

PEKING REVIEW

46

November 17, 1961

Greetings to Albanian Party Of Labour

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New U.S. Plot Against Cuba

Stepped-up preparations for fresh invasion exposed
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Inner Mongolian Impressions

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Soil and Water Conservation In Shensi

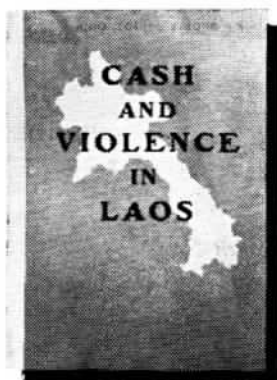
Pen Probes and Other Features

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A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE NEWS AND VIEWS

Cash and Violence in Laos

by Anna Louise Strong



What really happens in Laos, that distant, little-known kingdom in Southeast Asia which so recently holds the headlines of the world? This book gives a clear, vivid and enthralling account. You will see a land of tall mountains, deep jungles and scattered areas of rice cultivation, where the Lao population is mixed with equal numbers of people in sixty-odd minority nationalities and tribes in the hills. You will glimpse a historic past when the Kingdom of a Million Elephants antedated the discovery of the North American continent, and a more recent past when Laos was engulfed for decades by French imperialism.

You will see in more detail how Washington's new imperialism took over from France, with streamlined methods of "cash and violence," paying the entire cost of the Royal Army and most of the cost of the civil government, and three times overthrowing a neutralist premier by withholding his government's pay. You will see how Washington promoted six years of civil war against the patriots who sought to unify the tribes and build an independent nation.

In greater detail you will hear stories of the struggle and sacrifice by which sixty-odd tribes are being forged into a united nation, and by which the policy of internal unity and neutrality in foreign affairs develops as the only way in which this landlocked people can survive. These are amazing tales: the escape of the Second Pathet Lao Battalion from encirclement, the Jail-Break of the Sixteen who converted their guards and walked out of the jail one midnight taking the guards along to the safety of the hills. You will meet Captain Kong Le—a general now who refuses to be called "general"—who grew sick of killing his fellow Laotians on Washington's orders and chose to seize the nation's capital instead with his 600 men.

These are tales as exciting as any novel, but they are also true. They are based on historic research, on a personal trip, on interviews with leaders, and on Washington's statistics, and told by Anna Louise Strong in the clear, vivid language for which she is known. This book gives insight into the methods of the new imperialism, and the methods by which a united and determined people win.

When Serfs Stood Up in Tibet

Report by Anna Louise Strong

Anna Louise Strong follows up her recently published *Tibetan Interviews* with a second book on Tibet, an account of her travels there in 1959. She sketches in the historical background of Tibet, gives the facts on the rebellion launched by the reactionary clique of the upper social strata which was determined to preserve the serf system, and describes the democratic reforms which have been going ahead vigorously there since the revolt was put down.

The author visited cities and monasteries and toured the rural areas; interviewed emancipated serfs, lamas and patriotic patriots. These interviews expose the true character of Tibetan feudal serfdom in all its inhuman cruelty. Together with the author's own observations they also show how the Tibetan people, led by the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao, have cast off the shackles of serfdom and have started with all other nationalities of China to build a new, happy, prosperous socialist life.

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A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE
NEWS AND VIEWS

November 17, 1961 Vol. IV No. 46

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ROUND THE WEEK

New Successes in Coalmines

Good news comes from the coalmines. The Chinghsi (West of Peking) Mining Administration reports that its coal output and tunnelling targets for the first ten months of 1961 were overfulfilled by 2.07 and 10.54 per cent respectively. The Tangshan coalmine, one of the oldest of the famous Kailan mines, reports that its October output topped that of September by 6.25 per cent, while in the last ten months it produced very nearly as much coal as it did in the entire big leap year of 1958. In coal-rich Shansi Province, seven state-owned collieries have been consistently overfulfilling their output and tunnelling plans since August. Pinghsiang Colliery, down in Kiangsi Province, reports that its output in the third quarter exceeded that in the second quarter by 15.29 per cent.

These successes may be attributed to a number of factors such as improved organizational work, a fine job of maintenance and well-organized labour emulation. But perhaps the most noteworthy is a better grasp of how labour and effort should be distributed to get the maximum results in a mine. Chinghsi is a case in point. In the three big leap years 1958-60, Chinghsi's coal output soared 3.4-fold but tunnelling increased only 2.4-fold. Tunnelling was not keeping pace with coal-cutting. In the spirit of the current policy of what is shortly described as "readjusting, consolidating, filling out and raising standards," the Chinghsi administration redeployed its forces to better effect. Tunnelling work had clearly become a weak link in the chain of production. So it transferred a considerable number of skilled workers from other departments to the tunnelling front to give it a highly efficient core of technical workers; it took on 1,200 new workers for tunnelling, and acquired some 200 additional pieces of tunnelling equipment—air compressors, pneumatic drills, rock loaders and so on. As a result, the rate of tunnelling (in relation to coal-cutting) rose from 31.43 metres (per 1,000 tons of coal cut) at the beginning of the

year to 38.04 metres in September. This made it possible to ready more work faces for coal-cutting and to keep up a steady rise in coal output.

State Farms in Kiangsi

The 200 and more state reclamation farms of Kiangsi will soon celebrate their fourth anniversary. Their establishment and growth has brought new vigour to many regions of this province on the lower reaches of the Yangtse. Desolate mountain areas, including famous revolutionary bases of the past, have been turned into flourishing agricultural centres. The farms have fulfilled their tasks admirably by developing and exploiting the resources of forest and hill lands, opening up wastelands to agriculture and helping old communities in the area speed up their economic advance.

Sixty per cent of Kiangsi Province is mountainous, and for centuries these mountain areas have been economic and cultural backwaters. They were sparsely populated; poverty and lack of manpower led to crude methods of extensive farming. Yields were low. Kuomintang misrule added to the difficulties. Existing forests were not properly cared for, to say nothing of afforestation. Transport facilities were lacking and even if the people had produced anything worth exporting it would have been well-nigh impossible to get such products out in bulk.

A new page was opened in the life of these areas in the winter of 1957: at the call of the provincial authorities, 50,000 cadres went out as pioneers in the mountain areas to lay the groundwork for these new state farms. Later they were joined by thousands of demobbed P.L.A. officers and men, young people from the cities and farmers from neighbouring areas. These swelled the ranks of the workers and staff members to 1,400,000 men and women.

Among the major achievements of the state farms are the reclaiming of 300,000 *mu* of land, the afforestation of 5.7 million *mu* and the planting of fruit and mulberry trees and tea

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plantations on another 250,000 *mu*. Many parts of these mountain areas are now self-sufficient in food grains and no longer need to import these from outside. All the farms are breeding pigs and poultry. They have built many new reservoirs and factories, roads and prosperous towns.

There is no stereotype for the growth of these farms. The Yunshan Farm, for instance, has developed its forest lines particularly well. While the pioneers reclaimed land to ensure a supply of grain and vegetables, they gave priority to felling timber and building roads to get it out. It has gradually brought large tracts of forests under its management and shipped out more than 100,000 cu. m. of timber. It has also built factories to make use of its many forest resources. On the other hand, the extensive areas of poor red soil on the Jinping Farm led it first to raise pigs, cattle and poultry. Two years later, it was able to ameliorate its red soil with organic fertilizers and has achieved outstanding results both in livestock breeding and agriculture.

Yunnan Institute of Nationalities

The Yunnan Institute of Nationalities recently celebrated its 10th anniversary and it had much to celebrate. When first established in 1951, it had only 30 faculty and staff members; now it has over 170, half of them from the local national minorities. Formerly it had less than 500 students; now it has almost three times that number. But what it particularly prides itself on is that in these ten years more than 7,700 students of various nationalities have graduated and are now doing good work in many fields of socialist construction.

In multi-national China, Yunnan is one of the provinces with the largest number of national minorities and they live here in greater density than in most of the other provinces. More than 5 million people of over 20 national minorities inhabit this subtropical region on China's southwestern border. They include the Yis, Tais, Pais, Huis, Tibetans, Lahus, Chingpos, Nahsis, Hanis, Kawas, and Lisus. For centuries before liberation the masses lived in feudal serfdom, besides being victims of national oppression and discrimination. They were kept in an extremely backward state, both socially and culturally. About 90 per

cent of them were illiterate. Some of the national minorities did not even have a written language of their own.

Since liberation a great effort has been made to help them out of their backwardness and a major step in this direction was the establishment of the Yunnan Institute of Nationalities on the northern outskirts of beautiful Kunming. Now close to 1,500 students of these various nationalities are studying here. Some are functionaries of the minority peoples, others are outstanding peasants; all were downtrodden and oppressed in the old society. While studying they receive stipends from the People's Government. They study, among many other courses, Marxism-Leninism and the Party's policies towards nationalities. The Han language is taught and, since 1956, the institute has opened courses in seven minority languages, including Tai, Lisu, Kawa and Hani. Many students are studying their own languages in preparation for the task of teaching their own people after graduation.

While some of the graduates have gone to work in the provincial government offices or have been given the chance to go to Peking for further studies at the Central Institute of Nationalities, most of them go back to their own people to help build up their own regions. But wherever they go these graduates are playing an important role in promoting unity among the nationalities, carrying out democratic reforms, and implementing the Party's policies towards the nationalities and the general line for building socialism. Some have proved themselves extremely capable and have been promoted to leading posts.

The minority peoples of Yunnan not only receive training at the Institute of Nationalities as administrative personnel. Many are studying engineering, medicine, agronomy, and the arts and other sciences in the province's various colleges. Such educational opportunities are a far cry from the past, a past which they have consigned to oblivion for good and all.

Newspaper Reading Made Easy

Since November 1, all the more difficult characters in China's leading paper, the *Renmin Ribao* (*People's Daily*), have been appearing with their equivalents in the Chinese phonetic

alphabet. A difficult or uncommon character or term in the text is annotated thus: "鏗鏘 [kēng-qiāng]" (meaning: the jingle of bells). This enables those who know the spoken word but not its written form to recognize it by its sound. It helps the beginner to pronounce a difficult character at a glance, a big help to learning it. Many Chinese characters themselves, of course, give no clue to their pronunciation.

In the past few days many readers have written to the editorial offices of the *Renmin Ribao*, voicing their appreciation of this valuable "walking stick" which the paper has provided them with.

The Chinese phonetic alphabet of 26 Latin letters, which is easily mastered in a few lessons, has already proved to be a most popular aid to learning in many fields. Used to indicate the pronunciation of Chinese characters, they are a stepping-stone to the more difficult stage of learning their meanings and memorizing how to write them. They are often described as "walking sticks" in learning.

Since the phonetic alphabet scheme was adopted by the National People's Congress in 1958, phonetic notations have appeared to an increasing extent as aids to reading public notices and posters, bus stations and street names, theatre bills, and even shop signs, titles of periodicals and books, trade marks, and so on. They have proved to be a boon to millions.

This new departure in the *Renmin Ribao* results from suggestions made by readers. These include a great number of people in both city and countryside who are now newly but not fully literate. The paper published many letters from readers on this question, including those from well-known specialists in the Chinese language such as Yeh Sheng-tao, Lu Shu-hsiang and Lin Han-ta. The latter made an incomplete list of about one hundred words from the September issues of the *Renmin Ribao* alone which he considered well-nigh unrecognizable for the ordinary reader. Yeh Sheng-tao urged the use of phonetic notations for difficult words to avoid mispronunciations which may pass from one person to another, widening their influence "like expanding ripples in a still pool." Many expressed the hope that some provincial dailies would follow suit.

Glorious Albanian Party of Labour

by HO TSUNG

NOVEMBER 8, the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Albanian Party of Labour, was warmly observed by the Chinese people. Press and radio, exhibitions, meetings and rallies marked the occasion.

Peking's citizens celebrated the day with a mass rally jointly sponsored by the Commission for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the China-Albania Friendship Association. Chiang Nan-hsiang, president of the association, and the Albanian Ambassador to China Reis Malile were the main speakers. Chen Yi and Li Hsien-nien, Members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Vice-Premiers of the State Council; Lu Ting-yi, Alternate Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee and Vice-Premier; and leaders of various people's organizations were in attendance. Albanian embassy officials, Albanian visitors and students in Peking were among the guests.

Other activities included the opening of pictorial exhibitions simultaneously in Peking and Shanghai. These show the Albanian people's successes achieved under the leadership of the Albanian Party of Labour, both during the struggle for liberation and in socialist construction today. Members of the China-Albania Friendship People's Commune on the outskirts of Peking invited Albanian guests to the commune for a happy get-together. The Albanian play, *A Fisherman's Family*, is playing in the capital. News around these events has been given wide coverage over the radio, and *Renmin Ribao* gave the anniversary two and a half pages, including an editorial and an article by Comrade Mehmet Shehu, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Albanian Party of Labour.

A Heroic Path

On November 8, 1941, when Albania lay bleeding at the feet of the Italian fascist invaders, representatives of three Marxist-Leninist groups met secretly in a small house in occupied Tirana. There the Albanian Party of Labour, vanguard of the proletariat, was born and the strategy of the revolution mapped out. Thus in the country's darkest hour the beacon light of hope and struggle was lit. Overcoming tremendous difficulties, the newly formed Party organized the Albanian people's own armed forces, rallied its patriots into a national-liberation front and waged a bitter armed struggle against the fascist invaders. Finally in November 1944, with the support of the Soviet Army's powerful thrust in the Balkans, the aggressors were driven out. Albania was free.

Following liberation, the Albanian Party of Labour led the people in the tasks of reconstruction. Quickly healing the wounds of war it went on to complete democratic reforms and then to carry out socialist revolution. Feudal and foreign rule had left Albania with no industry

to speak of, a backward agriculture and a population that was 80 per cent illiterate. Albania, separated by Yugoslavia, has no common border with other countries of the socialist camp. In spite of all these unfavourable conditions, the Albanian people, led by the Albanian Party of Labour, and relying mainly on their own efforts, have achieved great successes in the building of socialism. In the seventeen years since liberation, People's Albania has changed from an agricultural country with a low level of production into an agricultural-industrial one. A solid socialist economic base has been established and the country is set for full-scale socialist construction.

Albania in Construction

The Second (1956-1960) Five-Year Plan's targets were fulfilled ahead of time. The total value of industrial production in 1960 was 2.18 times that of 1955, or 25 times that of 1938. During this period, labour productivity in industry rose annually by an average of 9.4 per cent, which is higher than in the neighbouring capitalist countries — Italy, Greece and Yugoslavia.

Collectivization of agriculture, the basis of socialist economy in the countryside, was also completed ahead of time. By 1960, socialist farming had extended over 86 per cent of the country's cultivated land. Today, Albania's mechanized collective farms show a sharp rise in productivity.

Great advances have been made in science, education and culture. The national income in 1960 was 48 per cent higher than in 1955. The people's living standards, both material and cultural, have appreciably improved.

Albania is not only successfully working to build socialism but is also carrying on an unremitting struggle against imperialism and its stooges, the Yugoslav modern revisionists. True to its revolutionary tradition, the Albanian Party of Labour displays a fearless militancy in the face of continuous provocations and other disruptive activities of these enemies. By steadfastly pursuing a peaceful foreign policy and resolutely struggling for world peace, by working for the realization of peaceful co-existence among countries with different social systems and opposing U.S. imperialist policies of war and aggression and by actively supporting the Asian, African and Latin American peoples' struggle for national independence, Albania is making outstanding contributions to the cause of world peace and human progress.

Loyal to Marxism-Leninism

These brilliant successes achieved by the Albanian people in their home and foreign policies are inseparable from the correct leadership of the Albanian Party of Labour, which in its 20 years of existence has faithfully applied the general principles of Marxism-Leninism to the

Message of Greetings

To the Central Committee of the Albanian Party of Labour,

Dear Comrades:

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Albanian Party of Labour, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, on behalf of all Party members and the whole Chinese people, extends the warmest fraternal greetings to your Party and all the Albanian people.

The founding of the Albanian Party of Labour was a decisive turning point in the history of the Albanian people. From the moment of its birth, the Albanian Party of Labour led the heroic Albanian people in waging a war of national liberation and in valiant struggles against the fascist occupation forces and domestic traitors.

Since liberation, the Albanian Party of Labour has led the Albanian people in victoriously carrying on the socialist revolution and socialist construction, greatly changing the face of their motherland within a short historical period, and transforming Albania from an economically backward agricultural country into an agricultural-industrial one. A socialist economic basis has been laid both in the cities and the countryside. The Albanian people are now striving with full confidence to carry out the resolutions of the Fourth Congress of the Albanian Party of Labour and the Third Five-Year Plan.

Under the leadership of the Albanian Party of Labour, the Albanian people stand firm at an outpost of the socialist camp in its struggle against the enemy, and, in the militant spirit of holding "a hoe in one hand and a rifle in the other," have made positive contributions in safeguarding the cause of socialism, defending world peace and fighting against the imperialist policies of aggression and war. By steadfastly waging a principled, resolute struggle against modern revisionism of Yugoslavia, the Albanian Party of Labour has played an important role in preserving the purity of Marxism-Leninism.

The history of the Albanian Party of Labour in the past 20 years, its activities and struggles and the

great successes it has achieved fully testify to the fact that the Albanian Party of Labour is a militant Marxist-Leninist Party steeled in revolutionary struggles. It has its roots deep in the masses of the people and maintains flesh-and-blood ties with them. We are convinced that the Albanian people, under the correct leadership of the Central Committee of the Albanian Party of Labour headed by Comrade Enver Hoxha, their long-tested leader, will certainly achieve still greater successes in socialist construction in the future and make fresh contributions in the struggle for promoting the cause of world peace, democracy, national liberation and socialism.

The Communist Party of China and the Chinese people have always followed with interest the struggles and achievements of the fraternal Albanian Party of Labour and the fraternal Albanian people. The Chinese Communists and the Chinese people deeply admire the heroic revolutionary spirit of the Albanian Party of Labour and the Albanian people. The two Parties of China and Albania and the people of the two countries have forged a deep, militant friendship in their common struggle to oppose imperialism, defend world peace and build socialism. We are deeply convinced that the great friendship and unity of the peoples of China and Albania based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism will certainly be further consolidated and developed.

Long live the glorious Albanian Party of Labour!

Long live the unbreakable unity of the Chinese and Albanian peoples!

Long live the great unity of the socialist camp!

Long live the great unity of the international communist movement!

Long live invincible Marxism-Leninism!

**The Central Committee of the
Communist Party of China**

November 7, 1961

concrete conditions of Albania. As *Renmin Ribao* states in its editorial of November 8: "The Albanian Party of Labour, headed by Comrade Enver Hoxha, the long-tested leader of the Albanian people, is a Party which takes Marxism-Leninism as its guide to action, a Party long steeled in the flames of revolutionary struggle and one that maintains close ties with the masses. It has always been loyal to Marxism-Leninism, to the principles of proletarian internationalism and to the 1957 Declaration and 1960 Statement of the Moscow Meetings. It has resolutely safeguarded unity with the Soviet people and the people of the other socialist countries and the unity

of the international communist movement. With its high Marxist-Leninist sense of principle, the Albanian Party of Labour has carried on an uncompromising struggle against the modern revisionists represented by the Tito clique of Yugoslavia and resolutely defended the purity of Marxism-Leninism, playing an important role in safeguarding and strengthening the unity of the socialist camp and of the international communist movement."

Unshakable Friendship

The Chinese people have long admired the Albanian people and the Albanian Party of Labour for their firm

adherence to proletarian principles and revolutionary militancy in the struggle against imperialism and modern revisionism. They have rejoiced at the Albanian people's brilliant successes in socialist construction. At the same time they have always felt the fraternal Albanian people's sincere support for their own socialist construction and in their struggles in the international arena. Marxism-

Leninism and proletarian internationalism have bound the two peoples together in a militant friendship which transcends the vast geographical distance that separates them. As the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Albanian Party of Labour demonstrate, no force on earth can shake this comradeship-in-arms between the Chinese and Albanian peoples.

In a Land of Heroes

by YANG YUN-YU*

OUR two-week visit to Albania has left me many happy memories. Besides Tirana we went to Durazzo, Vlone, Korce and Elbasan in southern Albania and visited factories, schools, hospitals, museums, nurseries, kindergartens and the countryside. During our brief stay we learnt quite a lot about this country of heroic people.

Hoe in One Hand, Rifle in the Other

The people of Albania early learnt to fight their enemies. Their forbears fought for freedom in protracted struggles against Greek, Roman and Turkish invaders. During World War II, the guerrilla forces led by Comrades Enver Hoxha and Mehmet Shehu fought heroically against the German and Italian fascists. Their strength grew to 70,000, including 6,000 women guerrilla fighters. They finally joined forces with the Soviet Red Army and liberated their motherland. Today, their position is still difficult as they are surrounded by capitalist countries. But the Albanians, hoe in one hand and rifle in the other, are building their country in a militant spirit and standing as sentinels of the socialist camp on its southwest flank.

The 17 years following the founding of the republic have brought great changes. Albania's women, who till liberation wore the veil, now play an important part in Albania's socialist construction. Some 10,000 of them are now working in industry, and 120,000 peasant women have joined the agricultural producers' co-operatives; 1,700 women have won the title of honour—Member of the Socialist Labour Team. The people of Albania, during my stay there, were in the midst of a labour emulation drive to greet the forthcoming 20th anniversary of the founding of the Albanian Party of Labour. They were forging ahead to fulfil and overfulfil the 1961 production targets of the Third Five-Year Plan.

*The author is a Deputy to the National People's Congress and Member of the Secretariat of the National Women's Federation who attended the Fifth Congress of the Women's Union of Albania held from October 15-17 in Tirana.—Ed.

This year, Albania, in addition to its increased industrial production, had fairly good yields in agriculture—its harvest of wheat and early autumn crops was greater than that of last year, and there was also a bumper crop of vegetables and fruit. We saw truckloads of cotton on the way to the Stalin Textile Combine; like small hills stacks of straw dotted the countryside. The mountains and plains were covered with vines where the bunches of grapes hung black, purple and green. On the farms well-tended cattle and sheep grazed. Everywhere the country looked prosperous.

The people of Albania never for a moment forget the threat from the imperialists headed by the United States, and from the modern revisionists of Yugoslavia. Under the watchword "Stand ready at all times" the whole country, men and women, old and young, workers, peasants and soldiers, have united into one single entity, working, living and striving together. Today in Albania one often hears people taking an oath such as this: "We would sooner die on our feet than live on our knees. If our enemies dare invade our sacred land, they will find their grave in Albania's mountains and waters."

The Party—Their Mother

The Albanian people's love for the Albanian Party of Labour headed by Comrade Enver Hoxha impressed us



The author (fourth from right in the second row) with some delegates of the Fifth Congress of the Women's Union of Albania

very much. Everyone, the lovely school children and kindergarteners, the old folk, factory workers or farm co-op members, all call the Party of Labour their beloved Mother, and Comrade Hoxha, our Enver.

The people of the Lenin's Road Agricultural Producers' Co-operative in Korce told us that before liberation, many youngsters and men in their prime were forced to seek a living abroad and never came back. The peasants, oppressed and exploited by imperialism and feudal lords, did not have enough to eat while tenant farmers lived with the landlords' beasts in hovels. . . . But today, they are working with a light heart at these co-op farms, earning 130 lek (Albanian currency) and three kilogrammes of grain for each work-day. One hundred and fifty of the 175 households in the co-op have built new houses. Since 1953 electricity has been brought to every home and the village has built its own factories and schools. All this shows how correct has been the leadership of the Albanian Party of Labour headed by Comrade Enver Hoxha.

Everywhere we went, we heard people say: "O, the Party, Enver! With you to lead us we can certainly succeed in building socialism!"

A People Who Treasures Friendship

The Albanian people greatly value their friendship with the people of other countries, especially their friendship with the people of the Soviet Union. They told us inspiring stories of how the Albanian guerrilla units joined with the Soviet Red Army while fighting to defeat the fascists, how the twelve socialist countries help and sup-

port one another in their socialist revolution and construction. Such friendship built on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism and cemented by the blood of the martyrs is surely unbreakable.

The depth of their friendship for the Chinese people cannot be expressed in words; it has become part of the people's daily life and lies in the heart of the broad masses of the Albanian people. Chinese and Albanians work together in quite a number of factories. At a factory in Korce, beautiful clothes are woven of mixed Chinese and Albanian cotton yarn. The carpet factory in the same city produces rugs in both Albanian and Chinese patterns. Everywhere we went people with bouquets of flowers greeted us and offered us their good home-made grape wine. The aged chairman of the Lenin's Road Agricultural Producers' Co-operative in Korce, who was a veteran guerrilla fighter, insisted on receiving us in accordance with national custom: his guests were invited not only to eat mutton but also part of the sheep's head and tail. Living among the people who showered us with their profound friendship reminded me of the famous Chinese saying: "Though a bosom friend is far away you feel as close as next-door neighbours." Factory and office workers, co-op members, Young Pioneers, countless people from all the places we visited sent us their best wishes to the workers, farmers, students, Young Pioneers and women of China.

It is some time since we left Albania but I can still see the country and its working folk in my mind's eye. I shall never forget that fertile and beautiful land and its industrious and magnanimous people.

Smash New U.S. Plot for Aggression Against Cuba

by COMMENTATOR

The following article appeared in "Renmin Ribao" on November 13.—Ed.

OF late there are growing indications that U.S. imperialism is stepping up its preparations for a new armed attack on Cuba.

The United States is pushing forward the training of mercenary troops, and is deploying them in the ring of military bases it has established around Cuba. Large quantities of military supplies, including U.S. aircraft painted with the emblems of the Cuban Revolutionary Air Force, are being stockpiled at these bases. The strength of the U.S. marines on the Guantanamo and Caimanera naval bases in Cuba has been increased. The armed forces of the Central American dictatorships in Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic and Salvador are being trained for military ventures against Cuba.

Secondly, the United States has recently been making increased use of Cuban counter-revolutionaries for terror-

ist activities and sabotage in Cuba. Directed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, large numbers of these special agents are attempting to sneak into Cuba to stir up trouble, assassinate revolutionary leaders and organize armed rebellion from within, in order to "create suitable conditions" for the future invasion. The Cuban Government has recently unearthed several counter-revolutionary organizations, including the so-called "People's Revolutionary Movement," and has captured a number of special agents who had sneaked into the country.

Thirdly, the U.S. authorities are openly attempting to rally Cuban counter-revolutionary organizations to form a "government in exile" in preparation for the restoration of a reactionary regime in Cuba.

Fourthly, the United States by enticement or by exerting pressure is trying to get other Latin American countries to join in a "collective intervention" against Cuba. Kennedy has personally tried to persuade government leaders of some countries to sever diplomatic rela-

Caught Red-Handed

The so-called "People's Revolutionary Movement" recently unearthed in Cuba by the Revolutionary Government is a U.S.-financed and manipulated cloak-and-dagger outfit. Formed in the United States by Manuel Ray, a renegade and former Cuban Minister of Public Works, it receives orders direct from the Central Intelligence Agency. Members of this group use the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo to slip into Cuba to carry out terrorist activities against the Cuban people, such as blowing up department stores, sabotaging power plants, etc. The C.I.A. made sure that these bandits were amply supplied with weapons and explosives by sea, air and via Guantanamo.

Following its fiasco in the Giron Beach invasion, the U.S. Government gave Manuel Ray an additional \$100,000 with orders to step up counter-revolutionary sabotage and prepare for another U.S. invasion. Recently, upon direct orders from the C.I.A., this gang of traitors plotted to murder President Dorticos, Premier Castro and other leaders of the Cuban revolution. But they were detected in time and their plans frustrated. Large quantities of weapons and explosives, including machine-guns, hand-grenades and mortars were captured. Gonzalez, the "movement's national co-ordinator" who was arrested, confessed to his ties with the U.S. State Department as well as contacts with the Venezuelan President Betancourt, former Costa Rican President Figueres and Puerto Rican Governor Marin.

tions with Cuba. The recent military coup d'etat in Brazil engineered by the United States and its latest plot for setting up a dictatorship in Ecuador were both aimed at

For Your Information

War Preparations in the Caribbean

U.S. BASES for aggression against Cuba are today dotted throughout the Caribbean region. War preparations are being stepped up, mercenaries are being trained in about fifty military bases from Florida to Nicaragua, from Puerto Rico to Guatemala. Final preparations are being made for an armed attack on Cuba.

Some of these bases are in the Dominican Republic. After the Giron Beach flop, Washington selected new bases closer to Cuba in addition to those it already had in Central American states. On a clear day, the coast of Eastern Cuba is visible across the straits from the beaches of Haiti Island. After the death of the Dominican tyrant, Trujillo, the U.S. State Department installed Balaguer and his government and these puppets are completely under the U.S. thumb. The Dominican Liberation Movement has exposed the fact that mercenaries and war

changing the stand of these countries of upholding the principles of non-intervention and self-determination.

These facts make it clear that Cuba is faced with the grave threat of a new armed invasion. The Kennedy Administration is apparently not reconciled to the failure of its invasion last April nor has it learnt any lesson from that failure. Not long ago, U.S. Secretary of State Rusk openly declared that the United States would never accept peaceful coexistence with Fidel Castro's Cuban Government. News from Washington shows that the U.S. ruling circles are determined to launch a large-scale armed attack in the hope of strangling the Cuban revolution.

The peace-loving countries and peoples all over the world must maintain keen vigilance and be mobilized to smash such criminal designs.

The Cuban people who won a major victory in the battle at Giron Beach are now in combat readiness to repulse any new armed attack from U.S. imperialism. The Cuban revolutionary regime has become even more stable and the Cuban people's armed forces have grown much stronger since the smashing of the April invasion. As Premier Castro pointed out recently, the enemy "is doomed to fail regardless of what tactics he may use" because the revolutionary fighters were defending their land and their country. At the same time, the powerful movement in support of the Cuban revolution continues to gather strength throughout Latin America. The Latin American peoples will never allow U.S. imperialism to strangle the Cuban revolution, nor will they ever permit the ruling circles of their countries to act as accomplices of U.S. imperialism. The peace-loving people the world over are also standing by the Cuban people's side. If U.S. imperialism launches new armed aggression against Cuba, it will have to face not only the powerful counter-attack of the heroic Cuban people but also the resolute opposition of the people's forces of the whole of Latin America and of the world. Its defeat will be more disastrous than that it suffered half a year ago.

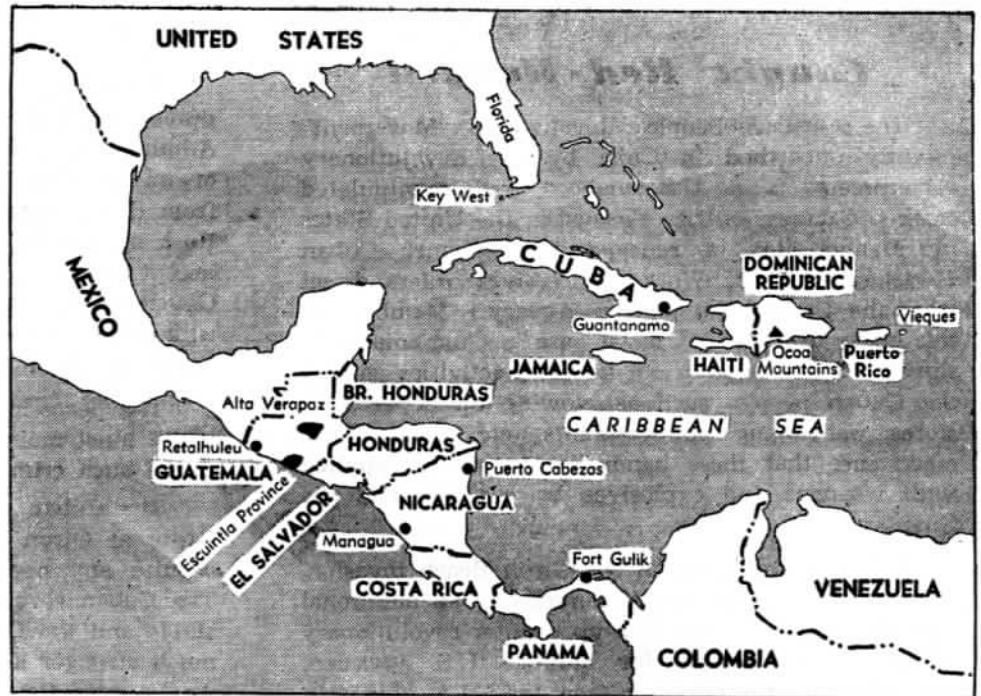
supplies have been concentrated in Las Calderas naval base, the most important base in the country, as well as in the Ocoa Mountains where mercenaries are receiving military training. U.S. military planes stationed here have been painted with the emblem of the Cuban Revolutionary Air Force. The Las Calderas base has been declared a restricted military zone.

The Mexican paper *Diario de la Tarde* reported on November 7 that a number of U.S. planes in Guatemala have also had the Cuban insignia painted on them as a camouflage for an attack on Cuba. Four military airfields were built in the forests of Petan Province, Guatemala, by the United States last April right after the Giron Beach invasion. The training of mercenaries has been carried out there and in Alta Verapaz and Escuintla Provinces. Meanwhile, a number of other military camps

in Retalhuleu, including three airports formerly used for the Giron Beach invasion, are being readied. One of these airfields has a ten-metre-high underground hangar for U.S. planes. Travellers from Managua, capital of Nicaragua, report that mercenaries are being trained in camps on the Caribbean coast and on the Monte Limar sugar cane plantation near Managua, which belongs to the Somoza family. There are also mercenaries in Camp Marte, an army camp in Managua. Large quantities of war materials, including bombs for U.S. aircraft, have been shipped to Puerto Cabezas and other ports.

Many more mercenaries than were trained for last April are now being trained in the U.S. naval bases in Vieques, Puerto Rico. The Cuban Government has disclosed that there are twenty-five bases for the training of mercenaries in the U.S. itself, mainly in Florida and Key West.

At the Central American military conference held in mid-September, it was decided to set up a joint chief-of-staff for the forces of the six Central American states. The meeting also discussed the plan for an armed invasion of Cuba and decided to set up a training centre for troops of these countries in Fort Gulik, Panama. It is quite obvious that the armed forces and air force units of a number of puppet governments will be drawn into the military venture against Cuba. According to press reports, the new attack will not be launched in one area only



Sketch map by Su Li

as the previous one was on Giron Beach, but in a number of places.

U.S. newspapers have disclosed that this time, in this new invasion of Cuba, U.S. troops may also be used. A number of U.S. officials have openly declared that the U.S. Air Force should take part in the bombing of major Cuban cities, communication routes, factories and oil refineries, to give more effective support to the invasion. There is also talk of using American aircraft carriers and warships to cover the landing of tanks.

Here is a clear case of U.S. imperialism attempting to export counter-revolution.

American Survey

U.S. Agricultural Crisis

by WU HSUEH-CHEN

IN the past forty years the U.S. Government has poured out tens of thousands of millions of dollars in a vain attempt to hold its chronic agricultural crisis in check. It has tried out dozens of prescriptions but neither its "parity price" policy, nor the forced reduction of crop areas, nor dumping in foreign countries has succeeded in preventing the piling up of "surplus" farm produce in the United States. Like its predecessors, the Kennedy Administration has been powerless to cure this disease of U.S. capitalism.

"Surpluses" Going Up and Up

Like industrial crises, agricultural crises in the United States are characterized by "over-production." According to U.S. official sources the value of the

"surplus" farm products now stored up in government granaries and warehouses rose from \$3,000 million in 1953 to \$8,000 million in 1959. By January this year, it had gone up to \$9,400 million. Since Kennedy became president he has dumped huge quantities of agricultural products on foreign markets but this dumping has hardly touched the edge of the problem. The value of U.S. Government agricultural stocks still stands at around \$8,500 million. The wheat and maize stocks are biggest of all. The amount of "surplus" wheat alone exceeds 1,000 million bushels, equal to the entire 1959 crop. The continuous pressure of these stocks on the market has caused a steady decline in prices. To quote from official U.S. statistics, between 1948 and last July the average price of primary products on the home market fell by

18 per cent and those of livestock and animal products by 24 per cent. This has hit U.S. farmers severely.

In 1960 agricultural producers in the United States received a net income of \$11,300 million, 5 per cent less than in 1959; in the first quarter of this year their cash income from agriculture was running at the annual rate of \$34,000 million which was 6 per cent less than in the last quarter of 1960 when it stood at \$35,900 million. Meanwhile farmers have to pay higher and higher prices for machinery and other industrial items which they need. Taking 1910-14 as 100, the ratio between the price index of farm produce and that of industrial goods dropped from 115 in 1947 to 80 in 1960 and down further to 79 last July.

Consumption Coming Down

The causes of the difficulties confronting U.S. farmers are not hard to find. The U.S. Government's arms drive and war preparations, the increased tax burden, inflation and mass unemployment have greatly reduced the nation's capacity to purchase consumer goods and food. The disproportion between production and consumption widens continually because, though agricultural "surpluses" have reached an all-time high, the Americans are eating less and buying less farm produce than they did before the war. The average annual per capita consumption of flour in the United States, for example, was 180 lbs. in 1935-39 but dropped to 110 lbs. in 1959; meat fell from 162.8 lbs. in 1955 to 158.5 lbs. in 1959; eggs from 371 to 354 in the same period; milk and cheese from 352 lbs. to 348 lbs. These figures show that the real trouble is not the existence of a food surplus in the United States but a definite fall in consumption leaving many people living below subsistence level. Senator Kennedy said in April 1960 that there were 17 million Americans "every night [going] to bed hungry"; in March this year, President Kennedy again admitted that "one out of ten American households has diets so inadequate that they fall below two-thirds of the standard nutrition requirements."

But while the farmer is getting less for his products the retail price of the consumer goods is continually rising. Between 1951 and July 1961, for instance, the price of cotton fell by 21.2 per cent, but the price of clothing increased by 9 per cent. The farmer's share in the price of his produce grows steadily less. In 1947, farmers got 51 cents out of every dollar as their share of retail sales of farm produce, but in June 1961 they got only 37 cents, the lowest amount since 1935.

Small and Medium-Sized Farms Face Bankruptcy

Reduced incomes, higher living costs and increased taxation have driven more and more farmers with small and medium-sized holdings into debt. Because of the government's stockpiling of arms and war preparations, taxes in 1958 were nearly 3 times as high as in 1940. The amount owed by farmers to banks and government agencies rose from \$10,800 million in January 1950 to \$16,900 million in January 1956, with a further rise to \$22,600 million in 1960. This means that American farmers owe debts amounting to double their current annual income. Over-burdened, the small and medium-

sized producers are being forced into bankruptcy quicker than ever.

At the same time the development of agricultural monopolies, the concentration of capital and the swallowing up of the smaller farms by the larger is going ahead fast. The number of farms in the United States has dropped from 4.7 million in 1954 to 3.7 million today. In the last five years the rate of decline in the number of farms is almost twice as fast as in the period 1950-54. The number of bankruptcies of small and medium-sized farms hit an all-time postwar high in 1959. In that year, the number of farms were 100,000 less than in 1958.

With these small and medium-sized producers going bankrupt, there has been a rapid reduction in the number of farm labourers too. The overall number of people engaged in farming dropped from 30,547,000 in 1950 to around 16 million by April 1960. This represents about 9 per cent as against 12 per cent of the nation's population in 1958. In the last ten years, people left agricultural production at an average rate of 500,000 a year and since many of them seek work in the cities this greatly aggravates the unemployment problem.

Kennedy's Quack Remedies

The deepening agricultural crisis in the United States has brought untold suffering to the farming population. It has also added to the financial burdens of the U.S. Government. To check "over-production," the Kennedy Administration has decided to make better use of the so-called "parity price" policy, which involves buying farm produce in huge quantities at a fixed price. In actual fact this serves as a kind of generous subsidy to the big farms and monopolies; it does the small producers no good. This is because costs of production are higher on the smaller farms than on the large ones and the "parity price" which gives the owners of larger farms a tidy profit, does not even cover the small farmer's production costs. This helps to promote the concentration of agricultural production. By providing the conditions in which the big farmers squeeze out the small and medium-sized ones, it has speeded up the process of polarization of the agricultural population into poorer farmers, on the one hand, and large capitalist farmers, on the other.

The forced reduction of the area under cultivation is another measure used by the Kennedy Administration to ease the pressure of "over-production." This year it plans to reduce the area sown to maize by 10 to 20 per cent, that of fodder crops by over 40 per cent and the wheat area by over 10 per cent. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has emphasized that a higher price can be ensured only by reducing the areas sown to wheat and fodder crops. This measure nevertheless does not affect the big farms at all, though it does a lot of harm to the smaller ones. The reason is that the big farms can leave their infertile land uncultivated and get paid for not producing on it. By further mechanizing and intensifying farming on their fertile land they ensure themselves large profits both by sales on the market and by selling yet more "surplus" crops to the government. The small and medium-sized farms can't play such tricks. They lose money. And furthermore, this policy, far from reduc-

ing agricultural output in the United States, is continuing to increase it.

Since the "parity price" policy and reduction of crop areas have proved to be of little use in solving the U.S. agricultural crisis, the administration has turned its eyes to the overseas markets. Soon after assuming office, Kennedy came up with his "food for peace" programme. Under the cloak of promoting world peace and "freedom,"

he is planning to export in the next five years U.S. "surplus" farm products, valued at \$7,500 million, to foreign countries. In fact this "food for peace" programme is just another name for the dumping of farm products abroad. It inevitably meets with strong resistance from other capitalist countries. This has resulted in added difficulties in the disposal of U.S. farm products on the world market. It has sharpened contradictions between Washington and other capitalist countries.

Travel Notes

IN INNER MONGOLIA

by LAO SHEH

Last summer, a score of artists, writers, painters, musicians, dancers and singers made a cross-country tour of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region. They spent eight weeks there with the people of various nationalities in its forests in the Khingan Mountains, its pastoral and farming areas, fishing grounds and industrial centres. Besides visiting places of historical interest, schools and exhibitions, they talked shop with local colleagues in their own professions. During their stay they were the guests of Comrade Ulanfu, First Secretary of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Regional Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. Lao Sheh is the noted writer whose novel Loto Hsiangtzu (translated as "Ricksha Boy"), adapted for the stage, enjoys great popularity among theatregoers to this day.—Ed.

“THE sky is grey; the wilderness, misty. The grass bows low to the wind where cattle and sheep are grazing.” When I was a child I learnt these lines by heart and they left me with a rather bleak impression of those northern lands. But now I have seen the steppes myself. It turned out that their skies could not be lovelier; their bright, clean air put one in a mood for song. As far as the eye could see, the land was green. The hills were verdant and so were the plains. Dotted with flocks of sheep they looked like green carpets embroidered with flowered patterns in white.

Travelling on the Steppes

We sped by car over the grassland for some 75 kilometres on our way to a pastoral commune in Chenpaerhhu Banner. We could have driven for another 75 kilometres in a straight line and still not reach the end of this green plain. Travelling on the steppes has an advantage: you can drive for miles straight on without bumping into anything. It was utterly peaceful; when our motors stopped, the only sound was the twittering of the birds. In the distance a glittering river zigzagged across the plain. We saw more cattle and sheep, and also herds of horses. Faintly the sound of the herdsmen's whips came to our ears. This meant that we were approaching the end of our journey. Suddenly a large group of horses and riders appeared ahead of us on a hill galloping in our direction like a coloured whirlwind. As they drew nearer we made out men and women, old and young, all gaily dressed, their

bright sashes flying in the air. They were the commune members, our hosts, coming to meet us. Cheering, laughing, shouting greetings they surrounded our cars, then turned back to lead the way to the commune headquarters. In a gay tumult, with the chatter of the welcoming crowd, the whirr of the engines, and the pounding of hoof-beats, we made our way to a group of Mongolian yurts on a hillside.

Here were more horses and carts in which people had come from many miles around to welcome us. We hurriedly asked a woman dancer to act as our interpreter. She was a native of this banner of the Owenke nationality, and had the beautiful name of Crystal Flower. The moment we stepped out from the car, however, everybody was shaking hands with everybody else and Crystal Flower didn't have a chance to get a word in edgewise. But these firm handshakes and broad smiles were eloquent. They said: let all of us of every nationality unite and help each other all we can!

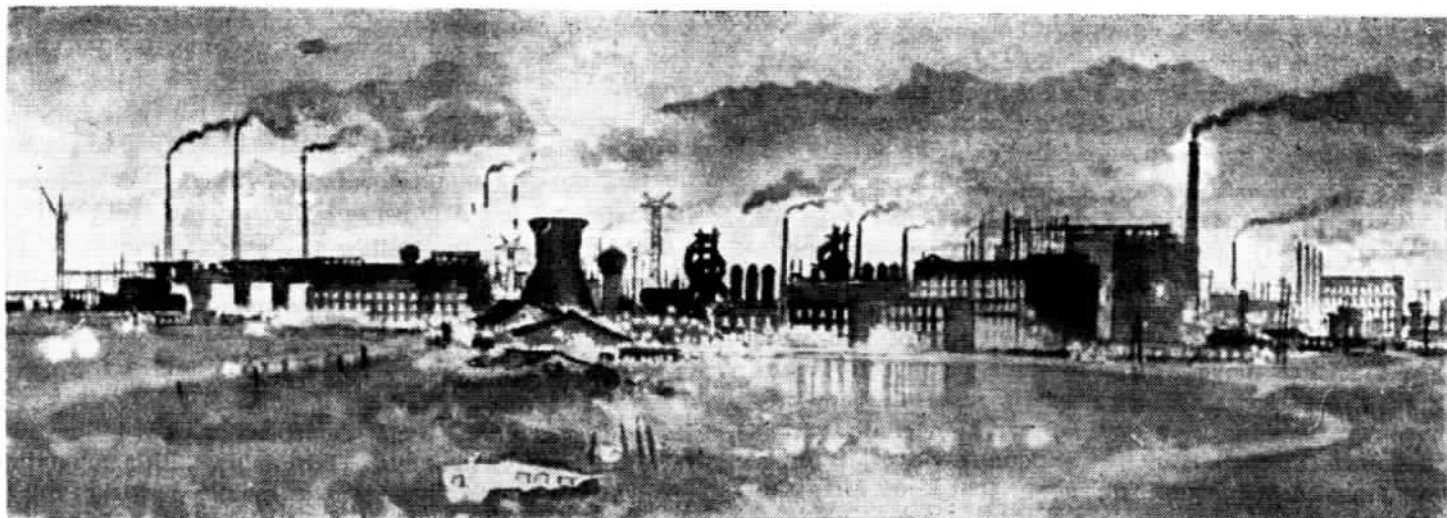
I was ushered into one of the yurts. Hosts and guests sat on the carpeted floor and were served with tea and milk. We were treated with great courtesy but with an easy informality. Presently, our hosts brought in mutton in large trays and *kumiss* — fermented mare's milk — and we had a wonderful meal. We drank many toasts. Owenke girls in their picturesque pointed hats, a little shy but with easy grace, entertained us with their beautiful folk songs. They were soon joined by the singers among us.

The meal over, some of our younger hosts gave a show of wrestling and lassoing horses, while the girls danced a folk dance. We, the visitors too, danced and sang. Some had a try at riding the mettlesome Mongolian ponies.

Life has changed greatly on the steppes; changes are visible everywhere. Now, as well as the small Mongolian ponies there were the tall horses bred since liberation; there were also newly bred milking cows each weighing over a thousand *jin* with their udders big as small pitchers. Among the sheep I saw both the old type grown for meat and the strains newly introduced for their wool. People were in excellent health and their livestock was multiplying fast.

Flourishing Farms

Inner Mongolia, it is true, has its desert regions. But those places we visited had rich soil producing large



Industry Comes to the Grasslands

Traditional Chinese painting by Li Fu

amounts of grain. It is not unlikely that the rice or noodles on our dinner table here in Peking comes from the rice or wheat fields of Inner Mongolia.

Chelimu League is known as Inner Mongolia's "Ukraine." The granary of the region, Chelimu grows *kaoliang*, maize, millet and soya beans. I never before saw so many kinds of millet in one place as I did here: some with short ears, some with long ears, some indeed with ears several inches long. The agricultural institute there is growing many different strains of millet to find those best suited to the soils of the region. This work is firmly based on the people's communes which here, as elsewhere, are enabling agricultural science to make great headway.

Before liberation, I was told, Chelimu League used to suffer from sandstorms, the flooding of the Liao River and the plague. But these three evils have been done away with in the past ten years. The sandstorms were curbed by the cultivation of extensive shelter belts. The floods of the Liao River have been curbed by the construction of dykes and the digging of canals. The plague has been wiped out by exterminating its carriers—the rats, and the general use of modern methods of hygiene and sanitation.

We went to see a reservoir. This has been stocked with fish from places south of the Yangtse. The dam which holds back its waters was built mainly with sand dug up during the excavation of canals which carry its waters to the fields. Rushes and reeds grow at the foot of the dam. Water lilies flower in small ponds beside the reservoir. The comrade in charge had decorated the place where he received us with lilies. It was a moving sight to see these lovely pink water lilies here in the desert.

Not far away from these lily ponds was a people's commune, one of many in this region which combines livestock breeding with farming and has both Han and Mongolian members.

Another two communes we visited were situated on the outskirts of Chihfeng in Chaowuta League. The first one had gone in systematically for fruit growing. There we saw an apple orchard. Apples, I learnt, are late-comers to this district. The commune has an agricultural middle

school of its own and its students have planted all kinds of fruit trees on a seemingly barren tract of sandy soil. Here they had placed stones to form the following words: The Young Men's Mountain of Flowers and Fruit.

In addition to apples they were cultivating various strains of grapes, melons and small Peking pears. They also kept bees. With the coming of the people's communes, these sandhills and wastelands are truly being turned into a land of milk and honey!

The next commune we visited had formerly been the kind of place where even weeds refused to grow, not to mention crops. Sandstorms here were a constant menace, burying or damaging the crops. Crops which survived that danger yielded little more than 50 or 60 *jin* per *mu* at best. Before liberation many of its inhabitants had given up and moved to more favoured areas, yet this place today is growing large amounts of millet, maize and *kaoliang*. The communes had planted shelter belts, built dams and reservoirs on nearby watercourses and dug canals for irrigation. The trees had beaten the sandstorms; rainfall had increased. The barren lands had been turned into oases.

Everywhere in Inner Mongolia the people's communes are busy planting trees.

Huhehot

Travelling from the east to west we came to Huhehot, capital of the autonomous region, and Paotow, now a major industrial centre of north China.

Huhehot is divided into three sections—the old city, the new city and the "new, new city." The new city is also known as the Manchurian city and quite a few Manchus still live there. The "new, new city," consists of the big buildings constructed after liberation. Actually, they are not concentrated in one place to form a separate city but can be found in all parts of Huhehot. Still, I like to think of them as forming a "new, new city." They are fine buildings: the library, the university, the theatre and the extensive factory buildings—all speak of the industrial boom and the great cultural upsurge that is taking place in Inner Mongolia today.

In Huhehot I met many old friends. Among them were Sainchaoketu, the poet. He had just returned from

a tour of the countryside. Smiling Ulanpakan, the novelist, looked as portly as ever. I joyfully clasped the hands of the well-known singer Pachieh in his lively old age. Most of the younger actors of the Peking Opera Company there are graduates of the opera school in Peking.

We saw many theatrical performances during our visit and I was particularly impressed by the keenness of all the performers whether performing Peking or local opera. This is a most valuable assurance for the future. I was particularly enchanted by the popular Mongolian two-man show. This is an old theatrical art, tuneful and with sprightly dance movements. In these past years it has gained a new freshness, enriched its repertoire and become more popular than ever. Inner Mongolian singing and dancing has a distinctive national style of its own. It certainly has a splendid future now that Inner Mongolia has its own modern composers and choreographers who can carry forward its old traditions.

Here in Huhehot we saw young men and women of different nationalities studying together at the University of Inner Mongolia. The people here suffered long and much under the rulers of the past who had striven to deceive them and keep them in darkness and so preserve their power. The preservation of ignorance and backwardness among the people was a necessary result of that policy. So this institute of higher learning was of course founded only after liberation. I met an old Manchurian lady who said: "I, a poor old woman, never dreamt that

I would live to see my child studying in a university!" She was speaking for the parents of all the formerly oppressed of the country's many nationalities.

Steppeland Industrial Centre

We left Huhehot reluctantly but travelled westward to Paotow with a new sense of excitement.

Paotow faces the Yellow River in the south and the mountains in the north. Its old and new districts are linked by a 20-kilometre-long avenue lined with trees. Trees, indeed, are everywhere in Paotow, yet the new city district has risen on a place that only a few years ago was a bare wilderness.

But even more spectacular than its trees is Paotow's forest of factory chimneys. Old Paotow with a population of eighty to ninety thousand was mainly a market centre and entrepot; it had no industry to boast of. Now it has become one of China's major steel cities.

None of us artists knew much about the metallurgical industry but, long before we actually went to look it over, we were turning our eyes from time to time into the direction of the great Paotow Steel Works over which the sky was dark with smoke. It was not difficult to understand how the people of Paotow and Inner Mongolia felt when they looked at this giant enterprise, and that every one of them was ready to do his level best to help build Paokang, as this steel plant is called in Chinese.

At Paokang we saw all the wonderful processes of steel making; we saw how coal was turned into coke; we climbed up to the top of a blast furnace and looked from there with a sense of pride, proud of Paokang, of Inner Mongolia and of our great motherland. It is under the wise leadership of the Communist Party and Chairman Mao that the various areas of our country are building up their own industrial networks. For me it was difficult to conceive how such a vast modern iron and steel works as this could be built so swiftly on a place that was a stretch of sandy desert only a few years back. Heavy industry was something out of my line and the more confused I got about the processes in this highly complex industrial plant the more I appreciated the skill of these comrades, experts and workers who run it.

In the eastern part of the region, we saw forestry, animal husbandry, agricultural and fishery enterprises and several industrial plants and cultural undertakings. In these flourishing surroundings, it was grand to see over a dozen nationalities of Inner Mongolia united as one in their march towards socialism. Both the Manchu emperors and the Kuomintang regime used the tactics of "divide and rule" in dealing with the various nationalities in the country. Today as a result of the national policy laid down by the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao all these emancipated peoples are rallied together. This is what gives them strength to build this paradise in the North extending some 2,400 kilometres from east to west and 1,000 kilometres from north to south. We saw people of many nationalities working closely together in the factories and in the fields, their children studying and playing together, artists of different nationalities performing on the same stage. We met people of various nationalities holding all kinds of posts, high and low, in the local administration, and teaching in schools and colleges. Today every nationality in the country has its own administrators and specialists. The fraternal nationali-



Milking Time Traditional Chinese painting by Yao Yu-to

ties of Inner Mongolia are united in their support of the Communist Party and People's Government; they show the greatest love and respect for Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

In every new construction project and in every new thing I saw the three red banners—the Party's general line for building socialism, the big leap forward and the people's communes—at work. All these splendid achievements in Inner Mongolia were the fruits of the general

line. Whenever one asked: When was the construction of this or that project started? The answer was invariably: "During the years of the leap forward!" Everything we saw there was permeated with the leap-forward spirit: the water lilies by the desert reservoir, the apples on the sandhills and that steel city of Paotow. . . . These are the things that I shall remember, these and the solidarity of the people on this and the other side of the Great Wall!

Report from Shensi

REDRESSING THE EARTH

by LI TANG

THE eight fruit-growing centres of Shensi, on the north-western loess highlands, gathered this year some 200,000 tons of apples, grapes, pears, peaches and other fruits. This may not seem much to the traditional fruit-growing provinces, but for Shensi Province where fruit has long been a scarce item, this is really something worth telling the nation about.

Shensi has worked pretty hard to get these results. Over the last 12 years it has expanded the acreage under orchards and vineyards 120-fold. The fastest growth, however, has been in the last few years. More fruit for their tables and for market is, of course, one enjoyable result of this effort by the peasants of Shensi but it goes far beyond this: it is part of their battle to stop soil erosion and conserve water.

Water and Soil

Shensi along with other provinces on the upper and middle reaches of the Yellow River are areas which for centuries have suffered most from soil erosion and unchecked wasteful and damaging loss of surface water. This naturally has a decisive effect on farm yields, so soil and water conservation has a top priority here. It is in these provinces that the nation is making the biggest effort to conserve water and soil. Incidentally this endeavour is closely related to the first three items in the Eight-Point Charter for Agriculture—soil, fertilizer and water.

Shensi loses an enormous amount of soil every year. Much of it is carried away by the wind, more of it is washed down into its rivers by rain-waters. In the worst affected areas, the soil level has been falling by an average of a centimetre a year. Uncontrolled freshets have deeply furrowed huge expanses of fertile land. Table lands have been cut into with wide gullies, some 200-300 metres deep.

This uninterrupted process of erosion has greatly reduced the province's acreage of arable land; the fertility of its soil and crop yields have declined.

While unchecked surface water is carrying away rich soil from the upland areas of Shensi, these same farmlands are urgently in need of water at other times for irrigation. The high loess farmlands, which make up the major part of the province, are today generally located high above the rivers which flow through them in deep valleys carved by erosion over the centuries. These unusual topographical features greatly increase the difficulties in building irrigation facilities here.

Shensi's loss has been nobody's gain. Together both valuable water and soil flow into the turbulent Yellow River. It is Shensi loess that has contributed to make it one of the most silt-laden rivers in the world. This silt has in the past choked its channel and on certain sections of the lower reaches where the river is confined between dykes has raised the riverbed above the level of the surrounding ground. As a result, in the past when unchecked rain-waters came pouring from the loess lands into the river



Terraces and Orchards in the Loess Lands

Woodcut in colour by Chen Chia-yung

during the rainy season, they swelled the river causing disastrous floods. Shensi silt and water can be said to have brought untold suffering to millions of people inhabiting the north China plain.

Battle Against Nature

As part of the programme to harness the Yellow River and prevent it from silting up its channel and flooding, the People's Government has called on the peasants in the provinces along the upper and middle reaches of the river to combat local soil erosion and loss of water, while the state is building extensive water conservancy works on the river itself and in its drainage basin.

The Shensi peasants began a serious fight against these adverse natural conditions not long after they organized farm co-ops in the mid-1950s but the full-scale offensive against undisciplined nature began in late 1958, when the people's communes were set up. Since then they have built terraced fields on huge stretches of hill slopes and planted trees and grass on steeper slopes. Planes were used to spread tree seeds over isolated places. Large quantities of earth have been brought in from other places to help trees take root in sandy, alkaline and acid soils.

Numerous dams have been built across the gullies, often in many tiers, to stop and store up the silt-laden torrents that pour down them after rain-storms. Some of the deeper gullies have been dammed and turned into permanent reservoirs. Many of the smaller gullies, where the silt has been deposited as a layer of fertile topsoil, have been walled and terraced for use as farmland.

The Shensi peasants can well be proud of their work in water and soil conservation. Today, soil erosion and uncontrolled loss of water have been basically ended on 8,000 square kilometres, or about 20 per cent of the area so affected in the province. Yields in these transformed districts have increased between 2- and 4-fold. Besides this many mountain slopes have been turned into pasture lands and large numbers of fish are being bred in the reservoirs.

Members of the rural people's communes in Shensi know that this battle has only just got going. Buoyed up by their success this year, they are now working with redoubled enthusiasm to check soil erosion and water losses completely in their region and give their land an entirely new look.

Pen Probes

HILTON HOTELS WANT GOD - GUIDANCE

"**A**MERICA on its knees" — this is the title of an eye-catching ad that appeared in the September 18 issue of *U.S. News & World Report*. At bottom right is the image of Uncle Sam at prayer, his face turned upwards, his hands clasped fervently together. The accompanying prayer to God to save the capitalist U.S.A. is a confession: "We have turned from you to go our selfish way," it says. "We have left your altars to serve the false gods of money and pleasure and power."

This advertisement was put up by Conrad Hilton, proprietor of dozens of big hotels and one of the millionaires of the United States. No one, however, will be so naive as to think that Hilton is ashamed of himself and is really asking God's forgiveness for having served Mammon all too well. As you may have guessed already, all this is a build-up for putting across a cold war message.

"Imperialistic communism," continues the ad, "like the Biblical Goliath, menaces free men. That giant *also* swaggered, bullied and cowed the faint at heart. David came on the field of battle seemingly overwhelmed, yet supported by the power of God, he was victorious. The communist threat will in like manner be defeated if we confront the giant with the POWER OF GOD."

This isn't the first time that the Holy Bible has been used for war propaganda by lovers of war.

More than forty years ago the imperialists greeted the birth of the first socialist state with "a Crusade against the communist anti-Christ." It was designed to smother the new world at birth. When Nazi Germany's Wehrmacht invaded the Soviet Union 20 years ago the enemies of so-

cialism and progress widely propagated the idea that the Fuhrer was God-sent and that the attack on the Soviet Union was clearly inspired to "save Christian civilization from the communist menace."

These "God-guided" acts, however, backfired. God apparently "changed" his mind and both ended in fiasco. The crusaders took a beating, yet their minds working in mysterious ways, the Washington warmongers are now busy at work preparing another war in the name of God.

There is a saying: Everyone moulds God after his own image. Little wonder then that we now have a God of the cold war and nuclear arms. The late John Foster Dulles found moral justification for his "brinkmanship" and his theory of "massive retaliation" in the words of Christ: "I came not to send peace, but a sword!" President Kennedy too has on many occasions claimed to be acting in accordance with Divine guidance. In his inaugural speech he declared: "... here on earth God's work must truly be our own." One Arthur H. Compton, a physicist who strongly advocates the use of atomic bombs to achieve U.S. aims, writes: "I think that not only did God condone our act in dropping the bomb, but that it was with His help and inspiration that the job was done. I consider it a direct act of Providence that the ability to make and use the atomic bomb first became available to the United States." Now Hilton prays for a still more open manifestation of God's guidance.

This is not the first time that Hilton's "America on its knees" ad has appeared. He first used it when the situation on the Korean front exposed the hollowness of the U.S.' vaunted might. But no Divine intervention followed. Then towards the close of 1957 Hilton put up his ad for the second time. And again there was no Divine response. On the contrary, the East wind prevailed more and more over the West wind. Now, with things in the United States going from bad to worse, he calls on Heaven for a third time. The sales resistance to Hilton ads seems almighty tough.

SIDELIGHTS

The Best of an Argument. In Shanghai, not so long ago, over a hundred specialists in the age-old art of bone-setting met to describe and give demonstrations of their methods. There were greybeards of the traditional Chinese school and up-and-coming young surgeons trained in Western methods. As the speakers one by one took the platform each went into his or her way of treating specific cases of fracture or dislocation; many accompanied their talks with demonstrations on models or medical apparatus of their own. The hall became so hushed that you could have heard a pin drop when 80-year-old Wang Tse-ping of the traditional school and Li Hung-ju of the Western school spoke — both are acknowledged “wizards” in their fields. A woman doctor also received great attention when she demonstrated a method bequeathed to her, and only her, by her deceased husband. In a few hours, 36 different methods had been demonstrated, and it was clear that it wasn't going to end there. . . . One old doctor sighed to his neighbour: “I've been in this line for more years than I can recall, but I never thought there were so many ways of doing it.”

This was just one of the many lively open forums which are taking place today in New China's academic circles. The ancients had a name for it: “A hundred schools of thought contend.” In those days great thinkers contended hotly for supremacy. In New China, forums of this type are organized in the spirit of the Communist Party's policy of “letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend.” People present and argue their views so as to discover the truth. So everybody gets the best of the argument.

The Red Ledger. Most workers at the coal-washing plant in Anshan Steel tramped over the crunchy pieces of coal lying about without noticing them. What's more natural than coal, underfoot or overhead, in a coal plant? But every time he stepped on a lump veteran worker Wu Chen-yung winced. One day at a meeting he spoke up. “It seems to me that we should salvage these stray pieces of coal and small heaps of coal dust.

Every little counts in socialist construction. . . . I've got a little red notebook here where we can enter the amounts everyone has saved. . . .” The idea took on. Workers took pails and shovels and during their breaks scooped up the precious black gold. Each entered his name and the amount he collected in the ledger. Nine months later, each of the 485 workers in the plant had had his name appear at least once in the ledger. The total amount of coal saved—8,500 tons.

The Cake That Flowered. Taotaochu Teashop in Canton is doubly renowned: for its chefs' skill in pastry-making — and in teaching.

In the past three years, in a real socialist spirit, it has trained close to 300 canteen cooks for factories, schools, government organizations, communes and the armed forces to make those wonderful Cantonese snacks. Students come to the tea-shop's own kitchen, or Taotaochu chefs go out to give personal demonstrations and hold short-term courses, using as textbooks *Recipes for the Masses* and other cook-books they have written themselves.

The results are edifying. The cooks of one steelworks canteen who'd had more heart than skill before so surprised their customers by their improvement that they received a flurry of red scrolls of thanks. Another group of cooks at a student canteen of the Sun Yat-sen University in Canton wrote: “Your ‘cotton cake’ has flowered and borne fruit here on our soil. Our students like it very much. . . .”

On “The Street of Zhuang Yuans.” In 1721, a hitherto unknown street in Canton actually produced a “*zhuang yuan*,” a scholar who came top in the imperial examinations. The street hopefully renamed itself Zhuang Yuan Fang — the “Street of Zhuang Yuans.” But it never happened again.

Zhuang Yuan Street today is a thriving centre of a hundred-odd

colourful shops selling all kinds of local handicrafts. The jewellers' shops are always crowded. Customers, among them many peasant women from people's communes, come here for jade hairpins and gold bangles, or cute silver bells for babies' shoes. Ornaments sold at the Chuyishen shop are especially popular. They are made of bronze overlaid with gold, inexpensive but of fine workmanship. Some 8,000 of these alone are sold here each month.

Then there are the Chinese opera costume shops with their gorgeous wares. Business has expanded hugely in recent years: 50 theatrical companies send their orders here.

Canton being perennially warm, fans are a hot-selling item. Some 10,000 fans are sold here in an average month. A new product is made of a few snowy-white goose feathers with one green-gold peacock feather running through the middle. Zhuang Yuan Street also sells laces and embroideries, lacquerware, jade, curios. . . .

An impressed visitor once remarked on leaving the place: “They must have dozens of *zhuang yuans* in that place to make such beautiful things!”

Snug Winter. Over 400,000 items of new winter wear have already been sold this winter in the lumber districts high atop the Greater Khingan Range. Lumbermen and their families are sporting new fur coats and jackets, felt hats and boots and all sorts of snug woollen and cotton wear. These have been provided for them by state trading departments which have been planning a warm winter for them well in advance of the season. Known as the “Thousand-Li Green Corridor,” the Greater Khingan Range in northernmost Inner Mongolia is one of China's key forest regions which abounds in red pine and elm. A dozen years ago lumbermen here wore gunny sacks in winter and survived on acorn flour.



Sketch by Su Li

CHINA AND THE WORLD

Greetings to Indonesian C.P.

The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party on November 11 sent a message to the Central Committee of the Indonesian Communist Party conveying warm greetings on the 35th anniversary of the Indonesian people's anti-Dutch armed uprising.

The message described the uprising as a great and just revolutionary uprising of the Indonesian people. Though it failed because of the barbarous suppression practised by the Dutch colonialists, it dealt them a heavy blow, said the message.

Paying tribute to the Indonesian Communist Party, the message said that in the national-democratic revolutionary struggle, the Indonesian Communist Party has played a great role for which the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese people wish to express their profound admiration.

Cambodian National Day

Chairman Liu Shao-chi and Premier Chou En-lai sent a message of greetings to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on Cambodia's National Day, which fell on November 9.

The message expressed the sympathy and firm support of the Chinese people and Government for the fully justified stand taken by His Royal Highness and the Royal Government of Cambodia towards the outrageous provocations of U.S. imperialism and its lackeys. The Chinese people firmly believe that the just struggle of the Cambodian people in defence of their national independence and peace and neutrality will achieve still greater successes.

Referring to the friendship between the peoples of China and Cambodia, the message said that the signing of the Sino-Cambodian treaty of friendship and mutual non-aggression last year has carried these friendly relations to a new stage.

Foreign Minister Chen Yi also sent a congratulatory message to Tep Phan, Acting Foreign Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

On November 10, Chairman Liu Shao-chi and Premier Chou En-lai received a message from Prince Norodom Sihanouk thanking them for their greetings.

Syrian Ambassador Presents Credentials

On November 13, Salah El-Dine Tarazi, first ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to China, presented his credentials to Chairman Liu Shao-chi.

When presenting his credentials the Ambassador stressed that the Syrian Arab Republic is an integral part of the Arab nation. The Syrian people appreciated the continuous aid and support given by the Chinese People's Republic to the Arab people in their struggle for national liberation.

Chairman Liu Shao-chi declared in his reply that the Chinese people will continue to stand by the Syrian and all the Arab peoples and give them resolute support in their struggle for unity and against imperialism. He expressed the hope that the friendship and co-operation between the two countries which was established after the Bandung Conference, will continue to develop and grow stronger.

Guests from Latin America

A 3-member delegation of technical educationists from Cuba led by Miguel A. Marrero Vallet, head of the technological education section of the Secondary Professional Education Department of the Ministry of Education, and a Cuban educationists' delegation headed by Gabriel Leon Bizet arrived in China last week on friendly visits.

A delegation of the Municipal Council of Caracas, capital of Venezuela, led by Eduardo Gallegos Mancera, Vice-President of the Municipal Council, is visiting China as guests of Peking Mayor Peng Chen. At a banquet given by the Peking Municipal People's Council, Wan Li, Vice-Mayor of Peking, declared that the Chinese people resolutely supported the Latin American people in their struggle against imperialism and colonialism and regarded this struggle as their own. Both the Chinese hosts and their guests toasted the friendship between the Chinese and Venezuelan peoples.

Sports

A powerful shot seconds before the final whistle gave the visiting Soviet

football team, the Rostov-on-Don Army Club, led by Colonel Gerasimov, a 2:1 win against the Chinese People's Liberation Army "August 1" Team, in their opening match in Peking on November 12. With fine teamwork and greater speed, the visitors were on the offensive for the most part of the game. The Chinese army team attacked vigorously towards the end of the first half but failed to keep it up in the second half of the match.

The visiting Soviet football team is scheduled to play the Peking Team too during its stay.

* * *

The Chinese men and women table tennis players, after visiting Nepal, started their visit to Burma on November 7. The Chinese men and women teams won their first matches in Rangoon 5:0 and 3:0 respectively, against Burmese teams.

BRIEFS

Chairman Liu Shao-chi, on November 10, sent birthday greetings to King Gustaf VI Adolf of Sweden.

* * *

Over 300,000 people visited the Sino-Burmese boundary demarcation exhibition which was held in Rangoon from November 7 to 12. Prime Minister U Nu, General Ne Win and other leaders of Burma were among the visitors.

The exhibition reflected the deep friendship between the peoples of China and Burma and the brilliantly successful effort made by leaders and peoples of the two countries to settle the boundary question.

* * *

The Chinese Buddhist delegation, headed by the Venerable Shirob Jaltso, President of the Chinese Buddhist Association and Vice-President of the World Buddhist Association, is in Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia, to attend the 6th Conference of the World Buddhist Association held on November 14 there.

* * *

A Chinese film festival began in Cuenca, Ecuador, on November 10. At the opening ceremony hundreds of people including workers and students saw the Chinese feature film *Woman Basketball Player No. 5*, a cartoon *The Conceited General* and a documentary *Landscape of Kweilin*.

CHINESE PRESS OPINION

Struggle for Middle East Oil

Struggle for oil is the theme of an article in *Renmin Ribao* (November 7). This is an important political problem in the Middle East, for oil has long been the source of endless conflict between the peoples of the Middle Eastern countries and the imperialists; the struggle to recover oil rights has become part and parcel of the Middle Eastern people's national-liberation movement. The scramble for oil also bedevils relations among the imperialist countries themselves, particularly, between the U.S. and Britain.

The third Arab Oil Conference recently held in Alexandria, the article notes, supported all measures so far taken by the Arab countries to safeguard their interests; it recommended that the oil-producing Arab countries co-ordinate the major aspects of their policy. The three-year-old negotiations between the Iraqi Government and the foreign oil companies broke down on October 17 because the latter refused to meet the Iraqi demands. These included the turning over of 50 per cent of the profits to Iraq not only in name but in fact, participation in the management of the foreign companies, an appropriate allocation of shares and restoration to Iraq the fields which have not yet been explored.

It is not surprising that the imperialists are hanging on like grim death to their oil interests in this region. The U.S. armed aggression against Lebanon, the British armed aggression against Jordan and Kuwait were all designed to preserve or further these interests.

Before World War II, British monopoly capital controlled close to 80 per cent of the Middle East oil; U.S. capital held only 13 per cent. In the postwar years, by means of "aid," subversion and other conspiracies, the U.S. has made inroads into Britain's traditional source of oil supply and has become the biggest exploiter of Middle East oil. It has acquired exploitation rights in Turkey, Afghanistan, Syria and Lebanon. It has seized 100 per cent of the oil resources in Saudi Arabia, controls all exploitation rights in Bahrain

Islands, 50 per cent in Kuwait, 40 per cent in Iran, and over 23 per cent in Iraq and Qatar respectively. Five U.S. oil companies hold over 69 per cent of the concession areas in the major Middle East oil-producing countries. Squeezed by the U.S. on all sides, Britain now only controls 32 per cent of the exploitation rights.

The imperialist countries are engaged in a fierce scramble for the fabulous profits from the oil resources of the Middle East. Their oil companies are playing every sort of dirty trick, manipulating prices, evading taxation, cooking their account books and other swindles to keep up their profits. The agreements concluded between them and the governments of the oil-producing countries for sharing out profits on a 50-50 basis exist only on paper.

With untold natural wealth beneath their soil, the masses of the people of the Middle Eastern lands are living in the most abject poverty and want. Most of them can't even afford to buy kerosene for their own use. Oil workers toil 12 to 18 hours a day under the scorching desert sun. Ill-fed and clothed, they are constantly haunted by the threat of illness and unemployment.

The people of the Middle East have fought a long struggle against imperialist oppression and for the very right to live. The fight of the oil workers, in particular, has struck a direct blow at the aggressive imperialist forces and powerfully pushed forward the national-liberation movement. The scale and persistence of the struggle waged by the Iranian workers against the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company has written a brilliant page in the working class movement of the Middle East. They forced the Iranian parliament to pass the oil nationalization law in 1951. But their movement was crushed under the combined pressure of U.S. and British imperialism. The Iranian people, however, have never ceased their efforts to throw off the yoke of the imperialists and regain their rights. Anti-imperialist feelings are running high everywhere in this area. The imperialists may today control the lion's share of the Middle East oil, but the people of the

Middle East will surely one day take it all back into their own hands.

U.S.-British Contradictions

Ever since the inauguration of the Kennedy Administration, there has been a steady sharpening of contradictions between Washington and London, says an article in *Shijie Zhishi* (World Culture, No. 20, 1961). A rivalry, both open and concealed, is developing between them inside the NATO bloc as well as in the intermediate zones of the world. Each is trying hard to shift the burden of the capitalist economic crisis onto the other.

In Europe, the U.S. has taken many steps to forward its policy at the expense of British interests. Determined to bring the NATO bloc, politically, militarily and economically, more directly under U.S. domination, the Kennedy Administration has used heavy pressure to force Britain to enter the "Common Market." It regards this as a means of manoeuvring the two blocs in Western Europe [the "Common Market," and the European Free Trade Association] into an ultimate merger. This U.S. move, which reduces Britain's standing, naturally hurts British feelings. In dealing with its West European allies, the Kennedy Administration shows a lukewarm attitude towards Britain, continues to foster West Germany and puts particular stress on winning over France.

Another indication of how the U.S. is manoeuvring to undermine Britain's political position and cut British politicians "down to size" is the fact that since Kennedy came to power, the U.S. has tried hard to end Britain's role as a "go-between" in East-West relations. In order to compete with the U.S. in diplomatic leadership, Britain has occasionally struck a different note from the U.S. on certain problems of East-West relations. But the Kennedy Administration has made every effort to take the leadership in Western diplomacy into its own hands, and looks askance at any unilateral action taken by Britain in world affairs. This strikes a heavy blow at Britain's international position.

To tighten U.S. control over the nuclear arsenal of the Western powers, the Kennedy Administration has asked Britain to give up its "independent nuclear power" and put it under the control of NATO headquarters. Britain

is naturally unwilling to part with what it considers to be an asset in propping up its position as a big power.

The British have considerable influence in the Organization for European Economic Co-operation. Now the U.S. is anxious to reorganize the O.E.E.C. and tie it to its own war chariot. This is bound to weaken British economic influence still further in Western Europe.

The Kennedy Administration, adds the article, is pushing U.S. neo-colonialism even more energetically than did the Eisenhower Administration, so the U.S.-British struggle for the intermediate zones is being waged even more fiercely and on a wider scale. Since the inauguration of the Kennedy Administration, many high-ranking U.S. officials have been sent to the British-controlled parts of Africa in an attempt to establish U.S. influence there. Exploiting the African people's aspirations for independence and seeking to further U.S. ends, they pretend to sympathize with the idea of "self-determination" and the slogan "Africa for the Africans." This has upset British arrangements for a so-called "orderly advance to independence" and "racial partnership" and led to mutual mud-slinging across the Atlantic between the U.S. neo-colonialists and the old British colonialists. At the same time, the U.S. has also stepped up its efforts to infiltrate the British Commonwealth of Nations. At the present time, for instance, the amount of new U.S. investments pouring into India each year is four times as great as that of Britain. In its efforts to win over India, the Kennedy Administration has concluded many agreements on loans to that country. To counter the infiltration of U.S. neo-colonialism, Britain, though herself facing serious economic difficulties, increased the amount of its foreign aid from £130 million last year to £180 million this year.

Britain, continues the article, has become one of the victims of the U.S. policy of shifting the burden of its economic crisis onto the backs of its allies. The Kennedy Administration has taken many measures at the expense of its allies in order to save the U.S. from its dollar crisis, cover its adverse balance of international payments and expand its export drive. This has worsened Britain's already difficult economic situation, increased the gravity of its international

payments crisis and the threat to sterling. In face of high U.S. tariffs and other restrictions, British exports of woollen fabrics, cars and bicycles to the U.S. in the first six months of this year dropped by 46 per cent, while its imports from the U.S., despite the great efforts made to restrict them, increased by 7 per cent compared with the corresponding period last year. The result was that Britain ran up a deficit of £116 million in its trade with the U.S. in the first six months of this year.

The sharpening of U.S.-British contradictions, concludes the article, is an important indication of the further decay and decline of the capitalist world; it will inevitably hasten the disintegration of the imperialist camp.

Bonn's Reactionary Farm Policy

The farmers of West Germany are fighting the Bonn government's reactionary agricultural policy with increased vigour this year. From the North Sea to the Alps protest meetings have been held.

This mounting discontent of West German farmers and their struggle in defence of their right to live are the inevitable results of Bonn policies designed to favour the big capitalist farms at the expense of the small farmers, says an article in *Da Gong Bao* (November 6).

The system of big land holdings is the same in West Germany today as it was before the war. Small farmers with less than 10 hectares of land make up 75 per cent of the farming households but they only own 24 per cent of the cultivated land. Medium-sized farms, which account for 13 per cent of the total number of households, own 13 per cent of the cultivated land. The rest of the cultivated land belongs to the capitalist farms holding more than 20 hectares, and Junker landlords. Although the big landlords, those with over 100 hectares, constitute only 0.7 per cent of the farming households they own 27 per cent of the farmland.

According to the Bonn government, the small farmers "lack vitality," "hinder the rise in labour productivity" or "weaken the competitive position of West German farm produce on the world market, thus affecting its agricultural investments." It says they ought, by "relying on their own potential" and using "state help" to enlarge the scope of their farming.

An examination of the Bonn government's policy towards the small farmers shows that it intends to use forcible measures to expedite their impoverishment and bankruptcy, reduce the number of small farms and merge them into the big ones, and increase the size and number of big farms.

The Bonn government attacks the interests of the small farmers through legislation, taxation, prices and foreign trade. Agricultural taxes, of which there are more than 50 kinds under various names, are among the highest in capitalist countries. Now, the debts incurred by West German farmers amount to 12,000 million marks, the highest in German history; 70 per cent of this are owed by the small farmers. Besides, the Bonn government has a policy of guaranteed high prices for food grains and fodder, which are produced by the big capitalist farms. The farmers with small and medium-sized holdings have to compete, without any protection, against a steady flow of foreign farm produce into the West German market, forcing down the price of the local products.

These reactionary policies of the Bonn government have accelerated the impoverishment and bankruptcy of the small farmers. From 1949 to 1960 no less than 364,000 households, or 23 per cent of them, were driven into bankruptcy while at the same time the number of big farms increased.

The Bonn government, the article continues, is to rely on the capitalist farms to provide agricultural raw materials to the monopolies and foster a bigger demand for the industrial products, especially capital goods, produced by these monopolies. At the same time, it hopes to raise farm productivity while reducing costs so as to enable it to compete better in the world market, and particularly in the "Common Market," creating another favourable condition for West German monopoly capitalism's seizure of West European hegemony. Small farmers forced through bankruptcy to leave their farms and join the unemployed form a labour reserve, which helps West German monopoly capital to intensify its exploitation of the workers. This also provides new recruits for the West German Bundeswehr and the aggressive NATO bloc, and leaves more land to be used for building new military installations, thus serving the interests of West German militarism and its revenge-seeking policy.

THEATRE

Young Shanghai Talents

The theatrical news of the hour in Shanghai was the October debut of a group of young actors and actresses of the Shanghai School of Drama's Peking and Kunqu Opera Experimental Theatre. In the last five weeks they have presented a programme of more than a dozen Peking and *kunqu* operas to packed houses. Public and theatrical circles in general have greatly admired their fine performances. The national press too has given them a full measure of praise.

The Peking and Kunqu Opera Experimental Theatre of Shanghai was founded last August and now has 49 actors and actresses for *kunqu* opera, and 35 for Peking opera. The former have had eight years of training, and the latter five, in acting, singing, dancing, acrobatics, theory of drama and other related subjects. They make up a good cast with enough actors and actresses for all the main types of roles. Each one of these 84 graduates has mastered parts in at least 40 of the 170 plays on the theatre's repertoire.

The theatre's *Women Generals of the Yang Family* has proved to be a main attraction. This classical historical drama, adapted from a film of the same name produced by the Peking Film Studio, owes no little of its success to the fine characterization of She Tai-chun, the centenarian great-grandmother of the Yang family, given by 20-year-old Sun Hua-man. It is no easy task to keep the dramatic interest sustained through the long and difficult aria of over twenty verses in



Yueh Mei-ti as Hsu Hsien in the "Tale of the White Snake"

which the great-grandmother volunteers to take command in the fight against the foreign invaders, but this young actress does this with complete success as she presents a moving portrait of the old woman general.

Li Ping-shu, another young actress appearing in this play, gives a no less commanding performance in the role of Mu Kuei-ying, widow of She Tai-chun's grandson. This is one of China's many young artists who are carrying forward the Mei Lan-fang tradition of *tan* roles in Peking opera. In the first half of the play, she is a subdued sorrowful Mu Kuei-ying mourning her husband's death. In the second half she has to assume a totally different mood as Mu Kuei-ying battles together with the other women of the family to defeat the invaders. This requires the more vigorous forms of Peking opera movement, such as fighting and gymnastics. Li Ping-shu shows that her training both as actress and acrobat is fully adequate to this exacting role.

Kunqu opera players have a saying: Those who play male roles shun the play *Yeh Pen* (Fleeing for Light); those playing female roles keep away from the play *Szu Fan* (Seeking Worldly Happiness). For most of the time, in both these plays, there is only a single actor or actress on the stage and there is no intricate plot to help the actor. But the young actress Liang Ku-ying in the latter play holds her audience throughout with her tender evocation of the little nun who musters up all her courage to flout ecclesiastical taboos and anathemas and go out to seek her happiness. Singing to herself, dreaming of the happiness that life could give her, she communicates the secret feelings of a young girl in love. When she sings the line: "He glanced at me and I glanced at him," her acting is superb. With a fleeting expression of her eyes and face she conjures up the vision of a handsome young man whom she loves but is too shy to look at straight in the face.

Here we have mentioned only three of a score and more of fine young artists who have won the acclaim of laymen and experts alike. The talents of these young people have been carefully fostered by teachers who have lavished on them a wealth of experience, thought and painstaking effort. Most of their teachers are stage veterans with twenty to thirty years of experience behind them. Though they can, in most cases, quickly assess

the general aptitudes of their pupils, they never make a snap decision as to the type of role they should specialize in. They form their considered judgment only after a period of close day-to-day contact in which they study the teenage actors' physique, face and temperament, quality of voice and general aptitudes. Only then is the pupil assigned to a specialized course of training and given the type of roles which will be his in his future career. Even then a young pupil's propensities may be misjudged. This is rare, but still it sometimes happens.

In that case, he is switched to another type of role without delay. A case in point is Liu Yi-lung. With his good looks and excellent voice, he was



Wang Chih-chuan in a *wu tan* (warrior maid) role

first chosen for training in *hsiao sheng* (young scholar) roles. He was not a success, however. So he was tried out in the role of a *lao sheng* (old man). This didn't suit him either. In his first two years at school, Liu Yi-lung tried his hand at four different types of roles, all without success. If that had happened in the old society, Liu would have got the sack. But the teachers of the Shanghai School of Drama, headed by Yu Chen-fei, noted *kunqu* actor, made a careful study of his problem. Noting that he had a fluent tongue, a nimble mind and great physical agility, they then decided to give him a chance as a *chou* or comic actor. In that role Liu Yi-lung found himself at last. After hard training, he has become the theatre's leading actor in the *chou* role.

There is a group of teachers at the Shanghai School of Drama who have a special reason to be happy at their young pupils' success. They include Shen Chuan-chih, Chu Chuan-ming,

Hua Chuan-hao and others. They were fellow students—more than 80 of them in all—at a *kunqu* school in Soochow in the early 1920s. They intended to be teachers, so each took the word “chuan” into his name. “Chuan” means “to pass on”; but their wish remained largely unfulfilled in the old society. Circumstances forced them apart, each going his own way in quest of a living. They had less and less opportunity to perform themselves, let alone pass on what they had learnt to others. *Kunqu* itself, an ancient form of opera, was neglected and in danger of utter extinction; it was resuscitated only after liberation. Small wonder, then, that they should be overjoyed when they see the revival of their art and this fine new generation of actors.

EXHIBITION

Chrysanthemum Shows in Peking

It has been a good year for chrysanthemums in Peking. Now in their full glory, they are the most popular of all the autumn flowers. Of the thousands of visitors to the chrysanthemum shows in Peking's parks every day, the most faithful admirers are the elderly and middle-aged folk, but children in their hundreds flock to see them too. Some come with their playmates after school and others spend a happy morning there with their parents or teachers.

There are some interesting new varieties at the show in Beihai Park, in the heart of the city. Among them “White Jade Curtain,” “Green Peony,” “Evergreen Waters in Spring” and “Green Weeping Willows” attract quite a number of fresh admirers. One, a choice white variety, is more than a foot in diameter. Many rare types, grown by an old experienced gardener, are on display in the Praying-for-Harvest Hall at the Temple of Heaven. Here is a most interesting new plant—a giant bearing more than a thousand blooms.

The finest show is in Zhongshan Park with its display of more than 300 rare specimens. They have such poetic names as “Golden Rays,” “Snow Ball,” “Green Jade” and “Golden Raindrops.” More than 40 of the new varieties are in one room and are as yet unnamed. There, connoisseurs linger before the

blooms trying to think of suitable titles.

Chrysanthemum cultivation has a long history in China. It was early recorded as a herb with the property of prolonging life. It was also supposed to be good to eat; when the fifth century poet Tao Yuan-ming picked chrysanthemums by the eastern hedge of his garden, the blooms were not for decoration but to be eaten as a delicacy. It was about the time of the Tang Dynasty that the cultivation of flowers began to be thought of as an art. Peonies were the earliest favourites. By the time of the Sung Dynasty, special literature on chrysanthemum culture appeared and more than 100 varieties were listed. Over the past 1,000 years, interest in this flower has never lessened and today it is one of the best-loved in China.

Chinese scholars and poets in the past attributed certain moral qualities to flowers. The orchid, they said, is quiet and unassuming, but the plum is lofty and proud. The lotus suggests purity and the peony opulence. . . . The chrysanthemum, which blossoms late in autumn and braves frost, is compared to a man of firm moral character. The flower has inspired numerous poets, including many who visit the yearly chrysanthemum show in Chieh Yuan (Garden of Purity).

Chieh Yuan, near Hsinchiekou in the northwestern district of Peking, is a private garden owned by the veteran fancier Liu Chieh-yuan. He is seventy-seven now and has been growing chrysanthemums there for more than thirty years. This year he has over two thousand pots of this flower on display in seven rooms and, as usual, crowds of chrysanthemum-lovers enjoy the beauty of the rare varieties he has cultivated. Among those arousing most admiration are two specimens more than ten feet tall to which Liu Chieh-yuan has given the up-to-the-minute name of “Cosmic Rockets.”

Liu Chieh-yuan's chrysanthemums are among the best in Peking, but there are many other competent growers. Lao Sheh, the noted novelist,



Choice chrysanthemums grown in Chieh Yuan

is one who grows hundreds of pots of chrysanthemums every year. His friends often come to enjoy the flowers and compose poems about them. Be they poets moved to verse by the sight of a gorgeous bloom, or patient fanciers striving to evolve a new strain or just those coming to gaze in admiration, it is clear that chrysanthemums are arousing more interest among the people of China than ever before.

SHORT NOTES

Weightlifting Records Broken. Ten national records were broken during the 1961 National Weightlifting Championships held in Harbin early this month and at a follow-up exhibition match.

A feature of the meet was the great improvement shown by many of the younger weightlifters and the remarkably high level of the newcomers. Competition was keen and the results good despite the absence of many of the country's top weightlifters.

Li Chi-yuan, winner of the bantam-weight title, broke the national record for the snatch event with 103 kg. in the first day of the meet. Tao Lien-lu, a newcomer, pressed 102.5 kg. that same day to set another bantam-weight record.

Chen Ching-kai, hitherto known as China's best bantamweight, won the

featherweight crown this year and set a new record of 110 kg. for the press. In the featherweight snatch, both Chiang Hung-min and Teng Kuo-yin bettered the old record with lifts of 105.5 kg. and 106 kg. respectively. Two days later in an exhibition match Wang Wei-lei went one better in the snatch with 106.5 kg.

In the lightweight division Huang Hui-cheng established a new national

record for the snatch with a lift of 120.5 kg.

Shu Kang won the middleweight title in very stiff competition. His total lift of 392.5 kg. was 10 kg. better than the old record. Runner-up Chang Yuan-tsang, besides bettering the old record with a total lift of 390 kg., jerked a record 157.5 kg. Yang Feng-yu who came fourth in this

weight established a new record for the press event with 130 kg.

In the heavyweight division 21-year-old Peng Kuang-chu, another newcomer, set a record for the snatch with 124.5 kg.

Later in the exhibition match Yang Feng-yu, competing in the light heavy-weight class, broke the national record for the press with a lift of 130.5 kg.

WHAT'S ON IN PEKING

HIGHLIGHTS OF CURRENT ENTERTAINMENT, EXHIBITIONS, ETC.

The following programme which is subject to change is scheduled for the coming week.

PEKING OPERA

▲ **BATTLE AT CHUHSIEN TOWN** A Sung Dynasty story. Lu Wen-lung, son of a Sung general, is abducted and adopted by a Kin prince. Grown up to be a brave warrior he helps the Kin defeat the Sung troops under Yo Fei at Chuhsien Town. Wang Tso, a Sung scholar, succeeds in gaining his confidence, reveals the truth about his birth, and persuades him to come over to the Sung side. China Peking Opera Theatre.

▲ **ON THE GRASSLANDS** Opera on a modern theme—the revolutionary movement in Inner Mongolia against the Japanese invaders and their puppets in 1940. Peking Opera Company of Peking.

▲ **RETURN OF THE PHOENIX** A comedy of errors. A young man wins a bride despite the schemes of a wicked step-mother. Mei Lan-fang Peking Opera Troupe.

▲ **CONVINCING CHUAN AND YU** An episode from *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms*. How Chuko Liang, the strategist of the Shu Kingdom, succeeds in persuading Sun Chuan and Chou Yu of the Wu Kingdom to enter into an alliance with the Shu Kingdom against Tsao Tsao of Wei. Experimental Peking Opera Troupe of the Chinese Opera School.

▲ **TEARS AT THE DESERTED MOUNTAIN VALLEY** A tragedy of old China. Heavy taxation ruins a poor peasant family. The father and son are killed by tigers; the mother dies of grief and worry and the daughter-in-law commits suicide. The Youth Peking Opera Troupe.

PINGJU OPERA

▲ **OLD MAN CHUNGLI'S SWORD** A historical opera of the Warring States Period. Kou Chien, King of Yueh, after three years' captivity in the State of Wu, returns home, and together with his people rebuilds the ruined state. This production of the China Pingju Opera Theatre centres on how a patriotic sword-maker, old man Chungli, makes a great contribution to his country's victory by making the fine swords used to defeat the aggressive State of Wu.

KUNQU OPERA

▲ **CHUNGSHAN WOLF** Also known as "School-Master Tungkuo" based on a Chinese folk tale. Kind-hearted old Tungkuo believes that even wolves have a better side to their nature, so he saves the life of a hunted wolf. But as soon as the danger is over, the wolf teaches his benefactor that wolves will be wolves. North Kunqu Opera Theatre.

▲ **LEIFENG PAGODA** Adapted from the *Tale of the White Snake*. The White Snake fairy falls in love with and marries a mortal. But her happy life is shattered by a misanthropic recluse who imprisons her in the Leifeng Pagoda. Many years later

her son destroys the pagoda and sets her free. North Kunqu Opera Theatre.

MODERN OPERA

▲ **HSIAO ERH-HEI'S MARRIAGE** Adapted from Chao Shu-li's short story. A young couple in the countryside wins happiness in a struggle against feudal ideas. Central Opera and Dance Drama Theatre.

BALLET

Elena Ryabinkina and Vladimir Tikhonov, soloists of the Bolshoi Theatre Ballet of the U.S.S.R., with the corps de ballet of the Peking School of Dancing will perform "Swan Lake." The visiting Soviet dancers will also give recitals of excerpts from various ballets. Nov. 20, 21, 23 & 24 at Shoudu Theatre. Nov. 26 & 27 at Nationalities Palace Theatre.

MODERN DRAMA

▲ **PAVEL KORCHAGIN** Adapted from N. Ostrovsky's famous novel *How the Steel Was Tempered*. China Youth Art Theatre.

▲ **THE PEACH BLOSSOM FAN** The story of the tragic love of a courtesan for a scholar who betrays his love and his allegiance to the Ming Dynasty for wealth and position in the service of the Ching. The Experimental Modern Drama Theatre of the Central Drama Institute.

▲ **MILITANT YOUTH** Young militants in central Hopei rise against the Japanese invaders and Kuomintang reactionaries in 1942. China Railway Workers' Cultural Troupe.

FILMS

▲ **KEEP THE RED FLAG FLYING** Adapted from Liang Pin's popular novel of the same title describing the struggles of three generations of a peasant family against landlord tyranny climaxing in the 1927 peasant uprising in central Hopei. Peking and Tientsin Studios' joint production.

▲ **LIBERATING SHANGHAI** Colour feature film. How the People's Liberation Army utilizes inner conflicts within the KMT to enable its main force to liberate Shanghai, where Chiang Kai-shek has concentrated 300,000 troops. "August 1" Studio.

▲ **YESTERDAY** A Hungarian feature about the socialist patriots who stood firm till victory in the struggle against the armed counter-revolutionary rebellion in Hungary in 1956.

▲ **ARAYA** A joint Venezuelan-French production. A full-length documentary about the life and work of the salt-makers of Araya in Venezuela.

▲ **HEERA AND MOTI** An Indian feature film. Heera and Moti, two favourite bulls of a peasant, best a landlord's bulls at a bullfight, and the disappointed bully takes a mean revenge.

▲ **LAS ABANDONADAS** (*The Abandoned Woman*) A Mexican feature film. This life story of a woman deserted shows the greatness of maternal love, and the callousness of a community which esteems only money and the rich.

FLOWER SHOW

Don't Miss the

ANNUAL CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW

- * Pay a visit to the "Chieh Yuan Garden" (at Hsinchieh-kou), famous for its many varieties of chrysanthemums. Seven exhibition rooms. Rare and beautiful blooms including "Golden Peony," "The Beauty's Hair" and "Cosmic Rockets."
- * More than 1,000 varieties including rare "Green Weeping Willows" and "Evergreen Waters in Spring" at Beihai Park.
- * Over 300 varieties at Zhongshan Park including the "Golden Wheat," "The Drunken Beauty" and 40 new species as yet unnamed. Your suggestions welcomed.
- * Also at Tiantan Park and Summer Palace. Till the end of the month.

EXHIBITIONS

- ▲ **PHOTO EXHIBITION OF ALBANIA'S LIBERATION STRUGGLE AND ITS SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION** Open daily, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. till Nov. 19. At the Museum of the Chinese Revolution.
- ▲ **MUSEUM OF THE CHINESE REVOLUTION** 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Closed on Mondays.
- ▲ **MUSEUM OF CHINESE HISTORY** 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Closed on Mondays.
- ▲ **TRADITIONAL CHINESE PAINTINGS** by Fukien artists Li Keng, Chen Tsu-fen and Li Shih-ching. Daily, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. till Nov. 19. At Artists' Union Gallery.

SPORTS

— 1961 NATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT —

Don't miss seeing China's top basketball teams contend for the national championship title. 48 matches will be played in the Peking Gymnasium and Peking Workers' Gymnasium from Nov. 15 till the end of the month.





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