

PEKING REVIEW

33

August 17, 1973

北
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報

**General Principle for Developing
The National Economy**

**China's Position on "Charter of Economic
Rights and Duties of States"**

Israel's Piratic Act and Preposterous Logic

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Educated Youth Go to the Countryside

"Young people with education going to the countryside is a matter of great importance in China's socialist revolution and construction." This is the opening sentence of the August 7 *Renmin Ribao* editorial entitled "Improve Further the Work Concerning Educated Young People Going to the Countryside."

In the past few years, the editorial said, several million young people have gone to people's communes, border regions, production and construction corps of the army and state farms to integrate themselves with the workers and peasants. The editorial summing up experience in this respect pointed out that under the leadership of the Party and in the three great revolutionary movements of class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment, there have emerged large numbers of advanced collectives and individuals from among the educated young people. A number of young people have been admitted into the Chinese Communist Party or the Communist Youth League, some have become members of leading bodies at various levels, some have taken up various kinds of work at the grass-roots, and some have made inventions and creations. They have become an active and vital force in the socialist revolution and construction in the rural areas.

The editorial continued: "This revolutionary flow of educated youth to the countryside has strongly pounded the old idea and habit of looking down on the peasants and manual labour fostered by the exploiting classes for thousands of years. This has played a tremendous role in changing habits and customs and transforming society, brought closer the relations between town and country and strengthened the worker-peasant alliance. It has exerted and will continue to exert a profound influence in China's political, ideologi-

cal, economic, cultural and other spheres."

"That such a vast number of young students are going to the countryside in China every year vividly shows the superiority of our socialist system," the editorial said. The transformation of our countryside, it pointed out, requires large numbers of educated young people to take part in building a new socialist countryside. Tempering the young people and helping them to become mature in the rural areas is also an important way to train successors to carry on the cause of proletarian revolution. The countryside is also a university in which the young people can learn many things and do a great deal of work. Re-educated by the poor and lower-middle peasants and gradually becoming integrated with the working people, the educated young people will become workers with both socialist consciousness and culture.

The editorial called on leading cadres at all levels to strengthen leadership, conscientiously carry out Chairman Mao's directives, map out an overall plan to solve the problems these educated young people encounter in their advance and implement the Party's various policies so as to help the young people live in the countryside for a long period.

"The next 50 to 100 years or so, beginning from now," said the editorial, "will be a great era of radical change. The look of our country, especially that of the rural areas, will undergo phenomenal changes." The editorial called on the young people going to the countryside to set high aims and have lofty goals, take root and mature in the coun-

tryside, and together with the poor and lower-middle peasants make still greater contributions in modernizing agriculture and in fulfilling the historical mission of building a new socialist countryside.

Peking Ready for A.A.A. Table Tennis Meet

Preparations for the Asian-African-Latin American (A.A.A.) Table Tennis Friendship Invitational Tournament, scheduled to be held from August 25 to September 7, are basically complete. Work started months ago with the assistance of the Chinese Government and the co-operation and support of friends in Asian, African and Latin American countries.

Preparatory work has been rather heavy because of the scale of the tournament and the large number of participants. To rationally organize several thousand matches within a matter of five or six days from the drawing of lots to the opening of the tournament and to arrange for results to be announced as quickly as possible—all this demands meticulous work on the part of members of the competitions group. More than 200 referees and umpires from all parts of China, one-third of them women, are busy getting refresher training before the games so as to do a better job.

(Continued on p. 6.)



China's General Principle for Developing the National Economy

— Correct handling of the relations between agriculture, light industry and heavy industry

by Chung Li-cheng

OLD China had a very backward economy. At the time of nationwide liberation in 1949, China's grain output was only 216,200 million *jin*. Industry lagged even farther behind. The output value of modern industry accounted for only about 10 per cent of the total output value of the national economy with steel production a mere 160,000 tons.

The primary problems to be solved after the birth of New China were feeding several hundred million people and developing industry at the quickest possible speed. Unless these two were well handled, New China could not be consolidated. Furthermore, under our socialist system the relations between industry and agriculture are not merely those between two branches of material production, they are in essence the relations between two important groups of the working people — the workers and peasants. Since the worker-peasant alliance is the foundation of the dictatorship of the proletariat, this relationship between industry and agriculture and between workers and peasants must be so managed that it will firm up the proletarian dictatorship. This is why we have always regarded the correct handling of the relationship between agriculture and industry as a question of the utmost importance in our socialist economic construction.

Agriculture Is the Foundation

Chairman Mao has long elaborated the dialectical relationship between industry and agriculture. In his *On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People* published in 1957, Chairman Mao pointed out: "In discussing our path to industrialization, I am here concerned principally with the relationship between the growth of heavy industry, light industry and agriculture. It must be affirmed that heavy industry is the core of China's economic construction. At the same time, full attention must be paid to the development of agriculture and light industry." "As China is a large agricultural country, with over 80 per cent of her population in the rural areas, industry must develop together with agriculture, for only thus can industry secure raw materials and a market, and only thus is it possible to accumulate fairly large funds for building a powerful heavy industry." "As agriculture and light

industry develop, heavy industry, assured of its market and funds, will grow faster."

Summing up the practical experience of China's First and Second Five-Year Plans and basing himself on the law of economic development that agriculture, light industry and heavy industry are interdependent and promote each other's growth, Chairman Mao put forward in 1962 the general principle for developing the national economy: "Take agriculture as the foundation and industry as the leading factor." He also pointed out the necessity of putting agriculture in the primary position and arranging the national economy in this order — agriculture, light industry and heavy industry.

Agriculture is the foundation of the national economy. This is objectively so and the common law governing the economic development of all types of society. Talking about the physiocrats, Marx said: "An agricultural labour productivity exceeding the individual requirements of the labourer is the basis of all societies." No socialist economy existed in Marx's time. He could only arrive at this most general and correct conclusion by examining the different modes of production in history, especially the capitalist mode of production. Before the advent of socialism, in societies based on the private ownership of the means of production this law operated blindly and on its own. With public ownership of the means of production in the socialist society, it is entirely possible for people consciously to master and apply this law and develop the socialist economy in a planned and proportional way.

Everyone knows that rapid development of industry, especially heavy industry, is a matter of great importance in building socialism in an economically backward country. But how can industry, especially heavy industry, be boosted at a faster rate? There are two methods. One is to develop heavy industry by limiting the growth of agriculture and light industry. The other is to give full play to the role of agriculture as the foundation and allow a greater growth of agriculture and light industry to develop heavy industry.

The first method which stresses heavy industry to an inordinate extent develops it in an isolated and

lopsided way. It robs agriculture and light industry of the investments, equipment, material and labour force necessary for their growth and keeps them far behind heavy industry. This creates difficulties in market, labour force and funds, brings on shortages of grain and other consumer goods, and causes dissatisfaction among the people. Moreover, heavy industry cannot be really developed this way. From a long-term view this method actually slows down the development of heavy industry and yields less satisfactory results.

The second method hinges development of heavy industry upon agricultural growth and provides it with a more secure basis for development, thereby helping it develop with greater and better results. The reason is clear. Only when agriculture develops can it provide the labour force, grain and industrial raw materials needed in industrial development, expand the market for industrial products, accumulate more funds for industry and promote the development of industry at a faster rate.

As a socialist country, China cannot build socialism by begging from the imperialists. Still less can we follow their example of plundering the colonies and semi-colonies for cheap farm produce, industrial raw materials and labour force and dumping industrial goods there at high prices to develop industry. Socialist economy can only be built on the basis of maintaining independence and keeping the initiative in one's own hands and relying on one's own efforts, and the funds for socialist industrialization can only come from internal accumulation. We stand for the expansion of international trade to exchange needed goods on a footing of equality and mutual benefit. In a big country like ours with a population of several hundred million, we can only depend on the supply of agricultural and sideline products from our own resources and sell our industrial products mainly on the domestic market, especially the broadest internal market in the rural areas inhabited by more than 80 per cent of the population. Therefore, giving agriculture the primary place in the national economy is not anybody's fancy or subjective arrangement, but is determined by the position agriculture occupies and the role it plays in the entire national economy. It is also decided by the objective need of our socialist country, which must develop its socialist economy independently.

Light industry occupies a very important position in the development of the entire national economy and has a very close bearing on the people's life. Production in a socialist country is not for profit, but for meeting the people's ever increasing needs. The development of light industry not only helps improve the people's livelihood, but can raise the peasants' income and further promote agricultural growth by using more farm and sideline products as raw materials for light industry which, built relatively easily, has a short production period and a quick turnover of funds. In addition, its growth can accumulate more funds for heavy industry and calls for the supply of larger amounts of

raw materials, machinery and equipment from heavy industry, thereby helping the latter to expand. In this sense, therefore, without the development of light industry it is impossible to supply the urban and rural population with a rich variety of industrial goods for daily use or to develop heavy industry at a faster rate.

Industry Is the Leading Factor

Stressing the importance of agriculture and light industry does not mean at all that heavy industry is any the less important. Heavy industry which produces the means of production can provide agriculture with an ever-increasing amount of farm machinery, chemical fertilizer, insecticide, electric power and building materials so as to speed up agricultural modernization. This is an important aspect for industry to play the role of leading factor. The development of heavy industry can also provide modern technique and equipment for the various sectors of the national economy and put the entire national economy on a new material and technical basis. Without the development of heavy industry, it will be impossible to have a consolidated national defence, defend the fruits of victory of socialist revolution, attain the all-round development of socialist economy, fulfil our proletarian internationalist obligations and support the revolutionary struggle of the people the world over. Therefore, it is necessary to lay great stress on the development of heavy industry in socialist economic construction. To accelerate the growth of heavy industry, we should handle well the relationship between agriculture, light industry and heavy industry and build heavy industry on the solid basis of agricultural development.

Paying attention to the development of agriculture and light industry does not mean that they should get more investments, equipment and material than heavy industry. It means that they should get a proper proportion of the investments, equipment and material which should not be freely diverted to other uses. This is not merely because the core of China's economic construction is heavy industry, which has so many departments and needs more investments, equipment and material. It is also because agricultural units in our country, except for state farms, are collectively owned by the labouring peasants and the seed, fertilizer, labour force and other investments needed in farming are mainly solved by the collective peasants. Except for the handicrafts and small-sized industries run by the people's communes, however, industry is owned by the whole people and its funds are provided by the state. Therefore, a bigger amount must be given to industry in the distribution of funds and equipment so as to ensure its development. The growth of agriculture requires that the state industries supply it with huge amounts of farm machines and tools. But the most fundamental thing lies in conscientiously carrying out the line and policies of the Party and state for the rural areas and fully mobilizing the socialist enthusiasm of the peas-

ants. Only when farm production develops and the collective public accumulation expands is it possible to realize agricultural mechanization.

Here an excellent model is the Tachai Brigade in Shansi Province, a national advanced unit in agriculture. Tachai was a poor mountain valley where drought occurred nine out of every ten years and the per-*mu* yields never exceeded 100 *jin*. Under the leadership of the Party after liberation, the Tachai peasants carried out land reform and agricultural collectivization. They worked arduously and skilfully and displayed the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, and finally turned the poor mountain valley into fertile land with high and stable yields of more than 1,000 *jin* per *mu*. They are now striving for farm mechanization. Since Chairman Mao issued the call "In agriculture, learn from Tachai" in 1964, a nationwide mass movement to learn from Tachai has been surging forward. Going all out and aiming high, hundreds of millions of peasants are making a steady effort to fundamentally transform China's farm production conditions.

Rapid Farm and Industrial Growth

Guided by Chairman Mao's revolutionary line and acting on the general principle of "taking agriculture as the foundation and industry as the leading factor," we have achieved steady increases in farm production. Agricultural development has enormously promoted the rapid growth of light industry, heavy industry and other sectors of the national economy. In 1971, the nation's total grain output reached 492,000 million *jin*, which more than doubled the figure in the early post-liberation days. Big increases were also reported in technical crops such as cotton and oil-bearing crops as well as in forestry, animal husbandry, sideline occupation and fisheries. There were serious natural disasters in 1972, but thanks to the consolidated collective economy of the people's communes, large-scale water conservancy construction and farmland capital construction over the past years and the tenacious struggle to combat adversities, we gathered in a good harvest of 480,000 million *jin* of grain, equivalent to the level of 1970 which was a year of rich harvest. Technical crops also grew rapidly, and cotton—a major raw material for light industry—has increased fivefold compared with

the years immediately after liberation. Now grain and technical crops supplied by our agriculture are sufficient to satisfy, though only initially, what the people and industrial development require.

China's light industry has also attained vigorous development. Compared with 1949, output of important light industrial products in 1972, including cotton yarn, cotton cloth, paper, sugar, salt, cigarettes and leather, showed an increase of several to dozens of times. At the same time, we have also branched out into new industries which produce chemical fibre, plastics and its products, synthetic detergent, wrist watches, bicycles, sewing machines, cameras, optical glass and photo-sensitive materials. This has enabled our light industry to gradually add to a relatively complete list of products of different varieties and initially cope with the increasing needs of people's living and state construction.

The vigorous growth of agriculture and light industry spurs on the development of heavy industry. Output of steel reached 23 million tons in 1972, or more than 130 times the pre-liberation figure. Output of coal, electricity, various kinds of machines and chemical products have either more than doubled or even risen dozens of times. China's industry has taken a big step forward in building an independent and comprehensive industrial system. Aircraft, automobile, modern ship-building and electronics industries, which were non-existent in the past, have been built. The level of self-sufficiency in equipment and raw materials has been raised, while machines, equipment and steel products are basically self-supporting. Owing to the development of industry in the hinterland, its geographical distribution has been gradually rationalized.

Under the guidance of Chairman Mao's revolutionary line, China's national economy has gained some successes. But it is still backward compared with the level of the developed capitalist countries. Ours is still a developing country. However, we are determined and have the confidence to build China into a prosperous socialist industrial country in a not too long historical period and make a greater contribution to humanity.

(Continued from p. 3.)

Workers in charge of the venue and equipment have completed the necessary preparations. Attendants, interpreters, cooks and drivers at the Peking Friendship Hotel are already at the service of the first arrivals. They are determined to do their best in looking after their Asian, African and Latin American guests and make them feel at home.

As their contribution to the A.A.A. tournament, Chinese artists have carefully designed and printed a set of posters. Cups, medallions and souvenirs for the participants have been made by Peking and Shanghai factories. The post office has designed a set of commemorative stamps for the event. China's cultural and art workers have prepared many numbers to be performed at the opening ceremony, park outings and evening

parties. The nearly one thousand primary and middle school children who will perform mass callisthenics are doing a final rehearsal.

The people in Peking as well as in other parts of China are eagerly waiting to welcome their friends from the three continents and to greet the opening of the Asian-African-Latin American Table Tennis Friendship Invitational Tournament.

Shouldering Heavy Duties for the Revolution

by Chu Hui-fen



TIMES have changed, and today men and women are equal," as our great leader Chairman Mao has taught us. The road to the complete liberation of China's women in the political, economic and cultural fields has been opened up by the superior socialist system. The maturing of China's women flyers is a miniature reflection of millions of emancipated Chinese women. When

I think of the miserable past and contrast it with the present, I deeply understand that women have been emancipated and some of us have been able to be pilots only because of the leadership of the Party and Chairman Mao and his revolutionary line.

Like China's working women, we women pilots all experienced bitterness and misery in the dark old society. My father and mother were impoverished peasants in Shanghai's Chiating County where I was born. Ground down by landlords' exploitation and oppression after the Japanese aggressors invaded China in 1937, my father carried me when I was only two years old and the family belongings in two baskets attached to a shoulder-pole and we begged our way from Chiating to Shanghai.

My father was dead less than two years later, a victim of ruthless exploitation by the capitalists. My infant brother soon died of serious illness, the result of cold and hunger. To bring me up, mother had to work as a maid in a capitalist's house.

Three years after my father's death, mother came home one day. Holding me tightly, she tearfully said: "Hui-fen, how are you going to live when your mother dies!" I was too young to understand what she meant.

The author, 36 years old, is a member of China's second group of women pilots. She was recently appointed a deputy political commissar of the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China. The photo above shows the author when she was a flyer.

When I got home that noon after picking through rubbish heaps on the streets, tragedy greeted me as I opened the door. Unable to stand the humiliation and harsh treatment by the capitalist any longer, my mother had taken her own life.

In three short years, three lives in my family had been snatched away by the man-eating old society! Before liberation there were millions of working women, like my mother, who were deprived of the right to live, and countless orphans, like myself, who suffered all sorts of discrimination and oppression. Millions of down-trodden class sisters, including myself, looked forward to liberation day and night!

In 1956, seven years after liberation, at the age of 19 I joined the people's air force to learn piloting a plane.

For women to fly planes was unimaginable before liberation in 1949. And we women did have many difficulties in learning to fly. We had to master control over big transport planes and practise many flying courses day and night and in all kinds of weather. We had to have courage, wisdom and strong bodies. And things did not go smoothly at the start. While the instructor guided us in piloting a plane, it acted like an unharnessed wild horse and wouldn't perform the way we wanted. It zigzagged at take-off, shot up and dropped down in the air, and immediately going straight to the runway for a landing was not easy, and when we did put the plane on the ground it was with much bumping.

Should we go forward against difficulties or retreat? That the Party and Chairman Mao wanted women comrades to learn to fly was a manifestation of their confidence in us. Therefore, we regarded learning to become pilots as a political task and a struggle against the centuries-old feudal vestiges in our country. To develop our strength, we did a great deal of physical exercise and joined the men in playing ball and distance running, practising on the cartwheels and climbing the suspended ladder. To judge the runway accurately, we measured distances with our eyes while riding a bus or walking. When we went to bed, we practised the hand and foot co-ordinating movements in controlling the joystick.

By hard study and practice, group after group of women flyers mastered the necessary techniques, and

were able independently to fly missions in all kinds of difficult weather conditions. Many have become instructors.

Firmly remembering Chairman Mao's teaching "**Heighten our vigilance, defend the motherland,**" we fulfilled many tasks connected with preparedness against war. Once we ran into very complex weather conditions. While the plane was darting in cloud and mist, big raindrops showered on the screen and nothing could be seen outside except dark low clouds. Commanding officers were on our plane, and, therefore, whether I could land the plane safely in the airport was a test for me.

Keeping Chairman Mao's teaching "**Be brave, firm and cool**" in mind, I firmly grasped the control column and lowered the plane into the clouds. It descended rapidly — the altitude dropped to 200 metres, 100 metres . . . but visibility was still poor and the runway remained invisible. Concentrating on the readings on the meters in the cockpit and in co-operation with other crew members at the crucial moment, I continued lowering the plane until it finally came through the sea of clouds. We vaguely sighted the runway and the plane landed safely.

Over the years we women flyers have flown missions from the Tianshan Mountains in the northwest to the Changpai Mountains in the northeast, and from the southwestern Yunnan-Kweichow Plateau to the east coast. We have brought artificial rain for dry crops, delivered food and clothes to our class sisters and brothers stranded by floodwaters, rescued people whose lives were in danger, and diligently practised skills in dealing with the enemy in preparedness against war. We women flyers say with pride: "We pilot our silver 'eagles' to defend and build our motherland."

May 10, 1964 was a day I'll never forget in my life. On that day I had the honour to be received by Chairman Mao in the reception hall of the Great Hall of the People. Beaming and in high spirits, Chairman Mao walked towards us with firm steps! Standing very close to him, I couldn't hold back the tears of joy that streamed down my cheeks.

Pointing at me, a leading comrade at the reception told Chairman Mao: "This is woman flyer Chu Hui-fen." Chairman Mao took another step towards me and extended his hand. I immediately grasped it firmly and a warm feeling of happiness quickly spread throughout my body. Smiling, Chairman Mao asked: "Can you pilot an airplane?" I was so excited at the moment and didn't know what should be said first because so many words came into my mind. I continuously nodded my answer. Chairman Mao looked at me kindly and smiled cheerfully.

The Ninth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party opened on April 1, 1969. Together with many other women Party members who were delegates, I had the honour of attending the congress

and the happiness of listening to Chairman Mao's cordial talks, and discussed important matters of the Party and the state with Party member-delegates from the country's various fronts. . . .

Our great leader Chairman Mao has said: "**When women all over the country rise up, that will be the day of victory for the Chinese revolution.**" This sentence shows Chairman Mao's greatest confidence in us women and inspires us to carry a heavy load for socialist revolution and construction. There have emerged on China's various fronts hundreds of advanced women individuals and collectives. The fact that women cadres have continuously come forward in large numbers is an important indication of the emancipation of China's women and an embodiment of the superiority of the socialist system.

The Party and the people recently put me in a leading post at the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China. As I am rather young and haven't had much experience, I am fully aware of the heavy duty I shoulder. I'm determined to live up to the expectations put on me by the Party and Chairman Mao, persevere in studying the works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Chairman Mao's works, temper myself by taking a more active part in the struggle between the two classes, the two roads and the two lines, and continuously raise my consciousness of carrying out Chairman Mao's revolutionary line. I'll keep to the fine working style of hard struggle, be a good servant of the people and work for the revolutionary cause all my life!



An old poor peasant woman visiting her daughter who has become a flyer. Woodcut by Li Wen-han

Mountain Flowers in Full Bloom

by Our Correspondents

This is the last of a series of three articles on a visit to the Heilungkiang forest regions. — Ed.

A 14-HOUR train journey from Harbin, capital of Heilungkiang Province, took us to Chiaketachi where the Greater Khingan Mountains Forestry Administration Bureau is. Though it was late in May, the snow on the shady slopes had not thawed and cotton-padded coats were still being worn in the area. Nevertheless, spring was breaking out all over and azaleas were growing everywhere.

Known as a "green treasure," the undulating Greater Khingan Mountains also abound in underground resources. But before liberation its natural wealth had remained untapped because of severe cold (the annual mean temperature is 2°C. below zero) and poor communications.

Since liberation, the People's Government continuously sent groups of foresters to the mountains and set up over a dozen forestry centres. In 1958, the Big Leap Forward year in socialist construction, thousands of workers were organized and sent to the Greater Khingan Mountains to build roads and houses preparatory to large-scale exploitation of the primeval forests.

But there were ups and downs in this work. Handicapped by difficulties arising from three years (1959-61) of natural calamities, railway building was held back and this adversely affected transportation of necessary equipment, material and fuel. What with the interference of Liu Shao-chi's counter-revolutionary revisionist line, the work of opening up the forests was delayed for a time.

Armed with Mao Tsetung Thought, the people, however, went ahead in the face of difficulties. With the arrival of members of the Railway Corps of the People's Liberation Army, a railway leading northward from Nenchiang was completed in a few years. More and more builders, material and equipment were sent into the depths of the Greater Khingan Mountains in the winter of 1964. Following the example of the Taching Oilfield, a red flag on China's industrial front, and guided by the general line of "going all out, aiming high and achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results in building socialism," the trail-blazers began felling trees. The year after their arrival saw them cutting down more than 150,000 cubic metres of timber and the figure rose to 240,000 cubic metres the next year. By 1972, they had produced a total of over 5 million cubic metres.

Of the builders of the new forest regions, 70 per cent are city-bred middle school students tempered in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. When they learnt that the dense forests in the northeastern frontier region were to be exploited, they applied and left their families and cities to settle in the mountains.

Girls' Tree-Cutting Team

At an opening in the forest, we saw a circle of cotton-padded tents surrounding a basketball court, a volleyball court and a table tennis table. After supper, a group of girls engaged in a variety of off-hour activities. Some read, while others played ball, sang songs or knitted woollen wear. . . . Music flowed from loudspeakers.

Deputy team leader Chang Fen-fang met us. Rosy-cheeked and healthy-looking, she is not tall, wears her hair in two small braids and has large sparkling eyes. Hearing her heavy local accent, we asked if she was born in the northeast. She said she wasn't. She had come from Shanghai in 1969 and was transferred to the team two years ago.

This girls' team of tree-cutters was set up in 1970 and has 104 workers and staff members. Apart from 13 veteran men workers, the rest are girls who have graduated from junior or senior middle schools in various parts of the south, including Shanghai and Hangchow. Their average age is 20 and the deputy team leader, being 24, is the oldest.

Conditions were tough in the early days. There is only a short frost-free period of 60 to 70 days and strong winds and heavy snows beginning in September leave the entire area ice-bound. Led by six veteran workers, the girls walked some ten kilometres early every morning across the mountains to build houses and roads and do other work to get ready for felling. Living on toasted pancakes and snow which they melted for water when they were out at work, they were full of revolutionary optimism. During breaks and after knocking off, they sang at the top of their voices songs they had composed themselves: "We always bear in mind Chairman Mao's teachings. We are determined to settle in the virgin timberland. . . ."

After a full month of hard work, three tractor-sheds and a canteen were built, in addition to a basketball court and timber chutes and loading grounds. After moving into the forests that winter, they began felling trees.

With the mercury at over 40°C. below zero, the water in the only well they had sunk froze solid. They had to hack ice from the brooks and bring it back in sacks to be melted into water. To save water for the tractors, they shared a basin of melted ice for washing.

The youngest member Chou Jui-ying was 16 then. Full of idyllic dreams of the snowy forests, she came to the Greater Khingan Mountains by falsifying her age. Harsh conditions made her waver later, and she often thought of going back to Hangchow — her beautiful native city. Aware of how she felt, veteran workers told her how their families had suffered in the old days and how after liberation these mountains had been opened up by overcoming all sorts of hardships. The team's political instructor studied Chairman Mao's works with her and took pains to help her realize the significance of building up the forest regions.

All this gave her much to think about. She told herself: The Railway Corps had not been held back from building the railways because of the cold and the workers had not been prevented from exploiting the forest resources for the same reason. To be a worthy successor to the revolutionary cause, she must not knuckle under to the hardships and quit this place. Having come to a correct understanding, she set her mind at ease. Now she boils water every day and sends it to her team-mates felling trees, whatever the difficulties and no matter how tired she may be. Since coming to Heilungkiang, she has twice visited her family in Hangchow (those whose families are not in the locality are entitled to a month's leave annually with full pay and their travel expenses covered by the state) and was back on time or ahead of time.

Growing Up

We spent two nights where the girls were working and had long talks with them. During the daytime, we went into the mountains and worked alongside them. All showed a great zeal for the life they led in the forest and had lofty ideals.

Tsao Hsiu-fang, a sprightly girl who always carried a chain saw with her, was from a Shanghai textile worker's family. She asked for the job as soon as she joined the team in 1971 because, as she phrased it, she wanted to do her bit in speeding up timber production for socialist construction in the country.

She began by working under the guidance of veteran workers. After determining the direction a tree should fall, her worker-master told her where to notch and she began operating the power-driven saw. Everything seemed quite easy. Once, however, when she and another assistant began cutting down a big pine tree, the veteran worker suddenly disappeared. Though the two of them worked with might and main, they just couldn't get the tree down. To complicate things, the chain saw was embedded tightly in the trunk. Greatly upset, they made desperate efforts and finally managed to fell the tree. Then the veteran worker popped up in front of them, saying: "You must learn to master the felling technique; it won't do to rely on us all the time!" As it turned out, he had been only a stone's throw away,

Watching them working, he was ready to come to their assistance whenever necessary. Drawing a good lesson from this, Tsao Hsiu-fang did her level best to learn the necessary skills and made rapid progress.

One day when the worker-master was sick, Tsao Hsiu-fang and a new assistant went to work by themselves. As they had no great difficulty in felling one tree after another, they were satisfied with the job they had done. The following day when the veteran worker came to the felling site, he found that the stumps left were too high and pointed out to the two girls that stressing speed and quantity to the neglect of quality was not good and that not a single centimetre of timber should be wasted because the state had great need for it. Ashamed of herself, Tsao realized that ideologically she was still lagging far behind.

Helped by the veteran workers, Tsao Hsiu-fang has now become a full-fledged chain saw operator. And she has gained 10 kilogrammes in weight and grown taller.

When spring comes to the Greater Khingan Mountains, lovely flowers bloom everywhere. More often than not, the girls picked a few mountain flowers on their way back from work for the vases in their dormitories.



Young woman operating a chain saw.

Painted red and decorated with two bunches of azaleas on the headlights, a tractor carrying a full load of logs rumbled down a hill into the loading ground. At the wheel was a girl with tousled hair. She was Chang Hang-hsin from Hangchow. We had a chat with her after she got down from the vehicle. Telling us about her work, she said with much pride: "When I bring the logs down the mountains, I always think this load may go to a construction site, that load may go to an arsenal and the best may be sent across the seas to Tanzania and Zambia to be used as sleepers. . . ." She saw in her ordinary work extraordinary meaning and showed a deep love for life in the forest regions.

From Chang Fen-fang we heard about several other girls who had worked hard and selflessly. They were no longer here, the deputy team leader said, because, out of consideration for their age and marriage prospects, the leadership had transferred them to do other forest jobs.

"Clouds skim above my head, towering mountains are under my feet. . . . I'm turning out timber for the motherland, I'll let my youth display all its splendour." These words from a song the girls love to sing fully express the lofty aspirations of these young builders.

The Olunchuns

With a population of some 2,500, the Olunchuns, one of China's smallest nationalities, live in the forests of the Greater Khingan Mountains. Before liberation they had no permanent settlement and wandered from place to place hunting and fishing by individual households or in groups of several households. They ate animal meat, wore animal skins and lived in tents of birch-bark or hide which could hardly protect them from wind and snow. In addition to being exploited by profiteers when they exchanged precious pelts for a mere handful of salt or a small amount of millet, they had to pay tribute to the "tsolings" (the rulers of the Olunchuns). On the eve of liberation, the number of Olunchuns had dropped drastically as a result of oppression by the reactionary ruling classes, backward production methods and poor hygienic conditions.

To make a living, these people used to burn down large tracts of forests every spring so that grass would grow and animals looking for food could be lured into the area for them to hunt.

After liberation, the Communist Party put into effect the policy that all nationalities are equal and helped the national minorities take the socialist road. Shortly after the founding of New China, the People's Government allocated special funds to build new villages for the Olunchuns and established autonomous banners and townships in places where they live in compact communities. Clothing, quilts, blankets, hunting guns and cartridges were distributed free among the Olunchun people. They were also helped to learn farming and diversify their economy, and were organized to take part in forest-protection and fire-prevention work.



Commune members of Olunchun nationality on patrol in the forest.

We also made a trip to the Shihpachan People's Commune to the northeast of the Greater Khingan Mountains. Over 680 Olunchun people live in two of its production teams and a production team of another commune. While we were there, they were getting ready to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their settlement in the locality — a red-letter day for them.

We met Comrade Meng Chin-pao, 39-year-old deputy secretary of the commune's Party committee who had had his fill of untold suffering as an orphan from childhood. After liberation, the Party trained him to be a cadre and later sent him to study in Peking's Central Institute for Nationalities. After graduation, he returned to his native village. He gave us an account of the Olunchun people's new life and their many exemplary deeds in fire-prevention and forest-protection.

Under government sponsorship, representatives of the Olunchuns have many times visited the nation's capital and seen its magnificent buildings. They have also visited Shanghai's busy waterfront and the Yangtze River Bridge in Wuhan as well as factories and mines in other places. Greatly impressed by the vast scope of their motherland's socialist construction, they are determined to do all they can to protect the much-needed timber. Of their own accord, they gave up the old custom of burning down forests for hunting. While hunting in the woods, they always keep an eye on protecting the forest resources.

The Olunchun people know the mountains and forests inside out. Their horses, small but sturdy, can

climb up the mountains and cross the marshes with ease. This is one of the reasons why the Olunchun commune members are always in the van acting as guides or shock brigades if fire should break out.

The Olunchuns have learnt to farm with tractors and have set up two deer farms. Their living standards have risen steadily and they no longer worry about food and clothing.

The scenery of the forest regions — their towering mountains and lovely flowers all round — is unforgettable. Even more unforgettable are the people there — the weather-beaten veteran lumberjacks, the youngsters from the south and the Olunchuns who have leapt from primitive living to socialism. Working in concerted efforts to build up the forest regions, they are doing their bit for the socialist construction of their motherland.



In the timberlands.

Woodcut by Li Huai-hsin

U.N. Trade and Development Board

Discussion on Drafting "Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States"

The Chinese representative said that the developing countries have the right to eliminate the forces of imperialism and big-power hegemonism. The two superpowers, however, went so far as to oppose the concept that "economic control and plunder from outside" are the main obstacles in the way of economic development of the developing countries.

THE second working session of the Working Group of the United Nations Trade and Development Board on the "charter of economic rights and duties of states" was held from July 16 to 27 in Geneva. Representatives from 40 countries attended the session.

The proposal for drafting a "charter of economic rights and duties of states" was made by Mexican President Echeverria at the Third Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in May last year and actively supported by the developing countries. According to a decision of that session, the Working

Group on the charter held its first session in Geneva last February, at which a draft outline of the charter was worked out. The task of the second session of the group was to make a further draft of the charter on the basis of the outline.

At the session, many developing countries, including China, advanced a considerable number of correct propositions and conducive proposals on safeguarding state sovereignty and expanding national economy, as well as on establishing fair and reasonable international economic relations. On the contrary, some developed coun-

tries desperately tried to maintain the existing international economic relations and their vested interests and to shirk the duties which they should have undertaken. Both superpowers opposed the concept that "economic control and plunder from outside" are the main obstacles in the way of economic development of the developing countries. They went so far as to disagree with the formulation of "rationalization of trade." One of the superpowers tried to put it as "normalization of trade," and the other wanted it to be deleted. Some developed countries tried to delete the provision that "every state has the right to regulate and control transnational corporations within its national jurisdiction," which was put forward by the developing countries.

No agreement was reached on a considerable number of provisions because of the differences of views between the developing and developed countries.

The session decided to submit, as its final documents, to the U.N. Trade and Development Board for review the provisions accepted by the majority of the countries, especially the developing countries, as well as all reservations to those provisions.

China's Position and Propositions

Chinese Representative Pi Chi-lung on July 17 distributed a statement setting out the Chinese Government's position and propositions on the formulation of the "charter of economic rights and duties of states."

In the statement, Pi Chi-lung said: "The charter we are to work out should be designed to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of states and develop their national economies. It should also be designed to establish international economic relations based on equality, mutual benefit and mutual respect, to further normal international economic ties and promote friendship and co-operation among the people of all countries. Such an approach not only represents the ardent desire of the developing countries but conforms to the general aspiration of the peoples of the whole world.

"As pointed out repeatedly by the representatives of many developing countries, a great many inequities and irrationalities have persisted in international economic relations for a long period of time. These phenomena find expression, in a concentrated form, in exploitation and plunder of the developing countries, and monopoly over international economic affairs, by imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism and big-power hegemonism. Under the disguise of 'joint exploitation,' the imperialists have engaged in capital export everywhere, appropriated other countries' resources and exercised control over their economic lifelines in order to further interfere in the internal affairs of these countries. While talking loudly about 'mutually advantageous trade,' they have left no stone unturned

in the effort to manipulate the market and prices and, through exchange of unequal values and dumping, to fleece the other countries' people of their wealth and to strangle the national economies of these countries. Their monopoly over international finance and their conduct of shifting monetary crises on to others have inflicted tremendous losses on the developing countries. Even more treacherous is big-power hegemonism which passes itself off as a 'friend' of the developing countries. While pushing its neo-colonialism under the signboard of 'socialism,' it carries out economic infiltration into, and political control over, these countries in a vain attempt to fetter them anew under enslavement in the wake of their emancipation from foreign domination. More and more facts have shown that exploitation, plunder, control and monopoly by imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism and big-power hegemonism constitute the major obstacles to the development of national economy and normal international economic relations. In order to remove these obstacles, the developing countries have unfolded a gigantic struggle against imperialism and big-power hegemonism and won a series of victories. They demand the protection of their national rights and interests and the establishment of international economic relations based on equality, mutual benefit and mutual respect between states — this has become a powerful trend. In this new situation, the present session should give serious consideration to the reasonable proposals of the developing countries. The draft charter should give full expression to the long-term effort and aspirations of the people of developing countries."

"In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, the charter should set forth certain basic principles to be observed by all states in conducting their economic relations."

Pi Chi-lung said: "We hold that the Five Principles of mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-intervention in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence should be taken as the general principles governing the relations between states. All countries, big or small, rich or poor, should be equal. International economic relations should be based on equality, mutual benefit and mutual respect. Big countries should refrain from bullying small ones. Rich countries should not bully poor ones. No country is allowed to exert political pressure by economic means designed to impair the sovereignty of other countries, to interfere in their internal affairs and to bring these countries under the ambit of its political, economic and military spheres of influence."

"Political independence and economic independence are inseparable. Without political independence, it is impossible to achieve economic independence. And the independence of a country is incomplete and insecure

in the absence of economic independence. Each and every independent state has the inalienable sovereign right to oppose foreign control and plunder and to protect its national rights and interests and resources." "Faced with the threat of aggression and plunder by imperialism and big-power hegemonism, the developing countries absolutely have the right to take measures aimed at eliminating the force and influence of imperialism and big-power hegemonism, getting rid of their control, protecting national rights and interests and resources and safeguarding national economic independence. The foregoing should constitute an important aspect of the contents of the charter."

Pi Chi-lung said: "We maintain that the economic affairs of a given country should be handled by its own people. The economic affairs of the whole world should be handled by all states. Manipulation and monopoly on the part of imperialism and big-power hegemonism, therefore, should not be tolerated, nor should a few economic powers be allowed to make one-sided decisions, to their own advantage but at the expense of others, behind the back of a vast number of small and medium-sized countries. The developing countries which comprise the overwhelming majority of the world's population should have enough say in international economic affairs. They absolutely have the right to participate on an equal footing in various negotiations and the reform of systems in the economic, trade and monetary fields."

"In order to play an effective role in the promotion of normal economic relations between states, the charter should not come out as an abstract document devoid of substance and, instead, it should contain specific guiding principles related to major economic issues. In the international economic field, there are a number of issues of great concern to all countries, particularly to the developing countries. Explicit and rational provisions should be made on those issues in the charter."

"We are of the view that each state has permanent and complete sovereignty over all its natural resources, including all marine resources within the limits of its national jurisdiction. The utilization and exploitation of the resources of a given country is its own national right. No country should be allowed, under whatever pretext, to seize, control, plunder and damage the resources of other countries.

"We hold that countries should develop their trade in accordance with the principles of equality and mutual benefit and supplying each other's wants, and in conformity with the requirement and possibility of both sides. The governments and people of the developing countries have the right to protect their national economies from damage by external sources. The export products of the developing countries should be given reasonable and remunerative prices. The economic powers should not discriminate against the developing

countries in trade and should remove progressively their tariff and non-tariff barriers. No country is allowed to establish its monopoly and conduct dumping in the international market.

"We are of the opinion that economic and technical assistance should be based on equality and strict respect for the sovereignty and aspiration of recipient countries. No conditions should be attached and no privileges demanded. Loans should be made on a long-term basis, interest-free or at low interest. Recipient countries should be allowed to reschedule their debt servicing if they find themselves unable to repay at maturity. Creditor countries should not press them for repayment, to say nothing of exerting pressure on the strength of debt problems. When new technologies are transferred to developing countries, they should be provided without reservation. The fees charged should be low and no extortion of high prices is allowed. The period of transfer should be short and should admit of no stalling tactics whatsoever. Every economically and technologically developed country has the obligation to help developing countries develop their independent national economies and should in no way impose its own will on others under the cloak of 'international division of labour' and subordinate the economy of other countries to its own, with the aim of carrying out political control and economic plunder.

"Foreign investment and enterprises should operate on the principle of strict respect for the sovereignty of the host country and in observance of its laws, and are not allowed to interfere in its internal affairs and to damage its resources. The developing countries have the right to adopt, in keeping with the requirement of their national security and national economic development, the policy measures of regulation, restriction and even nationalization of foreign enterprises, without being subjected to any intervention by foreign countries.

"It is our view that it falls within the scope of the sovereignty of an independent state to determine its national monetary system. The developing countries have the right to abolish all vestige of privileges of colonialism and neo-colonialism in the economic and financial fields. The international monetary system and the reform thereof should be decided upon jointly by all countries of the world on the basis of equality. The economic powers are not allowed to use their special position for profiteering at the expense of others by shifting their financial and monetary crisis on to other countries."

Pi Chi-lung concluded: "The drafting of the charter is an important task. The Working Group should, first of all, bring together those commonly accepted rational principles in the spirit of consultation on an equal basis, then make efforts to iron out some of the differences and finally hammer out those principles in the form of a charter."

Piratic Act, Preposterous Logic

AFTER painstaking planning, Israeli Zionism dispatched two military planes to intrude into Lebanese territorial air on August 10 and force a Lebanese civil airliner to change its course and land at an Israeli military airfield. All passengers on board were subjected to intimidation and rude search by the Israeli aggressor troops.

This Israeli act of air piracy is a flagrant violation of Lebanon's sovereignty, a wanton provocation against the Arab people and a gross transgression of the norms of international law. This criminal terrorism of Israel has been condemned by public opinion in the Arab and other countries.

But the Israeli authorities described the hijacking as a "preventive action." The architect of the incident, Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Dayan shamelessly quibbled: "Israel was acting in self-defence against terrorism." This is most preposterous gangster's logic!

Is it "self-defence" and "preventive action" to send warplanes to intrude into the air space of other countries? Is it "self-defence" and "preventive action" to force a civil airliner to change its course and to intimi-

date and search its innocent passengers? These are acts of aggression and provocation pure and simple! To describe the sending of military planes into the air space of other countries as "self-defence" or "preventive action" is out-and-out gangster's logic!

What Dayan alleged as an act "against terrorism" is Israel's pretext for aggression and provocation. Everyone knows that Israel's acts of aggression are terrorism of the most vicious kind and Israel is an old hand at terrorism.

Last February, Israeli forces shot down a Boeing plane of the Libyan Arab Airlines, killing over 100 people, when the airliner ran into bad weather, lost direction and strayed into the air space over Israeli-occupied Sinai. Last April, Israel plotted and murdered three Palestinian leaders in Beirut. Israel also has a special organization for assassination. Last July 21, according to Swedish press reports, an Israeli terrorist group gunned down Ahmed Bouchiki of Moroccan nationality in Oslo, capital of Norway. All this eloquently proves that it is precisely the Israeli Zionists, the thief crying "stop the thief," who are resorting to terrorism.

(A commentary by Hsinhua Correspondent)

Journey Through Southern Italy

by the Chinese Journalists' Delegation

SOUTHERN Italy is charming. The expansive Mediterranean washing its shores, the buildings of classical Grecian architecture, the sprawling old unpretentious towns in the hills, the towering majestic volcanoes — all these combine to give a beauty peculiar to the area.

This part of Italy has long been known as "the backward south." But this "backwardness," which

still weighs heavily on the millions of people in southern Italy, is a heritage from the past.

"Two Italys"

While we were in Rome, an Italian friend told us: "There are actually 'two Italys' — the north and the south." "Two Italys" sounds harsh to the ear. But the stark fact is that this is not far from the truth. Northern Italy boasts of a modern industry and a com-

munications network stretching to all points of the compass. Its agriculture, too, is well developed. In southern Italy, however, there is little industry, communications are still poor and agriculture is rather backward. This is so especially in the mountainous and hilly areas where people still use the farming techniques of their forefathers. The income per capita of the southern population, according to the statistics of the Italian government department concerned, is only half that of the rest of the country. Here migration is serious. In the last two decades, 2.5 million people left for northern Italy or emigrated to other lands.

In the postwar years, Italy has done much to open up the south. The Cassa per il Mezzogiorno (Southern Italy Development Fund) was set up in the early 1950s to finance and push development of industry and agriculture, transport and communications, education and culture and tourism in the south. Twenty years of efforts have produced some results.

Changes in Agricultural Regions

We visited several farms along the coastal areas of Apulia and Basilicata Regions. Like many other parts of southern Italy, a greater part of these two regions is mountainous and hilly land, especially Basilicata where hilly land makes up over 80 per cent. Generally speaking, the soil is poor and water conservancy is badly inadequate. But as far as plains on the coast go, conditions for farming are pretty good. Most of these areas have since the war been designated key regions for developing agriculture and provided with more aid and investments.

In the coastal plain of Apulia, there are flat, well-kept farmlands with lush green crops served by a complex irrigation network. One finds dense groves of olive trees and many orange orchards. A farm expert told us about the big changes in the villages. The low-lying land by the Ionian Sea, he said, is fertile and the rivers and streams are a boon for farming. But in prewar days, water conservancy works were neglected and malaria was rampant, forcing the peasants to flee the land for distant mountainous areas. After the war this area was listed by the state as a key region for developing agriculture. Aid was granted, the rivers were dredged, water conservancy projects were initiated and the land was levelled. Agricultural production has found its feet again and even forged ahead. At the same time, malaria was eradicated. Today, huge amounts of vegetables, oranges, grapes and olives as well as such cash crops as sugar-beet and tobacco are produced here. This area has become a fairly prosperous farming region in southern Italy.

The work involved to develop the south is tough. There are gaps between the plains and hilly areas. Though agriculture has made some headway in the plains, there has been no significant change in the hilly regions where the wheat crop yields a mere 500 to 600 kilogrammes per hectare—6 to 7 times the amount sown. To change this state of affairs requires

considerable investments, but then within the European Economic Community it is so much cheaper to import wheat from France.

Modern Industry

In recent years there has been a gradual development of industry in southern Italy. At first, the industrialists were reluctant to sink their capital in this part of the country for communications were bad, power supply was nominal and skilled labour hard to find. In the eyes of the Italian industrialists, the low profits did not justify the high cost of building factories in this region. However, after the state introduced tax exemptions, subsidies and other incentives and built roads, ports and a hydro-power network, the industrialists became interested. The Cassa per il Mezzogiorno revealed that industrial investments in southern Italy from 1950 to 1970 totalled 12,900 million U.S. dollars with a fourfold increase in industrial output value in the same period. Today, industrial investment in the south exceeds 2,000 million U.S. dollars per annum.

We visited the huge iron and steel works in Taranto in the southern tip of the Italian peninsula and the oil refinery in Gela, Sicily. Taranto Steel, set up by the Italsider Steel Company of the IRI Group (Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale) in 1964, has a complete range of modern equipment from iron smelting and steelmaking to steel rolling and making steel pipes. With an annual steel production of 4.5 million tons, it is Italy's biggest iron and steel enterprise and ranks third in Western Europe. The complex which employs 33,000 people occupies 1,100 hectares, which is even larger than the original area of Taranto. And it is still being expanded.

Gela was a small town of only 30,000 on the southern coast of Sicily. In 1956, the ENI Group (Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi) struck oil in the coastal waters and began large-scale exploitation. It built an oil refinery with an annual capacity of 4 million tons in the town. In 1964, it added a petro-chemical works to turn out on a mass scale chemical fertilizer, urea, polyethylene, ethylene glycol, etc.

With the growth of modern industry, people began pouring into the rising industrial cities in the south. As an Italian friend put it, these modern factories are like a magnet attracting people from all corners. From 30,000 people, Gela has grown to 70,000 and the population of Taranto has jumped from 180,000 to 240,000. But there is a limit to the number of people the factories can absorb, and therefore a new problem of employment has come up.

Some big enterprises with their roots in the north but with heavy investments in the south are rather interested in the industrial and mineral resources the south can offer. The problem of an all-round development of the south thus looks like taking some time to solve. So will the complex process to bridge the gap between the "two Italys."

Iranian People's New Achievement In Safeguarding Their Oil Rights

THE Shah of Iran ratified on July 31 the bill on the new oil agreement between the National Iranian Oil Company (N.I.O.C.) and the Western oil consortium after approval by the National Consultative Assembly and the Senate. Under the terms of the bill, Iran shall recover from the Western oil consortium all rights over production, management, and ownership of the installations. This is another victory chalked up by the people of Iran in their protracted struggle to protect their country's oil rights and interests.

One of the world's famous oil-producing countries, Iran has announced that her known oil deposits are 13,700 million tons and that in 1972 she produced 250 million tons of oil to rank fourth in the world. But for 72 years the country's oil resources have been in the hands of the big monopoly groups of the West. The people of Iran will never forget the bitter history of foreign plunder of their country's wealth, and to safeguard their "liquid black gold" they have been waging an unremitting struggle.

Back in 1901 William K. D'Arcy of Britain extracted from Iran an agreement for a concession to exploit oil in all parts of the country except in the five northern provinces. The first well was drilled in the Masjid-i-Sulaiman region in the south in 1908 and the Anglo-Persian Oil Company was set up the following year.

Iran's crude oil production was already 6.5 million tons in 1932, but the Iranians received only a few coppers. The lion's share of the earnings went to line the pockets of the British whose company pursued a policy of plunder. In 1933, on the demand of the people, the Iranian Government abrogated the D'Arcy agreement and forced the British company to sign a new agreement raising Iran's share of oil earnings from 16 to 18 per cent. At the same time, the Anglo-Persian Oil Company was renamed the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company and the area of its operation reduced to 100,000 square miles. To a certain extent this agreement whittled down Britain's privileges and increased Iran's benefits.

In 1951, Iran's demand for a larger share in the profits of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company met with a refusal from the British. Highly incensed, the Iranian people held demonstrations and rallies, demanding in one voice that all oil rights should be taken back. On March 20 that year, the Iranian Parliament adopted a bill to nationalize the country's oil industry. This was subsequently ratified by the Shah and the National Iranian Oil Company came into being. In 1954 the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company folded up.

On October 29, 1954, the Western oil consortium, composed of U.S., British, French and Dutch oil companies, concluded an agreement with Iran for the right to explore, extract and refine oil and natural gas in Iran's southern and southwestern regions by the gulf. This vast region was known as the "agreement area" and the agreement was valid for 25 years. By 1972, the Western oil consortium had extracted a total of 12,593 million barrels of oil from Iran. Reports say each barrel of oil netted for the consortium 12 to 14 U.S. dollars, but only one dollar in royalty went to Iran.

To break the consortium's monopoly over Iran's oil production, the Iranian Parliament on July 28, 1957 passed the Petroleum Act which empowered N.I.O.C. to make contracts with foreign oil companies for the right to explore and exploit oil in regions outside the "agreement area."

Meanwhile, Iran took restrictive measures against the Western oil consortium. In 1966, the "agreement area" was further reduced by a quarter and Iran gained the right to intervene in oil extraction and marketing within the "agreement area."

Together with the other petroleum exporting countries, Iran fought ceaselessly in recent years against the Western oil companies. They have won victory after victory in safeguarding their oil resources and recovering their rights and interests.

At the Teheran meeting in February 1971, Iran and the other members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (O.P.E.C.) forced the Western oil companies to raise the posted price for each barrel of oil by 39 U.S. cents and the oil tax rate by 5 per cent. Iran raised the tax from 50 to 55 per cent of the posted price for each barrel of oil extracted by the oil consortium. In January 1972, Iran and the other O.P.E.C. members through negotiations in Geneva compelled the Western oil companies to agree to compensate the oil exporting countries for losses caused by the dollar devaluation. These two victories boosted Iran's revenue from oil. In 1971 alone it showed an increase of 550 million U.S. dollars.

Iran's negotiations to recover her sovereign rights over oil commenced in July 1972. After a year of persistent struggle the Western oil consortium was finally compelled to agree to complete restitution to Iran of all rights over production and management in the "agreement area." The 72-year-long struggle by the Iranian people to safeguard their country's oil rights and interests has resulted in a resounding victory. It has turned a new page in the annals of Iran's oil industry.

SAMDECH SIHANOUK SERVES NOTICE

Evacuate Diplomatic Personnel From Phnom Penh

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia and Chairman of the National United Front of Cambodia, in a telegram of August 10 served notice on countries which have embassies to the Lon Nol regime of Phnom Penh that they close urgently their embassies in Phnom Penh and evacuate all their diplomats. The Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia under the leadership of the National United Front of Cambodia, the telegram stated, will unflinchingly be established in Phnom Penh in the not too distant future after the ineluctable final victory of the People's Armed Forces of National Liberation of Cambodia.

Samdech Sihanouk said: "The Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia sincerely desires to establish friendly and diplomatic relations and co-operate in the economic, technical, cultural and other fields with all non-imperialist, non-colonialist, non-neo-colonialist, non-racist and non-Zionist countries. But such relations and co-operation on an equal footing are possible and conceivable only if these countries from now on refrain from or cease maintaining diplomatic relations with the anti-national, anti-popular and illegal regime of the traitors Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, In Tam, Cheng Heng, Long Boreth, Sosthene Fernandez and Son Ngoc Thanh."

Samdech Sihanouk added: "I earnestly advise all foreign diplomats or non-diplomats engaged in certain activities in the so-called Khmer republic urgently leave this dirty, spurious republic — enemy of the Khmer people, because they might become victims of the war which is approaching the centre of Phnom Penh. The P.A.F.N.L.C. decline in advance any responsibility with

respect to possible accidents that might happen to foreign residents who are in the centre of fire of the war."

U.S.

Combat Activities Ordered To Halt in Cambodia And Laos

U.S. bombing and military intervention in Cambodia have aroused strong opposition of the world's people including the American people. In such circumstances, the U.S. Congress enacted a legislation on June 30 which prohibits any spending by the U.S. Government after August 15 to support "directly or indirectly combat activities by U.S. military forces in or over or from off the shores of north Viet Nam, south Viet Nam, Laos or Cambodia."

The U.S. Defence Department said in a statement on August 3 that it was issuing orders to halt all combat activities "in, over or off the shores of Cambodia and Laos" as of midnight, August 14. But the military assistance to the Lon Nol clique and reconnaissance flights will be continued, it added.

The statement said: "Effective at midnight on August 14 (E.D.T.) all combat activities of defence department forces are forbidden in, over or off the shores of Cambodia and Laos." But it added, "military assistance and humanitarian operations continue to be permitted in Laos and Cambodia after the fourteenth of August." These include "unarmed reconnaissance flights for the purpose of gathering intelligence."

KOREA

Kim Dae Jung Abduction Condemned

Kim Dae Jung, a democratic figure of south Korea, was kidnapped on

August 8 by south Korean thugs in his Grand Palace Hotel room in Tokyo while seeing some guests.

Kim Dae Jung was the presidential candidate of south Korea's New Democratic Party in the April 1971 election. He was kept under surveillance and persecuted by the south Korean authorities because he refused to endorse their tyrannical rule. He was compelled to go to the United States and Japan last October and has been living in exile since. While abroad, he denounced the fascist rule of terror of the south Korean authorities and their scheme to divide the nation. He advocated peaceful reunification of Korea.

The abduction was given wide coverage in the Japanese press. Tokyo papers said that his abduction was the handiwork of the south Korean central intelligence agency acting in collusion with the south Korean "embassy" in Tokyo.

The Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland and a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued statements on August 9 and 10 respectively condemning this criminal act. The statement of the D.P.R.K. Foreign Ministry said that "all facts show that the abduction of Kim Dae Jung is not a mere terrorist act of south Korean special agents but a premeditated act of suppression closely connected with the treacherous plots of the south Korean fascist bandits to create 'two Koreas' and a desperate attempt to repress by all means a tendency to the reunification of the country."

It demanded that the south Korean authorities put an immediate end to the most vicious fascist atrocities of shadowing, abducting and persecuting, inside and outside south Korea, democrats who are striving for the democratization of society and the peaceful reunification of the country. It also demanded saving and protecting the life of Kim Dae

Jung and meting out severe punishment to the criminals.

"BASHKIMI" (ALBANIA)

It Is a "Security" Noose

The Asian people repudiate the noose of the Soviet-brand of "security," said an article on August 10 in Albania's *Bashkimi* which exposed the plot of the Soviet revisionist leading clique trying to rig up a so-called "Asian collective security system."

The article pointed out: The so-called "Asian collective security system" is one of the objectives of the Soviet revisionists' counter-revolutionary policy in Asia. Ever since Brezhnev proposed in 1969 to set up an "Asian collective security system," the Soviet revisionists have continuously made a great deal of propaganda about it, presenting it as a necessary condition for the establishment of tranquillity, security and peace in this area. But no matter how avidly they advertise it, Moscow cannot cover up the fact that this system remains a plot of social-imperialism against freedom and independence, against the genuine security of the Asian people and against the People's Republic of China.

The article said: The Asian people have come to see ever more clearly the "security" the Soviet social-imperialists attempt to impose on them. This "security" has always meant the security in the interests of the imperialist superpowers. It is precisely on this account that many Asian countries have opposed the proposals put forward by the Soviet social-imperialists. The Asian people are holding in their own hands the genuine peace and security in Asia and they will gain peace and security and safeguard their national independence by waging a resolute struggle against the policy of the two superpowers.

ANDEAN PACT MEETING

Third Lima Declaration

The Third Lima Declaration was adopted at the fourth foreign ministers' meeting of the Andean Pact countries from August 1 to 4. The

declaration reaffirms the belief that this sub-regional integration is a process of liberation and development aimed at getting rid of all forms of dependence and control.

The Third Lima Declaration states that member states of the pact should take joint actions at both Latin American and international conferences. It voices the stand for reforming the inter-American system and the Latin American Free Trade Association. It expresses strong opposition to any legislative or economic coercion against those countries which are striving to protect and utilize their own natural resources, both terrestrial and maritime.

The declaration states that the United States should adapt its trade policy to the aims of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and give up such unilateral measure as dumping of strategic metals. The document also expresses regret at an amendment bill adopted by the U.S. House of Representatives, which calls for suspension of loans to countries where U.S. companies have been nationalized. Referring to the question of trans-national companies, the declaration says that it is essential to take measures to restrict their activities and see to it that they obey the laws of the countries where they are located. The declaration also calls for the formation of a "Latin American organization of energy" to protect the continent's energy resources.

The foreign ministers of the six Andean Pact members — Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela — took part in the meeting.

OTTAWA

Commonwealth Summit

The 19th meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government, held in Ottawa from August 2 to 10, was attended by heads of government and ministers of 32 member countries.

The meeting discussed the world situation, the role played by the

INDIAN POLITICAL FIGURES

Call for Scrapping Indo-Soviet Treaty

Madhu Limaye, Leader of the Indian Socialist Party, said recently that India's alliance with Russia had thrown overboard her "professed policy of non-alignment."

Addressing a meeting held under the auspices of the Indian Council for World Affairs, Limaye said that the treaty would soon irrevocably involve India in the big power conflict between the United States and Russia in West Asia.

Limaye suggested that India should immediately scrap the Indo-Soviet treaty and establish normal relations with her neighbours, including Pakistan. India should reduce dependence on Soviet arms and economic "help." Only an independent foreign policy could keep the countries in the subcontinent free from big-power influence, he said.

The Sixth National Convention of the Swatantra Party held last April adopted a resolution on international relations condemning the Indo-Soviet treaty and calling for the establishment of friendly relations between India and her neighbours. Speaking at the convention, Masani, leader of the party, took the Indian Government to task for serving the Soviet expansionist activities in the Indian Ocean. He pointed out that in 1972, the Soviet Union had had 8,000 ship days in the Indian Ocean. The Indian Government had gone out of its way to give bunkering facilities to the Soviet ships at two major ports, he said.

A number of Indian members of parliament also attacked the government's foreign policy which, they pointed out, is "biased" towards the Soviet Union. They were dissatisfied with the government's failure to condemn "inhuman acts like Russian aggression" in Czechoslovakia.

August 17, 1973

Commonwealth, the racist rule in southern Africa, economic and trade matters. Discussing the situation in southern Africa, representatives of many countries, especially those of African countries, strongly condemned racial discrimination practised by the white regime in southern Africa and the ruthless colonial rule and bloody suppression by the Portuguese colonialists. They expressed their dissatisfaction with the policies of Britain and some other countries in regard to South Africa and urged the Commonwealth countries to give support and assistance to the struggle of the people in southern Africa against racial discrimination and for national liberation.

At the August 7 session Tanzania and 11 other black African countries put forth a draft statement urging the Commonwealth to take severer measures against Rhodesia and South Africa.

In his opening speech, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau pointed out that "the tensions created by the rigid policies of the racist regime in southern Africa have . . . heightened." The Middle East "remains as potentially explosive as before."

Nigeria's Head of State Yakubu Gowon said in his speech that detente "has become the byword in big power politics." But "has the detente brought about tangible peace and understanding to the generality of mankind? What does it mean to the over 30 million Africans still under colonial and racial domination who are being humiliated and intimidated daily for no reason other than they happen to be born black in their own countries?"

SOVIET NAVAL CHIEFS

Boasting of Sea Hegemony

U.S.S.R. Navy Day saw its naval chiefs coming out in force to write for *Pravda*, *Izvestia*, *Krasnaya Zvezda*, *Trud* and other Soviet papers. They made a show of force and called for expansion in the oceans to seek hegemony on sea.

They talked swaggeringly about the Soviet navy growing from a "coastal fleet" mainly for defence into an "ocean navy" which could run amuck on all the oceans and pose armed threat to others. Commander-in-Chief of the U.S.S.R. Navy S.G. Gorshkov said that the building of an "ocean fleet in the full sense of the word has opened a new page in the history of the Soviet armed forces" and that "ocean cruising and long voyages have become the daily life of the fleet." He frankly admitted that the Soviet fleet, operating far away from Soviet coasts, is now "sailing on various ocean areas of the world." Apart from bragging about the technical equipment and "might" of this "ocean fleet," Gorshkov pointed out in particular that "the naval marines also occupy the position due to it." This means that it is prepared to invade and land on the territories of other countries. N.D. Sergeev, Chief of the Naval Staff, wrote that the Soviet Navy "has turned from a fleet for coastal action into an ocean fleet armed with rocket-nuclear weapons, submarines and aircraft." Novikov, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Navy, stated menacingly that the Soviet Navy "can destroy enemy warships and transport lines anywhere in the oceans with high efficiency." V.A. Kasatonov, First Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Navy, said that "long voyages have become the basis of operation of our fleet, a mark of its ever increasing combat power."

Soviet naval commanders have openly declared that their warships should sail to all oceans to "guarantee" their "state interest" which, they said, has extended to various oceans of the world.

The statements of these Soviet naval commanders have certainly put the people of all countries on their guard and aroused opposition to Soviet social-imperialism. Gunboat policy or acts of piracy in whatever form can come to no good end. This is always the case, from ancient to modern times.

"SOVIET STUDIES" (BRITAIN)

Buying Cheap and Selling Dear

Buying cheap and selling dear in trade is the way the Soviet Union exploits the developing countries. This is the conclusion drawn by an article in *Soviet Studies*, a quarterly published by the University of Glasgow, Scotland.

Entitled "The U.S.S.R. and Developing Countries: Politics and Export Prices, 1955-69," the article said: "Trade with the L.D.C.s [less developed countries, meaning the developing countries] constituted 5.2 per cent of total Soviet trade in 1955 and, by 1969, had increased to 12.7 per cent. Furthermore, total trade with the developing countries increased by 726 per cent from 1955 to 1969, slightly more than three times the 238.9 per cent increase in total Soviet trade for this period. The Soviet Union portrays itself as providing a guaranteed market for the L.D.C.s' exports and, through central planning, equitable and stable terms of trade."

Quoting data from the book *The Net Cost of Soviet Foreign Aid* written by James R. Carter, the article pointed out: The average unit prices of commodities sold by the Soviet Union in 1958 and 1965 to the industrial West and the L.D.C.s indicate that the latter paid 15-25 per cent more than the former. The article said: "It seems fair to conclude, then, that the L.D.C.s are discriminated against vis-a-vis the developed West."

The article pointed out that the Soviet Union's trade with the developing countries, including the prices of commodities, depends on whether a country has close political relations with it, or a high degree of political importance to it, or is of great potential benefit to Soviet aspirations because of the country's geographical position or its influence in the political development of nearby nations.

The price observations of cocoa and coffee beans, rubber and tea imported by the Soviet Union from the developing countries show Soviet payment prices lower than those paid by other countries.

THIRD WORLD CHRONICLE

Pakistan's First Tractor. Pakistan designed and manufactured by itself its first tractor — *Baghban* (Gardener). The tractor's 10 h.p. engine was manufactured by a private firm and the rest of the parts at the heavy mechanical complex at Taxila. Twenty more such tractors will be produced by the end of the year for use on experimental basis by various agricultural units. There will be mass production in keeping with demand from the agricultural sector.

Sri Lanka's Ceramic Industry. The Sri Lanka Ceramics Corporation overfulfilled its target last year by 25 per cent and turned over 6.2 million rupees in profit to the government, giving a return of 26 per cent on capital contributed by the government. The corporation pays attention to improving the quality and variety of its products. Many traditional motif and colour designs have been introduced. Last year the corporation earned one million rupees in foreign exchange.

Raw materials are drawn mainly from local resources. The laboratory attached to the Negombo Ceramics Factory has succeeded in turning out six colour stains by use of local materials. This saves 2 million rupees in foreign exchange every year and cuts costs.

Egypt Excavates a 4,000-Year-Old Pyramid. Egyptian archaeologists excavated a 4,000-year-old pyramid last May. This was the pyramid of Menkauhor, the seventh Pharaoh of the 5th dynasty. In ancient Egypt, nine Pharaohs of the 5th dynasty reigned for 125 years 4,600 years ago. Seven of these Pharaohs' tombs have been discovered so far. This was the eighth.

Culture flourished during the 5th dynasty. The burial chambers of the pyramids of this period began to be decorated with bas-relief portraying the life of that time, a val-

uable source of material for the study of ancient Egyptian society.

Tanzanian Anti-Tsetse Campaign. Men and cattle bitten by trypanosome-carrying tsetse flies will develop sleeping sickness and even die of it. Tsetse flies exist in many rural areas in Tanzania, bringing great harm to people and cattle and directly affecting agricultural development and livestock breeding.

Since independence, the Tanzanian Government has made big efforts to eliminate tsetse flies. The death rate of sleeping sickness is reported to have gone down 45 per cent in comparison with pre-independence years.

Nigeria Combats Drought. The severe drought which has occurred in west African countries south of the Sahara has also hit four northern states of Nigeria. The Federal and four northern state governments are taking measures to combat the drought. The Federal Government in April this year allocated funds to these states for emergency drought relief including food grains, animal feed and sinking of wells. In addition, the state governments, through providing fertilizer and technical assistance, have encouraged the peasants to grow more grain crops. Federal agricultural departments are making arrangements to build dams and large-scale irrigation systems. Apart from building a dam on the Sokoto River to serve wheat and rice production, a study is under way on a comprehensive survey of the drought-stricken areas in the north for deep underground water. Some long-term measures are also being contemplated.

Mexico Builds Small Water Conservancy Works. The Mexican Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Breeding recently announced that a number of water conservancy works would be built in the arid and semi-arid zones in 22 states of the country this year.

According to the Benito Juarez Programme, Mexico has built 144 small water and soil conservancy works in 17 states with a total capacity of about 30 million cubic

metres of water. These projects can irrigate more than 4,700 hectares of land. At present 72 works are under construction.

Venezuela Produces 100,000 Barrels of Oil a Day. The average daily output of the state-owned Venezuelan Petroleum Corporation (C.V.P.) this year, according to a recent announcement by its general manager Maurice Valery, has been 100,000 barrels, or 30,000 barrels more than last year. A further increase to 120,000 barrels a day is expected by the end of this year. The volume of crude oil processed by the C.V.P. this year will go up 9.8 per cent as compared with 1972.

The C.V.P. has been sinking more wells than ever before. By mid-July, 125 wells had been drilled.

Guyana's Timber Industry Forges Ahead. The state-owned Guyana Timber Limited was organized on the basis of a British enterprise nationalized by the government on March 1 last year. By last June 30, 2.4 million cubic feet of timber had been felled by the company. Annual output has reached more than 1.8 million cubic feet, an increase of 200,000 cubic feet compared with pre-nationalization years. Guyana Timber Ltd. accounts for one-third of the country's timber production.

Guyana has abundant timber resources. A preliminary survey shows that reserves total 70,000 million cubic feet.

Jamaica to Wipe Out Illiteracy in 4 Years. A survey made recently by the National Literacy Board of the implementation of the national literacy programme shows that 2,500 classes with an average of 10 students each have been opened in all parts of the country.

The illiteracy rate in Jamaica is rather high because of the economic and cultural backwardness caused by the age-long colonial rule in the past. The objective of the programme is to wipe out illiteracy in general in four years, with the help of 20,000 volunteer teachers and government financing.

Peasant Customers Like This Factory

WHAT is known today as the Laiyang Power Engine Plant on the Chiaotung Peninsula in Shantung Province used to be a small iron works. In the days of the anti-Japanese war it made hand-grenades and land mines, and simple cotton ginning machines and looms and farm implements into the bargain. Liberation came, and Laiyang switched to producing water-wheels and various new-type farm implements. Then in 1953 it started making power engines. Production capacity has since steadily mounted and costs dropped. In the last 20 years, it has supplied the rural areas with power engines totalling 800,000 h.p., with quality improving all the time. Peasant customers are full of praise.

At first Laiyang's diesel engines were heavy and clumsy to handle. An exhibition in 1966 gave them an idea. They saw a lighter model by another plant, and it set them thinking along the same lines. They studied again Chairman Mao's principle of "**taking agriculture as the foundation and industry as the leading factor**" and formed a three-in-one group of workers, cadres and technicians to investigate the needs of their peasant users. In a month's time they trial-produced a light and compact 12-h.p. diesel engine, which they named Model 195. This could operate crushers, threshers and drainage and irrigation equipment and also fit out small tractors.

Before, trial-production in this plant was carried out in standard, dust-free laboratories with adjustable temperatures. Products so made were therefore often unable to meet the needs of special natural environments when they were sold.

To make the new diesel engines more adaptable to rural use the plant,

with help from departments concerned, set up a dozen or so testing points out in the open in an area in south-western Shantung which was formerly an old course of the Yellow River, in the hilly regions on the Chiaotung Peninsula and in the coastal regions. Here they repeatedly tested the structure and properties of their diesel engines. Then incorporating customers' suggestions, they made over 20 improvements on their engines in respect to material and technology used. Now Model 195 is made adaptable to different natural conditions in different areas.

While raising quality, the plant has launched a campaign to reduce production costs. There is a "storehouse for waste materials" whose keepers, along with the workers, collect scraps and ends, sort them out and keep them ready for use in technical innovations. Many workshops, shifts and groups have "economizing boxes" or "waste-collecting boxes" whose contents they regularly process into minor spare parts. They also keep non-productive personnel and expenses down to a minimum, sending more people to the production lines. All this has enabled them to cut the price of their diesel engines by 50 per cent as compared with 1967.

A maintenance and repair group formed during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution nowadays operates not only in the plant but in the rural communes in busy farming seasons or lends a hand in times of drought or excessive rainfall.

In the course of giving the peasants such assistance, they found that engines are often damaged due to the operators' inexperience. The plant's Party committee therefore sent workers and technicians to the communes to help train operators. In the past few years, they have run 170 such courses training 4,000 people. The

plant has also taken in 200 or more commune members to give them the necessary know-how of operating and repairing engines.

Treating Cataract by a New Method

A NEW method for treating cataract by a combination of traditional Chinese and Western medical techniques is being used more and more widely by eye-surgeons in China. For elderly people with cataracts, "couching" or shifting the cataract with a needle-like spatula out of the field of vision is employed, while an improved version of "couching," the "loop extraction" method which removes the cataract, is used to treat certain kinds of congenital, traumatic cataracts, cataracts with complications and dislocation of the lens.

A brother and three sisters, aged 9 to 20 of a Chou family in Fukien Province, with congenital cataracts regained their sight after being treated by the "loop extraction" method. This method also restored the sight of Hou Yuan-chang, an 83-year-old man who had returned home in March last year after 48 years' residence abroad. He had been blind for a decade. A mobile team of doctors operated on him and he regained his sight six days later.

Cataract, a rather common eye-complaint in some parts of this country, occurs when metabolism of the transparent oval lens is disturbed and the lens cloud over or become opaque altogether. An operation is required to restore vision.

In Peking, doctors of the Kuang-anmen Hospital under the Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine in 1959 started work on improving the "couching" method which ancient Chinese medical works described as "displacing cataracts with golden needles." Experiments with animals and extensive clinical practice led to the development of the present "couching" method — making a



A medical worker (extreme left) with members of the Chou family whose sight has been restored.

3-mm. incision below the cornea and displacing the cataract out of the line of vision.

In 1968, the doctors at the Kuang-anmen Hospital introduced further improvements. They designed a special looping instrument for slipping over the cataract through the incision, then crushed it before removing it from the eye. While retaining the good features of "couching," "looping" enables eye-surgeons to treat a wider range of cataracts.

This Chinese-Western integrated method of treatment has been used by this hospital over the past 14 years in many cases, including some for which ordinary operations were unsuitable, such as cataract in patients of advanced age, patients with high blood pressure, heart diseases and diabetes. Over 90 per cent of the patients have benefited to varying degrees by this method of treatment. Post-operative observation for two to twelve years of a number of them fitted with glasses showed that vision in most cases reached 1.0 or better.

Two training classes to popularize the new method were organized in 1971 and 1972 in Fukien Province. Doctors from Peking met with colleagues who had come from other parts of the country to learn and together as members of mobile medical teams made their rounds in the countryside. These ophthalmologists treated more than 3,000 cases

of cataract, passing on their experience as they went along.

The new "looping" method has shown good results, but clinical observations have been over only a short duration and techniques and instruments need to be improved. Medical workers are making an effort to overcome shortcomings.

Hydraulics Used in Building Dams

WATER is being used by rural commune members to move earth in building medium-sized and small dams in northwest China's Shensi Province. This greatly reduces the amount of manual labour and the use of huge machinery for excavation and transportation.

At a work-site in Suiteh County in northern Shensi, peasants of a production brigade first pump river water up to high ground, then run it down a channel. Plunging down, the water picks up huge quantities of loess from along both sides and sweeps it into the foundations of a dam under construction. After drying and hardening, the deposit forms a solid earth dam. With this method efficiency is greatly increased and costs reduced by two-thirds.

In 1967 a 52-metre-high earth dam and a reservoir were built in a valley by another brigade using the same technique. The dam has withstood several big floods in the past six years

and the reservoir, with a capacity of 14 million cubic metres of water, has put 260 hectares of cropland under irrigation.

The use of hydraulics to move earth, evolved by the working people, has been popularized since liberation, especially in the last few years. Since the start of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in 1966, the Yen-an and Yulin Administrative Regions of Shensi Province have used the method to build more than 1,600 dams which, combined with other facilities, make possible the development of irrigation, power generation, fish breeding, soil conservation and flood control.

During heavy rainfalls on the loess plateau where Shensi Province is located, large amounts of soil and sand are washed down every year into the Yellow River, posing a constant threat to the people on the lower reaches. Changing this situation means constructing as many as a dozen check dams in each and every gully. Here, the use of hydraulics has enabled the local people to build dams and reservoirs on their own, as in Chingchien County, where more than 300 dams were put up last year. Most of them were undertaken by people's communes and production brigades with little investment.

Not long ago Chingpien County was planning a highway bridge to span a deep gully. A peasant suggested using water to move earth and build an embankment across it to serve both as a check dam and as the road-bed. The dam constructed according to his proposal cost much less than the proposed bridge. This technique is now being used to fill in gullies, build terraced fields, level fields and transform saline soil.

The government has assigned technicians and scientists to help the peasants at various work-sites carry out their projects and sum up their experiences. In addition, large quantities of equipment including diesel engines, pumps and pipes are being sent to these developing mountain areas.

In English

ARTICLES BY MAO TSETUNG

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