

PEKING REVIEW

41

October 13, 1978

北
京
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報

**How Marxists Look at Material
Interests**

**Why China Imports Technology
And Equipment**

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Vol. 21, No. 41 October 13, 1978

Published in English, French, Spanish,
Japanese, German, Arabic and
Portuguese editions

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Jenchiu — A New High-Yielding Oilfield

A high-yielding oilfield has been built at high speed in Jenchiu on north China's central Hopei plain.

Average daily output of each of the wells there tops 1,000 tons, and the output of only a dozen or so wells is enough for meeting the needs of Peking's Tungfanghung Refinery, the largest of its kind in China today.

Completion of the oilfield which is near Peking represents a major achievement in the implementation of Chairman Hua's instruction on building more than ten oilfields of the Taching type. It will play a significant role in developing China's national economy and boosting the capital's production and construction.

Prospecting and construction work had proceeded at a fast

speed. Drilling began in 1975 and rich oil deposits were discovered within a year. In the following year, a mass campaign like that for the opening of the Taching Oilfield was organized, with tens of thousands of workers, cadres and technicians from oilfields and enterprises in 12 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions as well as the P.L.A. engineering corps taking part. A group of high-yielding wells were sunk that same year, each producing upwards of 1,000 tons of oil a day. Two large calibre pipelines 200 kilometres long, two big crude oil pumping stations and supportive projects for electricity and water supply and water injection were later built. Thus the oilfield was opened up, built and put into production in a year and the earnings from the oil produced that year recompensed for all the construction investments.

Such a speed and the results are unprecedented in China's history.

Since its completion, the oilfield has used new technology and new technical processes, including early injection of water to maintain the reservoir pressure and acidifying the oil seams so that the wells will keep up their high production capacity and stable and high yield. In 1977 Jenchiu's crude oil output was 10 per cent higher than its designed capacity. It overfulfilled the state plan in each of the first eight months of this year and every economic and technical quota was up to the advanced domestic level.

While completing the construction of the Jenchiu Oilfield in the last two years, a number of new oilfields were found in its vicinity.

The first discovery of oil in the sinian stratum of the paleozoic era represents an important breakthrough in China's petro-geology. Comrade Yen Tun-shih, former deputy director of the Scientific Research Institute of Petroleum Exploration and Development, made an important contribution in founding the geological theory of finding oil in Buried Hill. In the past, China had more experience in finding oil from mesozoic and cenozoic strata but little experience with regard to the paleozoic stratum. In the course of prospecting, scientific and technical personnel and workers had acquired from their experience a deeper



Oil gushing out of a new well in Jenchiu.

understanding of the paleozoic stratum. Drilling Team No. 3269 which had taken part in the campaign for building the Taching Oilfield shouldered the drilling tasks. Geologist Kuo Shun-yuan found from tens of thousands of sand grains eight oil sand samples in limestone crevices. Through hard work, the team members finally drilled the first high-yielding well, thereby opening up new vistas for China's oil prospecting.

Urban Housing Projects

The State Capital Construction Commission is now working on a 1979-85 plan for the building of new housing projects in 190 large and medium-sized cities throughout the country. Total investment in this project in the next seven years will be equal to the aggregate invested by the state in housing from 1949, the year of nationwide liberation, to 1977.

Total floor space of new houses built since liberation in 3,400 cities and towns is 493 million square metres, outstripping the total in pre-liberation China. Living conditions for the labouring people have improved to some extent. In recent years, however, housing is still a problem in many cities and newly built industrial and mining areas, particularly in the densely populated large and medium-sized cities where industry is developing apace.

To speed up the building of new housing projects, the government will take a series of measures.

Funds. Strictly adhering to the stipulated proportion, the state

will allocate part of the capital construction investments for new housing projects. In addition, local authorities and collective enterprises will raise funds for the same purpose. The method of building houses by individuals with support from the state will be introduced on a trial basis. Building houses by overseas Chinese with remittances from abroad is also encouraged by the government.

Building Materials. Bases for producing materials will be set up by the various regions and cities. Industrial waste and local resources will be fully utilized and new building materials developed. Advanced foreign techniques in construction will be introduced and several sets of factory equipment for building houses will be imported.

Forces of Construction. Special construction companies gradually equipped with modern machinery will be set up in the cities.

It is expected that living conditions for city dwellers will have been considerably improved by 1985.

IN THE NEWS

• Chairman Hua on October 3 met with Julius Chan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Primary Industry of Papua New Guinea, and Mrs. Stella Chan.

• Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping on September 26 met with Michel Poniatowski, former Minister of State and Honorary President of the French Republican Party, and Madame Poniatowski.

• Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping on October 3 met with a journalists' delegation from Thailand. Leader of the delegation was Somboon Worabhongse, Chairman of the Thai Journalists Association, and deputy leader was Chob Maneanoi.

• On October 6 Vice-Premier Teng met with the Delegation of the Union of the Iraqi Friendship Association With Peoples led by Abdul Fattah Mohammed Amin, Member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and President of the Union.

• On October 8 he met with the noted Japanese literary critic Professor Jun Eto.

• Vice-Chairman Li Hsien-nien on October 2 met and had a comradely and cordial conversation with the delegation of the Central Committee of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party from France led by Jacques Jurquet, General Secretary of the Party.

• Vice-Premier Li on October 3 met with Thomas Gates, Jr., former Chief of the U.S. Liaison Office in China, and Mrs. Gates.

• Vice-Chairman Wang Tung-hsing on October 7 met with Ieng Sary, Member of the Standing Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kampuchea and Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea in Charge of Foreign Affairs.

• Vice-Chairman Wang on October 8 met with the delegation of the Romanian journal *Era Socialist*.

How Marxists Look at Material Interests

by "Renmin Ribao" Special Commentator

THE issue of the working people's material interests poses quite a big question. Many problems facing us today in our economic work are connected with the material interests of the labouring people as a whole, in part or in individual cases. These include, among others, realization of the economic policies for the countryside, readjustment of the economic system, implementation of the distribution principle "to each according to his work" and complying with the principle of exchange of equal values. If we cannot deal with this question properly, it will have a harmful effect on the labouring masses' enthusiasm for production and hold back the modernization of agriculture, industry, national defence, and science and technology.

Economic relations are mainly relations in the sphere of material interests. Sometimes our economic policies and economic system need certain modifications because it is necessary to readjust the relations between various aspects in the field of material interests.

The "gang of four" wanted the public to believe that Marxism does not concern itself in the least with material interests; it is only revisionism which does. This opinion shackled the minds of quite a few. To clarify the matter, and get to the bottom of it all, let's make some inquiries to see how Marxists have really regarded material interests all along.

The Object of the Struggle for Production And Class Struggle Is Material Interests

Historical idealists claim that men engage in the struggle for production and class struggle

in order to create a so-called kingdom of rationalism, to achieve lasting justice and fairness, and so on. Marx and Engels repudiated this view, scientifically expounded the relationship between men's struggle for production and class struggle on the one hand and material interests on the other, and thus founded the materialist concept of history.

Marx pointed out: "Everything for which man struggles is a matter of his interest." (*Proceedings of the Sixth Rhine Province Assembly*, First Article.) This interest he referred to denotes mainly material interests. When men engage in productive activities, they are aimed directly at acquiring material interests; when they engage in class struggle and revolution, their ultimate aim, too, is to acquire material interests. Engels said: "All revolutions until now have been revolutions for the protection of one kind of property against another kind of property." (*The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*.) He also said: "In the struggle between landed property and the bourgeoisie, no less than in the struggle between the bourgeoisie and proletariat, it was a question, first and foremost, of economic interests, to the furtherance of which political power had to serve as a mere means." (*Ludwig Feuerbach and the End of Classical German Philosophy*.) Naturally, political power as a means for the furtherance of economic interests is of very great importance. Without establishing its own political rule, it is impossible for the proletariat to gain its fundamental economic interests. As Lenin said: "The fundamental economic interests of the proletariat can be satisfied only by a political revolution that will replace the

dictatorship of the bourgeoisie by the dictatorship of the proletariat." (*What Is to Be Done?*)

In history, the real aim of class struggle and revolution was often concealed; for instance, the Peasant War of the 16th century in Germany was concealed under a religious cloak. But this did not change the essence of the matter because it was waged fundamentally, for most obvious, material class interests just as in the case of the so-called religious wars in Germany. Never has there been a class struggle that was not based on fundamental clashes of economic interests, nor has there been any revolution that was not connected with economic interests. To deny material interests is to deny class struggle altogether and revolution as well.

Does this reasoning apply to the proletariat as well? In the eyes of the "gang of four" and their "theoreticians," it does not. They claimed that all the proletariat should care about was ideology and politics, not material interests, and, as they saw it, the proletariat must not "stoop" to seek material interests — as if this would divest it of its revolutionary nature and its lofty ideals. This is a most preposterous argument. When the proletariat is engaged in the revolutionary struggle to overthrow the capitalist system, is it not for the purpose of freeing itself from capitalist exploitation? When it has seized political power and established the system of public ownership, is it not that the purpose of developing production and going in for construction is to satisfy the constantly growing needs of the people? Is it not for the purpose of finally eliminating classes and securing for every member of society an existence which is not only ample materially but increasingly richer?

Socialism must aim at "easing the lives of the working people and of improving their welfare as much as possible." (Lenin: *Speech at the First Congress of Economic Councils.*) "Following its seizure of political power, the principal and fundamental interest of the proletariat lies in securing an enormous increase in the productive forces of society and in the output of manufactured goods." (Lenin: *The Role and Functions of the Trade Unions Under the New Economic Policy.*) Today, the four modernizations represent the fundamental interests of the proletariat and the other working people in our country, and the struggle to achieve the four

modernizations is a struggle for their fundamental interests. If socialism fails to ease the lives of the working people and fails to improve their welfare as much as possible through greatly expanding the social productive forces, but instead, as the "gang of four" tried to convince people, means that the country must remain poor and the people must live a hard life, what kind of socialism is it? What do the working people want this kind of socialism for?

We Communists publicly announce that we fight for the interests of the proletariat; all we say and do proceeds from the interests of the proletariat. Lenin said: "Economic interests and the economic position of the classes which rule our state lie at the root of both our home and foreign policy. These propositions . . . constitute the basis of the Marxist world outlook." (*Report on Foreign Policy Delivered at a Joint Meeting of the All-Russia Central Executive Committee and the Moscow Soviet.*) Comrade Mao Tsetung said: "The supreme test of the words and deeds of a Communist is whether they conform with the highest interests and enjoy the support of the overwhelming majority of the people." (*On Coalition Government.*) The line, policies and various measures of the Communist Party will enjoy the support of the masses and play an important role in their practice and struggle only when they conform with the interests of the labouring masses and when these interests are made tangible and extended further. If the line and policies do not conform with the interests of the working masses, they are bound to be resisted and opposed and, unable to stand the test in practice, they are doomed to failure.

Unity of Personal and Class Interests

"Throughout history the 'general interest' [of a class] is created by individuals who are defined as 'private persons.'" (Marx & Engels: *The German Ideology.*) But once the general interest is formed, it becomes something different from personal interests. The general interests of a class and the personal interests of members of the class may come into conflict, but such conflict is nothing like the diametrically opposed antagonism between two hostile classes, because it can be readjusted. The "gang



of four" spoke of the proletariat's common interests and personal interests as incompatible, that is, one must either deny the common class interests or personal interests. This is an anti-Marxist view.

Marxists have always maintained that the common interests of a class are a concentration of personal interests and are higher than personal interests. A political party of the proletariat all along opposes economism and does not go after immediate personal interests at the expense of long-term class interests. While leading the masses in revolution and construction, it always educates them to correctly handle the relationship between personal and common class interests, and, when there is a clash between the two, it consciously subordinates the former to the latter and, even if necessary at the time, sacrifices the former. But this does not follow that personal interests should be totally ignored. Personal interests are the base on which the common class interests are concentrated; without this base there are no such things as common class interests. Moreover, the common interests of a class will eventually find expression in terms of its members' personal interests. It is true the emancipation of the proletariat as a class is the prerequisite for the emancipation of a proletarian as a person, but the emancipation of the proletariat must find expression in the emancipation of each and every member of the proletariat; otherwise, the emancipation of the proletariat is void of sense. In a socialist society, when the products made to satisfy common needs are used for expanded reproduction, they will in the end be transformed into products to meet the personal needs of the labourers; otherwise, this expanded reproduction is meaningless. In short, to deny personal interests means also to deny common class in-

terests; the so-called "common interests" divorced from the labourers' personal interests, in fact, can only mean the interests of a few.

In building socialism we must not ignore the labourers' personal interests; on the contrary, we must pay close attention to their material interests, otherwise it will be impossible to bring about socialism. Lenin said: "Every important branch of the economy must be built up on the principle of personal incentive. There must be collective discussion, but individual responsibility. At every step we suffer from our inability to apply this principle." (*The New Economic Policy and the Tasks of the Political Education Departments*.) Over the last few years, we too have suffered a great deal because sabotage on the part of the "gang of four" made it impossible for us to apply Lenin's principle.

Comrade Mao Tsetung said that empty talk is useless; it is imperative to bring the people visible material well-being. He also pointed out: "We have always advocated plain living and hard work and opposed putting personal material benefits above everything else; at the same time we have always advocated concern for the livelihood of the masses and opposed bureaucracy, which is callous to their well-being." (*On the Ten Major Relationships*.)

In bringing about the unity of personal and collective material interests, the most important thing is to truly implement the distribution principle of "to each according to his work" — more pay for more work, less pay for less work and no work no pay. Implementation of this principle means that when labourers do a lot of work and do it well, this, first of all, enhances the common interests and, at the same time, increases personal interests. When these two are closely integrated with each other, they become a powerful motive force for pushing the social productive forces ahead.

Collective Material Interests of a State Enterprise

At present in our socialist state economy, if the state is to exercise effective leadership over the national economy through planning and is to bring the initiative and enthusiasm of each

enterprise into full play, it is imperative to place a part of the funds at its disposal for organizing production, running the business and managing the enterprise independently under the state's unified plan, so as to achieve maximum economic results with minimum expenditure of labour.

Lenin pointed out: "Trusts and factories have been founded on a self-supporting basis precisely in order that they themselves should be responsible and, moreover, fully responsible, for their enterprises working without a deficit." (To G.Y. Sokolnikov.) The reason for Lenin's emphasis on the economic responsibility of each enterprise is because, short of this, a rapid development of the national economy cannot be ensured. Our own practice has fully borne this out.

So that each and every enterprise is truly and fully responsible for its own economic results, so that the entire body of staff members and workers as well as the leadership will show concern for production and do their best to increase output, reduce expenditure of labour and raise labour productivity, it is imperative to implement the following principle: Enterprises which are run well and have achieved big economic results should receive more material rewards while those which are not run very well should receive less, or even undergo certain material penalties. Lenin once said that if irresponsibility on the part of the leaders of an enterprise brought heavy losses to an enterprise, "they must be prosecuted and punished, as regards all the members of their boards of management, by prolonged terms of imprisonment (perhaps applying conditional release after a certain time), confiscation of all their property, etc." (To G.Y. Sokolnikov.) Judging from our own experience, the principle of linking the economic results of an enterprise with the interests of its staff members and workers, especially of the members of its leading body, as emphasized by Lenin, is entirely correct.

The management of a socialist economy may have all kinds of different systems, but whichever system is adopted, the enterprise must have its own collective material interests. Thus, the interest of the proletariat will be broken down not only into common and personal interests, but also into the interests of the state,

of the enterprise itself and of the individual labourers. Comrade Mao Tsetung had long ago given definite instructions on this matter. In his *On the Ten Major Relationships* he especially dealt with this point under a separate heading "The Relationship Between the State, the Units of Production and the Producers." In it he emphatically indicated the need to consider all three. The units of production he referred to are the state enterprises of the economy under ownership by the whole people. He said: "It's not right, I'm afraid, to place everything in the hands of the central or the provincial and municipal authorities without leaving the factories any power of their own, any room for independent action, any benefits." "Every unit of production must enjoy independence as the correlative of centralization if it is to develop more vigorously."

When an enterprise is run well and has achieved good economic results, it is beneficial not only to the state but also to the staff members and workers and leaders of the enterprise. If it is not run well, it is to the disadvantage of all. Such is the meaning of combining an enterprise's collective interests with the interests of the state. This combination may take different forms, for instance, the form of profit distribution, which enables an enterprise to control part of the basic funds to be used to reward advanced workers, to increase the workers' and staff members' collective welfare and to expand reproduction. This is an extremely important condition for the rapid development of the socialist economy.

Ensure Peasants' Material Interests

Comrade Mao Tsetung said: "The leading class and the leading party must fulfil two conditions in order to exercise their leadership of the classes, strata, political parties and people's organizations which are being led: (a) Lead those who are led (allies) to wage resolute struggles against the common enemy and achieve victories; (b) Bring material benefits to those who are led or at least not damage their interests and at the same time give them political education. Without both these conditions, or with only one, leadership cannot be realized." (*On Some Important Problems of the Party's Present Policy*.)

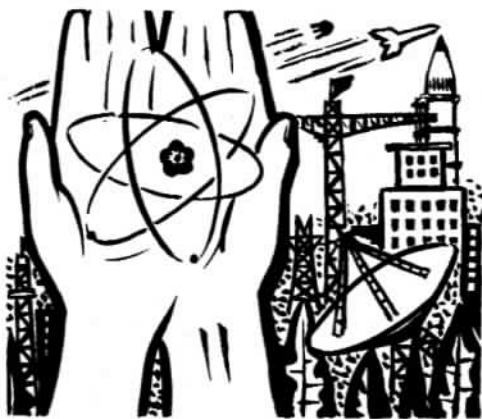
This principle was put forward by Comrade Mao Tsetung in time of revolutionary war; we must pay special attention to its implementation in the socialist revolution and construction. In the period of socialist construction, to bring material benefits to the classes being led means mainly to ensure the material interests of the peasants. If we do not bring them material interests, they will have no enthusiasm for production and agriculture will not advance, nor can industry develop or the building of socialism be accomplished. Therefore, it is necessary to handle properly our relations with the peasants whose interests must in no way be impaired, and what is more, they must be given as much help as possible in developing production and improving their livelihood. This is not only for the benefit of the peasants but also for the long-term, fundamental interests of the working class. Lenin said in the period of the restoration of the national economy in the Soviet Union: "The most urgent thing at the present time is to take measures that will immediately increase the productive forces of peasant farming. Only in this way will it be possible to improve the condition of the workers, strengthen the alliance between the workers and peasants, and consolidate the dictatorship of the proletariat." (*The Tax in Kind*.) During the co-operative transformation of agriculture, Comrade Mao Tsetung pointed out: "If we have nothing new to offer them and cannot help them raise their productivity, increase their income and attain collective prosperity, the poor ones will no longer trust us and will feel that there is no point in following the Communist Party. Since they remain poor after land has

been distributed to them, why do they still have to follow you?" (*The Debate on the Co-operative Transformation of Agriculture and the Current Class Struggle*.) Both Lenin and Comrade Mao Tsetung in their statements explained very clearly the importance of ensuring the peasants' material interests. Of course, this does not follow that we may neglect the material interests of the working class; on the contrary, the material interests of both must be taken into consideration and combined correctly.

To achieve this at present, it is important above all to follow what Chairman Mao consistently taught us, as well as our Party's traditional policies in respect to truly recognizing the peasants' collective ownership, recognizing peasants already organized into the collective economy as owners who have the right to control the means of production, labour force and products that belong to them. In other words, we must recognize the right of the communes, production brigades and especially the production teams to manage their own affairs and allow them to organize production and direct their units in accordance with their own interests, provided that they operate within the unified state plan. If our cadres issue blind directives and strict orders with no regard for the peasants' interests and wishes, or go so far as to re-allocate their means of production, labour force and products without compensation, collective ownership will be undermined, the interests of the peasants impaired and their enthusiasm for production dampened. This will inevitably hamper the development of socialist construction and consolidation of the worker-peasant alliance.

To achieve this, we must also constantly study and work out a rational price ratio between industrial and agricultural products, gradually narrow and finally eliminate the price scissors*, which, for a country like ours with a

* This refers to the gap between the prices of industrial and agricultural products resulting from an unreasonable price ratio between the two. When industrial products within a certain period go up in price and agricultural products tend to drop, the curves on a statistical sketch showing the two tendencies look like a pair of open scissors.



large rural population, is an issue of great importance.

Within the Communist Party of the C.P.S.U. [B.] there were people advocating a price policy for industrial and agricultural products that impaired the peasants' interests. This was criticized by Stalin who said: "We cannot agree with those comrades who every now and then urge that great pressure should be exerted on the peasantry in the shape of excessive increases of taxation, higher prices of manufactured goods, and so on. We cannot agree with them because, without themselves being aware of it, they undermine the alliance of the working class and peasantry and shake the foundations of the dictatorship of the proletariat." (*The Economic Situation of the Soviet Union and the Policy of the Party.*) But in fact the Soviet Union has failed to solve this problem. As Comrade Mao Tsetung pointed out: "The Soviet Union has adopted measures which squeeze the peasants very hard. It takes away too much from the peasants at too low a price through its system of so-called obligatory sales and other measures. This method of capital accumulation has seriously dampened the peasants' enthusiasm for production." "Our policies towards the peasants differ from those of the Soviet Union and take into account the interests of both the state and the peasants. Our agricultural tax has always been relatively low. In the exchange of industrial and agricultural products we follow a policy of narrowing the price scissors, a policy of exchanging equal or roughly equal values." (*On the Ten Major Relationships.*)

After liberation, the price scissors in our country was markedly narrowed. But it was widened again due to interference and sabotage by Lin Piao and the "gang of four." One major arduous task now facing us is to gradually readjust the prices of industrial and agricultural products and to gradually narrow the price scissors.

Putting Proletarian Politics in Command

At the present stage, the socialist economy is, in a sense, a system embodying the material interests of the state, the collectives and individuals in various fields, the entity embodying

the interests of various parties. When the interests of any one of the parties in the entity are impaired, it will undermine the entity as a whole, weaken or even dissolve the socialist relations of production and hamper the development of the productive forces.

The socialist economy in our country at the present stage is developing in the course of combining the interests of the three parties. Of course, this combination is not immutable but will often give rise to disequilibrium. This calls for making readjustments in good time.

In combining the interests of the three parties, putting proletarian politics in command will play an important role. Proletarian politics is the concentrated expression of the economic interests of the proletariat; it is the means by which it materializes and serves its own economic interests. The combination of the interests of the state, the collective and the individual is a prerequisite of social development and also the foundation of the basic interests of the proletariat. In order to ensure the combination of the interests of these parties, it is imperative to persevere in putting proletarian politics in command in every field of economic endeavour—first, to help the masses and cadres see and handle properly the relationships between the interests of these parties through political and ideological work and second, to readjust these relationships in the course of implementation of the various policies so that these policies can be realized in the combination.

(Abridged translation, September 12. Subheads are ours.)



Why China Imports Technology And Equipment

SEVEN big and fairly advanced imported chemical fertilizer plants have gone into production in the last two years and another six are under construction. The daily production capacity of each plant is 1,000 tons of synthetic ammonia.

In the past, chemical plants in China were mainly small or medium-sized employing rather backward technology so that output fell below demand. We had to spend several hundred million U.S. dollars every year to import chemical fertilizer. So Chairman Mao and Premier Chou in 1973 approved importing 13 big chemical fertilizer plants.

Through earnestly learning the advanced foreign techniques and methods of management, the cadres, technicians and workers of the seven plants already in production mastered the necessary technical and management expertise within a relatively short time. Production is stable in these plants and in some cases up to designed capacity. The Szechuan Chemical Fertilizer Plant, the earliest to go into production, produced more than 180,000 tons of synthetic ammonia in the first half of this year and topped its designed capacity.

The fact that people in the chemical fertilizer industry were able to master the basic advanced technology of the 70s within a few short years provides experience for other trades. China's present production techniques are still very backward; sabotage by the "gang of four" at one stage had brought the national economy to the brink of collapse and this enlarged the gap between China's level of production technology and the advanced world level. At present, the average annual grain output produced by a peasant is about one ton in China, but it is dozens of times higher in the developed countries. China's production techniques in in-

dustry still remain at the levels of the 40s and 50s. Labour productivity in our iron and steel industry is well below that of the best abroad. In the newer industries the disparity is much greater.

We acknowledge our backwardness so as to swiftly change our backwardness. And how are we to bring this about? Mainly by relying on our own efforts and at the same time extensively importing advanced technology and equipment and absorbing everything that is good from abroad.

Boosting Our Ability to Stand On Our Own Feet

It is not paradoxical to import advanced technology and equipment on a large scale and adhere to the principle of "maintaining independence and keeping the initiative in our own hands and relying on our own efforts."

Science and technology are wealth created by all mankind. Every nation, every country must learn the strong points and advanced science and technology from other countries. The better one learns, the bigger the progress. China's four inventions of ancient time — paper-making, printing, gunpowder and the compass — were new techniques which many countries took over and used. There are many examples in the world where a country is developing its economy at a high speed by introducing advanced techniques and equipment from abroad. For more than a decade since the 60s Japan has obtained patent rights for some 22,000 advanced techniques from abroad and adopted whatever other countries could offer to improve its industrial production techniques. Japan's steel output in 1960 was only 22 million tons, but in 1970 it had reached nearly 100 million tons. At the same time, many of its products are now on a par with those of the



Taching Chemical Fertilizer Plant workers using imported equipment.

developed capitalist countries of Europe and North America.

Science and technology have no class nature. Lenin said that "without equipment, without machinery obtained from capitalist countries, we cannot do this [to restore the economy and place the Soviet power firmly on its feet] rapidly. And we should not grudge the capitalist a little extra profit if only we can effect this restoration." (*The Eighth All-Russia Congress of Soviets — Report on the Work of the Council of People's Commissars, 1920.*) On another occasion, he said: "Theoretically, I say, it is absolutely clear that it would be to our advantage to pay off European capital with a few score or hundreds of millions, which we could give it in order to augment, in the shortest possible time, our stocks of equipment, materials, raw materials and machinery for the purpose of restoring our large-scale industry." (*Tenth All-Russia Conference of the R.C.P. [B.] — Report on the Tax in Kind, 1921.*)

Chairman Mao always stood for "making foreign things serve China."

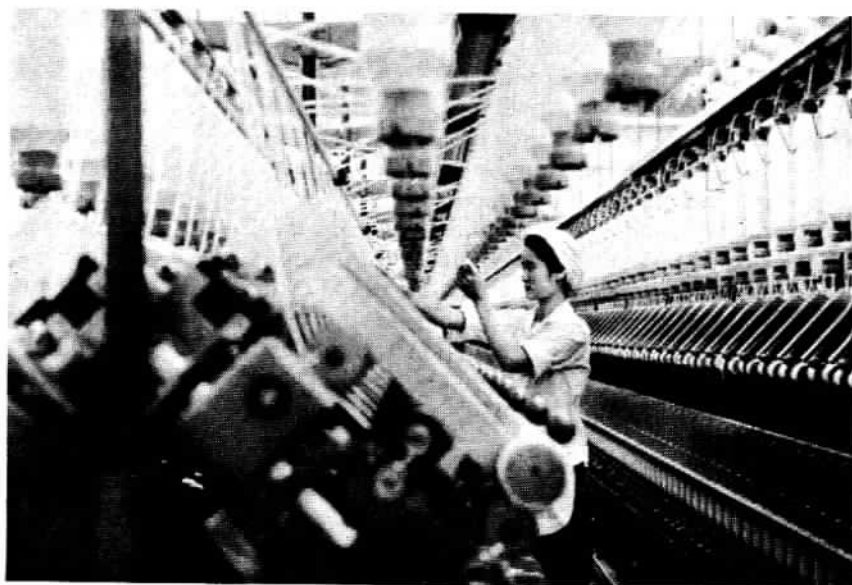
One experience gained by Romania and Yugoslavia in rapidly transforming the backwardness of their national economy is also that of large-scale introduction of advanced

foreign techniques to all branches of the national economy so as to bring about sustained, high-speed development of their industry and agriculture. Yugoslavia has now become a fairly developed country. Romania in 1976 averaged half a ton of steel and a ton of grain per person. Their experience is worth looking into.

Importing techniques and equipment does not mean abandoning "maintaining independence and keeping the initiative in our own hands and relying on our own efforts." On the contrary, it is strengthening our ability to stand on our own feet. Technological progress was formerly timed by centuries, whereas major scientific and technological breakthroughs are now made every ten years or even every year. We must not snail-pace from backwardness. We have got to move rapidly ahead to level with the best of the present-day era. China has more than 6,000 big and medium-sized state-owned enterprises, and over 100,000 enterprises owned by the whole people or by the collective and run by the county or above. They are our fairly powerful "base area" for modernizing our agriculture, industry, national defence and science and technology. Importing advanced techniques is to promote and raise our own technical level, get our "base area" to play a fuller role and speed up our tempo of modernization.

Our importing advanced technology and equipment does not mean we are going to depend entirely on foreigners. Regarding foreign-made equipment, Premier Chou told us to "learn to use it and then critically analyse its strong points and weak points and improve upon it." This is what Japan does.

Imported equipment in the Peking No. 2 Woollen Mill raises its technical level.



Japan first bought technical patent rights from other countries, studied, digested, made changes, improved on them and then sold the improved patent rights. We are introducing good things from other countries and will create better things through studying, using and improving.

Self-reliance does not mean "closing our doors," nor does "maintaining independence and keeping the initiative in our own hands" mean blind rejection of foreign things. The "gang of four," however, exploiting vestigial feudal ideas of a number of comrades, came out against learning what is good from other countries, against importing advanced technology and equated self-reliance with closed-doorism, independence and initiative with blind rejection of foreign things.

The gang made a great ballyhoo about "independence, initiative and self-reliance," but

what they did was to undermine them. For example, Premier Chou in 1973 approved buying a production line from the United States which will make 750,000 colour picture tubes a year. This was to speed up the development of our TV industry. But Chiang Ching, one member of the "gang of four," wrecked the deal. It was not until recently that China signed an agreement with Japan for importing Japanese equipment to produce these colour TV tubes. This meant that the development of our colour TV industry was held back a few years.

The "gang of four" has been put away now, so we must apply the principle of "making foreign things serve China" and not play the role of the Empress Dowager Tzuhsi of the 70s of the 20th century by blindly rejecting everything foreign.

Memorable October

Twenty-nine years ago, Chairman Mao proclaimed on October 1 the founding of the People's Republic of China. It was an epoch-making event in the history of China. Two years ago, the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua smashed the "gang of four" on October 6. This marked another turning point in Chinese history.

On the eve of National Day this year, our correspondents interviewed a number of workers, peasants and intellectuals. Some of their talks appeared in our last issue. Following are the others. — Ed.

The Road Is Clear

Shao Hsi-chuan, deputy director of the Peking Municipal Bureau of Chemical Industry

I'M one of the younger cadres promoted to leading posts during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. I'm 40 this year. I worked as an apprentice in a nitrogenous fertilizer plant



Shao Hsi-chuan.

in northeast China after finishing junior middle school in 1956 and later I was admitted to the Chinese Communist Party.

When Chairman Mao started the Great Cultural Revolution in 1966, I was 27 and a shift leader in the Peking Organic Chemical Plant. With my fellow workers we began criticizing manifestations in our factory of Liu Shao-chi's revisionist line. In the next few years, things went well in our plant. Our plant was commissioned in 1965 and has an annual designed production capacity of 10,000 tons of polyvinyl alcohol. By 1972, technical innovations by workers and technicians helped double this capacity.

But this climb did not last long, for interference from the "gang of four" got worse and

worse. From 1974 to 1976, order in the factory was upset, production management slackened, cadres and the masses were at loggerheads, enthusiasm for acquiring technical knowhow and improving equipment fell off and the number of accidents increased.

Although the overwhelming majority of cadres and the masses wanted to run our factory well and only a tiny handful of trouble-makers followed the "gang of four," the mass media were in the hands of the gang and kept churning out fallacious assertions which confused us. It got so bad that on many matters we did not know what was right or wrong. Confusion led to increasing discontent and resentment.

In 1974 I was elected a member of the plant's leading body and later I became secretary of its Party committee. I was fully aware of my responsibilities and I was determined to act according to Chairman Mao's revolutionary line, but somehow I was not quite sure what was the right thing to do when it came to specifics. Here are some examples.

What Is the Correct Attitude Towards Veteran Cadres? According to the much-touted "theory" concocted by the "gang of four," most veteran cadres were "capitalist-roaders." But that did not fit in with what I saw for myself. Many veteran cadres in our factory were loyal to the cause of the Party and they all worked hard to run the factory well and devoted themselves to building socialism, not to mention their contributions to the revolution in the past. Moreover, they paid attention to training successors to the revolutionary cause, freely passing on their working methods and experience. How could such veterans be all made targets of the revolution and overthrown to a man?

What Is the Right Way to Handle Production? The "gang of four" counterposed revolution and production in such a way that it seemed as if those who were conscientiously engaged in production were brushing aside revolution. According to the gang's logic, those who did not work but spent their time wilfully fighting the leadership were "steadfast revolutionaries." If people everywhere did this, if the peasants

stopped farming and the workers stopped working, how were we going to build China into a powerful socialist country?

Is It Necessary to Master Skills? The mass media under the control of the "gang of four" incessantly criticized what they called "putting vocational work in command" and "the road of being white and expert" as if studying science and technology were a crime. In 1964 I went to Japan and studied there for six months. From my personal experience I came to understand how important it is to study. Our factory is now using equipment from Japan. But without trained cadres and workers, would it have been possible to instal the equipment and get it to operate smoothly on the first trial run, not to speak of doubling its capacity? Our science and technology remains far behind the best in the world. Will we do any good to the revolutionary cause if we do not study hard and strive to catch up?

What Attitude Should We Take Towards Importing Equipment? The "gang of four" kicked up a fuss over the question of importing advanced equipment and technology, describing it as "servility to things foreign." This is really far-fetched. Since our factory went into operation, it has created wealth for the state and trained quite a number of skilled workers. This way of doing things helps speed up socialist construction. It has nothing to do with "servility to things foreign."

After the smashing of the "gang of four," its pseudo-revolutionary theory has come under fire and the confusion it caused in people's minds has been gradually clarified. What once puzzled me has been straightened out and I have a clearer idea of the road we are to take. Our minds are at ease and all of us are redoubling our efforts to promote production.

I was appointed deputy director of the Peking Municipal Bureau of Chemical Industry early this year. This shows that the Party has faith in the younger cadres who came to the fore during the Great Cultural Revolution and are dedicated to the revolution. I must learn from the revolutionaries of the older generation and follow Chairman Hua on the new Long March towards the socialist modernization of our country by the end of this century just as

they followed Chairman Mao on the historic Long March decades ago.

Our First and Second Liberation

Shih Chun-li, a night soil collector

I'M an ordinary Peking night soil collector, as was my father Shih Chuan-hsiang when he was alive. In the old society, my father collected night soil house to house every day with a receptacle slung over his shoulders. It was a dirty and tiring job, but most unbearable was the disdain the wealthy lords and ladies showed for night soil collectors, often upbraiding them for coming into their presence.



Shih Chun-li.

For our family, October signifies two liberations. Our first liberation came with the founding of New China in October 1949, when the workers became the leading class and physical labour and labourers commanded the respect of the entire society. Father continued in his same job, but under much improved working conditions. Extremely grateful to the Party and Chairman Mao, he worked with renewed diligence.

When I was little, he often told my brother, sisters and me: "It is true that my work is dirty and hard, but if I do a good job I can help make thousands of homes clean and tidy." Concerned about helping to raise the younger generation and doing away with traditional attitudes, particularly the idea of despising night soil collectors, he volunteered to be a youth group leader. Under the influence of his exemplary deeds, his group soon became an advanced collective.

The Party and government accorded great honour to my father. He joined the Party, was

cited as a national model worker and elected to the Third National People's Congress. He was present at the National Day banquet in the Great Hall of the People on several occasions. Still fresh in my memory is how he told us the unforgettable moments when Chairman Mao received him on the Tien An Men rostrum and when Premier Chou refilled his wine glass at the state banquet. It was really something that a night soil collector, among the most downtrodden in the old society, could meet and chat with our great leader Chairman Mao and Premier Chou. The striking contrast between the two worlds fired him with enthusiasm to indefatigably serve the people all his life, in total disregard of his illness.

Then came the Cultural Revolution. The "gang of four," paving the way for seizing Party and state power, advocated "overthrowing all," including veteran revolutionary cadres, seasoned specialists and model workers of long standing. Out of thin air, Chiang Ching charged: "Shih Chuan-hsiang is a scab." Her accusation, alone, convicted father and brought the whole family a lot of trouble. The "gang of four's" cronies stormed into the night soil collectors' headquarters to struggle against father. Later he was locked up, interrogated and tortured. Virtually every conceivable means was used to force him to "confess to his crimes." But he never gave in, firmly believing that Chairman Mao and Premier Chou would sooner or later come to his rescue.

During those days, anyone expressing sympathy with father was promptly persecuted. Party general branch secretary Mou Chao-ming, for instance, was branded an "unrepentant capitalist-roader" simply because he once asked whether Chiang Ching had any evidence for labelling my father a scab. Everyone in my family was discriminated against and maltreated. When my junior middle school teachers recommended that I attend senior middle school, some people disagreed, saying: "His father is a scab, so he can't go to senior middle school." My elder and younger sisters were also forced to discontinue their studies.

My father was sent back to his native village in Shantung Province in 1971. The "gang of four's" hatchet men notified the people's com-

muned concerned that he was "subjected to dictatorship" and therefore was not entitled to any medical treatment. As a result, he became paralysed and bed-ridden, but he did not lose heart. Hopeful that the Party would intervene and redress his grievances, he told us to write to Premier Chou and Comrade Chu Teh, Chairman of the N.P.C. Standing Committee, and ask them to report his case to Chairman Mao.

This long-awaited occasion came at last. One day in August 1973 Premier Chou En-lai summoned responsible members of the Peking Municipal Revolutionary Committee to report on their work. When he learnt what had happened to father, he was enraged. "Is the Great Cultural Revolution aimed at knocking down a night soil collector?" he questioned. Then and there he instructed that the Party organization concerned send people to Shantung to bring Shih Chuan-hsiang back to Peking and that the wrong verdict be corrected, apologies be offered and proper medical treatment provided.

The following day a leading comrade from the Peking Public Utilities Bureau went to Shantung. Holding father's hands, he said: "Chairman Mao and Premier Chou sent me to fetch you." My father was deeply moved and tears rolled down his cheeks, but he was unable to say a word. He could only twitch his lips. By lip-reading we knew that he was shouting with all his might: "Long live Chairman Mao!"

Though father was hospitalized after coming back to the capital, he failed to respond to any treatment due to such a long delay. He left us for ever in 1975.

It is a pity that father did not live long enough to see the downfall of the "gang of four" in October of 1976 and share with his countrymen the joy of victory. Nevertheless, he was eventually rehabilitated at a special meeting on June 30 this year which was organized by the Peking Trade Union Council. In other parts of the country, there are also many veteran model workers who suffered like my father. The gang members, however, had the gall to call themselves "proletarian revolutionaries." To hell with such "revolutionaries"! They are sworn enemies of the workers!

The smashing of the "gang of four" marks the second liberation of our family. Thanks to the solicitous attention of the Party, my brother, two sisters and I are now working. Two of us have become Party members and the other two Youth League members.

I pledge to take over where father left off and carry out the wishes of the veteran revolutionaries so as to make Peking a beautiful and clean capital.

New Vistas

Hu Cheng, director of department of ophthalmology at the Shoudu Hospital

THE toppling of the "gang of four" has opened up new vistas for our work. Foreign friends may wonder what the "gang of four" has to do with ophthalmology. . . .

First, the gang stirred up political chaos, causing unrest in society and bringing the national economy to the brink of collapse. Of course this affected every field of endeavour. Here I would like to deal specifically with how the gang's interference and sabotage affected our work.

The "gang of four" and their followers used to pretend they were revolutionary, or even ultra-revolutionary, and put out demagogic slogans which were not easily seen for what they were. If people did see through their claptrap, or if the gang's slogans proved detrimental in practice, it was quite difficult to mount any kind of opposition. Besides, these culprits freely slapped labels on people, condemning them as being "against the revolution in health work" and levelling other equally damaging charges at them. Such labels in China carry serious consequences.

For example, the "gang of four" flourished their specious slogan of "doing away with rules and conventions," claiming they were out to get rid of old, obsolete bourgeois rules and customs, and that they wanted people to set up new rules and customs. Obviously the medical world in order to develop must continually break with old conventions and rules and establish new ways, but equally clearly



Hu Cheng (third from left) and colleagues.

breaking with old conventions and rules must be based on scientific reasons. And of course there can be no doing away with all conventions and rules at one stroke.

Influenced by the gang, some people did in fact propose "doing away with all rules and conventions." In our department for example, pre-operative procedures which required repeated and meticulous sterilization were drastically simplified because the established practices were branded as "obsolete rules." The result was foreseeable: case after case of post-operation infection. After the criticism against the "gang of four" began, the medical staff re-established a common understanding of the necessity for a strict scientific approach in medical work. This was an extremely important condition for improving medical and nursing standards and developing medical and health work.

At one time a slogan which called for "doing away with job specialization" was in vogue throughout the medical and health world. It is a fact that in China, a thickly populated country, there are not enough doctors to go round, particularly in the rural and grass-roots hospitals and clinics. In these places there is a great shortage of trained medical personnel and if each medical worker did only one job it would be hard to meet job demands. Under these circumstances the practice should be for doing away with strict differentiation of jobs and each person should specialize on one job

but at the same time be able to handle other jobs as well. But the gang, as they always did, took over a correct, revolutionary slogan and pushed it to absurd lengths. This is what we call "metaphysics."

The Shoudu Hospital in Peking, one of the major hospitals in this country, is engaged in research as well as treatment of illnesses. Doctors in this hospital should and must make profound studies within a very narrow field. Our department, besides treating general eye diseases, at one stage set up special sections to deal with glaucoma and retinopathy. When the slogan calling for "doing away with job specialization" was raised, these sections were wiped out and the quality of work in our department deteriorated.

In China, 600 million or so people live in the countryside, where medical and health work is relatively backward compared to the urban areas. It is urgent that this inadequacy of trained medical personnel and medicines be rapidly dealt with. Chairman Mao's directive "In medical and health work, put the stress on the rural areas" is absolutely correct and must be carried out. However, it is unimaginable for Chairman Mao to call on us to neglect the urban areas and ignore the working class and mental workers in the cities. This could not be what Chairman Mao had called for!

But the gang's close follower in the Ministry of Public Health seizing this directive as a pretext forced our academy (our hospital is a unit under the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences) to send huge numbers of its personnel to work in the countryside. Whoever dared raise the point that the urban areas must also be taken into consideration was immediately branded as "wanting to serve the urban overlords" and brought under fire. When someone pointed out that some laboratory work and research must be done in the urban areas because they required certain conditions and equipment, he was charged with being "afraid of the hard life in the rural areas." We have adjusted our work to take care of the urban areas and to support agriculture as well, and are trying to find more rational arrangements.

It is necessary to study the new achievements abroad so as to improve our own work,

but the "gang of four" charged that this was "worshipping foreign things." Comrades in our department, however, continued to privately study advances made abroad in our field of work, such as using laser beams to treat eye disorders, although they were running the risk of being censured and held up as targets for criticism. Everything is now clear. We can freely study foreign publications and make use of foreign things to serve our country. We spoke before the National Association of Ophthalmology (recently revitalized) about our research results and recent developments in this field at home and abroad.

The ideological chaos caused by the "gang of four" seems to have affected every nook and cranny. Consequently, rooting out this cabal of pseudo-revolutionaries has removed a great weight from every profession, trade and occupation in this country. Scientific research in China today is again expanding vigorously. I am confident that work and research in our field as in others will reach a new high.

A Bright Future for the Next Generation

Kao Wen-luan, a middle school teacher

THE two Octobers in 1949 and 1976 are important turning points in my 36 years of life as a teacher. In old China, I taught in order to make a living which, to tell the truth, wasn't easy. Things changed after liberation. I began to lead a stable life, was educated in Marxism-Leninism, and gradually became aware of the aim of living and the significance of my work. Realizing that teaching is an important component part of the cause of revolution, I was proud of my work and determined to devote my whole life to education.

But during the years when the "gang of four" ran wild, our school — the Experimental Middle School affiliated to the Peking Teachers' University — was denounced as a centre for training "intellectual aristocrats" and the teachers were looked upon as enemies "sabotaging the cause of socialism." Misled by the gang,



Kao Wen-luan and her students.

many students would not study hard in those years. They did not observe school discipline and were impolite to the teachers who were regarded as the targets of revolution. They did everything to "rebel" and "go against the tide," as they put it. Any teacher who tried to do a good job in teaching would be accused of putting "intellectual education first," and giving the students a test was, in their eyes, putting "marks in command." Quite a number of students wanted earnestly to learn, but they couldn't do so at that time. As a result, the standard of the students plummeted.

We were really hard put to it. But having undergone the test of the Cultural Revolution, we decided to do better to implement Chairman Mao's line in education and train a generation of youngsters who are developed morally, intellectually and physically. I often said to myself: "The teachers' task is to bring up successors for the revolutionary cause. If we were to let things slide, how could we bring up qualified successors? There would be no future for our country if we do not have hundreds of millions of qualified successors."

Like my colleagues, I couldn't teach as I wished, nor could I leave the students to themselves. I went to school every day with a heavy heart. Things began to look up for a while when in 1972 Premier Chou En-lai personally issued instructions concerning educational work and in 1975 Comrade Teng Hsiao-ping was in charge of the day-to-day work of the C.P.C. Central Committee. Both of them accurately and com-

prehensively expounded Chairman Mao's thinking on education. However, members of the "gang of four" created much greater trouble in 1973 and in 1976 and launched attacks against what they called "revisionism" and "attempts at restoration."

Now the sky is brightening again. We have a clear aim before us, which is to train more and better qualified personnel at a quicker pace for our country. Initial successes have been obtained. At the national university entrance examinations not long ago, more than half of the 290 graduates of our school who took part got pretty good marks and one of them got the first place in Peking. With regard to those students who have been deeply influenced by the "gang of four" and are not so good in their studies, we have opened a special class for them so that they can catch up. Now the students are eager to study and their socialist spirit has improved markedly.

Like the other teachers, I am happy not only because I can devote myself to teaching but, more important, because we are going to have a promising younger generation.

Laugh, People, Laugh!

Hou Pao-lin, a "hsiang-sheng"
(cross-talk) artist

HSIANG-SHENG is the art of making people laugh. It is a branch of the performing arts in which one or two actors carry on a humorous conversation telling a story or commenting on something. Their language which is extremely comic, full of implications and double meanings, and their style typical of a folk comedy, give rise to continuous outbursts of laughter from the audience.

Just recently I returned from Anshan, the steel city in northeast China. There, more than 100,000 people were regaled by the performances of our group, which consisted of 15 amateur *hsiang-sheng* performers (workers by profession) from Peking as well as my partner and I. We rushed back to Peking in time for an appearance on the eve of National Day. The Peking Workers' Gymnasium with 13,000 seats

was packed; there was not one empty seat. The rebirth of the art of *hsiang-sheng* was brought home to me in full force by these experiences.

I came from a poor family, earning my living as a street artist in my teens. It was only in the 40s that I had the chance to appear on the stage. After the founding of New China in 1949, my work acquired a new significance. In line with Chairman Mao's teachings, we literary and art workers used our own writings or performances to educate the people and deal blows at the enemy. We *hsiang-sheng* writers and performers used our art of making people laugh to expose the darkness of the old society, ridicule and denounce the forces of reaction and, at the same time, praise the new life after liberation, also criticizing the backward ideas, customs and habits among the people. Thus, *hsiang-sheng*, like other forms of art, has become part and parcel of the revolution.

In the new society, I have been provided with very favourable conditions for work and study. I have access to many classical Chinese satires; I am also in a position to seek inspiration from the works of Aristophanes, Moliere and Shakespeare and from Charlie Chaplin films so as to improve my own work in regard to both humour and artistic quality. No longer are we *hsiang-sheng* performers stepped on as artists on the lowest rung of the social ladder. Instead, we have won the respect of the public. I myself was elected a deputy to the National People's Congress and a member of the standing committee of the China *Chuyi* (balladry, story-telling and cross-talk) Workers' Association.



Hou Pao-lin (left).

Then came the "gang of four" wielding their big stick. Like many other writers and artists, I was persecuted by them. For many years I was not allowed to go on the stage; my voice disappeared from the radio broadcast. The art of *hsiang-sheng*, dismissed as "talking nonsense," was on its last legs.

I was never convinced by what the gang had to say. It has always been my belief that to make people laugh is no crime; I am innocent. For years I went to live with the oilworkers in Taching, the peasants in Tachai, the coal miners at Kailan, and the lumberjacks in the northeast in order to learn what life means to them and find source materials for my artistic creation. When I was living among those reclaiming wasteland in the northeast, the good news about the downfall of the "gang of four" came.

Art in China has been reborn. *Hsiang-sheng* and cartoons have become the quickest and most powerful artistic media for denouncing the gang. Many items of poignant sarcasm designed to unmask the gang have made audiences hold their sides with laughter—a laughter to give vent to their hatred for the gang. Many *hsiang-sheng* buffs started writing

hsiang-sheng scripts in their spare time. I have received hundreds of letters from these people from various parts of the country asking me to help polish them. Quite a few amateur *hsiang-sheng* performances have come to the fore. As for myself, a collection of my *hsiang-sheng* scripts will soon be off the press. At the suggestion of an old friend of mine, I am going to use *Reborn* as the title of the book. All 12 items included in the book were written during the years I was being persecuted, they are items which were not allowed to be staged at that time.

Then there is the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua to whom my work and the art of *hsiang-sheng* owe their new life. My gratitude and sense of joy are beyond description. Earlier this year, when the Fifth National People's Congress was in session and I was speaking at a group meeting of the Peking delegation, Chairman Hua came to join us in the discussion. I was so excited that words failed me.

I am now 62 years old. My only thought is—as long as I am alive, I want to do my best to make people laugh, let them learn something and feel encouraged in their laughter.

Resist Aggression, Build Up The Country

— Pol Pot speaks of the Kampuchean people's resolve

THE Kampuchean people are today fighting against the aggression and subversive plots of Viet Nam while busily restoring the economy and building up their country. Pol Pot, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kampuchea and Prime Minister of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea, has on many occasions recently expressed the firm resolve of the Kampuchean

people to carry the struggle against aggression to the end and to speedily build up the country.

Most Important Task Today

A mass rally was held in Phnom Penh on September 27 to celebrate the 18th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of Kampuchea. Secretary Pol Pot pointed out in

his speech at the meeting: The most important issue is that of defending the country.

He said: "At the end of 1977, Viet Nam, the Soviet international expansionists and their accomplices launched a large-scale attack on Kampuchea. Their aim was to take Kampuchea by following the strategy of 'a war of quick decision.'"

"However, we defeated them on January 6, 1978," he said. "Later Viet Nam came again and it has been fighting us right up until today."

"It is our strategic mission to defend our territory and our Kampuchean nation for ever," he declared.

Significance of Resisting Viet Nam's Aggression. Pol Pot said that Viet Nam "dreams of becoming a great power in Indochina and Southeast Asia. The Soviet expansionists have a global strategy which stresses, among other things, the seizure of Southeast Asia. But in order to do this, they have to settle the Kampuchean question, which is a key obstacle to the Vietnamese and Soviet international expansionists. After seizing Kampuchea, their next step would be to mount a drive into Southeast Asia for control over the economic resources and strategic transportation routes such as the Strait of Malacca."

He pointed out: "We are waging a struggle in self-defence, but our struggle is related to the overall situation in Southeast Asia. For the Vietnamese and Soviet expansionists, their invasion of Kampuchea is part of their strategy for occupying Southeast Asia and of their global strategy." "Because countries in the world, big and small, have come to recognize or perceive more and more clearly the strategy of the Vietnamese and Soviet international expansionists against Kampuchea and Southeast Asia, they have stood openly or otherwise against these expansionists."

Desire for Friendship. Secretary Pol Pot stressed: "Viet Nam must stop its aggression against Kampuchea at once. Democratic Kampuchea and the honest Kampuchean people have extended the hand of friendship to the Vietnamese people. If the Hanoi authorities immediately stop their aggression and immediately

October 13, 1978



Guarding the motherland.

put an end to their strategy of turning Kampuchea into a part of Viet Nam through their decrepit design for an 'Indochina federation,' then the friendship between our two countries and two peoples will be re-established at once, Democratic Kampuchea will announce that it is ready to sign, immediately in Phnom Penh, Hanoi or any other place, a treaty of friendship and mutual non-aggression with Viet Nam, and our two countries and two peoples will live together in genuine peace and friendship. This is the sacred aspiration of the Kampuchean people and Democratic Kampuchea."

Resolve to Oppose Aggression. In an interview with reporters of two Hongkong papers, *Wen Wei Pao* and *Ta Kung Pao*, on September 21, Pol Pot pointed out: "Viet Nam and its accomplices cannot occupy Kampuchea. Should it continue to attack us, we will tell it to prepare to fight for 100 years. Even after 100 years, it will not be able to occupy our country." "We are safeguarding our independence and we are receiving support and encouragement from more and more friends throughout the world."

Building Up the Country Rapidly

Referring to construction at home at the Phnom Penh rally, Pol Pot said: "The socialist revolution in our country has greatly promoted the movement for national construction. Since

our Kampuchea was liberated, we have followed the principle of full independence and self-reliance and have been building our country rapidly in the spheres of agriculture, industry, culture, social welfare and public health."

Agriculture and Industry. He declared: "Our socialist construction has been making headway in all fields." In this respect, we have set forth the slogan: "We will build our backward farming into modern agriculture in 10 or 15 years beginning in 1977," stipulating that the per-hectare yield of food grains should exceed seven tons, and we have gone in for the large-scale growing of industrial crops. Today, Kampuchea has basically solved the problem of food grains on its own. The line for industrial construction has also been set with a view to building an independent economy — take agriculture as the foundation, develop light industry and gradually go on to promote heavy industry.

He said that Kampuchea built a number of new factories in 1978 and was building a steel plant whose products would meet a quarter of the country's needs. Kampuchea was also to gradually build up its chemical industry.

People's Livelihood. On September 5, Secretary Pol Pot met with the Belgium-Kampuchea Association delegation. Speaking about the life of the Kampuchean people, he said that 95 per cent of them lead a much better life than in the old society.

"The people of Democratic Kampuchea now enjoy fundamental common rights in economic affairs, cultural activities and social welfare benefits, as well as political rights. The people have the right to live in all aspects. They are guaranteed land for tilling, work in factories and other establishments, and ample grain and clothing. They are provided with adequate medical care, dwelling houses and chances to learn to read and write. A literacy campaign has been unfolded on a wide scale and every person has the right to raise his cultural level."

Regarding Intellectuals. Answering questions about intellectuals on August 24 when he received a delegation of the Swedish-Kampuchean Friendship Association, Pol Pot said: "Intellectuals from the old society enjoy the same right as other citizens to work in accordance with the circumstances and their ability. They have fulfilled their duty and made important contributions to our revolutionary movement, before and during the five years of war against U.S. imperialist aggression and after liberation. They have done their part in accordance with the circumstances and their capability in the cause of rehabilitation and building a new Kampuchea."

Unity at Home. At the Phnom Penh rally, Pol Pot said: In the present-day society of Kampuchea, there are always contradictions. But unity is predominant. This is because over 99 per cent of the Kampuchean population are united with the Communist Party of Kampuchea. In the light of the Party's line, they are working to defend the country, carry on the socialist revolution and socialist construction and improve their standard of living. Through education and criticism, we rely on the collective strength of the people in handling contradictions. "Enemy agents hostile to the Kampuchean revolution and Democratic Kampuchea are only a handful, and they are isolated in face of the entire nation and the whole people," he said.

In his speech on September 5, Pol Pot spoke about the question of the employees of the former Lon Nol administration and people who have returned from foreign countries. He said that they, like the people, live and work in rural co-operatives and construction sites. Some are working in government institutions and departments. Working in different posts, they contribute their share to the cause of national reconstruction. Concerning those Kampuchean who are still living abroad, Pol Pot said: "They can return home at any time they like. If they want to come back, they can do so by going through the normal legal procedures, regardless of which country they are living in."

Explanatory Notes to Volume V of "Selected Works of Mao Tsetung" (20)

Under the Right opportunist line of Chen Tu-hsiu, the peasants, our chief ally, were abandoned

(See p. 325, Vol. V, Eng. Ed.)

During the First Revolutionary Civil War Period, the Right opportunists, headed by Chen Tu-hsiu in the Party, suppressed and rejected Chairman Mao's correct idea that the peasants were our chief ally and we must resolutely support the revolutionary peasant movement. Instead they slanderously represented the peasants as "disorganized," "conservative" and "difficult to bring into the revolution." In 1927 when the Northern Expedition reached a high tide, they were scared out of their wits by the Kuomintang's reactionary current and dared not support the great revolutionary peasant struggle that had risen and was spreading. To accommodate the Kuomintang, they disarmed the peasants, voluntarily gave up leadership over the peasants and abandoned the peasants, our chief ally, with the result that the working class and the Communist Party were isolated and cut off from help and the first great revolution ended in defeat.

The three "Left" opportunist lines which were represented successively by Chu Chiu-pai, Li Li-san and Wang Ming

(See p. 326.)

The "Left" opportunist line represented by Chu Chiu-pai, which was also called a putschist or adventurist line, predominated during the period between November 1927 and April 1928. Arising after the defeat of the first great revolution, it was a reflection in the Party of petty bourgeois revolutionary impetuosity aggravated by hatred of the Kuomintang's policy of massacre and indignation at Chen Tu-hsiu's capitulationism. The essence of this line was: Politically, it failed to differentiate between the democratic and the socialist revolution, holding that the Chinese revolution was by nature a

"permanent revolution"; and it denied the defeat of the 1927 revolution, maintaining that the Chinese revolution was in a situation of "permanent upsurge." Instead of organizing an orderly retreat, its advocates, in disregard of the enemy's strength and the wishes of the masses after the defeat of the revolution, ordered a few Party members and activists among the masses to undertake local uprisings all over the country which had not the slightest hope of success. Organizationally, they pushed a sectarian policy of attacking comrades. Militarily, the line divorced the Red Army from the masses. Chairman Mao and many other comrades had from the outset correctly criticized and opposed Chu Chiu-pai's "Left" opportunist line, bringing a quick halt to its implementation in practical work. The Sixth National Congress of the Party in July 1928 repudiated both the Right opportunism of Chen Tu-hsiu and the "Left" putschism of Chu Chiu-pai.

The "Left" opportunist line represented by Li Li-san, generally known as the "Li Li-san line," predominated for about four months after June 1930.

In substance, this line denied that mass strength had to be built up for the revolution and denied that the development of the revolution was uneven; it regarded as "extremely erroneous... localism and conservatism characteristic of peasant mentality" the ideas of Chairman Mao Tsetung that for a long time we should devote our attention mainly to creating rural base areas, use the rural areas to encircle the cities and use these bases to advance a high tide of country-wide revolution; and it held that preparations should be made for immediate insurrections in all parts of the country. On the basis of this erroneous line, Li Li-san drew up an adventurist plan for organizing immediate armed insurrections in the key cities throughout the country. At the same time, he refused to recognize the uneven development of the world revolution, holding that the general outbreak of

the Chinese revolution would inevitably lead to a general outbreak of world revolution, without which the Chinese revolution could not be successful; he also refused to recognize the protracted nature of China's bourgeois-democratic revolution, holding that the beginnings of victory in one or more provinces would mark the beginning of the transition to socialist revolution, and thus formulated a number of inappropriate "Left" adventurist policies. Militarily, they induced the Red Army to carry out an adventurist offensive. Li Li-san rejected the correct criticisms and suggestions of many comrades. While stressing opposition to so-called "Right deviation" within the Party, he attacked cadres who disagreed with his views, thereby exacerbating inner-Party sectarianism. Chairman Mao had never agreed with the Li Li-san line and the broad section of cadres and Party members demanded that the wrong line be corrected. At the Third Plenary Session of the Sixth Central Committee held in September 1930, Li Li-san admitted the mistakes that had been pointed out and subsequently relinquished his leading position in the Party Central Committee.

The "Left" opportunist line represented by Wang Ming (Chen Shao-yu) held sway in the Party for as long as four years, from the Fourth Plenary Session of the Sixth Central Committee of the Party in January 1931 to the Tsunyi Meeting in January 1935, at which Chairman Mao's leading position in the whole Party was established. At that time Wang Ming published a pamphlet, *The Two Lines (or The Struggle for the Further Bolshevization of the Communist Party of China)*, in which he declared that the immediate main danger then existing in the Party was not "Left" opportunism but "Right opportunism." To justify his own activities, he "criticized" the Li Li-san line as "Rightist." He put forward a new political programme which continued, revived and developed the Li Li-san line as well as other "Left" ideas and policies in a new guise, and set them against the correct line of Chairman Mao. With regard to the nature of Chinese society and class relations in China, the Wang Ming line exaggerated the weight of capitalism in China's economy, overstressed the significance of fighting the capitalists and rich peasants as well as of "the factors of socialist revolution" at that stage of the Chinese revolution, and denied the existence of an

intermediate camp or the third group. With regard to the revolutionary situation and the tasks of the Party, the Wang Ming line continued to stress the nationwide "revolutionary upsurge" and the need of a national "line of offensive" for the Party, believing that an "immediate revolutionary situation" would soon prevail in one or several major provinces with key cities. From a "Left" viewpoint it slanderously asserted that in China there was as yet no "genuine" Red Army, no "genuine" government of councils of workers, peasants and soldiers and branded Chairman Mao's revolutionary line as "Right opportunism," "opportunism in practical work" and a "rich peasant line." Organizationally, exponents of the Wang Ming line violated Party discipline, rejected the work assigned by the Party, joined with a number of comrades in sectarian activities against the Central Committee, called upon the Party membership to set up a provisional central leading body and demanded that "militant cadres" who "actively support and carry out" the "Left" line should be used to "reform and replenish the leading bodies at all levels"; they waged relentless struggles and dealt merciless blows against those comrades who disagreed with this line, bringing about a serious crisis in the Party. Militarily, the Wang Ming line opposed Chairman Mao's idea of building a people's army, reduced its task simply to fighting, opposed Chairman Mao's thinking on people's war, advocated "regularization" and positional warfare, and practised adventurism in attack, conservatism in defence and flightism in retreat. Hence, the "Left" deviation of the Wang Ming line as compared to that of the Li Li-san line was more determined, more fully "armed with theory," more overpowering and more full-fledged in form.

The three "Left" opportunist lines brought tremendous damage to the cause of the Party. The Wang Ming "Left" opportunist line in particular resulted in a loss of about 90 per cent of the membership of the Chinese Communist Party, the Chinese Red Army men and the base areas of the Red Army, plunged tens of millions of people in the revolutionary base areas into the suffering imposed by the Kuomintang and held up the advance of the Chinese revolution.

(To be continued.)

Friendship Notes

Chinese Performing Art Troupe's U.S. Tour

A 150-member Chinese Performing Art Troupe toured five American cities—New York, Washington, D.C., Minneapolis, San Francisco and Los Angeles—from June 28 to August 8, giving 29 performances. The performers were applauded by some U.S. newspapers as “art ambassadors.”

The troupe's repertory in the United States included traditional Peking opera, selections of modern ballet, Chinese folk dances and instrumental folk music.

Most of the acts were unfamiliar to the American audiences, but Martha Graham, a well-known American modern dancer, said: “The creations are for the people, so the people can appreciate them.”

In Washington, D.C., tickets for all five shows were sold out before the doors opened for the first performance. Selections from the classical Peking operas *The Monkey Makes Havoc in the Heaven*, *San Cha Kou*, *Autumn River* and *Yentang Mountain* were specially praised for their unique style.

As a gesture of friendship, soprano Kuo Shu-chen and tenor Hu Sung-hua sang *America the Beautiful*, *Home on the Range* and other American songs, arousing a warm response among the audience. When the American folk song *Turkey in the Straw* was played on Chinese instruments at Wolf Trap, Virginia, some spectators rose and danced to the tune at the fringe of the lawn, shouting “China!” “America!” Mr. Mont-

gomery, a 67-year-old, said excitedly: “It is this mutual communication of arts that can bring the Chinese and Americans closer together.”

During their stay in the United States, members of the troupe were deeply impressed by the American people's profound friendship. Mrs. Frances Roots Hadden, an American pianist born in China, made a special trip to Minneapolis to see the show and meet her old friend, Chou Hsiao-yen, deputy leader of the troupe. Forty years ago, during the Chinese people's War of Resistance Against Japan, she and Chou Hsiao-yen performed together. Mrs. Hadden recalled that when she visited China in 1972, Premier Chou En-lai said that China would one day send art troupes to the United States. She felt that the late Premier's hope had now been realized with this art troupe's visit. Mrs. Hadden showed her Chinese friends photos she had taken of Comrades Chou En-lai and Chu Teh more than 40 years ago as well as letters written to her by Premier Chou En-lai. She asked Liu Shi-kun, a famous Chinese pianist, to take two delicate handkerchieves back to China as gifts to Comrades Teng Ying-chao and Kang Ke-ching and expressed the hope that the friendship between the Chinese and American peoples would continue to develop.

Peking International Football Tournament

The 1978 Peking International Friendship Invitation Tournament held from August 25 to



People waiting in front of the New York Metropolitan Opera House, Lincoln Center, to see the Chinese Performing Art Troupe.

September 3 saw the Diabes Rouges from the Congo, the Happy Valley Team from Hongkong, the Netherlands' National Amateur Team, the Borac from Yugoslavia, the China National Team and the Peking Team play a total of 15 energetic and thrilling matches. The China National Team won the tournament with Borac and Diabes Rouges coming in second and third respectively.

Borac, a leading Yugoslav football team, has a glorious revolutionary tradition. The Borac Football Club was founded in 1926 during the dark days of reactionary rule and became a centre of progressive political activities. Many of its players fought in the people's guerrilla war and performed valiant deeds for the revolution.

The Diabes Rouges is the national team of the Congo and was the 1972 all-Africa champion. Its players were in excellent condition and displayed superb skill. They were fast in attack and always fought hard for the ball.

Hongkong's Happy Valley Team, the champion of Hongkong last year, played skilfully and with finesse, relying on a traditional style and putting up a tight defence.

The team from the Netherlands has a young lineup of mainly students and workers selected throughout the country three months earlier in preparation for the next Olympic Games.

The Peking tournament provided an excellent opportunity for the China National Team to learn and gain practical match experience. Its progress was noted with favour by foreign friends. A Yugoslav observer said: "The China National Team is pretty good and is quite up to competing in world championships." The Chinese players, however, recognize that such praise is given as encouragement; they are still novices with many shortcomings and have a long way to go before catching up with the world's first-rate football teams.

Bamboo-Weaving in Madagascar

Madagascar is endowed with rich bamboo groves. But these resources were not used and traditional handicrafts including bamboo-weaving declined in days when the colonialists were in control.

After Madagascar's independence, an economic and technical centre was established in Tananarive, the capital, where workers were trained to produce these handicrafts.

A special bamboo-weaving workshop was set up in the centre in 1970. According to an economic and technical co-operation agreement between China and Madagascar, China sent a bamboo-weaving team to Madagascar at the end of 1976 to help train more than 20 people. After a year's training,

they acquired the know-how to design and execute bamboo-weaving and on their own made several dozen kinds of bamboo furniture. Bamboo utensils produced by the centre not only meet domestic needs, but are also exported to other parts of Africa, Europe and other places. In Tamatave Province, where bamboo grows abundantly, another training-centre is going to be set up to teach young people the techniques of bamboo-weaving.

Cultural Briefs

Books for Serbian People's Library. In July, Peking Library presented a batch of 500 books in Chinese to the Serbian People's Library of Yugoslavia. These include the selected works of Marx, Engels and Mao Tsetung as well as many famous works by ancient and contemporary Chinese writers on literature and art and military and medical subjects.

Algerian Painting Exhibition. An exhibition of Algerian paintings took place in Peking from July 6 to 19. On display were more than 80 oil paintings, water colours and brush work of fine delicate strokes, which eulogize the Algerian people's struggle for national liberation and express their will to work hard for the prosperity of their country. Among the painters represented are outstanding masters and young artists as well as staunch fighters in the national-liberation struggle.

ROUND THE WORLD

PHNOM PENH

Greetings From Samdech Sihanouk

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk wrote a letter from Phnom Penh to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kampuchea extending, in the name of himself and his wife, heartfelt greetings on the 18th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of Kampuchea.

Sihanouk said in his letter that since its founding till April 17, 1975, the Communist Party of Kampuchea headed by His Excellency Pol Pot had waged a valiant and staunch struggle for the genuine liberation of the people, the poverty-stricken workers and peasants in particular, and for full democratic rights so that the workers and peasants become the masters of the land, the country and their own destiny.

"Since January 6, 1978, the heroic Communist Party of Kampuchea, the heroic Kampuchean people and the heroic Kampuchean Revolutionary Army have again and again driven back the aggressor troops of the Vietnamese expansionists who are trying to annex Kampuchea and seeking for hegemony in Southeast Asia," he said.

"The policy being pursued by Democratic Kampuchea is a

policy of genuine independence, sovereignty, neutrality and peace, a policy of firm opposition to imperialism, colonialism and neocolonialism, international expansionists and their lackeys, and a policy of peaceful coexistence based on mutual respect, equality, non-intervention in the internal affairs of any other country and unity and co-operation for the common interests."

Samdech Penn Nouth on September 29 also wrote to President Khieu Samphan of the Presidium of the State of Democratic Kampuchea extending warm congratulations on the 18th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of Kampuchea.

President Khieu Samphan gave a banquet in honour of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and Samdech Penn Nouth and their wives at the State Palace in Phnom Penh on September 28.

MIDDLE EAST

Why Is the U.S.S.R. So Capricious?

October 6 commentaries in Egyptian papers said that what Brezhnev has been doing serves the Soviet Union at the expense of the Arab people's interests. At first, Brezhnev had wanted Egypt to make it

up with Israel, then he did all he could to maintain a no-war no-peace situation, and now he is wantonly attacking Egypt.

Al Ahram pointed out that Brezhnev could never wipe out the fact that the Soviet Union had been defeatist in its attitude when Brezhnev proposed that President Sadat meet the then Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir at Tashkent to reach an Arab-Israeli peaceful settlement after the Arabs had suffered setbacks in the Israeli war of aggression in 1967.

Right at that historical moment, *Al Ahram* said, the Soviet Union agreed with the United States on pursuing a policy of military relaxation in the Middle East; at the same time the Soviet Union stopped delivering weapons and spare parts to Egypt in order to compel Egypt, regardless of the Arab rights, to follow a policy which would serve Soviet interests and Moscow's balanced policy.

The paper *Al Akhbar* pointed out that Brezhnev had all along tried to hoodwink the Arabs by harping on his shopworn tune that the Soviet Union had worked for the interests of the Middle East, whereas in reality he had exerted desperate efforts to maintain a no-war no-peace situation in the area.

Soviet charges that Egypt has betrayed the Arab people came only when Egypt had freed itself from Soviet enslavement.

The paper *Al Gomhouriya* said that in his railing against Egypt, Brezhnev has totally forgotten that it was this same gentleman who had reached a deal with former U.S. President Nixon on a military relaxation in the Middle East. It added that what the Soviet Union has done prevents the Arab people from liberating their Israeli-occupied territories.

SOUTH AFRICA

Changing Horses

Pieter Botha, 12-year defence minister in the Vorster regime, on September 28 succeeded Vorster as prime minister after a seven-day fracas within the South African racist ruling clique.

In his first speech on becoming prime minister, Botha declared, "I will maintain law and order through an effective police force" — meaning he will maintain the fascist rule over the black people with batons and bayonets. He also declared he would "guard the integrity of his border with a well-balanced defence force." This shows he will continue armed invasions of neighbouring countries on various pretexts. He said: "We are not prepared to hand over South West Africa [Namibia] to the forces of darkness," which means he will stop Namibia gaining independence. Botha is clearly out to prove himself a faithful successor to Vorster.

Botha is an old-line racist who had joined the ruling

clique in the 40s in holding down the black people. Since 1966 when he became defence minister, he has been a mainstay in supporting the reactionary rule of Vorster and his hands are stained with the blood of the black people of Azania. He was responsible for the Soweto massacre of 1976, the suppression of black people's organizations last year, and the armed invasions of Angola, Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia this year. The downfall of Vorster and the appointment of Botha as prime minister will not in the least change the nature of the reactionary South African regime, for this was only a tactic employed by the South African authorities in changing horses.

U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Gromyko Mute on Korean Question

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko said not a word on the question of Korea in his address at the general debate of the current session of the U.N. General Assembly.

This made diplomats and pressmen at the United Nations sit up and evoked their speculations because it was the first time in decades that a Soviet representative had failed to mention the Korean question in his speech at this forum.

One speculation is that the Russians are currying favour with the Pak Jung Hi clique at

the expense of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This interpretation found support in the surreptitious relations developing between Moscow and Seoul. In September, the Soviet Union went out of its way to upgrade its flirtation with the south Korean regime. It issued visas for the first time to a cabinet member and two journalists of the south Korean regime and accorded them a "warm reception" during their stay in the Soviet Union. Meanwhile, the Soviet press began addressing the Pak Jung Hi regime as the "Republic of Korea," which was strictly tabooed in the past.

Soviet silence on the Korean question assumes much significance against this background and becomes more conspicuous at the U.N. general debate when representatives from the third world countries come out in succession to reaffirm their support for the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in its struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea and demand that the United States and the Pak clique stop all their schemes to create "two Koreas." People cannot help asking: Where does the Soviet Union which calls itself the "natural ally" of the third world countries stand? Does this turnabout indicate that the Soviet Union's "sympathies are on the side of the peoples fighting for their national independence" as Gromyko asserted in his speech at the U.N. General Assembly hall?

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

Progress in Science And Technology

An astronomical observatory up to advanced world level is being built in Yunnan Province and a cosmic ray physics laboratory on the Tibetan Plateau.

Construction of a controlled thermal nuclear fusion device 70 centimetres in radius is under way in Hofei, capital of Anhwei Province in east China.

A separate-sector heavy ion cyclotron six metres in diameter is being built in Lanzhou, capital of Kansu Province in the northwest.

Research and development is being stepped up on a synchronized earth satellite and large-scale electronic computers.

These are among the 108 key scientific research items in the Outline National Plan for the Development of Science and Technology, 1978-85, mapped out at the National Science Conference last March. Fulfilment of the plan will lay a solid foundation for China's science and technology to catch up with and surpass advanced world levels.

To implement the plan, Chinese scientists are strengthening their basic theoretical research while keeping on their study of applied sciences. Much emphasis is being placed on the study of natural sciences, particularly modern mathematics, high energy physics and molecular biology.

Intensive work is being done to fill in such gaps in Chinese science and technology as surface physics, physics of amorphous materials, certain spheres of applied mathematics and large-scale integrated circuit technology.

Scientists and technicians are pooling their efforts in research items which embrace various branches of science so as to achieve the greatest possible results within the shortest time.

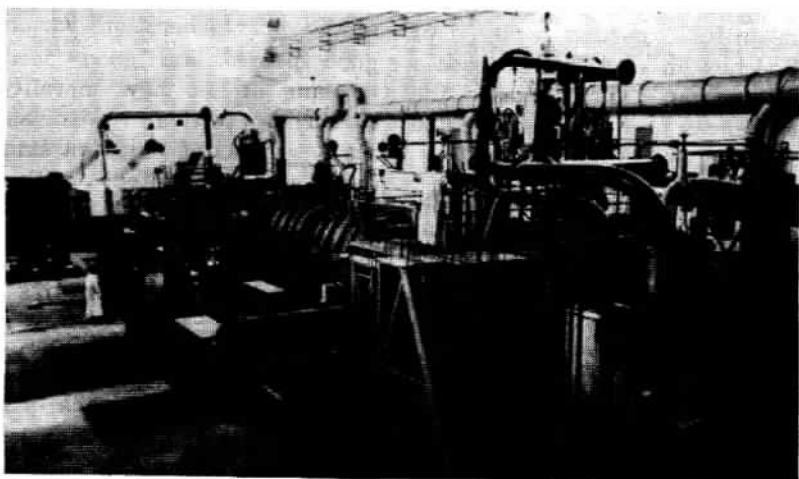
A nationwide scientific research network for studying high critical temperature superconductors has been formed embracing dozens of research institutes, universities and colleges.

A nationwide co-operation group for conducting basic research into defects in silicon single crystals has been established to speed up the supply of high quality silicon

single crystals for the electronics industry.

Ion implantation research is centered at the Peking Teachers' University, where mathematicians, physicists and chemists are working together. They have already obtained more than 20 ion sources and conducted comparatively profound theoretical studies.

China's work in science and technology which had been gravely disrupted by Lin Piao and the "gang of four" is being put into order. The Chinese Academy of Sciences embracing 72 research institutes has reactivated its nine branches at the provincial level. Several thousand research institutes in different parts of China have been reactivated and a number of new ones added. Tens of thousands of scientists and technicians throughout the country have returned to their research work. A group of scientists and researchers who have made achievements have been promoted, publicly commended or rewarded. Extensive exchanges are going on in the



A fusion device in China.

scientific and technological fields today.

This has whipped up enthusiasm for scientific research. In the first half of this year, the various institutes under the Chinese Academy of Sciences successfully carried out more than 400 research items, including successes at a certain stage. Shanghai obtained 291 results, some of which are of advanced world levels. Since the beginning of this year, central China's Hunan Province has produced 350 scientific results.

China's agro-scientists have made progress in breeding short-stalked, early-ripening, high-yielding maize suitable for close planting. Hybrid saplings of oranges, tangerines, poplars and willows are being raised using tree pollen culture monoploid breeding and tissue culture. Advances have also been made in theoretical studies.

Soochow Ballad Singing Revived

A *ping tan* (ballad singing) festival held recently in the beautiful garden city of Soochow in east China caused a tremendous stir among the audiences and Soochow people at large.

Ping tan is a particular kind of folk ballad singing popular with the people in and about Soochow. The artists (usually one or two are on the stage) use the Soochow dialect to tell folk lore or stories to the accompaniment of their own *pi pa* or *san hsien* traditional Chinese stringed instruments. *Ping tan's* charm lies in its meticulous

description, lively language and clear-cut characterization.

Reply to Li Shu-yi—to the tune of *Tieh Lien Hua*, a poem by Chairman Mao in memory of his wife Yang Kai-hui and another martyr, was first adapted for *ping tan* in the 1960s and was considered one of the best *ping tan* pieces. It was liked for its melody and subtle delineation of sentiment.

Chiang Ching, a member of the "gang of four," took a dislike for it and all the *ping tan* items, branding them as "demoralizing."

As a result, *ping tan* was virtually banned. In Soochow city alone, only one of the 24 *ping tan* theatres was allowed to stay open, and only one of the three *ping tan* troupes was permitted to continue. It was not allowed to put up a signboard and publicly announce its performances.

At the recent festival, the long-suffering *ping tan* artists gave vent to their pent-up feelings. The 50 new pieces composed by 500 artists criticized the "gang of four," eulogized the proletarian revolutionaries of the older generation, various good people and good deeds or sang of the new morality. . . . The festival witnessed many schools of *ping tan* singing and delighted packed audiences.

Surgical Achievements

• A whole piece of skin was recently grafted on to the face of a woman by surgeons of a hospital of the Chinese People's Liberation Army in Tsinan city, east China. She is a worker

from a local chemical plant and had sustained severe burns in an accident. The skin, just large enough to cover the face, was removed from the patient's thigh. It was stitched at the eyes, nose and mouth. The graft took after seven days. For 47 days a surgeon manually massaged her face and overcame the problem of muscular atrophy. Normal functioning of the nerves and facial organs was restored. There are no signs of the graft except for the stitches at the eyes, nose and mouth.

• A whole knee joint complete with blood vessels and nerves was successfully transplanted on to the left leg of a 34-year-old mason of northwest China's Shensi Province. An artificial plastic joint and later an organic glass joint had been tried. He had been unable to walk ever since his accident in 1974. Now he can walk without support. The operation was carried out by surgeons in Shanghai. The patient has shown almost no rejection of the graft since the fourth month after the operation and anti-rejection treatment was reduced to a minimum in the eighth month.

• China's first successful operation on the vitreous body of the eye was performed on a ten-year-old boy. Two splinters of glass were removed from the vitreous body of his left eye. A doctor of the Shanghai No. 1 People's Hospital used a domestically designed and made vitreous infusion suction cutter for the operation. The patient's vision was 0.1 two months after the operation.

ON THE HOME FRONT

Upswing in Iron and Steel Output

OVER 80 per cent of the 1978 state quotas for iron, steel and rolled steel were met by September 20. Judging from daily output at the present level, steel output this year is expected to be up by more than 7 million tons against that of 1977. Such a big amount of increase is unmatched by any one year in the annals of China's steel industry.

Percentages of up-to-standard iron, steel and rolled steel were much higher than last year, 30-odd well-known products have won back the confidence of customers, and some products have caught up with or surpassed the best of the past in quality.

In addition, the state plans for copper, lead, aluminium, zinc, antimony, tin and two other major nonferrous metals were overfulfilled.

By September 15 medium-sized and small iron and steel plants throughout the nation had overfulfilled their 1978 state quotas for iron.

Criticism and Self-Criticism

Call for Better Municipal Administration. Peking newspapers recently carried readers' letters criticizing shortcomings in the administration of the

capital and offering suggestions as to how the work could be improved. Some suggestions have already been adopted.

For example, immediately after a reader's letter about shortages and price hikes in Peking's vegetable markets was published, departments concerned set about working out ways and means to solve the problem.

Another reader was dissatisfied with sanitation work in Peking. His letter called attention to the following facts: Heaps of building materials in some streets and lanes are seriously obstructing traffic; some sidewalks are covered with a hotchpotch of products, and machinery put by neighbourhood factories; certain places are littered with garbage. This was not a fitting state of affairs for Peking, our capital, the reader said. Some of the municipality's leading comrades were to be held responsible for all this, he claimed, because they went about things in such a slapdash way that they failed to take any effective measures.

Noise pollution was another problem raised in a letter to *Guangming Ribao*. The reader, after recalling Peking's achievements in noise-control before the start of the Great Cultural Revolution in 1966, noted that the "gang of four's" sabotage of rational regulations in municipal administration was at the

bottom of the current worsening situation in noise pollution.

William Block, a member of a visiting U.S. journalists' delegation, wrote a letter to *Renmin Ribao*, complaining about the same thing. He pointed out that in Peking noise pollution was as serious as air pollution. He could hear the constant tooting of automobile horns, he said, while staying at a hotel in downtown Peking. *Renmin Ribao* published the letter, adding to it an editor's note welcoming his comments and criticisms.

News Briefs

• **Rotor for 300,000-kw. Water-Turbine Generator.** The rotor, 100 tons in weight, 3 metres in height and 5.5 metres in diameter, was made at the Shenyang Heavy-Duty Machine Building Plant in northeast China. It is up to required standards. This success marks a new level in steel-casting in China.

The rotor, regarded as the "heart" of a water-turbine generator, is a vital product for the construction of big hydroelectric power stations.

• **Anti-Quake Highway Bridge.** A new bridge spans the Luanho River in Hopei Province in place of one which was damaged during the severe earthquake that hit the area in July 1976. This 979-metre bridge, with 24 arches, is resistant to earthquakes of the magnitude of 10. It was opened to traffic on July 1 this year.

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