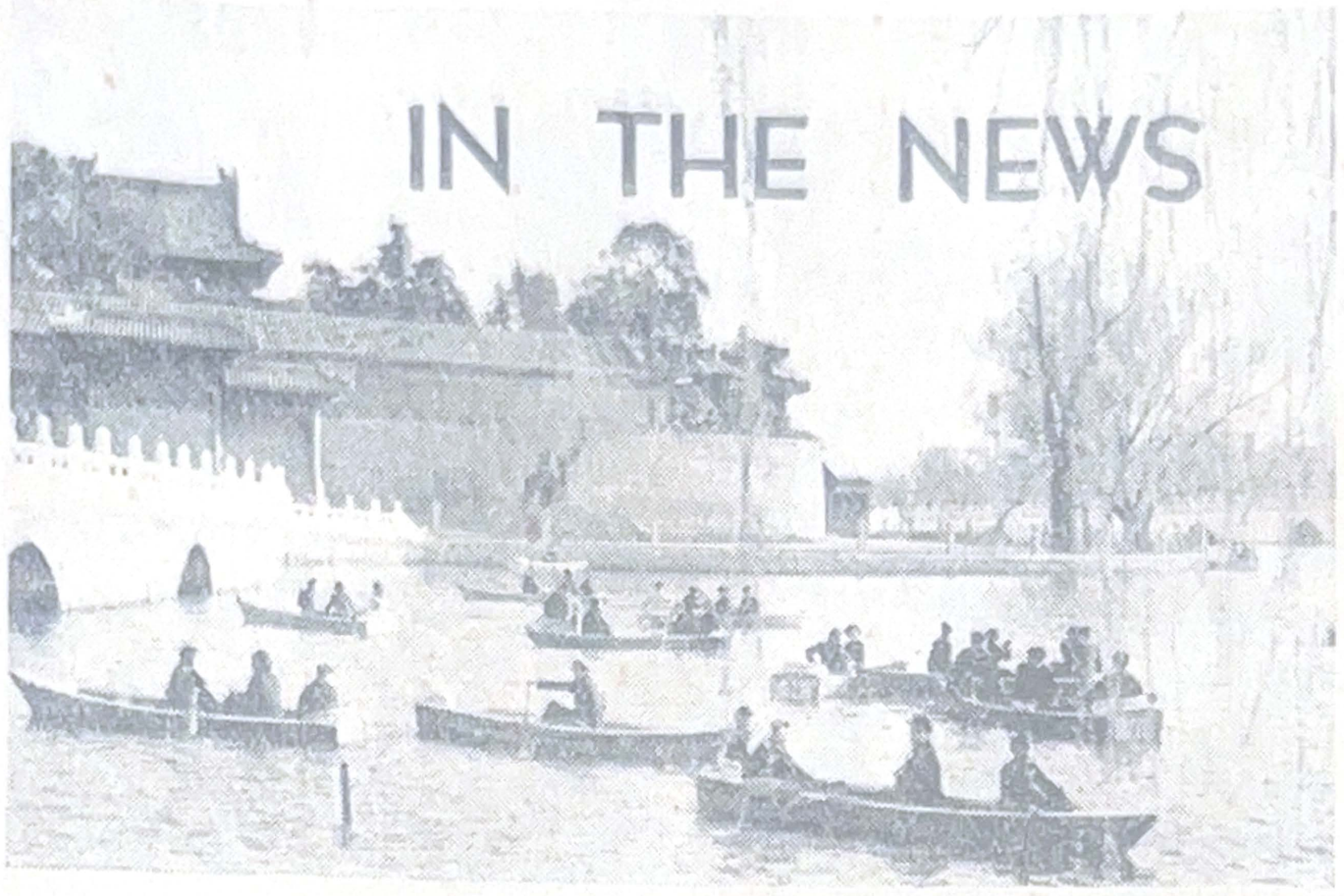
C.P.V. Withdrawals from Korea

Six divisions of Chinese People's Volunteers were withdrawn from Korea in recent weeks. Seven other divisions returned to China last autumn.

"This shows how sincerely the Chinese people are striving for a peaceful settlement of the Korean question and relaxation of tension in the Far East," wrote the Peking *Kwangming Daily* on April 23. "As everyone knows, the Chinese people have all along maintained that Korea's peaceful unification is a matter for the Korean people themselves to settle, and that all foreign armed forces should leave the country."

The paper stated, however, that America itself has been violating the Korean Armistice Agreements by shipping large quantities of armaments to reinforce the Syngman Rhee forces. U.S. Secretary of State Dulles has revealed the purpose. He has said repeatedly that it is U.S. policy to build three "fronts" against China: in South Korea, Taiwan and Southeast Asia. In the effort to renew war in Korea, the United States has intrigued to get the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, which was established to supervise the armistice, abolished, as well as to nullify the provisions of that document which prohibits the strengthening of the armed forces of either side in Korea.

IN THE NEWS



Lenin's Birth Commemorated

At a meeting on April 21 the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China commemorated the 85th anniversary of the birth of Lenin. It was attended by Liu Shao-chi, Chu Teh, Chen Yun and other members of the Party's Political Bureau and members and substitute members of the Central Committee. Deputies to the National People's Congress who happened to be in Peking, together with representatives of various ministries and commissions of the State Council, distinguished members of the various democratic parties and people's organizations, and people prominent in the fields of science, the arts, education and religion were also present. Academician Yudin, Soviet Ambassador to China, members of the Soviet Embassy, and Soviet experts in Peking also attended the meeting. More than 1,400 people were present. Yang Hsien-chen, President of the Marx-Lenin Institute, spoke on Lenin's ideas concerning the period of transition to socialism (see p. 7).

Meetings were held throughout the country to commemorate the anniversary. Exhibitions on Lenin's life and work were held in Peking, Tientsin, Shanghai and other cities. Cinemas showed films about Lenin, and the press carried special articles and photographs.

China and Indonesia Sign Dual Nationality Treaty

After a full exchange of views on the question of dual nationality, the governments of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Indonesia have concluded a treaty on the question of dual nationality. (For full text of the treaty see supplement.) Negotiations throughout were conducted in a spirit of friendly co-operation and in accordance with the principles of equality, mutual benefit and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. The treaty was signed by plenipotentiaries of the two governments at Bandung on April 22. It provides that persons who at present claim dual nationality—both that of the People's Republic of China and of the Republic of Indonesia—shall freely choose the nationality either of the People's Republic of China or of the Republic of Indonesia.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Chou En-lai and Sunarjo, Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two countries, both expressed the conviction that the signing of this treaty, concluded while the Asian-African Conference was in session, was an historic event in relations between Asian and African countries, and another good example of how difficult questions between Asian and African countries could be solved in a spirit of friendly negotiation.

Czechoslovak Exhibition in Peking

An exhibition showing the achievements of ten years of socialist construction in Czechoslovakia opened in Peking on April 15. Ludmila Jankovcova, Deputy Prime Minister of the Czechoslovak Republic and head of the Czechoslovak Government delegation which was in China at the invitation of the Chinese Government, and Li Hsien-nien, Vice-Premier of the People's Republic of China, spoke at the opening ceremony.

The exhibition is the largest and most comprehensive ever arranged abroad by the new Czechoslovakia. The pavilions showing Czechoslovak industrial and agricultural machinery, products of light industry and farms, and of the arts and handicrafts, give a bird's-eye view of the magnificent achievements of the Czechoslovak people in the ten years since their liberation. The halls and galleries are thronged with admiring visitors.

The Czechoslovak State Song and Dance Company and the Liberec Puppet Show Company are giving performances in Peking while the exhibition is being held.

Light Industries Forge Ahead

The Ministry of Light Industry reports that many targets set by its 1954 plan were overfulfilled. Total value of production was 4% above plan; costs were reduced by 7.3% compared with 1953, and profits were 13% more than planned. The targets for 33 out of 38 of the most important products were surpassed. Manufacture of 48 new products started last year. Most factories introduced new methods of planned production, and many have improved systems of management and administration.

In many branches of light industry production will be still greater in 1955. Another 200,000 tons of salt, 300 tons of sugar, 2,000,000 tubes of penicillin and 3,000 tons of newsprint will be produced.

More Power, More Clothes

A fine new modern heat and power station, fully automatic, is being built at Shihkiachwang, a growing textile centre. It will supply the city with all the power it needs for its rapidly growing industries, and on completion, the supply of power and heat will be enough to serve a city four times as large as Shihkiachwang is now. The station is to incorporate the latest Soviet ideas and operate with Soviet-made machinery. It will go into partial operation next year.

Building of the No. 3 State Cotton Mill—Peking's latest—has begun. It will be equipped with over 80,000 spindles and 3,600 looms designed and made in China. All machinery is automatic to a high degree and highly efficient. Working conditions in the shops will be up to the most modern standards. The mill will turn out calico, cotton serge and other kinds of cloth. Housing, a clinic and a school for the children of the workers and staff of the mill are to have a total floor space of 968,400 sq. feet. All buildings will be ready in 1957.

Wireless Sets for the Countryside

The State Council recently issued a directive that 10,000 radio sets were to be made available to the larger and more important farming, stock-breeding and fishing co-operatives up and down the country free of charge.

Of recent years the government has done a great deal to arrange broadcasts catering specially for country districts, with, for example, special regional weather forecasts, emergency storm and flood warnings, and useful information on sowing, cropping, harvesting and the hundred and one other things which intimately affect rural life, to say nothing of culture, education and entertainment. So far the value of these broadcasts has been limited because there were not enough receiving sets available. The new directive goes a long way to remedy this.

At the same time the State Council took another decision to distribute fifteen hundred free receiving sets in remote frontier provinces and areas where national minorities live, for example, in Sikang, Sinkiang, Kansu, the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, Chinghai, Kwangsi, Yunnan, Kweichow and on Hainan Island.

Fruit Growers in Conference

In late March and early April a national conference called by the Ministry of Agriculture met to discuss plans and policy for fruit production.

It was reported that the past five years had seen great developments. Not only had quantity gone up, but in some areas quality had improved remarkably. It was estimated that in 1954 China had over 1,600,000 acres of orchards producing something like three million tons of fruit.

Discussing how best to increase yields, the conference agreed that stress should be laid on expanding co-operatives and mutual-aid teams, and reclaiming waste and mountainous land so as to extend existing orchards and plant new ones. It worked out production targets for six main crops—oranges, apples, pears, grapes, bananas and pineapples—for the years 1955 to 1957, besides provisional targets to be achieved during the second five-year plan.

Cinema Shows in Remote Areas

Last year, cinema projection teams serving mines, factories, villages and settlements in mountainous and remote frontier districts of the country gave more than 1,100,000 shows to a total audience of 820 million people. Over 70% of these were workers and peasants. Many more teams were engaged in this work. The cultural departments of the People's Government alone organized 300 new teams in 1954.

According to plan more than 1,290,000 shows will be given this year to a total audience of 880 million people, an increase of 8% over last year. More than 800 new teams will be formed by the cultural departments of the government.

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Tibetan people listening to Peking

Woodcut by Liu Kuang

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