

# PEKING

June 2, 1959

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# REVIEW

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## China and the Soviet Union Forever Stand Together

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## U. S. Conspiracy in Laos

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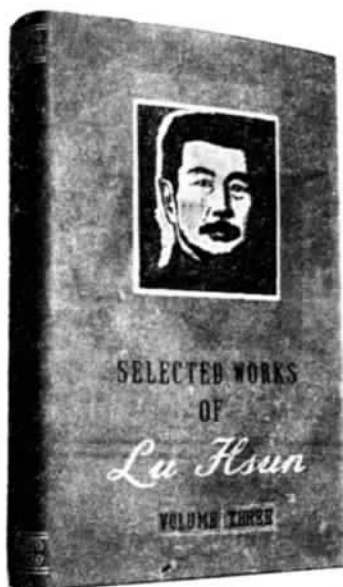
Four-Page Photo Supplement  
on Tibet

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*Literature, Music and  
Other Features*

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# SELECTED WORKS OF LU HSUN

(Vol. Three)

This volume contains ninety-eight of Lu Hsun's essays written during the Second Revolutionary Civil War (1927-36). They deal with key events in the life and struggles of the Chinese people during this period and reflect important developments in the outlook and thinking of the author.

Lu Hsun's essays have a style all their own. They epitomize his life-long struggle as a thinker and fighter, and the main events in China during the democratic revolution. Although many of his works have been translated, this is the first published selection of English translations of his essays from the above period. 344 pp.

## Coming Shortly

### THE *RAINBOW ROAD*

by HU CHI

Three Tibetan boys lived in a faraway village surrounded by snow-capped ranges. One day, they heard that the People's Liberation Army had built a rainbow road over the mountains so they decided to go and have a look at this wonderful thing. Slipping away from home they crossed the cold snow-white alps and the scorching desert. Braving hunger and the clutches of a turbulent river they persisted on their way and finally found the bright rainbow road that led to happiness.

*The Rainbow Road* is an ideal story for children. It is written in the style of a folk tale and vividly and beautifully describes the people and the landscape of Tibet. Imaginative illustrations add to the charm of this book.

160 pp.

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(1958 Selection)



This album contains 30 pictures painted by Chinese children ranging from three and a half to fifteen years of age. Selected from an Exhibition of Children's Paintings held in Peking, in June 1958, they faithfully reflect the life, feelings, thoughts and pursuits of the children of New China.

The pictures, printed by the offset process in full colour, are bound in book form.

Size: 26 cm. × 18.4 cm.

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## What Reform Means to Tibet

THE rapid defeat of the armed rebellion has cleared away the main obstacles standing in the way of badly needed democratic reforms in Tibet. Bright prospects are opened up for Tibet as an integral part of the Chinese People's Republic.

Under the guidance of the Central People's Government and with the full support of all the many nationalities of the Chinese nation, the Tibetans are today busily engaged in healing the wounds inflicted by the rebellion and building Tibet into a better place to live in. It was a bit behind the season, but farming is rapidly making up for lost time. According to latest reports, spring sowing has been completed in most of Tibet's rural areas. This remarkable success is due in large measure to the timely aid given by the government and the People's Liberation Army units in Tibet. Interest-free loans of seeds have been distributed. The P.L.A. extended an urgently needed helping hand by giving horses, farming and irrigation implements to the Tibetan peasants. P.L.A. officers and men have worked shoulder to shoulder with the Tibetans in the fields, teaching them improved farming techniques.

The enthusiasm of the Tibetans has been further stimulated by the policy that crops cultivated on lands owned by the rebels shall go to the tillers. For the first time in long centuries, the labouring people of Tibet are able to enjoy the fruits of their sweat and toil. They are not slow to appreciate the striking contrast between this historic change and their former desperate plight under serfdom.

A Hsinhua news story dated May 25 from Lhasa throws this contrast into sharp focus. The family of Pala Thubten-wenten, a big serf-owner and one of the rebel chieftains, owned more than 3,000 serfs. The serfs received only a quarter of a kilo of parched barley for food each day while the dogs of the Pala family were fed daily with 2.5 kilos of parched barley and buttered tea.

Dobje, whose family had been slaves of the Palas for three generations, told a horrible tale of ruthless exploitation. His grandpa had borrowed 30 *khal* of barley (12.5 kilos to a *khal*) from the Pala family at 20 per cent interest. The debt snowballed into a staggering load, under which the old man finally broke down and died. Dobje's father took over the burden. He fared no better and was soon worked to death. Dobje succeeded his father as slave to the Palas at the tender age of nine. For 44 years his daily meals consisted only of a little thin soup of parched barley. Poor Dobje had to beg more loans from the Pala family to keep his wife and eight children alive. His grandfather's debt of 30 *khal* of barley had zoomed to the incredible figure of 110,500 *khal* of grain by the time of the outbreak of the recent rebellion.

This heart-breaking story of the Dobje family is no isolated example. It explains why the overwhelming majority of the Tibetan people are in urgent need of democratic reform and have stood solidly behind the government in putting down the rebellion launched by the handful of big reactionary serf-owners and nobles at the instigation of foreign reactionaries.

The existence of serfdom has been the root cause of Tibet's stagnation and backwardness as well as of the suffering of the Tibetan people. Once this cause is removed, a bright future is definitely assured for Tibet.



# ROUND THE WEEK

## International Children's Day

On International Children's Day (June 1) this year, Chinese children received something special—an affectionate address from one of their best beloved elders, Tung Pi-wu, recently elected one of the two Vice-Chairmen of the Chinese People's Republic.

*Renmin Ribao* carried his message "To Our Little Friends," on May 30, with best wishes for them to grow up fast as fine builders of socialism. He told them of the care and love given them by the Communist Party and Chairman Mao and spoke of their happy life. "Perhaps you may not realize all this," he said, "and if that is so, ask your grandpa or grandma, your father or mother, or elderly neighbours. Ask them how things were when they were your age. Ask them whether children in those days were like you today who all enjoy square meals every day, have good clothes to wear and a chance to go to school; ask them whether they were like you today who have not a care in the world, happy at study and play." He also said that they should compare their life today with the conditions under which children are living in capitalist countries, and then they would see how fortunate they are to live in such a happy society as ours is. "When you understand all this, then you will know that you should make the most of your time and not waste the precious days of happy childhood," he reminded them.

He gave them six maxims for guidance: "First, love your motherland and your people; love study and do manual work; love your organizations—the Young Pioneers, the Communist Youth League and the Communist Party. Second, be honest and upright. Don't tell lies either at school or at home; learn to be good children who do not deceive others. Third, make a firm resolve to learn to do something well, and prepare yourselves to work steadfastly for socialism. Fourth, obey your parents and teachers; they are working hard together with everyone else in the country to do away with China's economic backwardness and create conditions in which you can develop a sound mind and body. Respect your parents and teachers. Fifth, live thriftily and simply and be modest and sincere before others. Sixth, firmly refrain from doing anything that might harm the cause of socialism and stand up against all our enemies and everything that is anti-social."

As we go to press, China's children everywhere are making ready to celebrate their own festival. This is a day of enjoyment, primarily for boys and girls, but adults join in the fun—organizing children's parties, putting on special shows and games for them, and, not least, in giving them gifts. Department stores, toy bazaars and book stores are crowded with mothers picking and choosing gifts. Entertainment workers everywhere have prepared bumper programmes for the children this year.

## Dialectics in Farming

In a recent issue of *Renmin Ribao*, there appeared an article discussing "Dialectics and Agricultural Production." The writer has made a detailed study of the dialectical relationship between the Eight-Point Charter for Agriculture and farming, in other words, between a proper application of measures of soil improvement, liberal fertilizing, irrigation, close planting, use of quality seeds, plant protection, field care and tools reform and the achievement of high yields.

By now everybody is convinced that close planting is an important measure for high yields. But how far a given plot of land should be exploited, whether, say, 30,000 or 50,000 rice seedlings should be planted to a *mu*, is very much a question of dialectics to be considered taking all other factors into account. Planting 30,000 rice seedlings means aiming at a lower rate of land utilization, but 50,000 might be too high a rate. To settle complacently for the smaller figure might mean above all failing to make use of the potentialities of the land to the full; on the other hand, aiming too high, planting too densely, and so depriving plants perhaps of enough sunshine and ventilation, might even reduce instead of raising output. Somewhere between the two there is a rational density that guarantees optimum yield. To the Chinese farmer, therefore, close planting is *rational* close planting; the operative word being "rational," meaning applied dialectics, considering the interaction of all relevant factors. For what is rational in one field may be irrational in another with different conditions.

The same principles hold true for the application of fertilizer and the other measures. There is a dialectical relationship between all eight measures. While each of the eight measures must be considered independently, they interact and

must be considered in relation to the actual effect they will have on each other. Last year the experience of various parts of the country in raising record harvests proved time and again that high yields resulted where the eight measures as a whole had been correctly, dialectically applied.

At present the peasants are busily gathering in the summer harvests and working on the summer cultivation, but they are taking time out to study carefully this question of the dialectical application of the eight basic measures for increasing output. They are going thoroughly into the experience gained in the big leap of 1958, and this year too, to see how further increases can be obtained by more skilful application of the Charter. In several places, professors and students of agriculture working on the farms are helping the peasants in this work of scientific summarizing.

## Glaciers in Man's Service

Of China's five autonomous regions, including that being prepared for Tibet, Sinkiang is far and away the largest. Covering an area of 1,600,000 square kilometres in the far west, it is bigger than Britain, France, Germany and Italy combined. But rich as it is in many other respects, this land of 13 nationalities, with the Uighurs forming the largest single national group, is not, as far as climate goes, so blessed by nature. Aridity is a big problem here. Large areas have hardly any rain. The region boasts the hottest spot in all China; when the heat is really on in the Turfan Depression the mercury climbs up to 46 degrees Centigrade.

The people of Sinkiang have long dreamed of finding some way of alleviating the rigours of their climate. In the past few years they have put a big effort into afforestation and the building of reservoirs. But now a grander scheme to remake nature has been born—to use Sinkiang's glaciers on a planned basis to water the fields and soften the severity of the dry air and parched winds that assail much of these parts. Under the direction of the Academy of Sciences a great programme to explore the glacier areas in the Tianshan Mountains is now in full swing. Seven teams, totalling over a hundred scientists and explorers, are making the first scientific survey of the "Mountains of Heaven"—the Tianshan range, to ascertain the lie of the main glaciers and study the hydrological and meteorological conditions of these mountain areas whose peaks soar 5,000 to 6,000 metres above sea level.

It has already been established that the glacier areas in the Tianshan, Kunlun, Karakoram and Altai Mountains total something like 10,000 square kilometres with a store of water of not less than 1,000,000 million cubic metres. Properly controlled and used this vast reservoir of water can work wonders. Sinkiang's 300 rivers depend for their water to a large extent on the melting of ice and snow in the glacier areas. The same can be said for the many oases around the rim of the Taklamakan. A great deal of this water now runs to waste in the desert sands. Properly stored and released at need along rivers and canals it could go a long way to nourishing huge tracts of fertile land which have hitherto remained undeveloped owing to lack of water.

A thoroughgoing scheme to harness its glacial waters would give Sinkiang a more reliable source of irrigation than Mother Nature's fickle rains. Its agricultural output could then be raised many fold.

### Commune Histories: A New Type of Reportage

With the publication of the "History of the Wheatfield People's Commune" in the current number of *Harvest*, the popular literary quarterly issued in Shanghai, a new type of reportage has made its appearance in Chinese literature. It is a companion piece to the factory histories (see *Peking Review*, No. 20, May 19, 1959) born in the big leap forward of 1958, but as chronicles of men and events, rural as distinct from urban, the histories of the people's communes are painted on a much larger canvas. In the case of the Wheat-

field Commune it covers as wide a field as seventy-four villages in north Hopei.

This history is the collective work of a small group of young writers, "new recruits to the craft of Chinese letters" as they describe themselves, who went to Huailai County to temper themselves in manual labour. Huailai lies northwest of Peking and is only a few hours away by rail. There they fell in love with Wheatfield and came to look upon the commune, to which they had been admitted as members, as their second home. What better turn could they do their commune than tell its story? And wasn't the Union of Chinese Writers at the time calling on its members to write the story of the people's communes? So, as their spell of work on the farm came to an end, they embarked upon their new venture—writing the history of the place and its people they have come to know so well.

Wheatfield is one of the six people's communes in Huailai County. It was founded on August 31, 1958, by the amalgamation of 36 farm co-ops. It has a population of 36,000 and cultivates 180,000 *mu* of land lying mostly on the hills; it operates factories and workshops, runs schools and clinics. The members of the Wheatfield Commune, as indeed of all the other communes in Huailai, have travelled a long way since those lean years under the Kuomintang. Until liberation came the people in these parts never knew what it was to be properly fed and warmly clothed in winter.

Huailai, always a bone of contention in the civil war days because of its strategic importance, never got a chance to develop. The scars of war cut deep into its body and disrupted its growth. Although the many rivers flowing through

the county could and should have benefited farming, there were no proper water conservancy works. Most of them ran dry in the winter and spring months and in the summer overflowed to swamp the farmlands. Landlord reaction held sway. Poverty dogged its inhabitants. There seemed to be no end to their suffering until one memorable night in 1939 a unit of the Eighth Route Army—predecessor of the P.L.A.—passed through Huailai and told them there was something worth their while to live and fight for. The seed of revolution was sown. It grew. It was cruelly battered by the dark forces of reaction but it weathered the storms to flower in the rebirth of China in 1949.

This chronicle of 20 years is written with great feeling and sharply analytical eyes. It goes on to tell the story of how, led by the Communist Party, the people of Huailai first battled the Japanese invaders and then the people's enemies at home; of how, after liberation, they organized themselves for greater production and a better life, first through the mutual-aid teams, then the farm co-ops and finally the all-embracing people's communes. Much of the latter sections centre around the establishment of the Wheatfield Commune, the many new ways of doing new things, the inspiring examples of new-found energies, the many benefits that came with the commune.

The significance of this book is not confined to one commune, one county. It illustrates bedrock truths of today. Its reader will find that two facts stand out in bold relief: the strong, flesh-and-blood ties between the Communist Party and the peasants and the inevitability of the rural areas in China taking the path of the people's communes.



At the height of the big leap forward last year several leading artists visited Huailai. Here are reproductions of two drawings by Yeh Chien-yu: a general impression of the new Huailai—and a village street gay with poems and songs written by the commune members themselves

# China and the Soviet Union Forever Stand Together

by SOONG CHING LING

**S**INO-SOVIET friendship, which has now proved to be a bulwark of peace and progress, has a long history. When its background is fully appreciated, it is understandable why after China's liberation from imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic-capitalism, the relations between our two peoples and countries took on such significance. In fact the full blooming of the fraternal relations between our two countries is one of the most important fruits of our revolution.

We can say that the intimate relations between our two countries in the modern era go back to the beginning of the century. The Chinese people were about to enter a new upsurge in our effort to throw imperialism and feudalism off our backs. It was just at this time that the 1905 Revolution in Russia took place, awakening Chinese revolutionaries to a similar fight taking place there. We know, too, that the activities of Sun Yat-sen and the events of the 1911 Revolution in China aroused Lenin's interest and sympathies.

Following the momentous October Socialist Revolution in 1917, the mutual understanding and concern between the Soviet and Chinese peoples were swiftly developed. The relations between the two countries underwent a fundamental change. The Soviet Republic repudiated all the unequal treaties which tsarist Russia had forced upon China. This made a deep impression on the minds of the Chinese people, our nation then still suffering the ignominy of being carved into "spheres of influence" by the imperialist powers.

Of decisive importance, however, was the fact that direct contact between the progressive forces in both countries was now possible. As Chairman Mao Tse-tung has said, the salvos of the October Socialist Revolution brought to the Chinese revolution the great truths of Marxism-Leninism. This was reflected in the May Fourth Movement of 1919, which was the starting point of the new democratic revolution under the leadership of the working class. The Chinese Communist Party was founded in 1921, and from that point on was the leading contingent in the fight for China's freedom from oppression. Sun Yat-sen saw in the Russian example the dawn of mankind and the hopes for success in his long struggle on behalf of the Chinese people. This led to his accepting the assistance of the Chinese Communist Party and the formulation of his three new policies, alliance with Soviet Russia, co-operation with the Chinese Communist Party, and the mobilization of the workers and peasants.

On this platform, the Chinese revolution once again gathered momentum, and in 1925 our workers and peasants began to sweep the reactionary forces from the land. The Soviet people gave us their full sympathy and support. Complete victory was within our grasp when the

Kuomintang betrayed the behests of Sun Yat-sen and the revolution, showing their inability as a class to carry out to the end the aims of our struggle against imperialism and feudalism. Counter-revolution set in, and in the white terror that followed, the revolutionary solidarity of the Soviet and Chinese peoples was sealed with the blood of some of our best sons and daughters. These were times that tried men's souls. However, even in the darkest days, not for one instant did Soviet encouragement to us cease, nor did their belief in the Chinese people's undaunted spirit waver. The Soviet people knew that the revolutionary tide in China would inevitably rise again.

When the Japanese militarists invaded our land, neither any European nation nor the U.S.A. would help China (even under Chiang Kai-shek's regime) to fight the Japanese invasion in the early years of the war, but the Soviet Government gave China airplanes and sorely needed munitions. Thus from the very beginning the Soviet Union actively supported the anti-Japanese struggle of the Chinese people. The Chinese people, under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, were carrying out a determined fight to drive the enemy from our soil. In the final days of World War II, the valiant Red Army of the Soviet Union routed the most formidable Japanese military force, and along with the Chinese people's armies put an end to the Japanese imperialist aggression.

All during the Liberation War that followed, when the Kuomintang against the will of the people restarted the civil war and was selling the country to the American imperialists in an effort to save its own skin, the Soviet people continued to support our revolutionary cause. With us they rejoiced when the final victory was won in 1949. The Soviet Union was the first nation to recognize the People's Republic of China.

**A**FTER our liberation in 1949, all the barriers and restrictions which before had been erected between China and the Soviet Union were unceremoniously tossed aside, and our two countries stood shoulder to shoulder as brothers before the world. This symbolized a major turning point in history. This became a determining factor in the course of human development. With this new strength, we now champion the cause of man's progress — of peace, democracy and socialism.

The relations between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, as in the case of relations between all socialist countries, arise from the socialist nature which prevails in our nations. There is no private ownership, no national oppression and no exploitation of man by man. Therefore, there are no social classes or groups which seek profit or advantage by attacking others, seizing colonies, raw material sources or markets, promoting con-



licts between nations so as to plunder and enslave them. All these are methods which are the essence of capitalism, and which it uses on every occasion. They are simply impossible in the relations between socialist states, or between socialist states and any other country of whatever social system.

The policies which guide the relations between the Soviet Union and China are representative of the new and higher type of contact between states and peoples, which are commensurate with the new era into which man stepped with the appearance of the great Soviet Union and a succession of other socialist countries. The characteristics of these new relations are as follows:

Complete equality between nations;

Respect for national sovereignty;

Mutual confidence, fraternal co-operation and mutual benefit;

Joint actions based on mutually arrived at decisions derived from common Marxist-Leninist world outlook.

**L**OOKING back over the past ten years, we can see that following these principles has brought the Soviet and Chinese peoples ever closer together, enabling them to draw such material and spiritual sustenance from one another that the progress of our two nations under the leadership of our Communist Parties has been phenomenal.

This concept of international brotherhood born of our proletarian point of view was embodied in the historic Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance signed in February 1950. It was reiterated in the Joint Declaration of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the U.S.S.R. issued in October 1954 and the Communiqué on the Meeting Between Mao Tse-tung and N. S. Khrushchov issued in August 1958. It was manifested by the large-scale economic and technical aid rendered China by the Soviet Union, which was so vital in the restoration of our national economy, and then in the industrialization of our land now in process as part of our planned steps to socialism. It was materialized in a myriad of other ways and through a score of channels, as the cultural liaison between the Soviet and Chinese peoples has been broadened day by day.

In the past ten years, the last of the above principles has been faithfully adhered to as the Soviet Union and China have spared no effort to enhance the fraternal bonds of the great socialist camp. We have constantly fought for, and preserved the purity of Marxism-Leninism, especially against the onslaughts of the modern revisionists as typified by the leadership of the Yugoslav League of Communists. The historic 1957 Moscow Declaration of Communist and Workers' Parties of twelve socialist countries was a product of this staunch position. This Declaration, which sums up the experiences of the various Parties in winning their revolutions and in the building of socialism in their respective countries, is of the utmost importance to the world working-class movement, and its validity will become even more apparent and outstanding as time goes on.

The unceasing progress and the healthy development of the socialist camp has been an accomplishment of prime magnitude. It is a vivid demonstration, a living example of the superiority of the socialist way of life over the capitalist way, which limps from crisis to crisis, bringing untold hardships to the working people in those lands.

The impeccable way in which the socialist camp handles its relations with other countries, and especially the just position it takes on every issue, makes it stand out as an uncompromising foe of retrogression and exploitation of man by man in any form. It is the main force in the world today defending the integrity of every people, the sovereignty of every nation and the security of all mankind.

It is the power of the socialist camp combined with the peace sentiment of the peoples everywhere which has elevated the desire for world tranquility to the top position over the desires of that handful of monopoly capitalists in the West for war. Because of the existence of the socialist camp and that overwhelming sentiment, we can proclaim that war is not inevitable, and that if the peoples continue vigorously to defend their rights to live in peace, war can be checked for all time as an instrument of aggressive policy.

On every vital issue and problem in international affairs during the past ten years, the Soviet Union and China have maintained a unity of views and advocacy. We have sternly opposed imperialist aggression wherever it appeared. We have remained as the reliable and loyal friends of every Asian, African and Latin American people in their resistance to imperialist encroachment and splitting attempts. We have time and again put forward reasonable proposals to solve every outstanding international question, earnestly seeking negotiations rather than resort to force, in the face of Western rigidity and antagonism to the ideas of peaceful settlement. We were signatories to the Peace Manifesto drawn up in Moscow by the Communist and Workers' Parties in 1957. China was one of the originators, and both the Soviet Union and China agree to uphold without reservation the famous Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and the Ten Principles of Bandung. Both our countries have sought wide trade and cultural interchange between all nations as a means of cultivating mutual understanding and precluding the possibility of war.

**T**HE foreign policy of a country is merely an extension of its domestic policy, which reflects its character and action. It is obvious from the tremendous plans the Soviet Union and China have underway that we seek peace on the basis of justice for all peoples, since at home we build for the happiness and prosperity of our own peoples. And in keeping with the distinctive feature of the collective spirit of our societies, we willingly share our progress with our friends everywhere, contributing to their independent national development.

The Chinese people feel that our own road is the only correct one to travel, and as a result of these ten years' experience we have learned that Sino-Soviet friendship is a basic ingredient for our own continuous advance. It is the guarantee that we will be able to maintain a high rate of development and to create the necessary conditions for the speedy completion of socialist construction and then to start on the transition from this first stage to the second stage of communism in not too long a time in history.

Today our two nations and peoples are stronger and more united than ever before. Our friendship is indestructible. Along with the rest of the socialist world, we are standing in the very forefront of all progress. We strive for the earliest triumph of socialism over capitalism

in peaceful competition, knowing that this has the greatest bearing on mankind's destiny, heralding the end of the capitalist system and imperialism, signifying the coming liberation of further hundreds of millions of people throughout the world from the miseries of oppression, war and economic upheaval which have plagued them for centuries on end.

## A Record of Intervention

# U.S. CONSPIRACY IN LAOS

by SU MIN

THE situation in Laos is taking a dangerous turn. The Sananikone government, having unilaterally repudiated the Geneva agreements in February, is now starting a civil war. Arrests, repression and outright murder of former resistance fighters went on for months, but in the middle of May, the Laotian government troops, without any justification whatsoever, suddenly encircled and launched attacks against the former Pathet Lao fighting units which it openly announced would be "treated as rebels." At the same time, Prince Souphanouvong and other patriotic Laotian leaders were placed under house surveillance. These perfidious acts have scrapped the 1954 Geneva agreements on Laos and torn up the 1956 and 1957 agreements between the Royal Laotian Government and the Pathet Lao forces. Civil war in Laos is being rekindled. Tension in Indo-China is being further aggravated.

### U.S. Colonialists Butt In

The U.S. imperialists are directly responsible for the present course of developments. The Geneva agreements signed in 1954, aside from stipulating the withdrawal of the French colonialist troops and ensuring the independence of Laos, also guaranteed its non-participation in any military bloc and non-interference in its internal affairs by any foreign countries. If these provisions had been strictly observed, an independent and peaceful Laos would be assured, paving the way for the realization of the Laotian people's aspirations for a united and democratic motherland and the development of their national economy. Washington pledged at Geneva to "refrain from the threat or the use of force to disturb" the agreements, but in actual fact, it interpreted the occasion as a golden opportunity to step into the shoes of the French colonialists and turn this landlocked country into a U.S. colony and military base. Outright diplomatic pressure and threats, military and economic "aid," cloak-and-dagger subversion, in short every "cold-war" weapon known to Washington, was used to obstruct a peaceful and just political settlement in Laos and to gain control of the Laotian Government. The record of the past five years shows the dirty meddling of the U.S. imperialists in every turn of events in Laos.

Washington set out to draw Laos into its military bloc immediately after the Geneva Conference restored peace in Indo-China. The ink on the Geneva agreements had hardly dried when in August 1954, with the U.S.

The Chinese people are proud that our liberation has given us this historical role to play alongside of the Soviet people. We pledge our unreserved support to the two great Communist Parties in our two fraternal countries. It is they who are leading nearly 900 million people to socialism and communism, a new era for peace and progress of the entire world.

taking the lead, the notorious Manila Treaty was signed which arbitrarily put Laos within the "area of protection" of SEATO. At the same time, the most reactionary elements in the Laotian Government were goaded by Washington into launching attacks against the Pathet Lao forces led by Prince Souphanouvong which were concentrated in the areas of Sam Neua and Phong Saly in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva agreements.

The U.S. imperialists wanted by all means to provoke a civil war in Laos because by making "Laotians fight Laotians" they hoped to kill two birds with one stone: to annihilate the staunchest patriotic force in Laos—the Pathet Lao forces—and use military "aid" to gain complete control over Laos. When the Laotian Minister of Defence Kouvoravong opposed this U.S. scheme, he was murdered in September 1954 by a U.S. gunman. A cabinet crisis was created and the pro-American Katay Sasorith was installed as Prime Minister. While Katay made the pretense of negotiating with the Pathet Lao forces, government paratroopers were dropped in the Phong Saly and Sam Neua areas and a full-scale attack was launched against the Pathet Lao forces. In violation of the Geneva agreements, a National Assembly election was held with the exclusion of the Pathet Lao forces.

It was about this time that U.S. "aid" began to pour into Laos. A U.S. "International Co-operation Administration" mission was set up in Vientiane in March 1955. In that year alone, some 50 million U.S. dollars worth of "aid" was given. Military equipment to arm and expand the Laotian army took up four-fifths of this "aid," while the rest was also used mostly for military purposes. The expenditures for the Laotian police, for example, were paid under the heading of "technical aid." Even "economic aid" was used mostly to build strategic highways and airfields.

### Phouma-Souphanouvong Agreement

Yet despite all this, Katay Sasorith's military attacks failed. The civil strife was so unpopular that Katay Sasorith was forced to resign. In February 1956, Prince Souvanna Phouma became Prime Minister again and negotiations with the Pathet Lao forces were renewed in August of that year.

The negotiations dragged on for more than four months because of U.S. obstruction and intervention. From July to October, U.S. Joint Chief of Staff Admiral Rad-



ford, U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander Admiral Stump and a host of other U.S. officials went to Vientiane to put pressure on the Phouma government. The Chiang Kai-shek remnant forces on the Burma-Thailand-Laos border were used to stir up trouble in Laos and pro-American elements were directed to carry out splitting activities. Despite all this, negotiations were successfully concluded. A Phouma-Souphanouvong joint statement was issued in December 1956. They agreed in principle on the formation of a coalition government following which the Pathet Lao forces would become a political organization with the equal rights of other political parties. The agreements also provided that the government and forces in Sam Neua and Phong Saly be placed under this coalition government and that members of the Pathet Lao should enjoy full political rights. It was stipulated that a foreign policy of positive neutrality should be followed.

### Washington Steps Up Pressure

This of course incurred Washington's wrath. U.S. diplomats made it known that if members of Pathet Lao were admitted to the Laotian Government, U.S. "aid" would cease. When this threat failed, Dulles clamoured at the SEATO conference in Canberra in March 1957 that the situation in Laos was "serious," that "international communism" was continuing its support to the Lao "rebel forces" (Pathet Lao forces). This was followed by even more overt U.S. pressure. U.S. "aid" was cut down to a trickle with the result that the Phouma cabinet was unable to pay salaries to government employees.

This outright interference, though it succeeded in forcing Phouma's resignation for three months, was unable to override the strong sentiment of the Laotian people for peace, unification and neutrality. Phouma headed the government again in August, and in November reached agreement with the Pathet Lao fighting units on concrete measures for a rapprochement. In the same month, a coalition government was formed, and Prince Souphanouvong and another Pathet Lao leader became cabinet ministers.

The formation of the coalition government, supported as it was by the Laotian people, made the United States even more frantic in its intervention. The U.S. State Department hurried to express "serious concern" the day after the coalition government was installed. Phouma was asked to go to the United States to explain the situation and Western newspapers openly described this as "a talking down to the Laotians"; weapons were supplied to the reactionary elements in Laos to stir up trouble in the by-elections stipulated by the 1957 agreements. Thanks to the determined struggle of the Laotian people and the efforts of the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Laos formed under the Geneva agreements, this U.S. plot too came to nought. The Neo Lao Haksat Party (Laotian Patriotic Party, the political organization of the former Pathet Lao forces), registered a significant victory despite all restrictions, obstruction and sabotage by the reactionaries in Laos.

To stem this democratic trend in Laos, Washington again used its "aid" to bring pressure to bear on the Laotian Government. Although it dared not stop the "aid" for fear that Laos would turn to the socialist countries for help, Washington insisted that the *kip* (Laotian currency) be depreciated from 35 to one U.S. dollar to

100 to 1. At the same time, a host of reactionary parties, including a so-called "Laotian Committee for the Defence of National Interests," were organized. Under such conditions, the Phouma cabinet was again forced to resign and in August 1958 the right-wing Sananikone government was formed excluding the Laotian Patriotic Party. From that time, the situation began to deteriorate and U.S. interference increased with each passing month.

At U.S. instigation, the Sananikone government began to sabotage the Geneva agreements and the 1956 and 1957 agreements stage by stage. Persecution of members of the former Pathet Lao forces was stepped up and those who were given posts during the period of the coalition government were removed from office.

Simultaneously with this, numerous U.S. agencies were established in many parts of the country while U.S. arms poured into Laos. Laotian airfields and other military centres were covertly turned into SEATO military bases and personnel from U.S. Clarke Air Base in the Philippines were stationed there.

Sananikone took a series of measures in complete contravention to the policy of positive neutrality to which the Laotian Government was pledged. Egged on by Washington, Laotian government troops repeatedly crossed into the territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam to create border incidents. The Chiang Kai-shek remnant troops using Laos as a base were ordered to carry out repeated harassing activities against China's borders. U.S. personnel were active in northern Laos. All this was of course engineered by the U.S. imperialists as part of their overall scheme to seize Indo-China and create tension throughout Southeast Asia.

Under U.S. prodding, the Sananikone government used the border incidents with Democratic Viet-nam as an excuse to demand from the National Assembly a year of extraordinary power to reorganize the government, revise the constitution and hold new elections. When it reorganized the cabinet in January this year, seven members of the reactionary "Laotian Committee for the Defence of National Interests" were included. Three of these were high-ranking officers of the army.

### Geneva Agreements Repudiated

With these steps as the groundwork, Washington then directed Sananikone to come out on February 11 with the unilateral statement that Laos was no longer bound by the Geneva agreements and a refusal to allow the International Commission to resume work. This statement was preceded by the clamour of the Laotian Army Chief of Staff Rattikul that Laos was "in the area of protection" of SEATO. When these statements are taken together with the U.S. State Department announcement that the U.S. was free to set up a military mission in Laos, and the April SEATO conference in Wellington at which the Laotian situation was discussed in secret, the full significance of these moves becomes obvious. Washington wants to scrap the Geneva agreements completely so that it can liquidate the Pathet Lao forces and turn Laos into a *de facto* U.S. base.

In the course of its penetration into Laos, U.S. "aid" has played an especially vicious role. Like an octopus, Washington extended its tentacles far to take hold of the Laotian economy. This accomplished, it repeatedly uses the threat to cut "aid" as a weapon to force the Laotian

Government to fall into line. Altogether, more than 135 million U.S. dollars worth of U.S. "aid" was extended to Laos during the more than three years between 1955 and 1958. More than five-sixths of this sum was used to finance the army of over 30,000 men, including the police force. Since Washington controls the purse strings, U.S. advisers have in fact been directing the Laotian army. This was supplemented by U.S. economic "aid" in the form of surplus goods flooding the Laotian market. Most of these, like passenger cars and other luxury goods, have no relationship to the needs of the people. On the contrary, they have dealt crushing blows to the few Laotian national enterprises in existence. Hand-spun cloth used to be very popular in Laos, yet the import of U.S. textiles went up from 3 million U.S. dollars in value in 1955 to nearly 9 million in 1957, causing a slump in the Laotian cloth industry. Coffee was formerly an important Laotian export item, but because of the dumping of U.S. canned coffee in Vientiane, local production dropped sharply. The net results of U.S. "aid" are stagnation of the Laotian economy, great dependence on the United States, a terrible imbalance in foreign trade (imports were 40 times greater than exports in 1957), and galloping inflation. The Laotian people have to shoulder the burden of all this, while a new crop of comprador bourgeoisie closely attached to Washington has been created. A large number of new banks and companies

dealing solely in this type of business, such as the "Lao-Thai Bank," "The Lao-Thai Monopole," the "Air Laos," etc., have shot up during the past few years. This is the social base for the extremely pro-American reactionary group now in power in Laos.

### China's Legitimate Concern

In the five years since the Geneva Conference of 1954, the U.S. imperialists have constantly pushed their conspiracy to turn Laos into their colony and a military base directed against China, the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam and the countries of Southeast Asia. By openly scrapping the Geneva agreements and launching attacks on the Pathet Lao forces, the Sananikone government is rekindling the fires of civil war and threatening peace in Indo-China. As a guarantor of the Geneva agreements and as a neighbour of Laos threatened by the U.S. conspiracy, China of course is vitally concerned. The fact that Chiang Kai-shek remnant forces are operating against China from Laotian territory is another factor underlying China's concern with developments there.

China on several occasions has made statements condemning the U.S. schemes in Laos and warning the Sananikone government of the grave consequences of its moves. The Chinese people cannot regard the grave situation in Laos with indifference.

### Document: Situation in Laos

## Notes to Geneva Conference Chairmen

*Foreign Minister Chen Yi has written to the Co-Chairmen of the 1954 Geneva Conference on Indo-China concerning the Royal Laotian Government's armed attack on the former Pathet Lao fighting units and its placing of the leaders of the Neo Lao Haksat Party under close surveillance and house arrest. The identical letters, delivered on May 25, were addressed to Andrei Gromyko, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., and Selwyn Lloyd, British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. The main text of the letters follows. — Ed.*

I HAVE the honour to draw your attention to my letter to you dated February 19, 1959 on the unilateral tearing up of the Geneva agreements by the Kingdom of Laos. Since then the situation in Laos, instead of showing any improvement, has continued to deteriorate. Recently, owing to the actions of the Royal Laotian Government designed to eliminate the former Pathet Lao fighting units, the situation has grown even more serious. In utter disregard of the Geneva agreements and the agreements concluded between the Royal Laotian Government and the former Pathet Lao fighting units in December 1956 and November 1957, the Phoui Sananikone government on May 11, 1959 ordered the disarming of the two battalions of the former Pathet Lao fighting units. At the same time, the army and police of the Royal Laotian Government surrounded the residences of the leaders of the Neo Lao Haksat Party and the former Pathet Lao fighting units, placing them under close surveillance and house arrest.

These constitute the gravest violations of the Geneva agreements.

At the direct instigation and with the direct support of the United States the Royal Laotian Government has taken its present measures against the Neo Lao Haksat Party and the former Pathet Lao fighting units. These actions are rekindling the flames of war which were extinguished for several years; they pose a serious threat to the peace of Indo-China and greatly aggravate tension in Southeast Asia. As a participant in the 1954 Geneva Conference and a guarantor of the Geneva agreements, the People's Republic of China naturally cannot look on at this with indifference.

Mr. Pham Van Dong, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam, has formally requested the Co-Chairmen of the 1954 Geneva Conference to adopt urgent and effective measures to ensure that the Geneva agreements on Laos be respected and thoroughly implemented. I consider this request entirely proper and reasonable. I likewise hold that at this critical moment the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom, as participants in the 1954 Geneva Conference, and particularly as the Co-Chairmen of the Conference, should adopt measures at once to stop these grave actions of the Royal Laotian Government violating the Geneva agreements so as to uphold the Geneva agreements and peace in Indo-China, and instruct the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Laos to meet and resume its activities at once.

# What the Central People's Government Has Done for Tibet

— Some Facts About Construction Since Liberation —

by TSUNG CHAO-JEN

THE quelling of the rebellion in Tibet has cleared the way for the building of a new, prosperous Tibet. The bulk of the Tibetan population hails this prospect with open arms. As the direct beneficiaries of the many constructive activities carried out in Tibet by the Central People's Government since the peaceful liberation, they have a pretty fair idea of what this will mean to them. Despite obstruction by the *kasha* (the former local government of Tibet) and the reactionary clique of the upper social strata, the Central People's Government and the People's Liberation Army have done a great deal in Tibet in the past eight years to help the local people develop their economy and culture. All these activities are in accordance with provisions of the 17-article agreement on the peaceful liberation of Tibet signed in 1951 between the Central People's Government and the local government of Tibet (see *Peking Review*, No. 19, May 12, 1959).

## Communications and Transport

Before its liberation, no modern transport linked Tibet with the rest of the country. Horses, yaks, oxen and small boats made of hide were the only means of transportation the local people had. Travel then was tedious and dangerous; a trip across the region from east to west and back was a two-year Odyssey. Since liberation, P.L.A. men, Han workers and local people have built more than 7,000 kilometres of highways and motor roads crossing mountains, torrents and glaciers. Today, travel by car between Lhasa and Sining (in Chinghai), for instance, is only a matter of a few days where before it took months on horseback. The three main highways—the Kangting-Tibet, Chinghai-Tibet and Sinkiang-Tibet Highways—are supplemented by new roads linking Tibet's main cities, Lhasa and Shigatse, Shigatse and Gyantse, Gyantse and Yatung, Nagchuka and Ari. Buses run today between the Kinsha, Nu and Lantsang valleys in the east and Gartok on the Ari plateau in the west; between the north Tibetan grassland and Yatung in the Himalayas. With these improvements in communication facilities, more and more goods are being exchanged between Tibet and other parts of the country. More Tibetan animal and other local products are finding their way to the central, eastern and northern areas of the country while consumer goods from industrial cities of central China can be obtained at moderate prices in nearly every Tibetan town.

Tea is everybody's drink in Tibet. The *kasha* and the reactionary clique monopolized the tea trade, and

sold tea at fabulous prices to the people. With the opening of the highways into Tibet, ample stocks of tea are coming in. Tea prices have been twice reduced throughout the region. A certain amount of modern industrial equipment, agricultural machinery and medical apparatuses has also been sent into Tibet for the first time along the new highways. It is no wonder that Tibetans with their flair for the picturesque phrase describe these roads as "the coloured ribbon flying to the sky," or "the golden bridge leading to paradise."

In 1956, the time taken to travel between Tibet and other parts of China was further shortened. An air service was started between Peking and Lhasa.

## Industry

Before liberation, Tibet had only two industrial enterprises: a hydro-electric power plant with a capacity of 60 kilowatts (which ceased to operate in the dry seasons) and a mint employing a dozen workers. Both were in Lhasa. Since liberation, the Central People's Government has helped the Tibet region to set up a number of industrial and mining enterprises.

Power plants have been built in Shigatse and Chamdo while the new power plant built in Lhasa has more than ten times the capacity of the old one. In addition, the larger Lhasa Hydro-electric Power Station is being built. With a designed capacity of 6,000 kilowatts, it will be the biggest of its kind on the Tibetan plateau.

Tibet's first coal mine started production last year. For centuries past, throughout Tibet yak dung has been used as the main fuel. This literally burnt up valuable fertilizer. Now Lhasa is using coal and saving its yak dung for the fields.

Last year, cadres sent to work in Tibet also succeeded in trial producing tractors, water pumps, and power-driven saw mills. The small iron works set up by the Central People's Government offices in Lhasa is also making tools for agriculture, animal husbandry and the handicraft industries as well as some machine parts. In the past, the only tools the Tibetan people had were the simplest, primitive and hand-made.

## Agriculture and Animal Husbandry

Every year before the start of the spring ploughing and sowing, numbers of work teams organized in all parts of Tibet by the Tibet Working Committee of the Chinese



Communist Party and the Tibet Military Area Command of the P.L.A. issue interest-free loans to the impoverished peasants. Such loans issued in the last eight years now amount to over one and a half million yuan. Another million yuan worth of farm implements and tools were also given free of charge to the peasants and herdsmen by the Central People's Government.

Scores of veterinary clinics have also been set up in the larger towns and the pasture grounds in northern and southern Tibet. Every year at the seasons when animal epidemics were most prevalent, mobile veterinary centres moved into action in every threatened area. They saved the lives of ten of thousands of livestock every year. Much else has been done to develop animal husbandry in the region—the patient introduction of scientific methods of care, new and improved strains, etc.

### Free Medical Services

Ruthless exploitation under serfdom and lack of medical services had left Tibet with a high rate of mortality and the situation was steadily worsening before liberation. Old Tibet did not have a single regular hospital. When P.L.A. and civilian Han medical personnel entered Tibet, they set up three general hospitals in Lhasa, Shigatse and Chamdo. Eight medical centres and twelve clinics were established in other Tibetan towns to give free medical services to the people. Mobile medical teams also make regular calls on the remote areas to fight disease. Between 1952 and 1958, the out-patients department of the Lhasa People's Hospital alone had given roughly a million medical treatments to the sick. Smallpox and venereal diseases took unnumbered Tibetan lives in the past. Today their ravages have been checked somewhat. Quite a number suffering from cataract have been enabled to recover their sight; the lives of a growing number of Tibetan mothers and babies are being saved with the introduction of modern methods of delivery. During the rebellion, the rebels actually tried to force the people and lamas to set fire to the Lhasa People's Hospital but they refused. The doctors there are known to them as "the *menpa*" ("doctor" in Tibetan) sent by Chairman Mao," and have earned their love and gratitude.

### Education

The serf-owners denied the working people of Tibet the right to get an education. Today, many schools have been set up by the Central People's Government offices in Tibet; in Lhasa alone, there are now three primary schools and one middle school. When the first primary school was opened at a village in Khamba *dzong* in the remote Himalaya region, the Tibetan teacher Nima Wongdi said with deep emotion: "When I see these children put away their shepherd's whips and enter the school I think of Chairman Mao. These children have been given the chance of getting an education—something which had been denied to their fathers and fathers' fathers!"

Large numbers of Tibetans have now been trained to work for the welfare of their own people. Today, Tibetan cadres are working in all the administrative, cultural and educational, public health, industrial and commercial departments in Tibet. Many of them have

distinguished themselves in their work and been elected labour models. Some have been promoted to leading posts.

### Obstructions by Reactionaries

What with constant obstructions put up by the *kasha* and the reactionary clique of the upper social strata whose interests clashed with those of the people, the course of this constructive work was by no means all plain sailing. While the Central People's Government was doing its best to help the people, the *kasha* and the reactionaries were doing all they could to thwart its efforts.

Even after liberation, peasants in the areas under the administration of the *kasha* were still using wooden ploughs and stone tools while large numbers of new-type farm implements sent to Tibet by the Central People's Government were kept lying idle in the warehouses. The *kasha* claimed that "Tibetan peasants are not interested in new-type farming implements." It was determined to keep the Tibetan people away from the central authorities. For fear that interest-free loans would affect their own practice of usury, some *dzong* governments even forbade the people to get such loans from the work-teams; some serf-owners seized loans already in the hands of peasants under the pretext of getting back debts in arrears.

Under various pretexts, the former local government of Tibet tried to obstruct the building of highways. It declared that highway surveying and construction would spoil this "sacred mountain" or offend that "god"; when this failed, it simply forbade the people to take part in the road-building. One section of the Chinghai-Tibet Highway badly needed repairs, but these were delayed for three years because Shasu, then the *kaloon* in charge, bitterly opposed it. People who volunteered for work on the new highways or helped prospecting teams of the Central People's Government were brutally tortured. The herdsman Pedha and the old man Ngariya were only two of many victims. (See *Peking Review*, No. 21, 1959: "The Unmourned Ending of a Cruel System.")

In 1956, when a deserted mountain on the northeastern outskirts of Lhasa was selected by the central authorities as the site for the new hydro-electric power station, the *kasha* immediately invented a story about there being a nymph in the mountain who would certainly be scared away if a power plant were built there. Later, when these objections fell through, it demanded that the central authorities "compensate" the local serf-owners for "losses" incurred as a result of the building of the power plant. These "losses" included some trees crushed by falling rocks.

The *kasha* also refused to allot a piece of land in any part of Lhasa for the central authorities' project to house the city poor and homeless. The plan had to be shelved.

In Ari, the reactionary headmen even forbade the peasants and herdsmen to send their children to school, threatening punishment if they did. In Lhasa, children of peasants in the suburbs were similarly prevented from going to school.

Today, with the *kasha* dissolved and the reactionary clique routed, there is no doubt that construction in Tibet will bowl along as in every other part of the country.

# FOR A NEW TIBET



After the defeat of the reactionary rebellion. At the start of this year's belated spring sowing, a Tibetan peasant drinks a toast of *qingke* barley wine to the first spring of a new Tibet

Cheering the people's victory in Lhasa

A work team of the Military Control Commission in Lhasa distributes free loans of seeds for the spring sowing



(Left) To mark this year's May Fourth Youth Day, Tibetan youths dance at a gala party before the Potala



(Right) After completing their studies, more than 200 Tibetan students recently left Peking for work in Tibet. At a farewell party, a Han cook of the Central Institute of National Minorities gives a souvenir to a Tibetan girl student





The many highways built since liberation are helping the growth of Tibet



A convoy of trucks, bringing in needed tea, textiles and other necessities is eagerly greeted at a lorry station

Tibetan and Han workers at the Lhasa Experimental Farm. This and other farms set up since liberation were the first in Tibet to introduce scientific farming methods



Men of the People's Liberation Army help Tibetan peasants bring in their harvest





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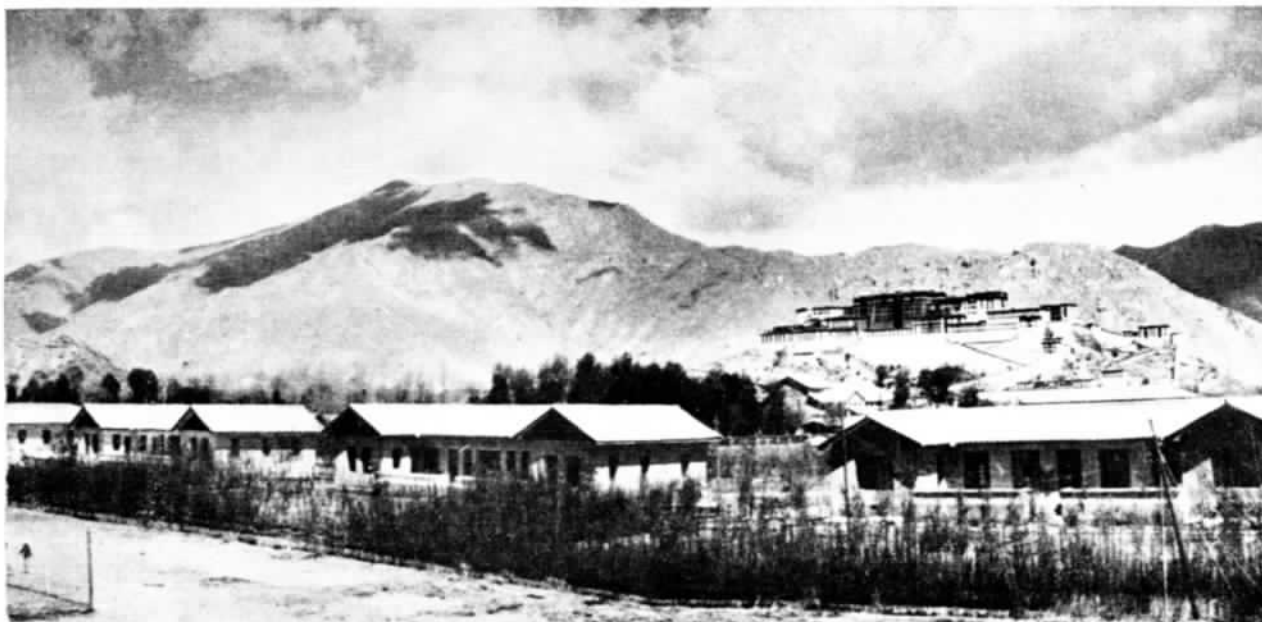


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Many new buildings  
 have appeared in Lhasa  
 and elsewhere in Tibet  
 since liberation



Many Tibetan technicians have been trained in various  
 fields during the past eight years. Here Akar, a Tibetan  
 (left), and Chou Tsui-ti, a Han, members of the staff  
 of the Lhasa Serum Laboratory, dissecting a rabbit



The new bridge across the Lhasa River



At the power station in Shigatse

"Off to play!" Pupils of one of the new primary schools built in Lhasa. Modern primary schools have been established in various parts of Tibet since liberation



Students of Lhasa Middle School, the first of its kind in Tibet, learning to make meteorological surveys



Free services are given in the many new hospitals and medical centres established by the Central People's Government in Tibet. Ngagwangphuntsog, one of the newly trained Tibetan doctors, examines a patient



Lamas performing a religious dance connected with exorcism



A Han aerobic troupe performs for a Lhasa audience in front of the Potala

# China's Expanding Water Transport

by HUNG CHUANG

THE steamers and junks of China's rivers and coastal waters moved about one-quarter of the country's freight (in terms of gross tonnage) in 1958. The volume of water transport increased by 37 per cent last year, compared with 1957 — a much faster rate than the average annual rate of increase of 25 per cent during the First Five-Year Plan (1953-1957). China's water transport, in the last decade, has gone a long way from the miserable state it was in before liberation.

China's rivers total 411,000 kilometres. At present 150,000 kilometres are navigable — 40,000 kilometres by steam crafts and the rest by sailing junks. The Yangtse, the Yellow River, the Heilungkiang River and the Pearl River are the major waterways. Their valleys constitute more than half the territory of China. Water transport is most developed on the Yangtse (and its tributaries), China's greatest river. Its valley, one of the richest areas of the country, is inhabited by more than 200 million people. The Huai River, which flows across the southern part of Honan Province and the northern part of Anhwei Province, and the Grand Canal, which cuts across Hopei, Shantung, Kiangsu and Chekiang Provinces — the only major north-south water course — are two of the country's additional important waterways.

From the estuary of the Yalu River, on the Sino-Korean border, to the estuary of the Peilun River, on the Sino-Vietnamese border, China's coastline stretches more than 11,000 kilometres. In addition, the coasts of the islands of Taiwan, Hainan and other islands and islets bring China's total coastline to more than 20,000 kilometres. On the four seas — the Pohai, the Yellow Sea, the East China and South China Seas — there are many good harbours. The following ice-free, deep-sea harbours are the largest: Talien, Chinwangtao, Tientsin (New Harbour at Tangku), Tsingtao, Shanghai, Canton (Whampoa) and Chanchiang.

## In the Old Days

Before liberation these waters were used by the imperialists to penetrate into China's hinterland. Since the signing by the Manchu dynasty of the Nanking and Tientsin Treaties in 1842 and 1858 respectively, foreign steamship companies gained navigation rights both on China's inland waterways and her territorial seas. This put the Chinese steamship companies at a serious disadvantage. In 1936, for instance, two British companies

(Butterfield and Swire and Jardine, Matheson) and a Japanese company (the Nisshin Kisen Kaisha) accounted for 81.9 per cent of the total tonnage of ships plying the Yangtse River. Less than one-fifth of the ships, in terms of tonnage, belonged to Chinese companies.

During the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression (1937-1945), the right of foreign ships to navigate Chinese waters was abrogated. But soon after the war, the Kuomintang clique once again sold out Chinese interests and signed the so-called "Sino-U.S. Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation" in 1946 giving the U.S. inland navigation rights. This dashed any hopes for the development of China's own shipping.

When the Kuomintang reactionaries fled the mainland in panic in 1949, they seriously damaged the wharves, docks and other installations, made off with 70 per cent of the coastal vessels (in terms of tonnage), and sank many others.

## Rehabilitation

With the founding of the People's Republic of China, a completely new era for China's water transport opened and China's inland waterways were freed for Chinese shipping. There have been three stages of development since liberation.

During the period of economic rehabilitation (1949-1952), the People's Government spent huge sums for the development of water transport. Wharf installations and navigational aids were restored and expanded. New vessels were added. Navigable waterways were extended from 73,000 kilometres in 1949 to 95,000 kilometres in 1952. Two great harbours were completed. The New Harbour at Tangku in Tientsin was started by the Japanese in 1939 to facilitate their occupation and plunder of a large part of China. But it was never completed and at the time of liberation it was in utter ruins due to sabotage by the Kuomintang. In 15 months, from August 1951 to October 1952, however, it was rebuilt into a modern harbour with an area of 18 square kilometres. Now 10,000-ton ships can dock at the jetty, whereas before, not even 3,000-ton ships could do so. When work on the Whampoa Harbour in Canton was interrupted by Japanese invasion in 1938, a year after it was started, only a 400-metre jetty was built. This was expanded into a big modern harbour two years after liberation.





In the Yangtse River gorges

Painting in Chinese ink and colour by Tsung Chi-hsiang

By 1952, the volume of transport by steamers and tugs more than doubled compared with 1949 and surpassed the pre-liberation peak (1948) by 13 per cent.

### The First Five-Year Plan

Water transport grew during the First Five-Year Plan with the rapid expansion of the national economy and the socialist transformation of the private steamship companies (which became joint state-private concerns). The majority of the junk operators joined co-operatives and some became joint state-private concerns. Thousands of new vessels, including a number of fair-sized steamers designed and built in China, joined the water transport force, and navigable inland waterways were extended to a total of 144,000 kilometres. Due to dredging of the water course and the installation of chain-type buoy lights, night navigation was made possible on the Yangtse River between Shanghai and Chungking. The volume of water transport increased rapidly as the following table shows:

#### Water Transport in 1957 (1952 = 100)

	In terms of tonnage	In terms of ton-kilometres
Shipping on inland waterways	407	394
Coastal shipping	385	378

Virtually all the crude oil for the coastal areas and towns along the Yangtse, ores for northeast China from east

China, grain from southwest China for other parts of the country and coal for Shanghai from north and east China were moved by water. The percentage of water transport out of total transport by land, water and air rose from 15 in 1952 to 18 in 1957.

A great harbour and a giant river port were built in this period: the modern Chanchiang Harbour on the Leichow Peninsula in south China, now well known to foreign traders and shippers, and the modern Yuhsikow Port on the Yangtse River in Anhwei Province.

### The Big Leap in 1958

Traffic on the waterways soared in 1958 as industry and agriculture shot ahead. To cope with the vastly increased volume of freight, sailors devised ways and means to increase loading space for goods. The potentials of the tugs were more fully exploited.

Vessels also travelled at much greater speeds than before. Compared with 1957, the speed of vessels sailing on the major water routes per 24 hours increased by from 30 to 44 kilometres. The crew of *Minchu-12* reduced their Talién-Shanghai run from 10 to 5 days.

A remote control apparatus devised by crew members of the No. 601 tug on the Yangtse River enables the pilot to control the entire formation from a barge some distance from the tug simply by pushing buttons. The loading of coal, oiling, rudder control, the closing of the hatch covers and mooring have all been made automatic and rust removal has been mechanized on vessels under the Shanghai Bureau of Marine Transport. Loading and unloading at the major ports have been mechanized or semi-mechanized, considerably reducing the toil of the dock workers.

Many new-type or improved junks have been introduced. They are lighter, faster, safer, easier to operate and can carry bigger loads. A new junk made in Hunan Province has an ingenious 8-sided sail that can use wind power coming from any direction. In Kiangsu Province, 80 per cent of the sail junks under 20 tons have installed semi-mechanized paddle wheels that have raised efficiency greatly and reduced labour intensity.

Electric buoy lights were installed on sections of the upper reaches of the Yangtse River facilitating night navigation through the famous Yangtse Gorges. Automatic switches for buoy lights, mercury-type sunlight switches and position self-adjusting buoys have been made in Tientsin and in Anhwei and Kiangsi Provinces. Semi-conductor automatic switches made in China have been installed on all electric buoys in Tientsin.

Junks carrying refractory bricks, iron ores and other materials were a common sight on newly opened waterways in the mountainous regions last year. To serve the new iron and steel production sites in the mountains, many small rivers were dredged and made navigable. The most notable development, however, was navigation on networks of canals and channels built on a large scale last year primarily for irrigation and drainage purposes. In the northern part of Anhwei Province, most canals and

channels are navigable. As a result of the building of canals and channels, all villages in the Hankungtu Township, Changteh County, Hunan Province, are now accessible by boat. Considerable labour power has thus been saved and the interflow of goods has been facilitated.

The building of networks of canals and channels for irrigation and drainage as well as for navigation is going

ahead in a number of provinces including Kiangsu, Honan, Hopei, Shantung, Hupeh, Hunan, Liaoning, Shensi, Kwangtung and Szechuan—in addition to Anhwei. The route for a projected canal between Peking and Canton is being surveyed. In the future, all of China's great rivers will be linked by man-made canals to form a nationwide network.

## Agriculture

# GROWING MORE TEA

by HO SHAN

CHINA, one of the world's biggest growers of tea, produced 26 per cent more in 1958 than in 1957. Last year alone, the area of her tea plantations expanded as much as during the entire First Five-Year Plan (1953-1957).

Chekiang, one of China's leading tea provinces, as a whole grew about 40 per cent more tea than in 1957, exceeding its pre-liberation peak crop (1933) by about a third. Hsihsien County, in southern Anhwei Province, was another outstanding area. It increased its tea production by 68 per cent.

Tea has been a popular beverage in China for centuries. Some national minorities include it in their list of daily necessities. When originally discovered in China some 4,000 years ago, the plant was employed medicinally. It was only later that it came into use as a general beverage. In the eighth century, the scholar Lu Yu wrote the comprehensive *Cha Jing* (Treatise on Tea). This was the world's first special study on the subject.

The extensive mountainous and hilly regions of central and south China, which enjoy mild temperatures and ample rainfall, are the major tea-producing areas. These areas, south of the Tsinling Mountains and the Huai River, today include several hundred counties in 15 provinces. Income from tea cultivation varies in different districts. It ranges from about one-fifth of the total income from agriculture in general to about two-thirds in the major tea-growing counties.

### Varieties and Culture

Chinese tea falls into the following categories—black, green, white, Oolong, scented and compressed. This classification stems from the different ways the leaves are processed. Each type of tea has its own special quality. Keemun Black Tea, for instance, is known by its strong fragrance, the "Keemun aroma." The famous Long Jing (Dragon Well) green tea from Hangchow, Chekiang, is a favourite throughout the country. White tea, fresh and mild in taste, is made from a special kind of tea plant in Fukien Province. Green tea, scented with flowers (jasmine, magnolia, etc.), takes over their fragrance

and becomes scented tea. The compressed teas are of different kinds, being moulded into various shapes after softening by steaming. They are convenient for distant transport and keep for a long time. China's national minorities are the main customers for such tea, which comes in rectangular or square "bricks," or in cake and bowl shapes. China herself, of course, is the world's biggest market for green tea.

### Post-liberation Growth

For many years before the liberation when China was under reactionary Kuomintang rule, her tea production steadily declined. In 1949 it was only about one-fourth of the normal output before the anti-Japanese war. Though new plantations take years to begin producing, an almost threefold rise in output was achieved between 1949 and 1957. It was stimulated by many measures taken by the People's Government—the extension of long-term loans to growers, advance purchase of crops, better prices and so on.

To raise yields and improve quality, more than ten experimental tea-planting centres have been established in the tea-growing provinces. They have done much to spread successful methods of cultivation and processing. Two agricultural colleges now have special departments of tea culture, and three secondary technical schools are specially devoted to it. Hundreds of thousands of tea growers have been through short-term courses since liberation.

Last year, an institute of tea culture was established under the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. It will carry on advanced research.

The fact that scores of counties could pick 100 *jin* of tea leaves per *mu* last year shows the enormous latent potentialities of existing plantations. "On-the-spot" conferences have been held to study advanced ways of tending tea plants, and to popularize better tea-picking methods and new processing tools. Tea-growing people's communes are taking steps to ensure still bigger harvests this year.

# A Great Waste Comes to Life

by LU YI

PEITAHUANG, the "Great Northern Waste," a vast stretch of fertile black earth at the northeastern tip of China, has come out of its slumbers to bustling life. Here, tractors are used to till 5 million *mu* of land. New factories ranging from small iron and steel plants to wine distilleries have appeared. When night falls, electric lights keep away the wolves, erstwhile lords of the place. Since 1957, it has been giving the country increasing quantities of foodstuffs and other produce. The name Peitahuang has become an anachronism—the "Great Waste" is becoming a great granary.

## Rich Resources

Take a train from Peking to Harbin in Heilungkiang Province, change for Mishan County and then go further east on the Mishan-Hulin branch line constructed by the settlers in Peitahuang themselves, and one comes to a vast plain and green-clad mountains. This is Peitahuang. With an area of some 50,000 square kilometres, it is a great alluvial plain of the Heilungkiang, Sungari and Ussuri Rivers. Many smaller rivers flowing across this plain provide ample water resources for irrigation, power-generation and the development of fisheries. Although the frost-free period here is relatively short (about 130 days), the black calcic soil is extremely rich so that paddy rice can grow at this high latitude (between 45°-48° N.) as well as wheat, maize, soya beans and other crops. In fact, the soil is so rich that there was a local saying: "Just scatter the seed and reap the harvest."

The Wanda Mountain Range that stretches across the area is rich in many minerals including iron ore, tin, copper, gold, rare metals, coal (its Mulin River basin is known as a "sea of coal"), oil shale, asbestos, graphite, mica, etc. On this mountain range also grow virgin forests, ginseng and other medicinal herbs. Wild animals—tigers, badgers, foxes, bears and deers—yielding furs and antlers, abound. At the foot of the mountains are lush pastures.

Attracted by this fabulous wealth, in the sixties of the last century, settlers began to come from Shantung and Hopei Provinces where harsh feudal exploitation made it almost impossible for them to eke out a living. But they escaped from ruthless exploitation by the landlords in their native provinces only to be oppressed by local tyrants in Peitahuang. Later they fell under the rule of the Japanese invaders who occupied China's northeastern provinces in 1931 and turned these northern lands into a garrison area. During the long years of Japanese occupation, Peitahuang stagnated. At the time of liberation, it

was still literally a great waste sparsely dotted with poor settlements.

In the summer of 1956, more than 10,000 men and women of the railway corps of the Chinese People's Volunteers returned from Korea and came to Peitahuang. They had just helped stamp out the war started in Korea by the U.S. and the south Korean Syngman Rhee clique; now they engaged in a new war—against nature. Within a few months, in the Mishan land reclamation area, the southern part of Peitahuang, they opened up hundreds of thousands of *mu* of land with tractors and built hundreds of kilometres of roads. They moved from tents into new houses they built themselves. That first severe winter was no picnic, but they saw the opening up of Peitahuang as a challenge to their grit and stamina, and no one flinched from the difficulties they encountered. It is still a place of romance that annually attracts young people from all parts of the country.

Production really got started in the spring of 1957 when the hard frozen ground began to thaw. In that year, 14 big state farms were established and a million *mu* of land out of the 1.7 million *mu* opened up was sown to crops. The first harvest was a good one—plenty of grain and soya beans, large quantities of vegetables, fodder and other crops more than enough to meet the needs of the settlers themselves.

## Varied Enterprises

Herds of cattle, sheep, horses and pigs were bred and poultry farms were set up. Headway was made in other sidelines too. Machine repair, building materials, food processing, leather tanning and small power plants as well as distilleries were started. In the slack season, the settlers went fishing, hunting, gathering medicinal herbs and making baskets that brought in a considerable income.

Construction went ahead alongside production. In 1957 alone, 200 kilometres of highways were built and more than 300 kilometres of telecommunication lines were set up. The settlers moved nearly three-quarters of a million cubic metres of earth in building irrigation works and planted 3.5 million trees.

Life became richer as welfare facilities and social amenities were developed and cultural activities got going. In 1957, a quarter of a million square metres of new housing was built in the Mishan area. New villages with appropriate names like "Dawn" and "Daybreak" appeared on both sides of the Wanda Mountains. Four hospitals were set up; each farm got its own clinic and



medical personnel were attached to every production brigade. Nurseries, kindergartens, primary schools, secondary specialized schools, libraries, post and telegraphic offices, department stores, book stores, public baths and barber shops were set up one after another. Mobile cinema teams and local amateur dramatic and song and dance troupes provide good entertainment. A new life full of vigour has blossomed in the wilderness.

### Rapid Advance

As in other parts of the country, 1958 was a year of tremendous activity and swift advance in Peitahuang. In March and April, when the earth came to life as spring set in, tens of thousands of demobilized People's Liberation Army-men arrived in Peitahuang. Among them are veterans who took part in the historic Long March of the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, in the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression and in the War of Liberation. They threw themselves into the new war on the wastelands with characteristic vigour. They brought five million *mu* of newly opened land under cultivation and reaped a record harvest.

It was they too who built the Mishan-Hulin Railway, the first in the area, which was opened to traffic in July. In autumn, they turned lumbermen, felling millions of cubic metres of timber. They are now extending the railway into the forest area.

Nine reservoirs were built to further improve irrigation. One of these has a dam nearly 3 kilometres long and a storage capacity of 53 million cubic metres. It can irrigate 75,000 *mu* of land and runs a small hydro-electric power station.

As the tide of industrial advance surged forward in the country in the latter part of 1958, the settlers in Peitahuang went to the mountains to prospect for minerals and set up coal-mining, iron-smelting, steel-making, sugar-refining, glass-making, engineering and power-generating enterprises. Peitahuang, with its rich resources, has a promising industrial future.

In three short years, the mechanized state farms of Peitahuang have made much headway. The builders of Peitahuang are working now towards the complete mechanization and electrification of agriculture. They are confident that they can turn this Great Northern Waste into a paradise on earth.

## SIDELIGHTS

### Now the Poor Can Celebrate, Too.

Early on the morning of May 22, special religious services were held in all of Lhasa's monasteries to mark the Sagahislawu Festival—celebrating the birth, Enlightenment and Pari-nirvana of Buddha. This was also the traditional time to pray for good harvests.

In Tibet, this holy festival is also a time for popular rejoicing. It was doubly so this year. From the direction of the pagoda on Dragon King Lake in Lhasa came the specially joyous strains of a six-stringed guitar. It was played by Shirobwongmu, a poor blind woman musician. Like many other Lhasans, this was the first time that Shirobwongmu celebrated the festival with such wholehearted joy. Spacious tents pitched beneath the poplars and willows around the lake were centres of song, dances and other entertainments. People went boating in yak-hide coracles with the red 5-starred national flag fluttering at the head of the leather vessels. Like Shirobwongmu, hundreds of the poor thronged the pagoda by the lake, a place formerly open only to high officials. With the quelling of the rebellion and the start of a new life, Tibetans found much that was new to rejoice over.

**Publications in Tibetan.** Although the written Tibetan language has been in existence for more than 1,000 years, in the past nearly all books printed in Tibetan were Buddhist sutras, and in very limited numbers at that. From liberation to the end of March this year an estimated 7 million copies of 1,000 titles in Tibetan were published by the nationalities languages publishing houses in Peking, Szechuan, Chinghai and Kansu. They included Chairman Mao Tse-tung's works and a variety of books on natural science, technology, culture and art, textbooks, etc. much in demand among the Tibetan people.

### Communist Youth League Railway.

In Heilungkiang, China's northernmost province, a new section of railway was opened to traffic on May 15. It is called the "Communist Youth League Railway" in honour of the 7,000 Communist Youth League members who took on the job of building the line. When completed, it will run 239 km., from the lumber town of Ichun across the Lesser

Khingang Mountains to the banks of the Heilungkiang (Amur) River. Some of the young railway builders had never been on a train before while others had never even seen railway tracks. But what they lacked in knowledge and skill they more than made up for with high spirits and a will to overcome difficult terrain and even more difficult weather.

**The Hand That Rules the Traffic.** Busy Peking citizens hurrying to work paused to take a second look at a novel sight—girls in blue and white uniforms bordered with red, directing traffic. "My, look at those plaits flying in the wind! And just listen to the swish of their batons!" a young worker broke out in admiration of Peking's first women traffic police.

Young women taxi-drivers are another new sight in Peking. Like the women police, they are around 20 years old with primary or middle school education. They have made up their minds to make as good drivers as men. And society warmly welcomes their determination: they are given special training—at full pay—to qualify for their driver's license. They enjoy various benefits too: nurseries for their toddlers, two months' paid maternity leave, and other welfare amenities. They are doing a good job behind the wheel, careful and considerate.

**Giant Honey-makers of Hainan.** For several months past a group of research workers and bee-keepers on Hainan Island, south China, have been closely observing the habits of the wild "palm bee," one of the largest species of honey bee in the world. Twice the size of the Italian or Caucasian bee, the palm bee is extraordinarily strong and virile, with great flying powers and a vicious sting. As many as 50,000 of them gather to form a single colony, producing from 50 to 100 *jin* of honey at a time. The research group is studying ways of domesticating the palm bees.



A Tibetan boy helps his mother to read

Woodcut by Wang Wei

# CHINESE PRESS OPINION

## **A Packaged Plan for "Cold War"**

Commentaries, articles and cartoons in all the leading Chinese papers continue to expose and condemn the Western "Package Plan" tabled at the Geneva Foreign Ministers' Conference.

*Renmin Ribao's* Commentator (May 22) describes the Western "Package Plan" as an obstacle to the current Geneva Conference. This plan ties up the issues of Berlin, a German peace treaty, German reunification, European security and universal disarmament into a single tangle and makes them an unsolvable whole. According to this Western plan, Commentator points out, solution of each issue depends on a simultaneous solution of the others, thereby ruling out the possibility of a partial or individual settlement. This is all the more obvious in that in making the reunification of Germany the primary condition for the settlement of all other issues, the plan prescribes that the reunification is to be achieved by the same old formula of so-called "free elections." It is clear that, in the last analysis, the real aim of this plan is to annex the German Democratic Republic and drag the whole of Germany into the aggressive NATO bloc. The Western powers, moreover, even seek to extend by this plan their so-called "occupation rights" from West Berlin into East Berlin.

At first glance, the plan seems to be aimed at a settlement of all issues, but actually it seeks the settlement of none, so as to maintain tension. As Comrade Khrushchov has said, this plan is none other than a plan for "cold war," a plan that pursues a "position of strength" policy.

The whole plan hinges on the reunification of Germany, Commentator notes. But it is precisely on this point that the Western plan is utterly untenable, because the question of German reunification is an internal German issue which only the German people themselves can tackle. German reunification likewise cannot be made a prerequisite for the settlement of other issues, especially the question of a peace treaty with Germany. On the contrary, only the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany can open a way for the reunification of Germany.

In fact, Commentator continues, the question of German unification is merely a device in the Western plan to hoodwink the people. Neither West Germany nor the U.S. is willing to see Germany really reunited in a democratic and peaceful

way. They are anxious to step up their dangerous plan of arming West Germany under the condition of a divided Germany. The fact that the West is still insisting on the reunification of Germany as the prerequisite for a settlement of all problems is a deliberate attempt to use a problem, the settlement of which cannot be attained at present, to obstruct the settlement of other problems which can now be solved.

The Soviet and G.D.R. representatives, Commentator notes, have maintained that the conference should concentrate its discussions on the questions of a German peace treaty and the status of West Berlin. To remove the obstacles at present hindering the conference, however, the Soviet representative has indicated that separate discussion and study of certain specific items and proposals contained in certain portions of the Western plan may be considered. At the May 20 session of the conference, Gromyko further pointed out that both sides should explore the possibility of bringing their positions closer and not focus their attention on their differences. This, Commentator says, fully demonstrates the sincerity of the Soviet Union in seeking agreement. People all over the world are concerned with the progress of the Geneva Conference and are looking to the Foreign Ministers of the Western powers to remove the snags they have placed in the way so that the conference may achieve positive results.

## **Stop the U.S.-Ngo Dinh Diem Crimes in South Viet-nam!**

*Renmin Ribao's* Commentator (May 29) warns that with the U.S. instigating the Sananikone government to start civil war in Laos and the Ngo Dinh Diem clique intensifying its butchering of peaceful people in south Viet-nam and sabotage of the Geneva agreements, "the peace of Indo-China is being seriously threatened. This must arouse the close attention of all peace-loving people."

Commentator states that ever since the armistice, the Ngo Dinh Diem clique has been implementing the U.S. plot to wreck the Geneva agreements and obstruct the peaceful unification of Viet-nam. They have persecuted those in south Viet-nam who took an active part in the anti-French war and tried to get the Geneva agreements on Viet-nam implemented.

Recalling the atrocities committed by the south Viet-nam authorities up to last

February, Commentator reports that from February down to the present, the Ngo Dinh Diem clique has been engaged in its so-called "mopping up" campaign in the "D" zone, a former resistance base; it has hurled tens of thousands of troops equipped with U.S. weapons against the people there. At the same time, it has proclaimed its fascist "No. 10 Decree of 1959" which aims at persecuting the former members of the resistance and the peaceful inhabitants of south Viet-nam who uphold the Geneva agreements.

The Geneva agreements, Commentator points out, clearly state that "each party undertakes to refrain from any reprisals or discrimination against persons or organizations on account of their activities during the hostilities and to guarantee their democratic liberties." The Ngo Dinh Diem clique's atrocities directly violate and sabotage these undertakings. If these atrocities are not stopped, the peaceful unification of Viet-nam is impossible and peace in Viet-nam will be thoroughly undermined.

It is the U.S., Commentator declares, which directly engineers these terrorist activities against the people in south Viet-nam. In violation of the Geneva agreements, the U.S. has sent in weapons and war materials to south Viet-nam on 375 occasions, and expanded its military advisory group there to 2,000 members. U.S. personnel are taking a direct part in the command of the "mopping up" campaign. Recently Washington has also instigated the Ngo Dinh Diem clique to conspire with the government of Laos and sign "agreements" for the purpose of undermining peace in Indo-China and completely tearing up the Geneva agreements.

Commentator declares that, "as a signatory, the Chinese people have the international duty of upholding the Geneva agreements and the peace of Indo-China. We denounce the atrocities being committed by the U.S. and Ngo Dinh Diem clique in south Viet-nam. We hold that the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Viet-nam should immediately take effective measures to stop the military 'mopping up' campaign in 'D' zone and other brutal activities and annul the fascist decree persecuting the former members of the resistance, so that the thorough implementation of the Geneva agreements in Viet-nam is guaranteed."

## **Thai Reactionaries Warned**

The baneful role of the Thai authorities in the Laotian situation is discussed in another *Renmin Ribao* commentary (May 30).

Commentator recalls that as early as February 1955, the Thai authorities tried

to turn Laos into a *de facto* member of the Manila war bloc. Many subsequent events prove that the Thai authorities are becoming the most active accomplice of the U.S. imperialists in their aggression in Indo-China. It is common knowledge that the Cambodian rebellion which was frustrated a few months ago was carried out with Thailand and south Vietnam as its base. Almost all the big intrigues of the U.S. in Laos are closely connected with Thailand and many have been carried out through it. In violating the Geneva agreements, for instance, the U.S. shipped weapons and munitions to Laos via Thailand.

In April this year, Commentator continues, Korman, the Thai Foreign Minister, called on the Wellington Conference of the SEATO bloc to give more military aid to Laos and draw up a "blueprint" for Laos. Following this conference, the Thai authorities actively started talks with the pro-American Laotian reactionaries, and they made no secret of their plotting a military coup in Laos. On May 20, Khamthan Panya, Foreign Minister of Laos, went to south Viet-nam to discuss the question of establishing a military alliance, building strategic highways and military bases. Soon afterwards Korman went to Laos to meet him to put the finishing touches to a tripartite military alliance of Thailand, Laos and south Viet-nam.

Commentator points out that the true aim of the so-called Korman "blueprint" is now clear: it is to completely scrap the Geneva agreements and the democratic agreements concluded inside Laos, to start a civil war there, split its national unity, and make it give up its peaceful, neutral foreign policy.

Public attention cannot but be alerted to the fact that Thailand, Laos and south Viet-nam (and also the traitor Sam Sary of Cambodia) are in constant contact with each other in Lower Laos, Commentator notes. A strategic highway across the Indo-China peninsula linking up the three countries is now actually being built and active work is going on to set up a large U.S. military base in Lower Laos.

This situation, Commentator stresses, is fraught with grave consequences for peace in Southeast Asia and the Far East. This is why the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam, the People's Republic of China and the governments and peoples of other peace-loving countries have time and again sounded warnings and demanded that an immediate end be put to the criminal activities of the U.S. and its accomplices—Thailand and south Viet-nam.

At the same time, Commentator concludes, we must warn the Thai authori-

### A Southern U.S. Senator's Oration

Alabama racists have banned *The Rabbits' Wedding*, a children's book, from libraries in that state because it describes a wedding between a white rabbit and a black rabbit. — *News Item*

*Senators, Citizens and Friends!*

*We hold these truths self-evident:*

*White nags are finer than black horses.*

*Black pigs give pride of place to white.*

*Little white sheep mustn't play with black lambs;*

*Everybody knows that's right.*

*Can a white bunny marry a black one?*

*Would you throw mud in Mother Nature's face?*

*Such children's books must be forbidden.*

*They insult the white and higher race!*

*Hold the line of demarcation that alone can save the nation!*

*Teach the children sturdy facts of life:*

*How white dogs can hound black dogs*

*And black cats yield in racial strife.*

*U.S. laws have got to be revised. Hereby keep the colours white and black distinct:*

*Don't put milk into your cocoa; Don't spoil white paper with black printing ink.*



ties that their activities will do them no good. "Those who play with fire will get themselves burnt; if they refuse to listen to reason and persist in activities which run counter to the interests of peace and independence of their peoples, and persist in working as the accomplices of U.S. imperialism in hostility to the peoples of Indo-China and Asia, history will eventually bring them before the bar of justice."

### Syngman Rhee's Slave Traffic

The Government of the Korean Democratic People's Republic in a statement on May 22 exposed and condemned the Syngman Rhee clique's nefarious activities in sending south Korean "emigrants" to slave in foreign countries. "That statement speaks for all the people in both north and south Korea," declares *Renmin Ribao's* Commentator (May 24).

The commentary reports the facts. In collaboration with the U.S. imperialists, the Syngman Rhee clique is engaged in selling large numbers of south Koreans as slaves to foreign capitalists and farm owners. The Korean people are indignant. Four hundred thousand people in north Korea have demonstrated in protest against this slave trade, demanding that it be stopped and that all those who are condemned to be sold should be sent to freedom in north Korea. "We are confident that all who stand for peace and justice will support this just demand

of the Korean people," Commentator says.

This slave traffic has actually been going on for years. The Rhee clique's recently proclaimed "Decree on the Emigration Commission" is nothing but a plan to enlarge this traffic under the pretext of dealing with "over-population." Commentator points out that plunder and brutal misrule by the U.S. and the Syngman Rhee clique has reduced south Korea to poverty and bankruptcy. Its industrial production has dropped drastically; it has millions of destitute unemployed. Its agriculture has declined year by year and it has become a land of starvation.

The great achievements in socialist construction of the Korean Democratic People's Republic stand in sharp contrast to this tragic picture in south Korea, writes Commentator. In north Korea, the standards of living have been steadily rising; hunger and unemployment have become things of the past.

The Government of the Korean Democratic People's Republic offers aid to the unfortunate people of south Korea and is prepared to accommodate and assist all the unemployed, the homeless peasants and orphans of south Korea, Commentator notes. But, as the statement from Pyongyang points out, the tragic plight of the people of south Korea can be ended at an early date only by achieving the peaceful unification of north and south Korea and driving the U.S. imperialists out of south Korea.



# CHINA AND THE WORLD

## China Alert to Laotian Situation

The Chinese people are closely following the deeply disturbing developments in Laos. All Peking newspapers frontpaged Foreign Minister Chen Yi's May 25 communications to the Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and the British Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd calling on the Soviet Union and Britain, as Co-Chairmen of the 1954 Geneva Conference, to take immediate action to stop the Sananikone government's flagrant violations of the Geneva agreements and to direct the International Commission of Supervision and Control in Laos to resume its activity. They also gave prominence to news reports of the attacks by the troops of the Sananikone government on the former Pathet Lao fighting units, and of underhand U.S. activities to stir up trouble throughout the entire Indo-China peninsula.

Typical of the views expressed in the Chinese press on the Laotian situation is this from *Renmin Ribao's* Commentator on May 26: "The Royal Laotian Government's open repudiation of international agreements and its peace-breaking activities in Indo-China in violation of the national interests of Laos are bound to arouse grave concern and anxiety among the countries which undertook obligations in the preservation of peace in Indo-China, and the peace-loving peoples of all lands. . . . China, as a participant in the Geneva Conference, a guarantor of the Geneva agreements and a close neighbour of Laos, cannot look on with indifference while the Geneva agreements are being scrapped by the Royal Laotian Government and peace endangered in Indo-China."

## Military Mission in Bulgaria

A Chinese military delegation headed by Marshal Peng Teh-huai, Vice-Premier and Minister of National Defence, has just concluded a goodwill mission to Bulgaria.

The delegation was warmly greeted during its five-day stay (May 23-27). It was received by D. Ganev, Chairman of the Presidium of the Bulgarian National Assembly, and other Bulgarian leaders. In Plovdiv, second largest city in the country, a mass meeting was held for the Chinese guests in the city square.

Vice-Chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers and Minister of Defence Ivan Mikhailov, at a reception in Sofia, stressed that the delegation's visit had strengthened Sino-Bulgarian friendship, forged in the common struggle against imperialism and foreign oppression and based on fidelity to proletarian internationalism, the common goal of building socialism and communism and the great teachings of Marx, Engels and Lenin.

## Touring the Socialist World

The first group of Chinese tourists to visit the Soviet Union and the Eastern European socialist countries this summer has left Peking. For many, this will be the fulfilment of a long-cherished dream. The vacationers plan to cover as many as 28 cities within 53 days. They will see historic sites, famous factories, collective farms and other things which specially interest them. Not least they hope to make new friends abroad.

Meanwhile, tourists from Hungary are arriving for similar trips here. Many in the first group have a special interest in China. They include a scholar of classical Chinese literature and a poet who has translated many Chinese poems into Hungarian.

Beginning June 1, travellers from Peking to Moscow can take the new through train service via Ulan Bator, capital of the Mongolian People's Republic. Compared with the present route in use via Manchouli in northeast China, this route is shorter by 1,130 kilometres and travelling time is reduced by nine and a half hours.

## Save Matsukawa Victims Rally

On August 17, 1949, a train was derailed not far from Matsukawa in Japan. This incident was immediately seized upon by the U.S. occupation authorities and the Japanese Government to start a campaign of slander against the Japanese Communist Party. Many railway trade union workers were arrested on trumped-up charges and tried. The Japanese people organized a powerful defence for the Matsukawa victims. Trials and retrials, which had dragged on all these years, have conclusively proved the innocence of the accused and the blatant nature of the frame-up. Yet three of the Matsukawa victims are still in jail, under sentence of death. Their fate awaits the final decision of the Japanese Supreme Court which will be delivered before the autumn.

Since this political frame-up was directed against the progressive forces of Japan and aimed at paving the way for Japanese rearmament, the defence of the Matsukawa victims has become a popu-

lar national cause in Japan that has won sympathy and support from democrats and peace-lovers the world over.

The Chinese people have always upheld the Matsukawa victims in their struggle for justice. When a delegation of the Japanese National Relief Association recently arrived in Peking to show appreciation for this, a mass rally was organized on May 25 jointly by the Chinese People's Relief Association and the All-China Federation of Trade Unions to express the Chinese people's continued and unwavering support.

Addressing the rally, Li Teh-chuan, Vice-President of the Chinese People's Relief Association, declared: From the very beginning the sympathy of the Chinese people has been wholeheartedly with these innocent people who have been victimized and with the people who are fighting to defend human rights and justice; they will continue to give their support and call for donations for the Matsukawa victims.

Hsiao Hung-chi, a leader of the Chinese railway workers, declared that the struggle of the Japanese people for the release of all defendants in the Matsukawa case was part and parcel of the struggle for the defence of world peace; the Chinese railway workers and all the Chinese working people will do everything in their power to aid the Japanese people in this just struggle.

## Burns, Darwin Commemorated

Some 500 writers, poets, scientists and others gathered in Peking on May 27 to commemorate the 200th and 150th birthday anniversaries respectively of two great men—the Scottish poet Robert Burns and the world-famous English naturalist Charles Darwin. Both were named by the World Peace Council as world cultural figures to be commemorated this year.

Professor Ting Hsi-lin, Vice-President of the Chinese People's Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and main speaker at the gathering, stressed that both Burns and Darwin had made valuable contributions to human civilization and had therefore won the respect of the Chinese people. Both were introduced to China many decades ago, while in recent years ever larger Chinese editions of their works have appeared. Ting Hsi-lin hailed Burns as a spokesman of the Scottish working people of his time and as one who used his poetry as a sharp satirical weapon to attack the oppressive ruling class. Darwin's theory of evolution, he declared, shook the idealist world outlook which was then dominant in people's mind and firmly established historical and materialistic views in the field of biology.

# LITERATURE

## "Tracks in the Snowy Forest" and Other Recent Novels

Literary works which depict the new heroes of China, motivated by strong feelings for the revolution and deeply rooted in real life, are invariably received by China's readers with the greatest of warmth. The recent novel *Tracks in the Snowy Forest* by Chu Po is one of such works. It has sold 1,200,000 copies since its first edition at the end of 1957. Several episodes of the novel have been adapted into plays, Peking opera and pingju opera, and staged with success in many parts of China.

This is a novel full of traditional colour. The reader is fascinated by the remarkable adventures of a small squad of the People's Liberation Army which went into a huge trackless mountain forest one bitterly cold winter in pursuit of crafty and vicious gangs of Kuomintang bandits. The magnificent landscape described—a continuous picture of dense woods, endless snow and craggy peaks—is attractive, too. The amazing and inspiring exploits of the small squad move so rapidly that the 400,000-word story seems to end too soon.

The events depicted in the novel took place in 1946, the beginning of the War of Liberation. In the northeast, at that time, land reform was not yet completed and the rear still needed to be strengthened to give support to the front. But some routed Kuomintang officers had escaped and hid in the mountain forest. They joined the brigands, landlords and local bullies there, plundered and killed the local people and sabotaged the land reform work led by the Communist Party. They made use of the difficult terrain to put up desperate resistance. Under such circumstances, sending a large military force against them was, as the P.L.A. men put it, as senseless as "using a howitzer to shoot a fly." What was needed was a small, flexible but strong unit that could scout and fight at the same time, a unit that could manoeuvre and twist through the mountain forests until it finished the enemy off. This is the historical background of the novel.

In telling the story of this special military mission, the novel develops its plot and characters in a manner reminiscent of the classical Chinese novels. Scouting begins with a mysterious rubber shoe, a clue that leads to the discovery of one bandit after another, one enemy hide-out after another. Led by an old mushroom picker, men of the small squad cross the streams and skip over the valleys, pass the perilously precipitous Hawk's Beak Peak, and descend upon the bandit lair

at the Cave of the Nymph like a troop of heavenly soldiers. There they wipe out the whole gang in the hide-out and capture the Kuomintang brigade commander Horse-Cudgel Hsu. To eliminate another gang, Scout Hero Yang Tzu-yung, disguising himself as a bandit, ventures to penetrate a strongly fortified bandit lair on Tiger Mountain. He manages to win the confidence of The Eagle, the brigand chief. But here he meets a bandit called Captain Luan whom he had once captured but who later got away. Yang's composure gets him out of the crisis. He makes use of the contradictions between the different groups of the brigands, licks Captain Luan in a battle of wits, forces him into a completely defensive position, and succeeds in winning still greater confidence from The Eagle. On New Year's Eve Yang starts such a spree that all the bandits get dead-drunk. In co-operation with the rest of the squad, which attacks from outside, he finally has The Eagle captured. The small squad continues its pursuit, and finally rounds up all the bandits in the vast snowy forests.

In the course of the adventures of the small squad, the author portrays a group of revolutionary heroes. Among them are Shao Chien-po, the 22-year-old commander of the squad with his exceptional courage, wisdom, and ability to meet difficulties and turn them to the advantage of the squad, fearless Scout Hero Yang Tzu-yung, bold and impetuous Fighting Hero Liu Hsun-tsang, Expert Climber Luan Chao-chia and the Long-Legged Marcher Sun Ta-teh. . . .

The bandits are well drawn too and their real characters emerge unmistakably. Thus Horse-Cudgel Hsu says: "I've only three orders—burn, kill, loot! Awards to the men who bring back the most communist ears!" Commenting on his fellow bandits he says: "I've always been a man of daring. The others? Bah! Which of those bastards can compare? Li Teh-lin of the Second Brigade is an old pig who knows how to eat. The Eagle while he's competent enough, is a money-sucking bedbug; he won't make a move without cash on the line. Tiger-Cat Nine has always been a petty little sneak-thief. . . ." This bunch of rotten eggs evokes the deepest resentment of the readers.

The author, Chu Po, was born in 1923 in Shantung Province. After only six

years of primary school education, he joined the Communist-led Eighth Route Army at the age of fifteen. He remained in the army until 1950 when he was severely wounded. Later he was transferred to a job in industry. *Tracks in the Snowy Forest* is based on his own experiences. In 1946 he was the commander of a scouting unit like the one depicted in the novel. In his article "Concerning *Tracks in the Snowy Forest*," he wrote: "Their heroic deeds are always vivid in my mind. I told the story of the struggles in the snowy mountain forest countless times during my recuperation in the hospital, in private and public talks. I love particularly to talk about Scout Hero Yang Tzu-yung and the others who gave their lives in the battles. Many people were deeply moved by my story. An idea occurred to me: 'I have only one voice. With those of our comrades-in-arms who are still alive, we have only a little more than twenty voices. . . . But the names of Yang Tzu-yung and others ought to be remembered for ever. They ought to live on in the minds of the masses of the labouring people and of the coming generations.' That is how I began to think about writing a novel."

Chu Po started the actual writing in 1955. He had to overcome the hesitations and difficulties of one first beginning to write. But the memory of his comrades helped him go ahead. He said: "In writing my story at night, I felt as if I were not sitting at my desk in my cozy little home,



"He's not Hu Piao. He's a Communist!" cried brigand Luan, pointing a finger at Yang Tzu-yung  
An illustration from *Tracks in the Snowy Forest*, by Sun Yi



but were racing with my squad on the snowy tracks."

It is interesting to note that another recent popular novel, *Song of Youth* by Yang Mo (see *Peking Review*, No. 11, March 17, 1959), was written under somewhat similar conditions. Both are first novels by people who felt impelled to tell the stories of heroes they had personally known and the struggle in which they personally participated. As a matter of fact three of the most widely read novels of the past year are first novels by amateur writers who participated in the revolutionary struggles personally. The third is *Bitter Herbs* by Feng Teh-ying.

*Bitter Herbs* portrays the guerrilla war in eastern Shantung during the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression in the early forties. It tells the story of the transformation of an ordinary housewife into a great revolutionary with all the inner conflicts in the course of her growth and development. In a "mopping-up" campaign, the Japanese suddenly attack her village. A bloody trial and execution take place. But neither torture nor death can make the villagers betray the revolutionary cadres. In an effort to detect the revolutionaries operating in the area the Japanese occupation authorities declare that only the husbands and sons of the local women would be spared from execution. The decree endangers the leaders of the resistance. Mother, the heroine of the novel, takes the lead in a counter-move to save the leading forces from death. She points at a Communist Party member and declares he is her son. Some other women follow her example, making a very difficult decision that sacrifices some of their own men for the cause of the revolution. The suspense and emotional tension run high in this and other episodes based on the true course of events at that time. Characters stand out in bold relief as they live through one turbulent mental conflict after another.

Another novel which has won a large audience of readers is *Keep the Red Flag Flying* by Liang Pin. It describes the struggle against the landlords in the rural areas of Hopei Province in north China in the late twenties and early thirties and the students' movement following the Japanese occupation of China's northeastern provinces in 1931. In the peasant family of the Chus, the grandfather loses his life in a fight against a local despot. His daughter seeks death after being violated. His son, Chu Lao-chung, is forced to flee from home but returns twenty-five years later to wage a big struggle against his persecutors. The grandsons grow up to become Communists. They lead the students' movement in the fight against Chiang Kai-shek's betrayal of the country. The Kuo-

mintang massacre fails to stem the raging patriotic movement. As this novel, the first of a trilogy, ends, it points towards the anger and the gathering of the forces of a more powerful armed peasant uprising to come.

A magnificent panorama of the national and democratic revolution of the Chinese people unfolds with Chu Lao-chung standing out most distinctly as a hero of our new age. The author follows the traditional style, popular in our classical literature, of depicting a gallery of heroes, in this instance peasant heroes. The lively and expressive language brings the reader still closer to the rural life and customs of the central Hopei Province.

*Red Sun* by Wu Chiang is an outstanding war novel. The time is 1947 when Chiang Kai-shek mustered his crack troops to attack the liberated area in the coastal province of Shantung. The story opens with the organization of a planned retreat by the P.L.A. It then illuminates a whole campaign in which the P.L.A., guided by Chairman Mao's strategic thought and supported by the local people, succeeds in wiping out the enemy and staging a victorious comeback. It is a huge mural of revolutionary war history. Among its seventy-five characters, more than a dozen officers and men are very well portrayed.

Chou Li-po's latest novel, *Upheaval in a Mountain Village*, can be considered a sequel to *The Hurricane*, the novel for which the author was awarded a Stalin Prize in 1951. While *The Hurricane* describes land reform in the northeast, his new work advances with the forward-marching Chinese peasants to the agricultural co-op movement in a mountain village in Hunan Province. With great insight the author delineates the tremendous changes in rural life, the end of the centuries-old economic base of private ownership, the gradual disappearance of backward customs and habits, the new look in family life and the rapidly changing human relations.

*Tempered Steel* is a new achievement of an old writer, Ai Wu, renowned for his descriptive details. It describes the life of the workers in a steel plant in northeast China. It makes absorbing reading. The hero of the novel, Chin Teh-kuei, joins the Eighth Route Army when he is a mere boy. He becomes a new type of worker after he enters the steel industry. Sabotage by a counter-revolutionary and Chin's involvement in a complicated love affair lead to much misunderstanding. But he doesn't lose faith in the face of difficulties. His spirit of selflessness moves his fellow workers greatly when he risks his life to prevent an explosion. The counter-revolutionary is exposed. Misunderstanding gives way to friendly emulation in production. In a well-constructed plot, Ai Wu weaves the

numerous characters, the various aspects of the life of the workers and the complex of incidents and anecdotes together into a harmonious whole.

—CHUNG HO

## MUSIC

### *A New First Symphony*

From music to poetry and back to music. Chairman Mao Tse-tung wrote his poem on National Day, 1950, to the melody of *Wan Hsi Sha*, one of the classical Chinese tunes whose rhythm has been used by many poets as the formal scaffolding of their verse. The music itself has been lost, but the verse prototypes are preserved. His poem runs:

*Long was the night and slow the  
crimson dawn to spread in this land;  
For hundreds of years have demons  
and monsters swept in a swirling  
dance,  
And the five hundred million people  
were disunited.  
But now that the cock has crowed and  
all under heaven is bright,  
Here comes music played from a  
thousand places,  
And from Khotan strains that inspire  
the poet as never before.*

The young composer Lo Chung-jung takes these lines as the theme of his first symphony which was performed for the first time last month by the Central Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra conducted by Li Teh-lun. It is in four movements. The first two reflect the ideas and feeling of the first stanza—the abysmal darkness of old China, the light of revolution slowly breaking through, the gathering strength of the many million people. The last two movements reflect the second stanza—the dawn brought by the revolution, the new happiness of the people of every nationality, the music that uplifts the artist. This is not illustrative music. It is programme music that uses a Western orchestra and musical colour with Chinese melodic themes.

The first movement opens with a powerful theme—the theme of the people that is finally presented by the entire orchestra and that battles with lowering, sombre passages, changing its texture and merging into the second theme, heard for the first time on the bass instruments, evoking vistas of China's northern landscape and the solid, steadfast qualities of its people.

The tympani introduce the third, savage theme of "demons and monsters" and pass it over to the brass. All these themes are then developed in turn, with the third theme triumphant in *fortissimo*. A pause and then the first theme again



sounds out insistently, melodiously and with gathering strength. But the whole movement ends on a brooding, meditative note.

The second movement is introduced by a melody of lament on the flute, a requiem that returns finally to the first theme of the people, the theme of hope, of potential strength.

The third movement, based on the second stanza of the poem, is called into being heroically on the trumpet and is immediately locked in conflict with the third, raucous theme of the first movement which it subdues. The movement ends with a sturdy march, again introduced on the trumpets — based on a well-known song of the People's Liberation Army.

The performance at the People's Club in Peking ended on this. According to the composer's notes, the fourth move-

ment is a passage of rejoicing, a paean of praise that begins with the melody of the song *The East Is Red* introducing a finally developed variation of the first (people's) theme from the first movement.

This is an example of one of the trends in present-day symphonic writing in China. It is an interesting example of popularization. Chairman Mao's poem is widely known and serves as an emotionally charged "programme note" that makes the composition immediately understandable in general outline even to listeners who are not yet fully at home in Western musical idioms. The composer has provided some equally well-known reference points in his work: the use of popular melodies, like *The East Is Red* or the P.L.A. marching song, that provide a further key to understanding. He has no need for cheap illustrative effects and paints his pictures, thoughts

and feelings entirely in musical terms. He is inventive in melody and harmony and deals competently with his orchestral effects.

The same evening included another first symphony by Li Huan-chih, the composer of the popular song *Socialism Is Good!* The whole programme was an interim discussion of "work in progress," one of many now being organized in Peking and elsewhere in preparation for the gala artistic festivities planned for the tenth anniversary of the People's Republic this coming October. The audience was mainly from professional musical and artistic circles. It will be of considerable help to the young composers to hear their work performed and to get constructive comments before putting the finishing touches to their compositions.

—C.I.F.

## WHAT'S ON IN PEKING

— Highlights of Current Entertainment, Exhibitions, etc. —

Programmes are subject to change. Where times are not listed consult theatre or daily press.

### PEKING OPERA

▲ **DRAWING LOTS FOR LIFE OR DEATH** A magistrate is ordered by a local military commander to sentence an innocent girl to death. Once rescued by the girl's father, he determines to save her life. His daughter and god-daughter offer to die in her place. The three selfless girls draw lots to decide who will make the sacrifice needed to save the lives of the rest. The timely arrival of a just inspector saves the situation. Produced by the Mei Lan-fang Peking Opera Troupe.

June 2, 7:30 p.m. *Zhong He Theatre*

▲ **LOVE UNDER THE WILLOWS** Otherwise known as *Liang Shan-po and Chu Ying-tai*, the tragic story of two lovers. The tale, popular throughout the centuries, has come to symbolize the people's resistance to feudal marriage conventions in old China. Produced by the China Peking Opera Theatre.

June 2, 7:30 p.m. *Renmin Theatre*

▲ **THREE ATTACKS ON CHU VILLAGE** An episode from *Water Margin (All Men Are Brothers)* in which Sung Chiang, the leader of a peasant rebellion, cleverly wins over his opponents in Chu Village. Produced by the China Peking Opera Theatre.

June 3, 7:15 p.m. *Music Hall in Zhongshan Park*

▲ **THE COWHERD AND THE WEAVING MAID** Adapted from the famous Chinese folk tale about the romance between a cowherd and a heavenly weaving maid. Newly produced by the students of the Chinese Opera School.

June 3-4, 7:30 p.m. *Renmin Theatre*

June 8-9 7:30 p.m. *Tianqiao Theatre*

▲ **MU KUEI-YING** A brave warrior-maid of Sung times wins the heart of a young general after defeating him on the battlefield, and later helps him drive out foreign invaders. Mei Lan-fang as Mu Kuei-ying.

June 4, 7:30 p.m. *Ji Xiang Theatre*

### PINGJU OPERA

▲ **PRAYING TO THE MOON** The romance of a young couple whose marriage is broken up by a mercenary father but who are finally reunited. Produced by the China Pingju Opera Theatre.

June 2, 7:30 p.m. *Da Zhong Theatre*

▲ **BITTER HERBS** A play about the Shantung peasants who rose against oppressive traitors and landlords during the War of

Resistance to Japanese Aggression. Produced by the China Pingju Opera Theatre.

June 4, 7:30 p.m. *Da Zhong Theatre*

### MODERN OPERA

▲ **THE CLOTH SELLER** A comic opera by the famous Azerbaijan playwright, Uzer Gadjiibekov, produced in Chinese by the Central Experimental Opera Theatre. A wealthy Azerbaijan youth who wants to choose his own bride, disguises himself as a wandering cloth seller, and so meets a beautiful girl. They fall in love. The girl's rich father refuses to let his daughter wed a poor cloth seller, but with the help of a friend, all ends happily.

June 2, 6-7, 7:30 p.m. *Tianqiao Theatre*

### THEATRE

▲ **LADY TSAI WEN-CHI RETURNS TO HER HOMELAND** Kuo Mo-jo's latest historical play. Tsao Tsao, Prime Minister of the Han Kingdom, sends two envoys to ask Tsai Wen-chi, who is married to a Hun noble, to return home and continue her scholar-father's work. One envoy threatens the Huns; the other accomplishes Tsao Tsao's aim by winning their friendship. On their return his life is saved by Wen-chi when he is falsely accused by the other of treachery. On the death of her husband, Wen-chi marries the loyal envoy and is happily reunited with her children. Produced by the Peking People's Art Theatre.

June 2-15, 7:30 p.m. *Shoudu Theatre*

▲ **THE LAST SCENE** A new play produced by the China Youth Art Theatre about the life, work and struggles of a group of progressive theatre workers and how they face the Kuomintang's white terror on the eve of liberation.

June 2-4, 7:30 p.m. *China Youth Art Theatre*

▲ **THE THUNDER OF TIBET** The story of the heroic resistance of the Tibetan people to the British imperialist invasion of 1904, the so-called Younghusband "expedition" to Lhasa. Produced by the China Railway Workers' Cultural Troupe.

June 2-7, 7:30 p.m. *Laodong Theatre*

▲ **THE MISER** The comedy by the great French dramatist, Moliere. Produced in Chinese by the Peking People's Art Theatre.

June 5-10, 7:30 p.m. *Peking Workers' Club*

### FILMS

▲ **THE KITE** A children's colour film jointly produced by Chinese and French film workers. A French boy finds a Chinese kite in Paris; he wishes he could come to Peking to meet the Chinese boy, who owns the kite.

How his wish is realized in a dream is the interesting theme of the story.

June 2-4, *Da Hua, Jiao Dao Kou, Ertong*

*Xin Jie Kou, Peking Exhibition Centre*

*Cinema, Shoudu Cinema*

June 5-9, *Guang An Men, Zhongyang*

*Peking Workers' Club*

▲ **THE STORY OF THE YOUNG PIONEERS** Produced by the Changchun Film Studio about a group of young pioneers who play an exciting part in last year's national drive for steel.

June 2-4, *Guang He Theatre, Xin Zhong Guo*

June 5-7, *Da Hua, Jiao Dao Kou, Ertong*

▲ **A WELL-OFF FAMILY** A story of the conflict between old and new in China's countryside. How a young couple struggles against the wrong-headed ideas of their seniors. Produced by the Halyan Film Studio.

June 2-4, *Xin Jie Kou, Peking Exhibition*

*Centre Cinema, Shoudu Cinema*

▲ **FINDING HUSBANDS IN A HURRY** A Hongkong colour film adapted from an ancient tale. When an imperial official arrives in a city to select beautiful women for the emperor's seraglio, a panic ensues. Mothers in their anxiety to save their daughters rush headlong into the streets to grab the first passers-by as husbands for their daughters and there are some strange denouements.

June 5-13, *Da Hua, Jiao Dao Kou, Ertong*

*Xin Jie Kou, Peking Exhibition Centre*

*Cinema, Shoudu Cinema*

▲ **ON THE RUINS OF A NOBLE'S ESTATE** How three Soviet boys help the government capture a counter-revolutionary noble who has planned to escape abroad.

June 2-4, *Da Hua, Jiao Dao Kou, Ertong*

*Guang An Men, Zhongyang, Peking*

*Workers' Club*

### EXHIBITIONS

▲ **NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF CHILDREN'S PAINTINGS** 361 pictures painted by Chinese children ranging from four to sixteen years of age. Open daily 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

At the *Gallery of the Artists' Union*

▲ **BULGARIAN ART EXHIBITION** Open daily 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

At *Palace Museum*

### SWIMMING

▲ **OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS**  
\*The Tao Ran Ting Swimming Pools  
Daily 12:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., 1:00-3:00 p.m., 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
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Daily 9:00-11:00 a.m., 12:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., 3:00-5:00 p.m.  
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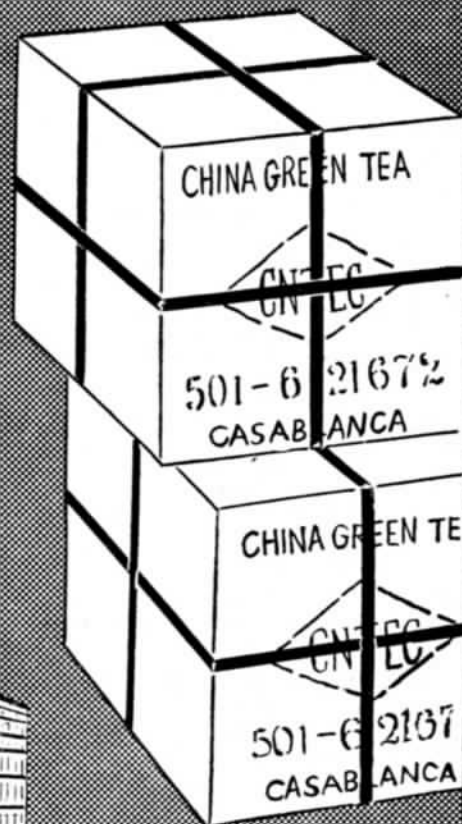


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