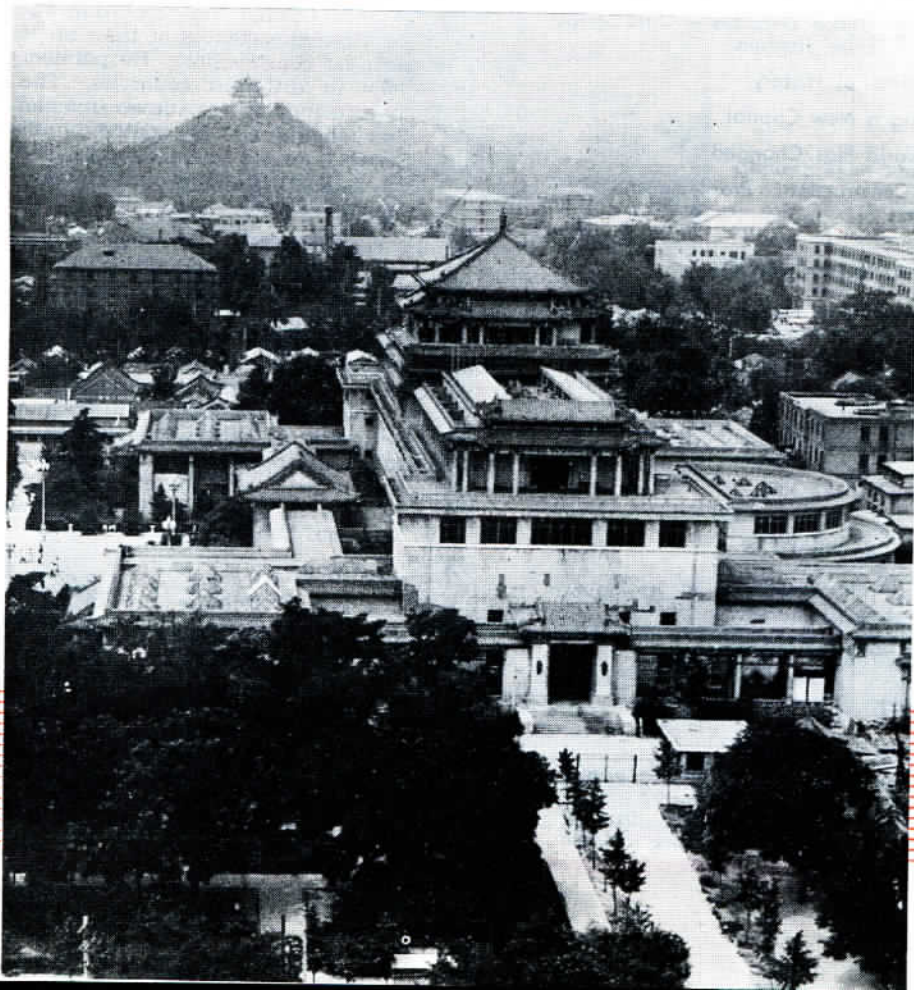


# BEIJING REVIEW

- BEIJING: 1949-1979
- Modernizing the P.L.A.



# BEIJING REVIEW

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<b>COVER:</b> A panoramic view of Beijing with its host of new buildings. In the foreground is the Museum of Chinese Art, a specimen of Chinese architectural design. In the background is the well-known Jingshan (Coal Hill).	

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## CHRONICLE

July 30

• Two commissions were established at the 10th session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. One is to regulate foreign investments; the second is to supervise imports and exports, in order to strengthen the management of imports and exports, keep foreign exchange in balance and introduce the most up-to-date foreign technologies. Vice-Premier Gu Mu is in charge of the two commissions.

July 31

• Premier Hua Guofeng sent a message to Charan Singh, congratulating him on his assumption of the office of Prime Minister of the Republic of India.

• Chairman Ye Jianying of the N.P.C. Standing Committee met with the Parliamentary Delegation of the People's Republic of Bangladesh led by Speaker Mirza Gholam Hafiz. The Speaker, an old friend of the Chinese people, has been the President of the Bangladesh-Chinese Friendship Association since the country was founded.

August 2

• Li Xiannian, Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Vice-Premier of the State Council, met with a delegation from the Socialist Party of Senegal led by Moussa Diallo, Member of the Political Bureau and Chairman of the Financial Control Committee of the National Assembly of Senegal. Vice-Chairman Li briefed the delegation on the positive and negative experiences of the Chinese revolution and socialist construction. He pointed out: "Conditions vary in different countries. The experiences of other countries provide an invaluable reference but they should not be copied blindly." He praised Senegal for its valuable experiences in developing its national economy and culture, and in building up the country.

• Geng Biao, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, met with the delegation of the Central Committee of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Belgium led by its Chairman Fernand Lefebvre. Briefing the Belgian comrades on the political and economic situation in China, he said: "We should do still better in learning from the experiences of others, in speeding up our socialist construction and achieving the four modernizations. Revolution is for the emancipation of the productive forces, this is one of the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism."

August 5

• The Chinese Foreign Ministry in a note to the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry strongly protested the Vietnamese troops' repeated armed provocations in the border areas from July 14 to 31.



### Army Day Reception in Beijing

The 52nd anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army was celebrated across the nation. The Ministry of National Defence gave a reception at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on the evening of July 31.

Attended by 300 people, the reception was presided over by Xu Xiangqian who is concurrently Vice-Chairman of the Military Commission of the C.P.C. Central Committee, Vice-Premier of the State Council and Minister of National Defence.

In his toast Vice-Chairman Xu stressed that in the present

turbulent world situation, the P.L.A. should greatly heighten its vigilance, make extensive preparations against a war of aggression and contribute to the defence of China, its socialist modernization and world peace.

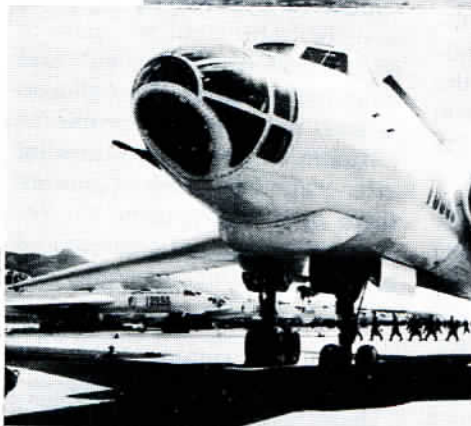
He added that efforts should be made to bring about the early return of Taiwan to the embrace of the motherland.

*Jiefangjun Bao* published an editorial on August 1 calling on the whole army to quicken its pace of modernization so as to raise its combat effectiveness. Modernizing the national defence is one of the four modernizations the Chinese people are currently striving to achieve.

August 1 was designated as Army Day to commemorate the



Ship-to-ship missile.



Chinese Type-6 bombers.

Ground-to-ground missile.  
Range: 10,000 kilometres.



Hand-held antitank rocket.

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Communist-led armed uprising on August 1, 1927 in Nanchang in Jiangxi Province, which was followed by the founding of the Chinese People's Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

On the evening of Army Day, Beijing's civilians and army men had a merry get-together at Zhongshan Park. The same evening, the General Political Department of the P.L.A. sponsored a meeting at which songs and dances were performed depicting the heroism displayed by the Chinese frontier troops last spring in the self-defensive counterattack against the Vietnamese aggressors.

## Supreme People's Court Meets

The Supreme People's Court convened in Beijing on July 13-30 a national conference attended by the presidents of the higher people's courts and military tribunals from all parts of the country.

The conference discussed the ways and means to strengthen the socialist legal system and, in particular, measures for enforcing the Criminal Law, the Law of Criminal Procedure and four other laws which were adopted at the Second Session of the Fifth National People's Congress and will go into effect on January 1, 1980.

The conference criticized Lin Biao and the gang of four's ultra-Left line in juridical work. These political swindlers charged that the people's courts had conducted trials independently, complying only with the law in opposition to the Party's leadership, and branded the concept that all are equal before the law as a bourgeois viewpoint.

Loyalty to law, the participants held, is precisely loyalty to the Party and the people, because China's laws are worked out by the people under the leadership of the Party. Strengthening the leadership of the Party committees means that the Party committees should supervise and ensure the implementation of the laws and support the courts in conducting trials independently.

Emphasis was placed on the need to improve the trial system and court proceedings according to the relevant stipulations as prescribed by the law. All stipulations that run counter to the law must be annulled; in the handling of legal cases, practices which violate the law must be curbed and the defendants' right of appeal as stipulated by the law must be ensured. In addition, slander of a person's character and violation of the right of person — such as subjecting people to criticism at one public meeting after another and parading them on the streets as a form of public humiliation — should be abolished.

In order to carry out the six laws in the coming year, the conference decided:

- To select a number of outstanding cadres in the latter half of this year to reinforce the contingent of court staff members;
- The Central Cadres' Training School in Political Science and Law will train the teaching staff for various localities and compile teaching materials on the Criminal Law and the Law of Criminal Procedure;
- To run spare-time colleges and short-term training classes

so that within three years every juridical worker at or above an assistant judge's level will be given training.

The conference called for further efforts in the remaining part of this year to clear up unsettled criminal and civil cases. In the past 12 months ending on June 30, 1979 the people's courts re-examined the verdicts on 700,000 criminal cases which had been handled in the ten-year Cultural Revolution period and exonerated the victims involved in 160,000 cases of false charges, frame-ups and wrong sentences.

## Enforcing the Law

China is strengthening its socialist legal system and at the same time publicizing the law among the masses and educating them to observe and act according to the law. The Criminal Law and the Law of Criminal Procedure, adopted at the Second Session of the Fifth National People's Congress, will come into effect as of January 1, 1980. The press has to date carried reports on a number of cases showing that due punishment will be meted out to the law-breakers.

— Li Bendong, a Beijing chauffeur, gave a lift with malicious intent to a young woman who had arrived in the capital one evening after a long journey. On the way he raped her and then killed her for fear of being caught. The Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau took up the case and soon uncovered the crime. After careful investigation the Municipal People's Procuratorate found the evidence conclusive and filed an indictment with the Municipal Inter-

mediate People's Court charging Li with rape and murder. At a public trial held last month, Li Bendong was sentenced to death, which, according to law, has to be approved by the Supreme People's Court. The defendant was entitled to appeal to a higher people's court within ten days after receiving the written verdict. Before the Cultural Revolution the death penalty could be meted out or approved only by the Supreme People's Court. Now this stipulation has been put into effect again.

— Since 1974, Wang Qitang, a worker of the Xianyang Tap-Water Company in northwest China's Shaanxi Province, wrote four anonymous letters bringing false charges against six of his colleagues, one of them had exposed Wang's wrong doings and another, a young woman, had turned down his offer of love. His false charges wrongly incriminated over 100 people. One of the victims was detained for nearly three months on suspicion of being the culprit in a robbery-and-murder case, and 20 of his relatives were subjected to investigation. This

made the case more complicated and gave difficulty to the public security authorities. To guarantee the rights of citizens and their personal safety, the city's people's procuratorate approved the order for the arrest of Wang Qitang on charges of calumny.

— Yan Heli, a production brigade leader in central China's Hubei Province, interfered in a girl's love affair and forced her to marry his own son. The girl, unable to put up with maltreatment after the marriage, committed suicide. The brigade leader was held responsible for the death of his daughter-in-law. He got three years for violating the Constitution and the Marriage Law (promulgated in 1950).

"Be firm as a rock in administering justice." This is a Chinese saying which, in today's language, means that all citizens are equal before the law which will be strictly enforced, and that all law-breakers, no matter who they are, will be duly punished. Yuan Guanming, a policeman in Chongqing in southwest China's Sichuan Province, turned his

son, who had knifed a fellow gambler, over to the public security bureau to be dealt with. His action was highly appreciated by the public. A contrasting example was that of a young man, the son of a ranking cadre in Shanxi Province, who got enrolled in a college purely through his parents' influence and position. While waiting for his parents to secure a comfortable job for him upon graduation, he degenerated with over a dozen counts against him, including theft of state property. He was arrested according to law, and it was too late for his parents to "help."

### Economic Division Set Up in Court

A special division to handle economic disputes has been set up in the intermediate people's court in the city of Chongqing in southwest China's Sichuan Province. The court previously handled only criminal and civil suits.

The division is empowered to apply economic sanctions against those enterprises and organizations that violate the government's economic rules and regulations and to bring to justice those guilty of serious offences in economic affairs. This is aimed at safeguarding the socialist economic order and ensuring normal proceeding of economic activities and fulfilment of state economic plans.

At present, the economic division has jurisdiction only over major cases which cannot be handled by the authorities in charge through consultations and cases in which the parties involved refuse to accept mediation. These include:



Public trial of Li Bendong.

(1) Cases involving heavy political or economic losses resulting from a breach of contract or failure to carry out the contracts conscientiously;

(2) Serious cases of deception or shoddy work causing heavy losses;

(3) Cases of failure to treat industrial wastes or neglect of operational safety, which seriously impair the health of workers or peasants and are harmful to public interests;

(4) Serious cases of neglect of duty that inflict heavy losses on products, commodities, equipment or other public property; and

(5) Cases of embezzlement of workers' wages or state funds or theft of equipment causing serious consequences.

In the past Chinese courts had no economic division. Cases of breach of contract or failure to carry out contracts causing losses to one party were generally solved through mediation by their superior organs. The defect with this method was that many economic disputes could not be solved after long wrangling. Now the intermediate courts of various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions are beginning to set up an economic division. This has won the praise of the public.

### **Enterprise Management: Tentative Practice**

An experiment in enlarging the power of decision for enterprises was carried out in southwest China's Sichuan Province with tangible successes. In the first half of this year, the value of output in 100 enterprises involved in the experiment was 14.1 per cent higher than that of the corresponding period of

last year, and the total industrial output value of the province increased by 9 per cent.

Since the beginning of this year, 100 enterprises in the metallurgical, machine-building, light and textile industries and communications and transport departments have been given greater power of decision than before with regard to production and management. Now these enterprises can do the following:

— Organize extra production, process raw materials from other units and sell products that are not purchased by the state commercial, supply and marketing or other departments, after state production quotas are met;

— Enlarge the proportion of the depreciation funds in relation to the fixed assets. This facilitates technical transformation and replacement of equipment;

— Draw enterprise funds in proportion to the total annual wages and the planned profit targets. In this way, there will be more money for collective welfare and more bonuses for the workers and staff members;

— Establish a system of checking on the work done and promotion of workers and staff members. This includes the improvement of the system of awards, the implementation of the principle of "to each according to his work," and the adoption of disciplinary measures and economic sanctions against workers and staff members who have neglected their duties; and

— Engage in business negotiations with foreign firms and sign contracts on exports.



Giving the finishing touch to a cloisonné vase.

For a long time in the past, China's enterprises had limited powers of their own. For instance, they were in charge of production but had to rely on other departments for supply of raw materials and sale of their products. All of their profits and most of their depreciation funds had to be turned in for unified allocation by the state. The enterprises had to apply for state investments if they wanted to rebuild or expand. Plans for technical innovation or any other initiatives had to be reported to the higher authorities for approval. Practice shows that all this hampered the development of the productive forces. At the recent session of the National People's Congress, Premier Hua Guofeng put forward four principles for developing the national economy in the next three years, one of which provides for an all-round reform of the structure of economic management, which

will integrate the interests of the state, the enterprise and the individual, combine economic interests with economic results and economic responsibility, and enlarge an enterprise's power of decision, especially its power in financial affairs.

Sichuan Province is taking the lead in economic reform. Although it is still in the experimental stage, it has pointed out the correct road of advance.

## Handicraft Industry

"Speeding up the handicraft industry is a pressing problem today," said a July 19 *Renmin Ribao* editorial entitled "Bright Prospects for the Handicraft Industry."

In the process of readjusting the national economy, the editorial stressed, importance should be attached to the handicraft industry. It should be strengthened and under no circumstances weakened. While carrying on the fine traditions of the industry, the handicraftsmen should give full play to their creativity, improve the quality of the products and expand the varieties.

China's handicraft industry has a long history. Known for their superb craftsmanship, its 6.8 million handicraftsmen today supply the market with numerous articles for daily use and decoration. The handicraft industry produces more than 10 per cent of the nation's total industrial output value or nearly 40 per cent of the total output value of light and textile industries, while sales of handicraft articles account for 17 per cent of the nation's total commodity retail sales. Fourteen per cent of the total volume of

China's foreign trade, or nearly 80 per cent of the total volume of exported light industrial products, come from handicrafts. Therefore, the development of the handicraft industry has an important bearing on the interests of the nation and the livelihood of the people.

In the effort to modernize the country, the handicraft industry is an indispensable part of the national economy. It requires only a small amount of investment but yields quick returns and can accumulate large funds for the state. Since there are many branches in the handicraft industry which need a lot of manpower, developing the industry will provide more jobs.

There are three kinds of ownership in the handicraft industry: ownership by the whole people, by the collective and by the individual, the majority being collectively owned. In the past decade, owing to the ultra-Left line pushed by Lin Biao and the gang of four in economic work, the handicraft industry was branded in many places as "remnants of capitalism" and was slashed accordingly. What was left was discriminated against and placed under all sorts of restrictions as regards supply of materials, marketing and production. Hence a sharp drop in output. The situation has taken a turn for the better since 1977. Still, the supply of handicraft articles falls far short of demand.

## Housing Question

At the Second Session of the Fifth National People's Congress held last June, many

deputies put forward concrete suggestions on solving the question of housing shortage in the cities. At present the government is trying to solve it in a variety of ways.

Housing is quite inadequate in China's cities. According to statistics available at the end of 1978, living space per person in 192 cities was only 3.6 square metres. This is partly because the population in these cities has grown rapidly from 30 million in the early post-liberation days to over 110 million at present, and partly because not enough attention has been paid to housing over the years. In particular, during the ten years when Lin Biao and the gang of four were on the rampage, little heed was paid to the people's well-being, with the result that the number of newly built houses fell far short of the growing need.

Since the overthrow of the gang of four in October 1976, the government has attached great importance to repairing and building urban houses. Newly-built floor space went up from 28,280,000 square metres in 1977 to 37,000,000 square metres in 1978. This year, 3,000 million yuan have been allocated by the state for urban housing. This is something unknown before.

Overcrowding has been a long-standing problem which cannot be solved by state efforts alone. It is necessary to mobilize social forces to improve the situation step by step.

Since the beginning of this year, Fuzhou, a medium-sized city in east China, has encouraged the building of houses by individuals with government subsidies to help solve the

housing question. This method has been praised in the newspapers. In this city, the population growth has been rapid in recent years, and of the 110,000 households, 34,000 are in need of better accommodations. In addition to making huge investments in building houses (100,000 square metres of floor space per year), the city authorities recently decided to lift the ban on building houses by individuals. (The government has provided that peasants can build their own homes, and workers in the factories and mines can also do so, but city dwellers are in general forbidden to build private houses.) Up to the present, residents of Fuzhou have built for themselves houses with a total floor space of over 8,000 square metres, and some 6,000 families have also applied for permission to do so. This will add about 360,000 more square metres of floor space.

Under present conditions, the building of private houses by individuals cannot give rise to capitalism. This is because a house is a means of livelihood and cannot be transformed into a means for exploiting others. As a matter of fact, most houses in China's rural people's communes are owned by the commune members themselves, and in the cities there are many houses owned by individuals, too.

## Work-Study System

The principle that education should be combined with productive labour has long been an important component of China's educational policy. This was affirmed once again at an experience-swapping conference

on the work-study programme recently convened by the Ministry of Education in Changchun, in northeast China's Jilin Province.

Prior to the Cultural Revolution, primary and middle school students engaged in work-study activities with the understanding that their main task in school was to study. They were required to do a certain amount of manual labour in the school-run factories or on the farms. Combining study with productive labour and scientific experiment is helpful to broadening the students' scope of knowledge as well as to fostering such fine qualities as love for labour and the collective, care for public property and readiness to observe discipline.

However, Lin Biao and the gang of four distorted the Party's educational policy and enforced the so-called 'open-door education, with the result that labour virtually crowded out all study, causing great damage to our educational system and the work-study system as well.

Today, order has been restored in the schools and discipline enforced, and the fine tradition of the work-study programme has been revived. Unless education is combined with productive labour, it is almost impossible for the students to develop morally, intellectually and physically and become workers with both a high level of culture and socialist consciousness. It has been proved in practice that so long as the relationship between the main and the supplementary tasks of the students is properly handled, with the clear understanding that study is their

main task, the carrying out of a work-study programme will help raise rather than impair the quality of study. As a matter of fact, preparations are under way to restore the part-work and part-study as well as part-farming and part-study schools.

Moreover, the work-study programme also has its economic significance. The 210 million primary and middle school students in China constitute a vast human resource. The wealth they create through a work-study programme can play an important role in bettering the school conditions as well as in raising the quality of education. The achievements made in Jilin Province, as reported at the above-mentioned conference, are very convincing. At present there are over 4,000 factories and over 15,600 farms run by the schools in Jilin. In 1978 their total output was worth more than 140 million yuan; they produced nearly 100 million *jin* of grain and their net income was over 60 million yuan, or one-third the state appropriations for these schools. With these proceeds the schools were able to repair school buildings, replenish libraries and teaching facilities and improve the welfare of teachers and students to the satisfaction of everybody.





# Beijing for Three Decades

by Our Correspondent Zhou Jinghua

From the rostrum of Tian An Men in the heart of Beijing, Chairman Mao announced the founding of the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949. Thirty years have passed. What changes have taken place in the capital city since then and what are the main problems confronting Beijing today? Our special feature this week reports on the past and present of Beijing to provide an answer to these questions.

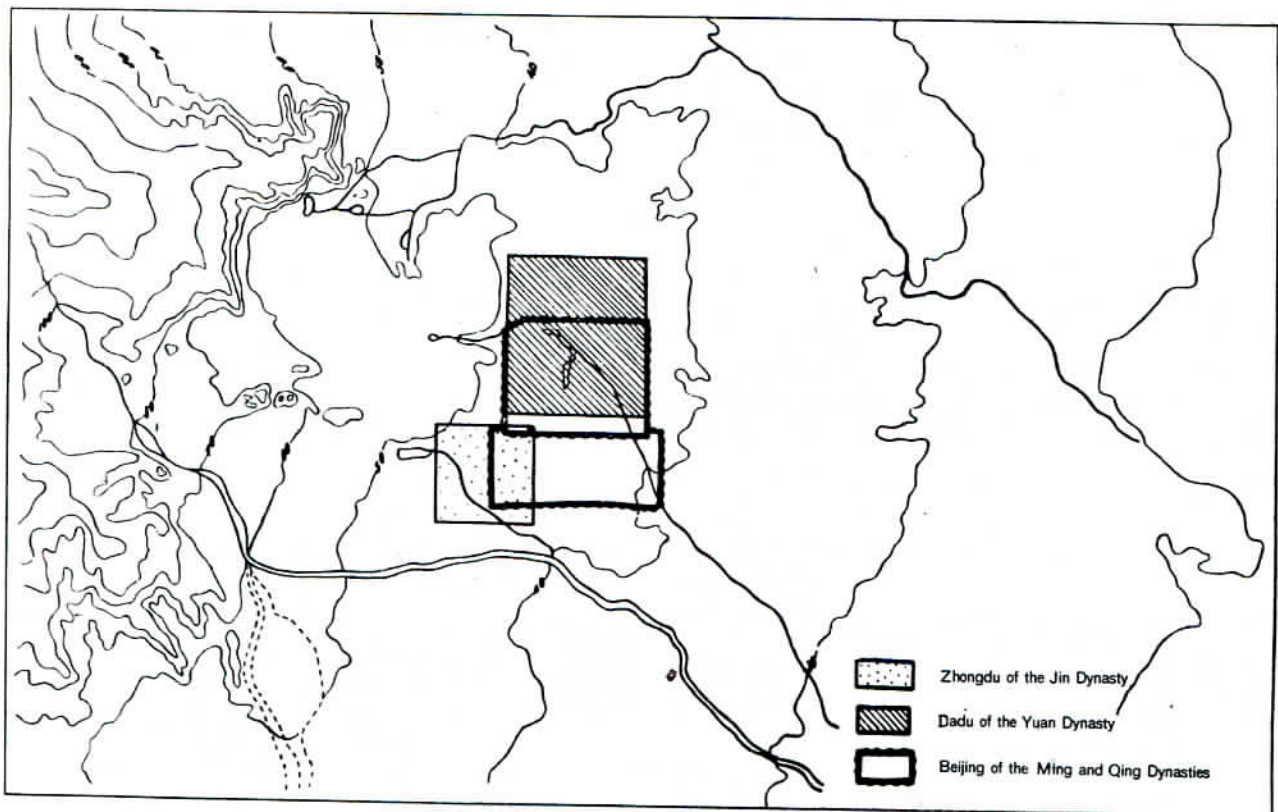
## Fragments of History

This ancient capital with its lavishly decorated, luxurious palace compounds sprawling amidst the all-pervading sorrow of its people, a city harassed and humiliated by foreign invaders . . . was finally returned to the hands of the people when it was liberated on January 31, 1949.

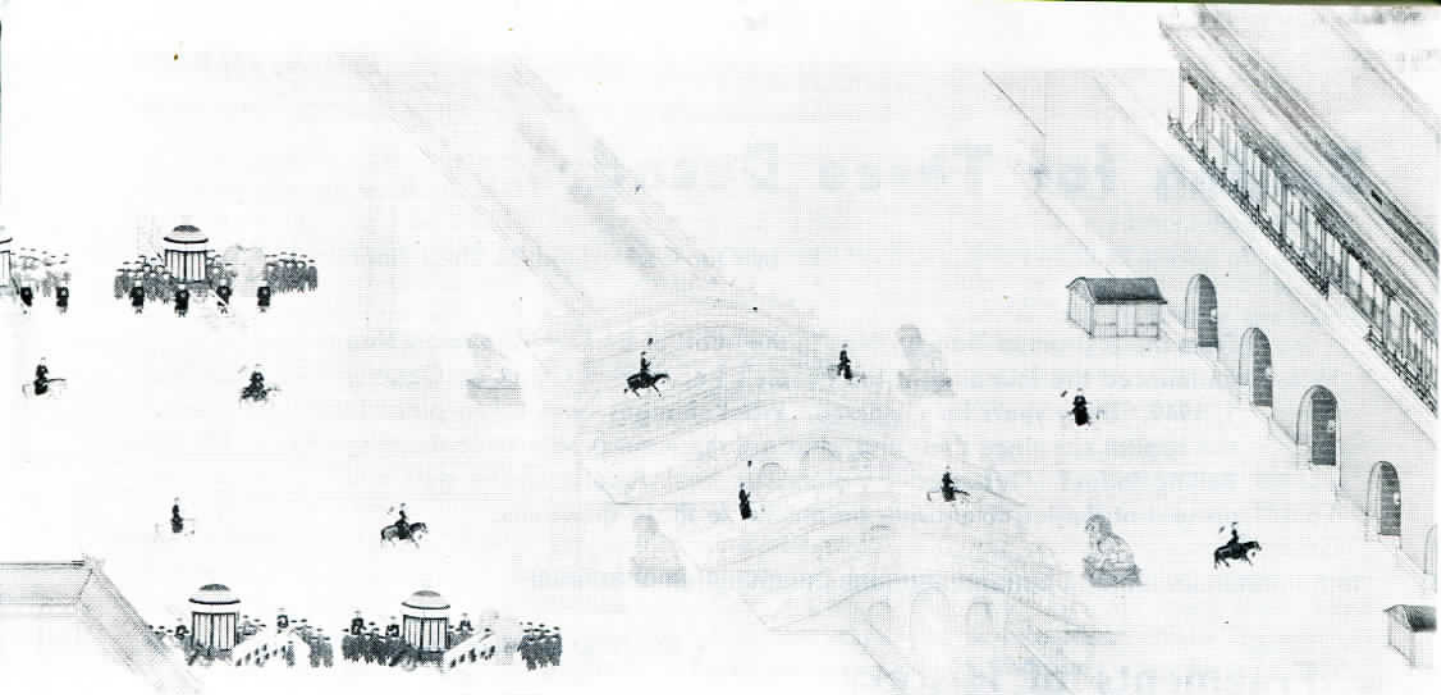
ABOUT 4,000 years ago some Beijing's earliest inhabitants began to establish settlements on the plain. They lived in primitive communes tilling the land and grazing their herds.

In the 11th century B.C. the city of Jicheng, forerunner of Beijing, was built and made the capital of Yan, a state run by slave-owners.

In the middle of the 12th century, it became the capital of the Jin Dynasty and was renamed Zhongdu, or the Middle Capital. It began to develop into a magnificent imperial city.



Historical changes of the site of Beijing City.



Throughout the long years of feudal rule, the last three imperial dynasties — the Yuan (1280-1368), the Ming (1368-1644) and the Qing (1644-1911) — all made Beijing their capital.

When the Mongolians founded the Yuan Dynasty, they built a new city outside the old Zhongdu of the Jin and called it Dadu (the Grand Capital). The Ming Dynasty changed the name to Beijing and during its ruling period reconstructed and expanded the Imperial City and built the Forbidden City. Beijing's high city walls, imposing temples and towering palace

buildings have since made the capital one of the most impressive and enchanting cities in the world. The Qing rulers maintained the city's grandeur and during their first 100-odd years of prosperity, added many palaces and pleasure gardens for use of the royal family outside of the city.

### Through the Eyes of Marco Polo

The Venetian traveller Marco Polo (1254-1324) devoted a great deal of space in his book



brought articles of greater cost and rarity, and in greater abundance of all kinds, than to any other city in the world." "No day in the year passes that there do not enter the city 1,000 cart-loads [about 500 kilogrammes for each cart-load — *Ed.*] of silk alone."

The extravagance of life in Kublai Khan's palace was astounding. According to a story by Marco Polo, the Great Khan "has four wives," and "each of them has a special court of her own" which has attached to it "not less than 10,000 persons." "The walls of the Palace are all covered with gold and silver . . . and on the ceiling too you see nothing but gold and silver and painting." And the glazed tiles on the rooftop "lend a resplendent lustre to the Palace as seen for a great way round." In the rear of the palace, there was a hoard of gold and silver, together with pearls and gems brought to the Khan from many places. On the Great Festival which the Khan held on New Year's Day, he was presented with "more than 100,000 white-horses . . . richly caparisoned," "elephants amounting fully to 5,000 in number . . . followed by a vast number of camels . . . laden with things. . . . All these are paraded before the Emperor, and it makes the finest sight in the world."

The Ming emperors were no less extravagant than their predecessors. According to historical records, there were 9,000 waiting-maids and 100,000 eunuchs in the palace and their "yearly expense runs into the sum of over 969,400 taels of silver" while "the annual expenditure on cosmetics alone amounts to 400,000 taels of silver" (one tael is equivalent to 1.00471 ounces).

In a hundred years or so under the Qings, more and more pleasure gardens were built; the designing and laying out of the 40 sights at the well-known Yuan Ming Yuan Palace took more than 100 years, which gives some indication of the amount of money and labour involved. The well-preserved Summer Palace is, of course, another witness to the extravagance of the rulers at that time.

### Blood and Tears

According to historical records, in mid-12th century when Zhongdu was under construction on the site of present-day Beijing, the Jin rulers "requisitioned the services of 800,000 civilian labourers and 400,000 army labourers,"

A scene of Tian An Men Gate during the reign of Emperor Kangxi (1662-1722) in the Qing Dynasty (painting).

to descriptions of the thriving Yuan capital.

"You must know that the city of Cambaluc [Beijing — *Ed.*] hath such a multitude of houses, and such a vast population inside the walls and outside, that it seems quite past all possibility. There is a suburb outside each of the gates. . . . In those suburbs lodge the foreign merchants and travellers, of whom there are always great numbers who have come to bring presents to the Emperor, or to sell articles at Court. . . . And thus there are as many good houses outside of the city as inside. . . ." "To this city also are

Emperor Kangxi returning from an inspection tour. Painting shows some imperial honour guards.



The ruins of Yuan Ming Yuan Palace:  
a witness to imperialist vandalism.

and "countless numbers of them died during the years of construction." Similar records from subsequent dynasties are too many to recount.

Other historical sources showed that towards the end of the 18th century, Beijing "had over 100,000 beggars. One cold night at the end of February 1796, eight thousand beggars were found frozen to death on the streets of the capital city." But He Shen, an aristocrat and then Prime Minister of the Qing Court, "had jewelers set up an artificial grape trelliswork with gold, silver, diamonds, pearls,



A little girl for sale on a  
street corner before liberation.

yellow sapphires, rubies and green jade stones" in his private garden!

After the Opium War of 1840, China was reduced to a semi-colony. Colonialism and imperialism made inroads into China and caused even more suffering to Beijing as well as other cities.

In 1860, the allied armies of Britain and France forced their way into Beijing. Looters set fire to Yuan Ming Yuan Palace and it was three days and nights before the flames subsided. A marble arch, a pillar or two, are all that remain to mark the location of this legendary suburban palace which even surpassed the Summer Palace in splendour.

In 1900 during the Yi He Tuan Movement, the city fell into the hands of the eight-nation allied armies. The palaces and pleasure gardens on the western outskirts of Beijing for a second time fell prey to vandalism.

This was admitted by the invaders themselves: They partly destroyed and partly burnt down the great capital city of the great emperor, leaving it like a dead city. The corpses of Chinese people killed were lying strewn along the roadside, charred, or nibbled away by wandering dogs.

As time went by, Beijing gradually lost the lustre of whatever surface magnificence and prosperity it had retained. The Revolution of 1911 toppled the feudal dynasty, only to be replaced in turn by the rule of feudal warlords, Japanese occupationists and the Kuomintang. The ancient city declined, its scenic spots and places of historical interest fell into ruin and disrepair while its inhabitants spent their days in misery, on the thin borderline between poverty and starvation.

### History in Testimony

Right in front of the old Forbidden City in Beijing stands an awe-inspiring tower with yellow glazed tiles and ochre walls over Tian An Men Gate. It was first built in 1417 in the Ming Dynasty, and was known as Cheng Tian Men Gate. Renovated in 1651 in the Qing Dynasty, it was given its present name. While feudalism held sway, the emperor and the nobility used Tian An Men Gate as an entrance into the Forbidden City.

walks of life in many cities rose in response and staged strikes. As Comrade Mao Zedong said, "Both in ideology and in the matter of cadres, the May 4th Movement paved the way for the founding of the Chinese Communist Party in 1921." It marked the beginning of the Chinese people's new democratic revolution aimed at overthrowing imperialism, feudalism and bu-reaucrat-capitalism.

In 1935 the famous December 9 Movement broke out in Beijing. The Japanese imperialists had stepped-up their aggression against China at that time, throwing the country into a national crisis. The people wanted to resist but the Kuomintang rulers were inclined to surrender. That day, patriotic youths in Beijing demonstrated and paraded in front of Tian An Men. In a head-on collision with the police and soldiers, who used swords and water hoses in an attempt to disperse them, they shouted slogans like "Down with Japanese imperialism" and sang songs arousing people to resist Japanese aggression and save the nation. This movement shook the whole country and hastened the advent of the War of Resistance Against Japan (1937-45).

After V-J Day, Chiang Kai-shek started an anti-Communist civil war. The Chinese people rose to fight in the War of Liberation (1946-49), during which Tian An Men remained the venue of the revolutionary activities of the progressive students. On May 20, 1947, Beijing students staged a mammoth parade there in protest against hunger and the civil war.

On January 31, 1949, the People's Liberation Army entered the city. Beijing was liberated.

On October 1 the same year, Chairman Mao announced to the world the founding of the People's Republic of China. The five-starred red flag was hoisted high over Tian An Men Square where a large number of people watched and cheered. Millions upon millions of people throughout this vast land of ours, tears in their eyes, hailed their motherland reborn.



A garbage heap on the west side of Tian An Men Square before liberation.

On the eve of Beijing's liberation, the approach to Tian An Men Gate had become overgrown with grass and weeds, while the Golden Water Moat in front of the tower had turned into a stagnant noisome ditch.

But during the decades before liberation, Tian An Men had also witnessed some of the pivotal turns in modern Chinese history.

Exactly 60 years ago on May 4, 1919, Beijing students held a rally in front of Tian An Men to protest against imperialism and feudal warlordism. Students, workers and people from all



People's Liberation Army entering Beijing (then Beiping).

## Building a New Capital

Outside Beijing's ancient city walls, large numbers of factories, apartments, schools and other buildings extend for miles in every direction; they have sprung up in the last 30 years.

Many dilapidated buildings of historic interest have been restored to their original magnificence. Only some quiet, out-of-the-way lanes are still redolent of bygone days.

THE Kuomintang government left Beijing, formerly called Beiping, in a most deplorable state. Tien An Men Square was overgrown with weeds and strewn with rubble and huge heaps of rubbish. A rattletrap tramcar could now and then be heard clattering along the narrow streets amid the clanging of a bell. The districts inhabited by the labouring people presented appalling scenes of poverty and squalor. The best modern building in the city was the old Beijing Hotel, which was repaired and enlarged after liberation. Most of Beijing's inhabitants lived in cramped houses.

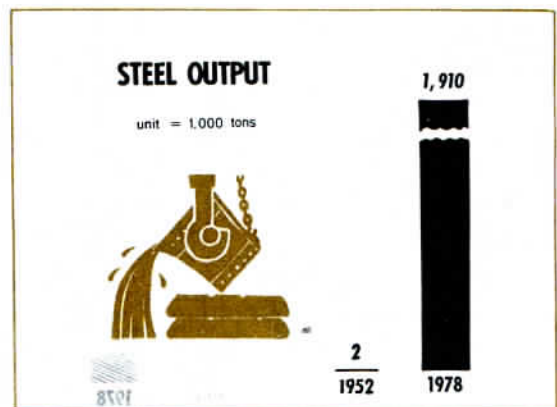
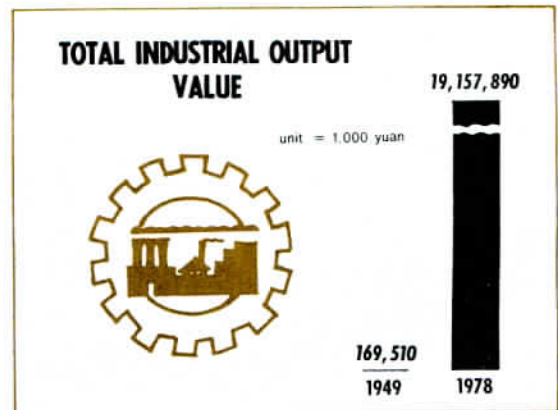
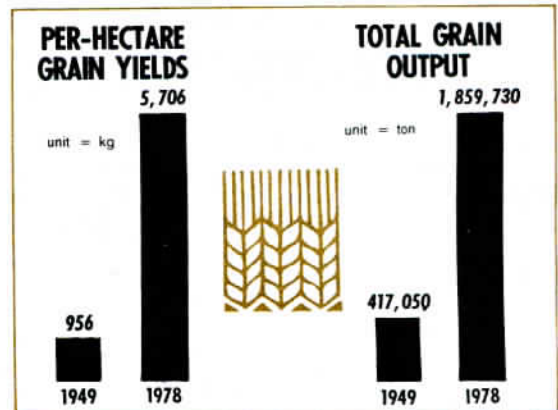
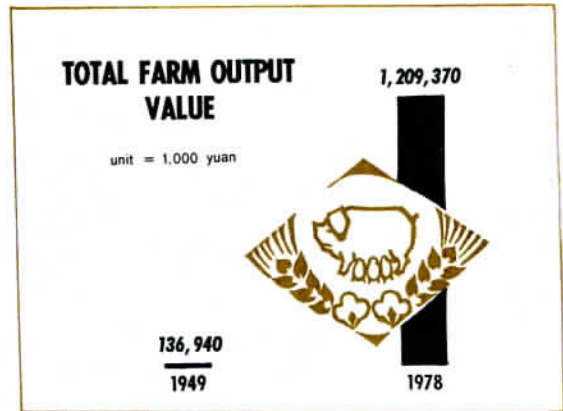
There were very few manufacturing enterprises, while there were, by contrast, a good many luxurious restaurants that provided sumptuous feasts at high prices—an indication that old Beijing was a consumer city catering chiefly to the parasitic, leisured classes of bureaucrats, landlords and capitalists.

Besides the wretched state of production, the city was beset with many other serious problems. Beggars loitered about the streets everywhere; large numbers of people could not find jobs; prices kept soaring; brothels and streetwalkers were multiplying rapidly; underworld gangsters lorded it over the decent common people...

A successful revolution brought with it the prerequisites for creating a new life. No sooner had the red flag been hoisted above the ancient city than the people here set about building a new capital. Now 30 years of hard work has given Beijing a relatively comprehensive industrial base. Agriculture in the suburbs as well as undertakings in education, culture, sanitation, science and technology have also shown enormous advances.

However, the sabotage of Lin Biao and the gang of four seriously hampered progress in construction. Now people are redoubling their efforts to make up for the time lost so that Beijing can become a modernized socialist metropolis before the end of the century.

The charts on pp. 14 and 15 show the chief areas of achievements in Beijing since liberation.



### ELECTRIC POWER OUTPUT

unit = 1 million kwh



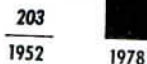
### RETAIL SALES

unit = 1,000 yuan



### MACHINE TOOLS

6,071



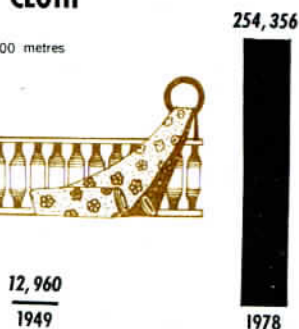
### URBAN AND RURAL RESIDENTS' SAVINGS DEPOSITS

unit = 1,000 yuan

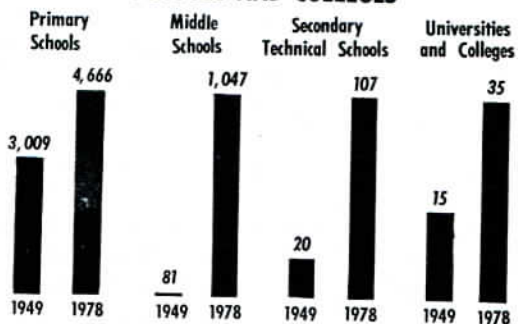


### COTTON CLOTH

unit = 1,000 metres

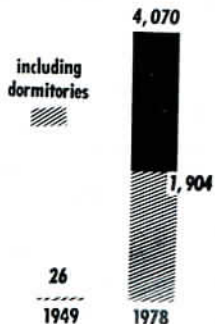


### SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES



### NEW BUILDINGS AND FACTORIES

unit = 1,000 square metres



### KINDERGARTENS



## The World Has Changed

Where have the most profound changes occurred in Beijing? Thirty years having passed, dim may be people's remembrances of the past. To the foreigners who are ignorant of old China, certain things may be hardly comprehensible. The following reporter's account provides glimpses into the present and past lives of those people who were kept at the lowest rung of the social ladder in the old days.

**E**ARLY one morning I came to a broad street in the vicinity of the Temple of Heaven, where feudal emperors would come every year to offer sacrifices to the gods and pray for rich harvests. Now it has been converted into a park. Troops of young kindergarten children, led by their teachers, were filing through; old people could be seen taking a leisurely stroll or practising shadow boxing in the shade of the trees. Bathed in the splendour of the rising sun, rows of houses along freshly sprinkled streets presented an exceptionally neat and spruce appearance.

### Dragon Beard Ditch

I visited some of the old inhabitants in this area, which formerly had been called Dragon Beard Ditch after a trench filled with filthy water, about three kilometres long, four metres wide and two metres deep. Along the ditch were a maze of huts of thin boards or mats, in which over 2,000 poor families found shelter in the old days. Most of the dwellers there were impoverished peasants who had drifted into the city to seek a living; the rest were urban poor who survived on odd jobs. Several years ago clerks of a bank near by made a survey of the 40 old inhabitants in this area who were now bank depositors: seven used to work as bricklayers or carpenters before liberation; nine were attendants in shops and restaurants; thirteen were coolies who carried heavy loads; nine were pedlars; and two were street performers. Whatever their trade, they could hardly keep their body and soul together. Dire poverty compelled their children to forage for bits of coal among the ashes, pick cabbage leaves and do odd jobs to help the family eke out a living.

A few old residents told me the history of Dragon Beard Ditch. They could not help shedding tears as they recalled those miserable days.

The water in the ditch used to be so turbid that the colour was dark green. Swollen dead cats, dogs and even babies floated on the surface and when the sun came out, the ditch sent up an unbearable stench. In wet weather the dirty water would flood the huts, and in summer flies and mosquitoes swarmed and the walls and grounds were crawling with maggots.

Auntie Huang in her youth gave birth to 13 children, ten of whom fell victims to serious diseases. Grandma Zuo had the agonizing experience of helplessly watching her two children starve to death within 40 days. Old Lady Yang's family of five shared one quilt, which had more than 200 patches, that is now kept at the neighbourhood committee as a very valuable "object lesson" for the young people.

Shortly after the Beijing Municipal People's Government was established in 1949, it started to tackle this wretched ditch. The dirty water was drained off; a sewer was constructed; and above it a broad road was paved. Rows of new houses, department stores, markets, schools and clinics sprang up one after another. All the former slum dwellers moved into new houses. Those who could work found permanent jobs and even housewives gradually found suitable work in small factories run by neighbourhood committees. Now a generation born in the new society has grown up: they are now workers, cadres or college students, all respectable members of society with equal rights. They only know about Dragon Beard Ditch of the bygone days from the stories of the old folks.

Having changed from one of the worst slums, Dragon Beard Ditch vividly reflects the emancipation of Beijing's labouring people: thousands upon thousands of slaves who had long been struggling in hunger and cold and humiliation have now won a decent life and their dignity as human beings.

### A Family of Acrobats

Some of the newly paved streets around Dragon Beard Ditch are named Rebirth, Prosperity, Liberation, Aurora and Happiness — a reflection of people's sentiments.

A 71-year-old acrobat by the name of Yang Zhenlin lives on Prosperity Street. After his retirement he volunteered to work for the neighbourhood committee and is deeply respected for his conscientious and responsible attitude.



## SPECIAL FEATURE

continued. Shortly after the liberation of Beijing, the People's Government organized all the Heavenly Bridge performers into troupes. For the first time in his life, Yang Zhenlin had a steady job and a secure income. Later on, he and his children joined the Shenyang Acrobatic Troupe. Until his retirement in Beijing he devoted all his time and energy to passing on those skills, which his father had taught him, to the young ones in his troupe as well as to novices from various other places in the country.

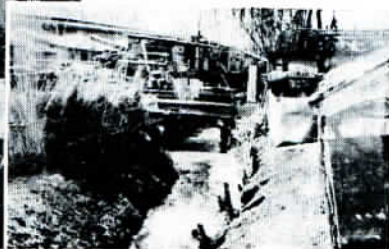
Now, with the exception of his eldest son, who works in a public security bureau, and his eldest daughter, who is a worker, all his offspring—two daughters, three sons and some sons-in-law,

daughters-in-law and even grand-daughters—are acrobatic performers, belonging to the troupes of Shenyang, Changchun and Beijing. As is testified by the photos hung on the walls of his room, these young acrobats often go abroad to give performances. They have travelled to more than 30 countries. Among the framed photos there is one showing the late Premier Zhou Enlai and Vice-Premier Chen Yi



Yang Zhenlin passing on his acrobatic skills to his grandchildren.

Apartment houses built shortly after liberation for those who lived in Dragon Beard Ditch. Inset: Dragon Beard Ditch as it was.



Both young and old affectionately call him uncle.

I visited him in his small but comfortably furnished room. The deep wrinkles on his face bespoke the hardships he had undergone during the first half of his life. He told me about the performances he and his children used to give in the old society at Heavenly Bridge, a popular entertainment ground near Dragon Beard Ditch. In the piercing cold wind and on ice-hardened ground they had to perform bare-chested such tricks as somersaults, tight rope walking, jumping through burning hoops and balancing a jar on the head, for the spectators who clustered round. But when the performance was over and his hat was being passed round, the spectators quickly dispersed. "There were a lot of poor folks and the rich were, as a rule, stingy," he sighed.

In those times, people in his line of work were looked down upon, so much so that they were contemptuously nicknamed "stinking street performers." As the money they earned could not keep their bellies full and clothes on their backs, he had to sell his eldest daughter as a child bride. And later on, his eldest son was pressganged into the army.

"We never dreamed there could be a time like today," the old acrobat emotionally con-



The late Premier Zhou greeting the acrobats.  
The fourth from the left is a son of Yang Zhenlin.

greeting the acrobats on stage. Acrobats are no longer "stinking street performers" but highly esteemed artists.

### Prostitutes: Yesterday and Today

The reporter visited a few women who had been reduced to prostitution in the old society. After liberation they became workers, got married and had children. Some of them are now retired. For obvious reasons their names and their work units cannot be mentioned.

Their tearful narrations enabled me to see once more the darkest corner of old Beijing.

Outside Qian Men (Front Gate) of the old city wall there were eight lanes, notorious as a hangout for hookers. Over 1,300 prostitutes were held as part of the goods and chattels by the proprietors of 224 brothels licensed by the Kuomintang government. Deprived of their freedom, these poor women were harshly exploited and oppressed, while their bosses made enormous fortunes off them, which they used to buy more prostitutes and lead a life of luxury and debauchery.

One of the first items on the agenda of the People's Government was the banning of prostitution. In November 1949, a decision was made to immediately close down the brothels. On the night of November 21, the police in Beijing carried out this decision and rounded up the prostitutes and brothel owners, dividing them into separate groups. A production and training class was started for those newly freed

women; their venereal diseases were treated and they were given some proper education.

The greater part of the prostitutes had been kidnapped or swindled and sold to the brothels while others were forced into prostitution by poverty. They were divided into four grades, and subjected to all sorts of injuries and insults. Failures would lead to abuse, beatings or even brutal torture. Those who could earn more money for the bosses were slightly better treated. When they grew old or were afflicted with illnesses, they would be discarded. Some were even carried away to be buried before they had died. The bosses acted with such audacity and so recklessly because they were in league with the reactionary government and police.

According to the testimonies of many victims, the People's Government sentenced two wicked brothel proprietors to capital punishment who had caused the deaths of five people. The rest received an appropriate penalty and had their property confiscated.

After four months of study, the women came to realize that it was the old social system that was to blame for their plight and they gradually rid themselves of their bad habits. Their venereal and other diseases cured, they were each offered opportunities to begin life anew. Many of them were able to relocate their relations, from whom they had been torn apart against their own wishes. Some of them returned to their native places to do farming; others learnt a trade and worked in the city. Many of them got married, returning to a normal social life. In order to avoid injuries to their self-esteem, the units at which they now work strictly keep their unfortunate history a secret. I learnt that there were about a dozen of these women now working at a printing and dyeing mill in the eastern suburbs of Beijing, but it was quite difficult to trace them, because except for the director of the mill and the chairman of the trade union no one else knew anything about their past.

In Beijing, in fact, in the whole of China, millions upon millions of the exploited and the oppressed have stood up and become the masters of their own land. And those guilty of exploitation and oppression in the past, who form but a small minority of the population, after the deprivation of their privileged status and as a result of 30 years of remoulding, have mostly mended their ways and turned over a new leaf. All this signifies a tremendous change. In summary, I think two lines from Chairman

Mao's poem are particularly fitting to describe what has happened:

*"Today the autumn wind still sighs,  
But the world has changed!"*

## City Construction: Problems and Prospects

Many problems cropped up in Beijing's urban development. Some were solved somewhat satisfactorily, some were not. Experience is being summed up and lessons are being drawn with a view to speeding up modernization and resolving existing and future problems.

BEIJING is a lovely ancient city, with majestic buildings built many centuries ago and on a ground plan uniquely its own. How can this city be transformed into a modern city and still retain its charm and splendour?

### The Old and the New

Professor of Geography Hou Renzhi told me that he thought "city reconstruction as a whole in the last 30 years was successful." He cited the construction of Tian An Men Square.

In the old days of feudalism, he pointed out, the line running from the Arrow Tower of Qian Men (Front Gate) to the Drum and Bell Towers outside Di An Men formed the central axis of the whole city. The main palace buildings in the Forbidden City were all founded on this central axis. No buildings in the city were allowed to be higher than the imperial palace. The main entrance to the palace and the courtyard outside Tian An Men were enclosed by ochre walls to keep the populace out; even civil officials and military officers were required to dismount here and walk. On either side of the square were buildings housing the various organs exercising power over the whole country. The entire plan was designed to give prominence to the Forbidden City as the sacrosanct centre of imperial rule.

Today, Tian An Men Square is no longer a forbidden zone where a feudal monarch sits in power. It has been rebuilt into a magnificent, open and spacious public square. The ochre walls and inconsequential buildings have been pulled down to make the square several times larger. The East and West Changan Boulevard which cuts through the square has been widened to 120 metres and its original 3.7-km ex-

tended to 40 kilometres. It is now the city's main east-west thoroughfare. In the centre of the square today stands the Monument to the People's Heroes, flanked by the Great Hall of the People in its west and the Museum of the Chinese Revolution and Chinese History in its east. The Chairman Mao Memorial Hall completed in July 1977 brings more solemn grandeur to the square. The construction of the public square has relegated the old architectural ensemble of the Forbidden City to a less important position.

The reconstruction of Tian An Men Square, Professor Hou assured me, is an outstanding but not necessarily the only example of the application of Comrade Mao Zedong's policy of "inheriting in a critical way" and "making the past serve the present" towards our national cultural heritage. Over the last 30 years, many new buildings, new streets and new industrial and commercial enterprises have sprung up. At the same time, attention has been paid to keeping the ancient buildings and the old city layout intact as much as possible to make the old and the new contrast and complement each other. It is impossible to leave everything ancient untouched. The old city walls, for instance, obstructed urban development and were a nuisance to traffic. They had to be pulled down. The decorated arches astride streets, too, had to be dismantled and erected elsewhere. But the "inheriting" aspect must not be ignored.

There are still many problems in the city construction of Beijing. For instance, about 1,000 projects are to be built every year, but owing to the shortage of builders and building materials, the capital construction line has been overextended and many projects have remained uncompleted for a number of years. This has caused tremendous waste of manpower, material and financial resources. And the imbalance between the construction of factory buildings and housing projects (relatively few housing projects and ancillary facilities are built) has resulted in housing shortage, traffic jam and lack of shops, service trade buildings, medical and cultural establishments and other public facilities. Water, electric power, gas and heating supply also falls short of demand.

These are the problems that must be quickly solved as modernization proceeds apace.

### Satellite Cities

The growth of the population in Beijing has been very fast. The urban population has



**Tian An Men Square.**

grown from 1.6 million in 1949 to 3.95 million in 1978 (exclusive of the rural population on the outskirts). A pressing question confronting Beijing is to bring urban population growth under control.

The fundamental solution is to lower the natural population increase. Since the early 70s, China has introduced family planning through encouraging late marriages and having less children. In many places this has been fairly successful, as in Beijing. The rate of natural population growth in Beijing has gone down from 35.3 per thousand in 1963 to 6.8 per

thousand by last year. Efforts are continuing to lower it.

Comrade Zhang Shiji of the Beijing Municipal Construction Commission spoke to me about the programme for holding down the population inside the city proper. It envisages the building of several industrial centres in a planned way on the outer environs of the capital, complete with housing estates and service facilities. These "satellite" towns will thin out the population concentrated inside the city. There will be a dozen and more such townships surrounding the capital. Several are already being built. One of them is the Petrochemical District in Fangshan County, some 50 kilometres southwest of the city proper.

**Yanshan Petrochemical District, a satellite city.**



Most of the 100,000 inhabitants in this satellite township either work in the Yanshan Petrochemical Company or are dependents of these workers. There is a district government, agricultural and sideline production, hospitals, schools, shops, kindergartens and cinemas. Workers and staff members of the company have not far to go to work and find everything very convenient. The city itself and the satellite towns are

dozens of kilometres apart and food crops, vegetables and fruit trees are cultivated in these areas for the satellite townships and the city.

Industries are being set up in the rural communes on the outskirts to absorb the surplus rural work force resulting from agricultural mechanization and to prevent a massive influx of people into the city. Such townships, each centred about a commune, will arise on the outskirts of the capital. The Yuyuantan Commune and the Sijiqing Commune are instances. Their industrial output value already exceeds their agricultural output value and their members are receiving incomes higher than those of the average city workers. The peasants there feel no urge to move into the city.

It seems that the building of satellite cities and townships on the outskirts to bring the population growth in the city proper under strict control, said Zhang, is an effective way of solving the problem of high density of population.

### Housing Shortage

Beijing over the last 30 years has put up three and a half times more buildings than the

Flyover outside Jianguo Men.



New apartments, eastern Beijing.

existing floor space of the capital at the time of liberation. This includes about 30 million sq. m. of housing. This was what Comrade Yu Changfeng of the Beijing Municipal City Planning Bureau told me. Some 30 conterminous residential quarters have grown up inside the city and its suburbs. But the rapid increase in population and the imbalance between the construction of factory buildings and housing projects leave the city with a serious housing shortage.

During China's First Five-Year Plan (1953-57), Yu recalled, the ratio between the construction of factory buildings and housing projects was set by and large at 1:1.13. When dozens of factories were built in the eastern suburbs, large numbers of apartment houses and ancillary buildings, shops and service facilities and so on went up at the same time. Later, construction of production premises picked up speed but the building of living quarters and other facilities failed to keep pace. The ratio dropped to 1:0.7, and residential floor space grew proportionately acute.

In the current readjustment of the national economy, however, much more attention is being paid to the construction of urban housing, said Yu. Disrupted housing project plans and construction procedures are being reactivated. He mentioned in particular the 30-odd multistoreyed buildings on Qiansanmen Street. Design-

## SPECIAL FEATURE

ers had planned shops, service trade buildings, gas, water and electric power supply system, but, under the influence of the anarchist tendencies fanned up by the gang of four, construction did not take place according to planning and procedure. Construction underground lagged behind that on the surface. As a result, most of the buildings are still not usable. Ancillary engineering work is now being speeded up and people are now moving into these new flats. Two other new living quarters situated in the eastern suburbs are nearing completion and before long 10,000 families will move into them. This year, 2.6 million sq. metres of housing will be built to ease the housing shortage in Beijing.

### Improving the Traffic Situation

Old Beijing's streets were laid out like lines on a chessboard. The *hutongs* (small alleys) were numerous but the roads were few and narrow. They were built to take sedan chairs and rickshas. Since liberation, motor vehicles have multiplied, and 3 million bicycles now clog the roads. Traffic gets snarled up and there are frequent traffic jams. Accidents often occur.

What was to be done? Qian Ming, an engineer of the Beijing Municipal City Planning Bureau, went over briefly with me what has been done and what is going to be done about the traffic problem in Beijing.

Since liberation, he said, we've demolished the old city walls and removed the decorated arches and other edifices which were adversely affecting traffic. We first extended or connected up several main roads, then we put in new roads according to plan. In the last 30 years we've increased the 1949 total length of roads by nine and the surface area by 11 times.

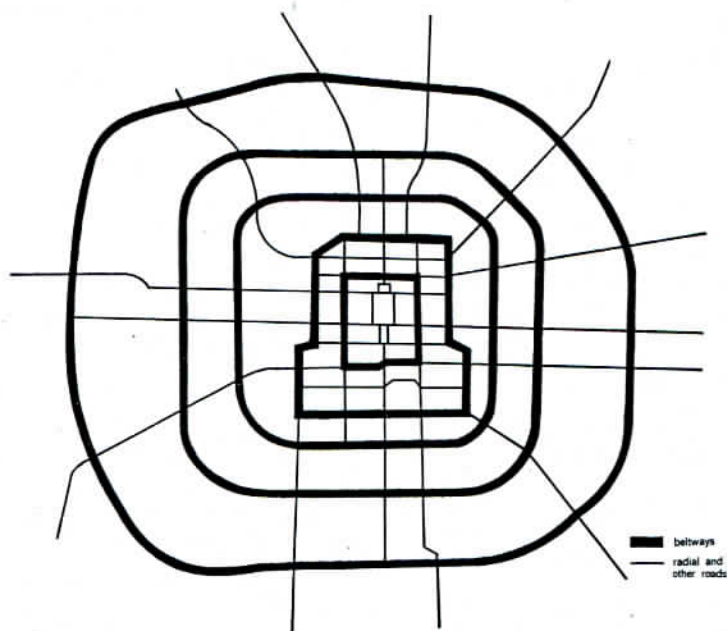
The plan today is to build up a road network in Beijing on the basis of the existing checkerboard of roads, put in inner circular roads and beltways and a network of radial roads. The beltways will improve access between the outskirts and lessen the volume of cross-city traffic. The radials will facilitate traffic between the city and outlying districts as well as the provinces and other cities. The second and third beltways will soon be completed. We have already completed three flyovers on the main roads and another five are under construction. As subways are indispensable for a big city, Beijing has built its first 24 kilometres of subway. New lines are being built at an accelerated tempo.

Qian Ming also said: "We also plan to build freeways, but it will take time as our technical ability and equipment are limited.

### Environmental Protection

I went to see Lin Yunqing of the Beijing Municipal Institute of Environmental Protection at his office. The institute was set up in 1972. It has branches in 18 districts and counties under the municipality. The big industrial departments and enterprises, too, employ special staff. Altogether, there are now about 800 people working on environmental protection.

Lin told me that due attention was paid to environmental protection at the time of liberation, although there was no special organs set up for this purpose. He remembered that in the 50s, slaughterhouses and factories using volatile or highly inflammable materials were relocated outside the city. There were rules limiting sites of new factories to places downwind from the city or below water intakes to mini-



Sketch map of the planned main road system in Beijing.

mize pollution. He also recalled that neighbourhood workshops which could not be moved were advised to change the line of their production. For instance, pharmaceutical works switched over to making toys.

Later, as industry continued to make rapid headway, less attention was paid to environmental protection, pollution grew into a serious problem. The authorities are now making earnest efforts to solve this problem.

Among the work done in these years are:

—protection of water sources. Work is being done to eliminate sources contaminating the Yongding and six other rivers and three reservoirs serving the city. To date, 69 per cent of the sources of pollution have been brought under control. The quality of the water in the Guanting Reservoir and the Changhe and Lianhua Rivers has improved. Water from the Miyun and Huairou Reservoirs is uncontaminated.

To eliminate smog, about half the 14,000 boiler chimneys, kilns and other boilers in the city have been reconstructed to cut down pollution. Each year 100,000 less tons of soot are discharged into the atmosphere over the city.

The environmental protection department has also announced a series of measures to reduce pollution. New industrial plants must answer pollution standards before they can be commissioned. Industrial and mining enterprises which do not meet environmental standards are being told to solve the problem or move out of the city at a specified date. To date, 42 factories have moved out or changed their line of production. Another 35 will follow suit. In addition to ongoing research on this subject, a citywide monitoring network is being set up with the participation of all trades and professions.

Afforestation, Comrade Lin added, is another major measure to protect the environment. This is a fundamental way to maintain-



An avenue in Beijing.

ing ecological equilibrium and improving the natural environment.

Beijing used to be known for its many gardens and huge number of trees. In the early days of liberation, besides restoring the big parks and woods, many new small public parks were established and trees, shrubs and grass planted. Every year the masses were called to plant trees and quite a few residential quarters today have fine stands of shade trees.

These efforts were, however, brought to a standstill when the gang of four held sway. Under the influence of the ultra-Left trends of thought spread by the gang, some people actually regarded scenic spots, parks and gardens as things "in the service of the bourgeois lords and ladies." Trees were indiscriminately felled, parks were occupied by factories or government offices and the area planted to trees and shrubs shrank. The climate in Beijing has deteriorated and this led people to write to the press warning that "wind and dust from the north are threatening the city." They demanded that forceful preventive measures be taken.

Last February, China promulgated a forestry law and the Ministry of Forestry has also decided to build a "green Great Wall" in northern China to reduce wind and sand within a number of years. March 12 has been declared Tree-Planting Day. All this is renewing the interrupted effort to plant trees in and about the city. This year Beijing has planted half a million trees inside the city and about half the barren hills on the outskirts have been afforested.

*Sino-Vietnamese Negotiations***Why No Progress**

THE 9th plenary meeting of the Sino-Vietnamese negotiations was held on the morning of July 30 in Beijing. Han Nianlong, Head of the Chinese Government Delegation, in his speech at the meeting, pointed out that the reason why the negotiations had failed to make any progress is that the Vietnamese side had arbitrarily refused to discuss the principle of not seeking hegemony or the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and had fabricated lies, slanderously accusing China of having expansionist and hegemonist designs on Indochina and even on all of Southeast Asia; the attempt was to confuse right and wrong, sow dissension and cover Hanoi's true intentions of gobbling up Indochina, throwing Southeast Asia into chaos and serving the Soviet Union's policy of driving southward.

#### **Refusing to Discuss the Principle Of Not Seeking Hegemony**

Han Nianlong said: "The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and the principle of opposing hegemonism are closely related, and they all have a precise meaning and a specific content. It will not do if one merely pays lip service to these principles; one must observe them in one's deeds."

He said: "A host of facts prove that your actions run counter to the principles of peaceful coexistence you profess. You have planted thousands of your 'advisers' in all departments of the Lao Party, Government and army and stationed tens of thousands of troops in the northern, central and southern regions of Laos, placing that country under your total control. You have dispatched close to 200,000 troops to invade and occupy Kampuchea, prop up the puppet regime, massacre and repress in cold blood all Kampuchean who refuse to be slaves and plunge the Kampuchean people in their millions into an abyss of misery. Can one find in your actions the slightest evidence of respect for

other countries' 'independence and sovereignty'? Betraying your history and your own statements, you have invaded and occupied some of China's Nansha Islands and nibbled at and invaded China's border. You have forcibly occupied the Way Island of Kampuchea and taken possession of Kampuchean territories you borrowed during the war against U.S. aggression, which were commonly known as 'sanctuaries.' You have annexed large parts of Lao territory in the name of friendship. Is there any respect for 'sovereignty and territorial integrity' to speak of here? You have kept stepping up armed provocations along China's border areas and creating border conflicts. You have massed heavy troops on the Kampuchea-Thailand border, threatening Thailand and the other ASEAN countries. You launched a naked war of aggression and put Kampuchea under your military occupation and moved your people en masse into that country in an attempt to perpetuate such an occupation. Doesn't this constitute a military threat and aggression? Is there any 'peace' or 'coexistence' here? You have carried out a racist policy of ruthless persecution and forcible export of refugees en masse to deliberately cause trouble in the adjacent countries. Is this consistent with any of the principles of 'peaceful coexistence'? In a word, what you practise is out-and-out aggression, expansion and regional hegemonism and by no means 'peaceful coexistence.'"

Han Nianlong pointed out: "The plain fact is that the Vietnamese authorities have brought the sovereign state of Laos under their control and that of Kampuchea under their enslavement, yet you have the impudence to assert that there exists a 'special relationship.' The plain fact is that you have launched a war of aggression, yet you claim that you have gone there to 'defend the fruits of socialism.' The plain fact is that you are maintaining a military occupation of Kampuchea and trying to perpetuate it



by moving your people there, yet you claim that you are executing 'an honest international duty.' The Vietnamese side has even said that 'the stationing of Vietnamese armed forces in Kampuchea and Laos fully accords with the U.N. Charter and the principles of the non-aligned movement.' Here I would like to ask, which article of the U.N. Charter and which principle of the non-aligned movement does your action accord with? This is a downright distortion of the U.N. Charter and a great mockery of the non-aligned movement. In fact, this gangster logic is not your own invention. You have taken it over from the big hegemonists, and it is just a Vietnamese version of the notorious theories of 'limited sovereignty' and 'international dictatorship.' The Vietnamese side will not succeed in pitting these fallacies against the principles of peaceful coexistence and of not seeking hegemony."

### **Perfidiously Distorting History**

Han Nianlong stressed that if the Vietnamese side continues its present course, it will only cause greater disaster to the people of Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea, hasten the bankruptcy of the erroneous policy of the Vietnamese authorities and make themselves all the more despised by the international community.

Han Nianlong refuted the anti-China fallacies fabricated by the Vietnamese side which claims that China wants to "annex" Viet Nam and so on and so forth. He said: "It is known to all that the sacrifice and contribution made by the Chinese Government and people in support of the Vietnamese people's struggle for independence, liberation and reunification of their fatherland have been such as can be denied by no one of good faith. The Chinese side never likes to dwell on its aid and support to the Vietnamese people. However, the Vietnamese side has despicably distorted the history of Sino-Vietnamese relations. We need only to briefly recall here a few important facts to prove the absurdity of this distortion."

He went on to say: "When the Vietnamese people found themselves in an extremely difficult situation, who was the first to come out and give them firm support and all-out aid in their just struggle? Who was the first to extend recognition to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam? Who helped the Vietnamese people win the 'border campaign' in 1950? Who helped the Vietnamese people win the battle of Dien Bien Phu? After the restoration of peace in Viet Nam in 1954, China supported the socialist

construction in northern Viet Nam and provided you with tremendous aid, for which your leaders expressed thanks on many occasions. Do you mean to say those expressions were from the first hypocritical lies? The Chinese Government and people gave all-out support and aid to the liberation struggle in southern Viet Nam and to the just struggle of the Vietnamese people to reunify their fatherland. We gave the South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces large amounts of arms, ammunition, foreign exchange and logistic supplies; we staunchly supported the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam in their diplomatic activities; we helped in every way Vietnamese leaders to travel between northern and southern Viet Nam when the two parts were still separated. When, after the Beibu [Tonkin] Gulf Incident in 1964, the United States started a massive invasion of southern Viet Nam and a wanton bombing of the north, we again went all out to help defend the air space of northern Viet Nam. The Chinese people ensured uninterrupted transport to north Viet Nam at the cost of blood and lives. When the United States mined Vietnamese ports, Chinese sailors risked their lives to ship food and other supplies to the Vietnamese people."

"In order to support Viet Nam's struggle against U.S. aggression," he added, "the Chinese Government and people made maximum national sacrifices and willingly suffered privations. The bones of Chinese martyrs in their thousands remain on Vietnamese soil. We gave you arms and ammunition and economic, material and foreign exchange aids amounting to tens of billions of RMB yuan to help you defeat the enemy, heal the wounds of war, rebuild your national economy and maintain an adequate military strength. Was all this for 'annexing Viet Nam'? Vietnamese leaders once said, 'China had supported Viet Nam's revolutionary struggle from the outset. Without China's support, the Vietnamese revolution could not have developed as it has' and 'it would have been impossible to carry on the struggle against U.S. aggression.' They also said that 'China's great and precious support contributed immensely to the strengthening of both northern and southern Viet Nam's economic and defence potentials and combat strength.' There were many more such statements, too numerous to quote. Yet the Vietnamese side has now so unscrupulously distorted history and even sunk to perfidy; it revealed an inveterate hatred against China when it described the more than two decades

of 'comradely and brotherly' Sino-Vietnamese relations as a plot to 'annex Viet Nam.' This shows that you are deliberately trying to fan up nationalist hatred and hostility against China. In point of fact, you have done so only because China does not countenance your regional hegemonism, does not permit your grabbing Chinese territory, does not endorse your control over Laos and invasion of Kampuchea and does not approve your attempt to lord it over Southeast Asia."

### Questionable Sincerity

Han Nianlong said: "In the course of these negotiations, the Vietnamese side has heaped vilifications on China, tried hard to twist the facts about the origin of the deterioration of Sino-Vietnamese relations and evaded the essence for a solution of the relations between the two countries. It is highly question-

able whether the Vietnamese side is negotiating in sincerity."

He said: "The Chinese side would like to reiterate that, for the Sino-Vietnamese negotiations to be productive and our relations to be improved and restored to normal, one must start with the key crux of the trouble in these relations. We are willing to discuss with you, in the first place, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and the question of not seeking hegemony, so as to lay a sound basis for the fundamental settlement of the disputes between the two countries."

Yang Gongsu, Deputy Head of the Chinese Government Delegation, held a press conference on the afternoon of July 30 in Beijing. In his answers to newsmen, he gave a detailed account of the massive Chinese aid extended to the Vietnamese people in their wars against French and U.S. aggression.

## Moscow Beefs Up Its Pacific Fleet

ACCOMPANIED by a Kara-class cruiser and a large attack warship, the Soviet aircraft carrier *Minsk* arrived in Vladivostok, the main base of the Soviet Pacific Fleet, on July 3, four months after it started a voyage on February 25 over the Atlantic and the Indian Ocean from the Black Sea. It is reported that the *Minsk* will join the Soviet Pacific Fleet after an overhaul. This demonstrates that the Soviet Union, out for world domination, is doing all it can to build up its military might in the Pacific region, particularly in the Far East.

The Pacific, the largest ocean in the world, is of great strategic importance. In recent years, following intensified rivalry between the Soviet Union and the United States in the peripheral regions of Europe, upheavals in the Middle East, Iran and Afghanistan, and Vietnamese aggression in Southeast Asia, Moscow has been working hard to expand its positions from the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean to the Asian-Pacific region.

In this region, the Pacific Fleet is the chief arm of the Soviet Union in its rivalry with the United States. The fleet has had 13 additional large warships since 1975. The strength of its missiles and nuclear-powered submarines, its capacity to conduct anti-aircraft, anti-ship, anti-submarine and amphibious operation and its ocean supply capabilities have all been very much enhanced. Some large surface ships the Soviet Union dispatched from Europe to the Far East in the first half of last year include the latest large anti-submarine vessels of the Soviet navy. They are fast and have powerful anti-submarine capabilities, equipped with anti-submarine cruise missiles and guided anti-aircraft missiles. Soviet naval commander-in-chief G. Gorshkov writing in the Soviet paper *Krasnaya Zvezda* said that the Soviet Pacific Fleet has now become a powerful ocean-going fleet having submarines, surface warships and naval air force and various sophisticated products of science and technology. The fleet is

reported to have 755 warships of various types totalling 1.3 million tons, 350 warplanes and over 4,000 marines. The fleet is an approximately 130,000-strong force — the Soviet Union's second largest naval force after the Northern Fleet. The number of warships the fleet has far exceeds the combined strength of the U.S. Seventh Fleet and Japan's naval force. The addition of the *Minsk* to the Pacific Fleet will greatly add to the strength of the Soviet naval force in its bid for hegemony in the Far East and the Asian-Pacific region. According to foreign reports, the Soviet Union is going to build another aircraft carrier for the fleet with a displacement of 60,000 tons and carrying 70-80 aircraft.

People predict with concern that if things go on developing as they do today the balance of U.S. and Soviet naval forces could take a turn for the worse for the United States around 1981.

The Soviet coastline, the longest in the world, does not much help Soviet seaborne traffic as most of it is on the Arctic Ocean. To enter the various oceans, Moscow's fleets have to pass through straits controlled by other nations. And to overcome the handicap of the Pacific Fleet whose outlets can be easily blocked and to bring its naval strength into fuller play, the Soviet Union is expanding its naval port of Korsakov in the Sea of Okhotsk and strengthening its bases on Kunashiri and Etorofu with the aim of controlling the Soya Strait and getting the port and the two islands to serve as transit stations between Vladivostok and other Soviet naval bases. The Soviet Union is also expanding existing naval bases and establishing new ones on the Kamchatka Peninsula to keep an effective watch on U.S. missile-carrying submarines in the Northern Pacific and to threaten the sea lanes and air routes from the United States to Japan through the Aleutian Islands. This will also give Soviet guided-missile submarines free access to the Pacific for attacks on the United States proper.

Since Viet Nam hurled itself into the arms of the Soviet Union, Moscow has utilized this Cuba in Asia to carry out activities in

Southeast Asia and in the Pacific region. It has openly used Viet Nam's naval bases of Cam Ranh Bay and Da Nang to extend the scope of operations of its Pacific Fleet from Vladivostok by some 2,000 nautical miles in a southerly direction, which will link Soviet naval forces in the west and the east. Viet Nam's ports have become halfway stations for the Soviet Pacific Fleet in its entry into the Indian Ocean. This gravely threatens the U.S. strategic line of defence in the Western Pacific, Japan and Australia and other Oceanian nations dependent on Middle East oil, and the West European countries with close ties to Southeast Asia.

The Soviet Pacific Fleet's operations in the early 1960s were confined to areas close to the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk. In the late 1960s, the operations were extended to the Indian Ocean where a Soviet flotilla was stationed to confront the United States. In the 1970s, the Soviet Pacific Fleet has extended its operations to waters off the Hawaiian Islands in the Central Pacific and the west coast of the United States. It has carried out activities in the Southern Pacific in recent years. It frequently holds large-scale manoeuvres with the Soviet ground and air forces in the Far East. The manoeuvres have been conducted from the Sea of Japan to the vast ocean expanses around Alaska, the Hawaiian Islands and the Philippines, getting nearer and nearer to the main base of the U.S. Pacific Fleet — the Hawaiian Islands. These war manoeuvres are indications that the Soviet strategy is to cut off the sea lanes and communication lines from the United States to Japan in time of war.

At the same time, ships and aircraft of the Soviet Pacific Fleet have been operating more frequently in the sea and air spaces of the Sea of Japan and the Western Pacific. Some 300 Soviet ships passed through the Tsushima, Tsugaru and Soya Straits every year.

The presence of the *Minsk* in the Pacific and the expansion and strengthening of the Soviet Pacific Fleet have aroused apprehension in Japan, the United States and other Asian and Pacific nations.

## PORTUGAL

### Caretaker Government Formed

Maria de Lourdes Pintassilgo who had been serving as Portugal's representative to UNESCO in Paris was named by President Antonio Ramalho Eanes to form a caretaker government on July 19. She is the first woman Prime Minister in Portugal's history. Her government, limited to a three-month term in office, is to prepare for elections in October or November and to handle routine government work.

The last government resigned on June 6 and the President made the new appointment in an effort to solve the government crisis which has been dogging the country. Since 1974, Portugal has had 11 governments. Last year there were three changes of government, one of them lasting only 17 days.

Such frequent changes of government in the past few years stems from the country's economic difficulties. The growth rate of industrial and agricultural production has fallen, there is runaway inflation, unemployment is growing and its external debts are piling up. The government had no effective solution other than to borrow heavily from other countries and ask the people to tighten their belts. This, of course, aroused discontentment. Several major political parties took advantage of the difficult economic situation to work to bring down the cabinet, causing repeated government crises. In their efforts to form a new

government, political parties and the President were at loggerheads, and so were the various parties. The Portuguese people who want a strong stable political situation are very dissatisfied.

Portugal, in southern Europe, is a member of NATO and is of strategic importance. The Soviet Union has always wanted to have a finger in this country's affairs in order to further its contention for Europe. In November 1975, Moscow had used pro-Soviet forces inside the country to engineer an armed coup. The coup failed, but it shows that pro-Soviet forces there are fairly strong. Soviet meddling in Portuguese internal affairs has worsened the already unstable situation there.

## SOVIET UNION

### Against Saving Refugees

After the Geneva conference on Indochinese refugees, naval vessels of France, Britain, Norway, the United States, Italy and other countries began rescuing refugees in the South China Sea, but more than 80 Soviet merchant ships plying the waters of the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand made no effort to help the Vietnamese refugees. Moscow in fact charged that the dispatch of naval vessels to pick up refugees as a "provocative demonstration."

This Soviet charge is just too absurd. The rest of the world are very concerned about the tragic plight of the hundreds of thousands of refugees adrift on the sea. The Secretary-General of the United Nations pointed

out at the Geneva conference that plans for rescuing refugees adrift on the sea should be given special attention. Three Italian ships, two of them equipped with helicopters, have been sent by the Italian navy to pick up and bring 1,000 boat people to Italy. The Italian Foreign Ministry pointed out in a statement that the dispatch of three naval vessels to rescue refugees in the South China Sea had been communicated in advance to the Vietnamese authorities. The Italian paper *Il Popolo* carried a special commentary refuting the TASS attack. A spokesman for the Italian Communist Party also said that rescuing refugees on the high seas "is a normal operation of peace and humanity," and that the Soviet accusation was "unfair."

Since the latter half of last year when the Vietnamese authorities created the refugee problem, an international tragedy, the governments and people of many countries have made great efforts to help and resettle the refugees. However, the Soviet Union, a superpower, has not resettled one Vietnamese refugee on its territory and its ships have not rescued one single refugee. Moscow has not contributed a kopeck to the refugee relief fund, nor a gram of the gold extorted from the refugees by Hanoi and used to pay for arms from the Soviet Union. This is not really surprising as the Soviet Union is the abettor behind the Vietnamese authorities in the creation and export of refugees. The Soviet Union, censuring others for rendering help to the victims of the Vietnamese hegemonists, only shows its cruelty up more clearly.

## ● **Youth Palace in Wuhan**

During the hot summer months, about 10,000 youngsters a day flock to Wuhan City's youth palace, the largest of its kind in China. The most popular daytime attractions are the swimming pools and when night falls, the young people enjoy campfire parties.

This beautiful recreation centre is surrounded by many trees and shrubs and covers an area of 130,000 square metres. It contains reading rooms, cultural and sports areas, children's playgrounds, a parachute tower, basketball and volleyball courts and a football field.

The centre also holds training classes in radio, laser, meteorology, fine arts, swimming and different ball games. A student will see significant progress in his skill after taking a half year or full year course. In the meteorology class, for example, the trainees could forecast the weather with ordinary observation instruments and through on-the-spot observations by the end of the course.

Science lectures, perform-

ances and sports competitions are often held at the youth palace. Many have become the backbone of the city's primary and middle schools by conducting scientific, cultural and sports activities.

As traditional herbs are abundant in the mountain areas near Wuhan, the palace has set aside 0.13 hectares for growing herbs to enable the children to acquire some knowledge of herbs and how to plant them.

## ● **Air Pollution Control**

China's first national symposium on air pollution control was recently held in the north-eastern city of Shenyang. More than 200 scientists who attended the meeting had lengthy discussions on the reduction of airborne pollutants in some 20 major industrial cities, including Beijing and Shanghai where the air is polluted by sulphur dioxide, dust, metal oxides and other toxic substances.

Shenyang's preliminary programme for air pollution control was discussed as a practical model. Air pollution was a problem in Shenyang. But in

recent years, 2,000 out of 6,000 boilers for heating buildings and industrial furnaces have switched from coal to gas fuel, installed dust absorbers or adopted other technical measures to reduce air pollution.

Shenyang is planning to build a coal gasification works which will convert abundant low-quality lignite into gas, and to expand a power plant to provide steam for industrial enterprises for both heating and cooling purposes.

The symposium also called for greater efforts in scientific and technological personnel training, in perfecting and strengthening environmental protection organizations and in importing and adopting advanced technology.

## ● **Famous Tibetan Monastery Reopens**

The magnificent Tashi-Lampo Monastery, the largest built by Tibet's Yellow Buddhist Sect, has been restored to its original beauty and is receiving visitors and worshippers.

The monastery was built in Xigaze in 1447. The residence of all former Banqen Lamas, it



Tashi-Lampo Monastery.

was gradually expanded to a floor space of 300,000 square metres.

The monastery has a main Xianzong shrine hall, three big sutra halls of Sakyamuni, Maitreya and Tara, a Chhangpa Buddha shrine and a Banqen dagobas hall. A 27-metre-high Chhangpa Buddha statue, cast by the ninth Banqen in 1914 with 100,000 kilogrammes of bronze and 250 kilogrammes of gold, is unique in the world.

Over the past two years, the state allocated over 700,000 yuan for renovations, with 100 craftsmen a day working at the monastery. More than 10,000 Buddhist statues of all sizes were regilded and 1,000 murals restored to their original colours.

### ● **Bosten Lake Diversion Project**

A diversion project is being built in Xinjiang to draw water from Bosten Lake, the autonomous region's largest freshwater lake, into the Konqi River to feed the irrigation network.

The project includes the building of a large electric pumping station, a 38-kilometre-long trunk canal and a 61-kilometre-long 110,000-volt transmission line.

Bosten Lake covers 980 square kilometres and is in Bayingolin Mongolian Autonomous Prefecture in the central part of Xinjiang. The lake is fed by water from the Kaidu River rising at the southern foot of the Tianshan Mountains. The land about the lake is rich in natural resources and large tracts are suitable for farming, which is why this area has been chosen as one of Xinjiang's key development areas. Fish-breeding and reed cultivation farms and salterns have already been established there.

When the project is completed Bosten Lake will become a 1,500-million-cubic-metre man-made reservoir and the Kaidu valley's resources will be fully made use of. In dry seasons the pumping station will send water to boost the water supply to the hydropower station on the Konqi River.

### ● **Communes Provide Old-Age Pensions**

More than 1,100 retired members of Yuyuantan People's Commune on the outskirts of Beijing are living on pensions.

This vegetable-growing commune, one of the richest in Beijing's suburbs, set the age for retirement at 60 for men and 55 for women. The amount of the pension is based on the seniority of the receiver on retirement, the maximum being 25 yuan a month. Last year, able-bodied peasants in the commune drew an average income of 50 yuan a month.

Zhejiang Province of east China reported that a similar system has been set up in a production brigade in Shaoxing County. The amount provided is 12 yuan a month regardless of the seniority of the pensioner.

There are more than 50,000 communes in China's countryside, but only a number of the more prosperous communes or production brigades now provide for old-age pensions.

Nevertheless, these examples represent a new development in the "five-guarantees" system that has been practised since the agricultural co-operation movement in the 1950s. Under this system the aged, infirm, elderly widows and widowers and orphans who have no relatives to support them are taken care of by the collective with respect to food, clothing, medical care, housing and burial expenses.

### ● **Alligators Protected**

The number of Changjiang alligators, a rare Chinese species, has substantially dropped according to a recent investigation by the Chinese Academy of Sciences. To remedy this situation, measures have been taken to protect the alligator. An organization was set up in Zhejiang Province to protect the reptile and to find a suitable habitat for its reproduction. The local people have been told to safeguard bamboo groves around the burrows where it lives.

Native to China this alligator feeds mainly on fish, frogs, birds and field mice. During the summer months it comes out of its burrow to search for food and to mate. During the winter months, it hibernates in its riverside burrows.

This alligator is about two metres long. Its dark brown back with yellowish marks and stripes is covered across with six rows of horny plates. Its belly is grey with faint yellowish spots and stripes.

The alligator has survived for more than 200 million years. It used to frequent the lakes and the reed marshes along the middle and lower reaches of the Changjiang River, but with the geological and other changes in natural conditions, it moved to the 'bamboo groves' along the Xishaoxi River in northwest Zhejiang Province.





## LETTERS FROM READERS

### One-Sidedness Remedied

I think that *Beijing Review* has improved during the last year or so. First of all, I heartily approve of the trend of replacing formalistic and overused jargon with convincing news items and reports, and replacing pleasant-sounding phrases with descriptions about revolutionary realism in China today. Thus problems in building socialism can be understood better and the successes of construction can be truly evaluated. Your articles are now more concrete and realistic. I think it can be said that *Beijing Review* readers can know the actual development and situation in present-day China.

I like very much Wu Jiang's article "On the Nature of Lin Biao's and Gang of Four's Political Line" in issue No. 15 of this year. I think that certain one-sided criticisms have been corrected in your process of repudiating the gang of four. I feel you must criticize and refute the gang of four's political line and its reactionary content at the same time as you expose their counter-revolutionary role. This is because after their downfall, their political line may continue to exist or revive when conditions permit.

Jörg Schierenbeck  
Hamburg, W. Germany

### Dialectics Applied in "Beijing Review"

As I am a student of agricultural economy, I am very much interested in articles about agriculture. *Beijing Review* has recently increased its coverage of this field. It's good that you acknowledge

the internal contradictions, difficulties and backwardness in your agriculture. But in the past, your articles on this subject were full of "bumper harvests," "overfulfilment" and "great victories," and gave the impression that both agricultural policies and commune management had been successfully carried out and developed according to plan. Frankly speaking, in the old days, *Beijing Review* did not use the weapon of dialectics as it does now. Your articles have greater appeal because they are realistic and full of vitality.

Shojiro Miyajima  
Saga, Japan

### Frank and Courageous

Being a philosopher, I particularly appreciate the article "Confucius Reappraised" in issue No. 14 of this year. It shows your courage, clearness and power of discernment. It seems to me that this is an important quality that is essential to the future of China.

Michèle Aumont  
Crozon, France

### Presenting Problems As They Are

Your magazine has become more "open and aboveboard," more down-to-earth, and is presenting problems as they are.

Arne Andersen  
Voss, Norway

### Convincing Materials

The articles under the general title "The Truth About the Sino-Vietnamese Boundary Question" in *Beijing Review* No. 21 of this year are very interesting. The maps published by the Soviet Union and Viet Nam before 1975 clearly show who should be held responsible for the border conflict. I think that this kind of reporting has pointed out to those "neutral" readers that it was Viet Nam who committed the crime as a result of its co-operation with the new tsars who are filled with hegemonist ambitions.

Heinz-Günter Foerster  
Bielefeld, W. Germany

### No One Supports Their Barbaric Behaviour

Now my friends and I have come to the conclusion that they [the Soviet social-imperialists] must be exposed every step of the way. There just seems to be no place on earth where they are not active and extending their domination. As an executive member of the New Zealand Committee on Viet Nam and along with others, we feel that all our efforts on behalf of Viet Nam have been met with a slap on the face. In fact their actions in attempting to dominate the whole area have left a sour taste in peoples' mouths and in fact people were sorry that the Chinese did not give them a bigger lesson that may have curbed their arrogance. We cannot speak for other countries but here there is not one bit of support for their barbaric behaviour.

Bruce Watson  
Whangamata, New Zealand

### There Are Improvements, But . . .

There is a great improvement in your layout. The column "Events & Trends" shows what is happening in your socialist construction and tells how you solve the problems in advance. I like the column "Special Feature," which analyses questions in different fields of work in your country. I think articles concerning ordinary questions in the column "Articles & Documents" (such as the Sino-Vietnamese conflict) are good, but those discussing special questions are monotonous.

O.L.H.  
Bogotá, Colombia

### More Variation

The column "Special Feature" is very interesting. If you give it more variety and deal with problems existing in all walks of life, such as problems among the young and old people, the conditions in the cities, towns and mountain areas and people's activities, the column would be much better and would break away from the constraints of dogmatism and reflect the objective reality.

Yousif  
Tanta, Egypt

# ESSENTIALS OF CHINESE ACUPUNCTURE

(English edition)



Compiled by the Acupuncture Research Institute under the Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine, this book for doctors abroad gives the basic theories of traditional Chinese medicine together with experience gained in clinical practice. Written in simple language and well illustrated, it helps doctors master the techniques of acupuncture.

Part I of this three-part book discusses the basic knowledge of traditional Chinese medicine. Part II deals with channels, collaterals and points including the courses and points of the 12 regular channels and the 8 extra channels. Part III deals with the application of acupuncture and discusses treatment by burning moxa, a woolly substance prepared from the young leaves of the Chinese wormwood (*Artemisia moxa*), the technique being known as moxibustion. The treatment of 52

common diseases and disorders is outlined. This book concludes with an appendix of two chapters, one on ear acupuncture therapy, and the other dealing with acupuncture anaesthesia.

This book will be brought out early next year.

Orders welcome

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