

BEIJING REVIEW

Discussion on Aim of
Socialist Production

●
China's Policy on
Religion

●
NATO's New Missiles



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COVER: To meet the increasing needs of the people, it is necessary to rapidly increase the output of farm products and consumer goods. (See "On the Aim of Socialist Production" on page 9.)

Picture shows a textile worker doing her best to raise the quality and increase the variety of products.

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CHRONICLE

December 8

• More than 1,000 people gathered in the P.L.A. Norman Bethune International Peace Hospital in Shijiazhuang, capital of Hebei Province, to mark the 37th anniversary of the death of Dr. Kotnis, the Indian doctor who came to China in 1938 as a member of the Indian China-aid medical team. In 1941, he became the first director of this hospital. He was another foreign doctor, after Dr. Norman Bethune, to work at the front in China's war against Japanese aggression. He died in 1942.

December 9

• According to *Renmin Ribao*, the State Council approved and issued a regulation with 11 provisions on awarding natural scientists for outstanding work. The 9th provision stipulates that Chinese scientists living abroad and foreigners who make great contributions to the development of science and technology in China are also to be awarded.

• At the 21-nation international trade fair held in New Delhi from November 10 to December 9, the Chinese exhibition won a first prize. About 1.5 million people visited the Chinese pavilion.

December 10

• Starting from 1980, China will take part in the work of the Geneva Committee on Disarmament. China did not take part in meetings of the committee this year, but declared that she reserves the right to take her seat in the committee at an appropriate time.

• A Chinese military friendship delegation left Bangkok for home after an 8-day visit to Thailand.

December 13

• China opened a consulate-general in San Francisco.

December 15

• Ji Pengfei, Head of the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, met with a delegation from the Central Committee of the Canadian Workers Communist Party (M-L) led by Ian Anderson, Vice-Chairman of the Party Central Committee. Founded last September, the Party's predecessor was the Canadian Communist League (M-L).



Discussion on the Aim of Socialist Production

What is the aim of capitalist production? The answer is profit and superprofit.

What then is the aim of socialist production?

It seems to be a very simple question, but actually it is complicated and has a great bearing on the development of the economy.

The article "On the Aim of Socialist Production" (see p. 9) by special commentator published in *Renmin Ribao* on October 20 stresses that the aim of socialist production is to meet the ever growing material and cultural needs of the working people and the society as a whole. It points out that for many years in the past there has been in China the wrong tendency to carry on production for the sake of production.

A lively discussion on this question has been going on throughout the country, with economists and people working in various enterprises taking part.

Why has this theoretical question attracted so much attention?

Its Importance. Some economists in Beijing have pointed out that though much has been achieved in economic construction since liberation in 1949, a drawback is the disproportionate development of the national economy for various reasons, including uncertainty about the aim of socialist production. Heavy industry has been expanding at the expense of agriculture and light industry.

For a long time an economic structure that centres around steel production has been built to the neglect of the departments supplying consumer goods. The result is an expansion of heavy industry and an increase in the output value of the national economy, but the people's standard of living has not been improved commensurately.

To rectify the serious disproportionate development of the national economy, starting this year necessary readjustments are being made and this will continue for three years or longer. Taking into consideration the aim of socialist production, it is now generally held that the development of China's agriculture is far from satisfactory, and the growth of the light and textile industries falls far short of the needs of the people.

For many years capital construction has been planned on too large a scale, especially in

the case of heavy industry, with detrimental results to agriculture, light and textile industries and the people's livelihood. From the viewpoint that the aim of production is to meet the increasing needs of the people, it is quite clear that the development of the national economy has not been well-balanced and that readjustments must be made accordingly.

Examples. Many have proved with vivid examples the practical significance of this theoretical question. Ni Yipin, director of the Shanghai No. 3 Bicycle Factory, said that the "Phoenix" bicycles it manufactures sell very well both at home and abroad. In 1958, it turned out 80,000, and in 1978, 1.48 million; this year it plans to produce 1.6 million. But in the last 20 years the factory's workshops have not been enlarged and investment by the state is a mere pittance. Several workshops are mat-roofed and of



"Phoenix" bicycles which are in great demand on the market.

makeshift construction. The people, he added, need bikes badly and their demand ought to be met. The point is that there should be more investments in light industry, more facilities and more good raw materials. To do so, it is necessary first of all to have a clear understanding of the aim of socialist production.

Zhang Zhengguo, deputy director of the Shanghai No. 2 Steel Plant, said that carrying on production for the sake of production remains a question not wholly solved in the steel industry. At present, while some steel products are overstocked, others that are badly needed by light industry and the textile and building industries are in short supply, thereby retarding or preventing the increased production of the necessities of life and progress in housing construction.

In the light industry, there is also the question of what is the aim of production. Zhang Wenqin, director of the Shanghai Changzheng Zip Fastener Factory, spoke about their own experience. For a long time in the past they merely produced according to plans drawn up by the departments at the higher level, paying no attention at all to marketing. In the latter half of last year, the quota assigned to them from above suddenly dropped by two-thirds. The reason given was that the market for zip fasteners was sluggish.

Not convinced, they made inquiries and learnt that it was not because zip fasteners were no longer needed but because they did not produce the specifications which are in great demand. Taking this as a lesson,

the factory began to consider the needs of the users and adjust their production accordingly. As a result, output kept rising. This shows that production will expand when it is geared to the increasing needs of society.

Djibouti President Visits China

President Hassan Gouled Aptidon of the Republic of Djibouti paid an official visit to China from December 9 to 15. This was the first visit by the head of state of the Republic of Djibouti to China and marked a new stage in the development of friendly relations between the two countries.

During his stay in Beijing, President Gouled exchanged views on the international situation and bilateral relations with Premier Hua Guofeng and Vice-Premier Li Xiannian on separate occasions, and achieved fruitful results. The President also toured Nanjing and Shanghai. An agreement on economic and technical co-operation was signed on December 11 between the two governments.

Djibouti, which holds a strategic position on the sea route between Asia, Africa and Europe, plays an important role in economic and cultural exchanges between the three continents, especially in view of the fact that most of the oil from the Gulf countries to Western Europe and the United States passes that way. Hence Djibouti, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden have always been the places of contention among the imperialist powers, the superpowers in particular. The

Djibouti Government, by firmly opposing superpower aggression, expansion and interference in other countries' internal affairs, has played a positive role in maintaining the peace and security of the region.

Djibouti won independence in June 1977 and became the 49th independent state in Africa after protracted struggles. On January 8 this year, China and Djibouti officially established diplomatic relations.

Technicians Become Leading Cadres

Numerous socialist-conscious technicians and specialists have been promoted to leading posts in many industrial and mining enterprises. Some are graduates of technical schools and some have been trained from among the workers after liberation in 1949.

For instance, after the reorganization of the Party committee in the Shanghai Oil Refinery, seven of its 11 members now are engineers, two are technicians and one is a specialist in management.

The Shizuishan Coal Mining Administration in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region has selected and promoted eight engineers and technicians to be its head and deputies. Another deputy chief engineer was elected to the administration's Party committee. Now one can often read such news in the newspapers.

A leading group with vocationally competent people helps production and development of technique and improves management. The Shanghai Oil Refinery is a big enterprise.



Tao Yao (centre), metallurgical machinery expert, has been appointed deputy director and deputy chief engineer of the Shanghai No. 1 Steel Plant.

Ribao said recently in a commentary that using specialists to the fullest extent helps in running socialist enterprises well.

"When a factory is run well," the commentary added, "it does not, in the first place, change the socialist ownership of the means of production by the whole people or ownership by the collective. Secondly, it does not change the principle of 'to each according to his work.' Thirdly, wealth obtained from an increase in production is not pocketed by the specialists, but is used for expanding reproduction and for improving the people's livelihood and strengthening the country. This is 100 per

highly automated and needing strict management. In the past few years, because the cadres in the leading group were not vocationally competent, production stagnated and management was poor. Now things are beginning to look up.

During the Cultural Revolution when the ultra-Left trend of thought spread unchecked and the so-called revisionist line of "relying on specialists in running factories" was criticized, engineers and technicians were persecuted and ostracized. Some of them were assigned to do odd jobs and others were labelled as "bourgeois specialists" and deprived of the opportunity to apply their specialties. With the Party's policy towards the intellectuals in effect, more and more engineers and technicians can contribute their skill to modernizing the country.

While bringing the talent and ability of engineers and technicians into full use, socialist China also stresses the workers' role in managing their factories. At the end of last year, the Party Central Committee decid-

ed that step by step workers' congress should be held in the enterprises, leading cadres at the grass-roots level should be elected directly by the workers, and the scope of the election should be gradually widened.

Experiences at the Shanghai Oil Refinery show that leading cadres who are ignorant of specialists' knowledge often do not know what to do with the suggestions and rational proposals made by the workers in managing their plant, whereas cadres who know the ropes can absorb the correct views of the workers and embody them in decisions made by the leading body, thereby carrying out the mass line in an effective way.

Appointing engineers and technicians to leading posts will not weaken the Party's leadership because many of them are Party members, and those who are not are willing to carry out the Party's principles and policies.

Reviewing the past criticism of "relying on specialists in running factories," *Guangming*

Rich Uranium Deposit Discovered

The Ministry of Geology announced early this month that a rich uranium deposit was found in granite strata in south China in 1956.

The biggest in China, the deposit covers an area of 100 square kilometres with nearly 100 rich veins. The ore has simple ingredients and extraction and dressing can be done easily.

Part of the reserves has been tapped. The discovery is of great importance to China's atomic energy industry.

Not long ago, an engineering unit of the People's Liberation Army found a medium-sized uranium deposit in geological formations 1,700 million years old in north China.

cent Marxism and socialism, and has nothing to do with revisionism at all."

The commentary quoted a paragraph from Vice-Chairman Ye Jianying's speech at the meeting celebrating the 30th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, which said: "Leading cadres in all trades and professions, particularly young leading cadres, must all strive to become experts in their own fields of endeavour so as to meet the demands of modernization. Those who rest content with being laymen and indulge in political claptrap certainly can't run the country but can only ruin it."

Heading for the Olympics

Chinese athletes are making active preparations to take part in next year's Summer Olympics. Their achievements at recent international sports competitions have won them qualification to participate in a few more events.

Gymnastics. Fifteen-year-old Ma Yanhong did well in the women's uneven bars event at

the 20th World Gymnastics Championships in Fort Worth, U.S.A. With a total of 19.825 points, she shared first place with Maxi Gnauck of the German Democratic Republic. Ma thus won for China the first-ever gold medal at the World Gymnastics Championships. During the competition, the Chinese men's and women's teams finished fifth and fourth respectively in the team events. By these successes, the Chinese gymnasts have qualified to compete at next year's Summer Olympics.

Basketball. The Chinese men's basketball team succeeded in retaining the title at the 10th Asian Men's Basketball Championships in Nagoya, Japan. It will represent Asia in the 1980 Olympics basketball finals.

Volleyball. After defeating Japan and south Korea, the 21st Olympics champions and bronze medallists respectively, at the 2nd Asian Women's Volleyball Championships in Xianggang (Hongkong), the Chinese women's team won the championship title with six straight victories and the right to represent Asia in the volleyball finals at the coming Olympic Games.

These are encouraging successes by Chinese athletes since the International Olympic Committee restored China's legitimate rights in the I.O.C. on November 26. Though China's level in many events is still below the world's best, Chinese athletes are convinced that more contact with sportsmen in other parts of the world will promote friendship and enable them to learn from their colleagues in other lands. Their watchword is: Make ever greater efforts to win honours

for the motherland at the Olympics.

Punish a Handful of Criminals

The political situation in China is one of stability and unity at present. Social order as a whole is good, and it is even better in the countryside than in the cities. However, in some places, especially in the big and medium-sized cities, criminal offences have increased. These criminals, though few in number, have done great harm to society. The people strongly demand that they be punished.

The causes of criminal activities are many, the chief being the pernicious influence of the ultra-Left line which was rife for many years in the past and which has not yet been completely eliminated. Some of the criminals were so-called "rebels against capitalist-roaders." They were in the habit of "beating, smashing and looting"; now they are creating disturbances under the signboard of "democracy and freedom" in a vain attempt to seize political power in chaos.

Also, a few persons take advantage of the present policy of giving scope to democracy to promote anarchism and extreme individualism and seek bourgeois liberalization. These erroneous ideas have in a way spawned crimes.

International reactionaries and special agents of the Kuo-mintang on Taiwan also pin their vain hopes of a comeback on the handful of counter-revolutionaries and other criminal elements. They have intensified counter-revolutionary agitation and raised a hue and



Ma Yanhong and Maxi Gnauck exchange congratulations.

cry over the case of Wei Jing-sheng, who was tried and sentenced according to law (see *Beijing Review* issue No. 43, p. 6). It is in these circumstances that there has been an increase in crimes.

A conference on public security in the cities was convened in Beijing recently. It worked out principles and concrete measures in dealing with this question.

Combining Education With Punishment. The conference held that the principle of combining education with punishment should be upheld. That is to say, the handful of perpetrators of murder, looting, rape, arson and other crimes gravely affecting social order should be punished according to law, especially the ringleaders of criminal gangs and instigators. But with regard to the juveniles who have committed minor offences, emphasis should be placed on reforming them through patient and careful education.

The conference also stressed that the fine tradition of cooperation between the judicial organs and the masses of people should be carried forward so that all the enterprises, government units, schools and residents' organizations can work together to combat the criminals.

The conference held that propaganda and education on the observance of law and discipline and against anarchism and extreme individualism should be conducted among the masses, especially the younger generation. It pointed out that the law must be strictly observed, and that no one should be arrested except according to

law. False charges must be forestalled so that no innocent people are wrongly implicated.

Recently, criminals guilty of serious offences have been tried and punished severely in some cities. This has been acclaimed by the public.

Pollution, Declining Invitation to Banquets

Not long ago *Renmin Ribao*, which has the biggest circulation in China, carried a report entitled "Air Pollution in Beijing Stuns Foreign Experts." The subhead was: "Heavy smog scares the birds away; meetings bog down because of undesired loud noises."

The report said that at a recent international forum on environmental protection held in Beijing and attended by more than 30 experts from Switzerland, the United States, the Philippines, Kenya and other countries, pollution of the city was originally not on the agenda. As the meeting started, however, irritating noises jarred on their ears. The whistle of steam from the kitchen downstairs, the piercing whirr of an electric saw from a nearby workshop and the incessant honking of motor-horns in the streets all commingled to make it impossible for the meeting to go on until the site was changed.

Renmin Ribao also said that many chimneys in the capital belch black smoke which scares away the birds. Today only sparrows can be heard in the early morning. The foreigners were upset about the situation and hoped that efforts should be made to tackle air and noise pollution in Beijing.

"Carma Declines an Invitation to a Banquet" was the title of another news item published in *Renmin Ribao*. Carma is the daughter of William Hinton, an old friend of the Chinese people. The report quoted her as saying that she had witnessed great changes in China during her latest visit and that the atmosphere was not tense, the people were confident and frank, and they could make friends with them.

But when she and her husband visited north China's Shanxi Province, the cadres there feasted them frequently. In view of the actual living conditions of the Chinese peasants, they declined to attend more banquets. They moved to the home of a local peasant, lived together with his family for a few days and ate simple food with them.

In the special column "Foreigners Looking at China" in *Renmin Ribao*, an Australian scholar, Chen Zhaohua, complained that her teacher, Mr. Zhu Guangqian who is a well-known professor of aesthetics, was not given the attention due to him. She said that greater care should be given to this 82-year-old scholar and other veteran experts so that they could give their best to the modernization of the country during their remaining years.

China, which went through turmoil from 1966 to 1976, confronts many difficulties. In spite of the great efforts made after the downfall of the gang of four, many problems remain to be solved. While reporting the improvements, the papers give

coverage frankly to shortcomings.

Chairman Mao once said: "If we have shortcomings, we are not afraid to have them pointed out and criticized, because we serve the people. Anyone, no matter who, may point out our shortcomings. If he is right, we will correct them." It seems this teaching is being heeded.

Vietnamese Refugees in China

China has since May last year received more than 250,000 refugees persecuted and expelled by the Vietnamese authorities. Refugee centres have been set up in Guangxi, Guangdong, Fujian and Yunnan. China has also offered to receive another 10,000 refugees from Indochina now stranded in Thailand, Malaysia and Xianggang (Hong-kong).

Four members of the Joint Mission of the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross recently visited China and made an on-the-spot investigation of conditions with respect to accommodation, children's education and sanitation in eight refugee centres. They also interviewed refugees at their homes and obtained first-hand information about the life and work of these refugees. They extended their sympathies to these refugees who had suffered persecution at the hands of the Vietnamese authorities, and expressed satisfaction at the arrangements made for them by the Chinese Government and Red Cross societies at all levels.

Mr. Jeen Michel Goudstikker, Information Officer of the

League of Red Cross Societies, told newsmen that "China is one of those countries that have received the greatest number of Indochina refugees. In this respect, the Chinese Government and the Red Cross Society of China have done much successful work despite a lot of difficulties."

Mr. Constantin P. Stanissis, Special Adviser to the Deputy Secretary General on Relief and Development of the League of Red Cross Societies, told Chinese Red Cross Society officials that he had inspected refugee camps in many countries where Indochina refugees live solely on relief. But, he said, "the refugees in China have settled down on farms or in factories. Able-bodied refugees are given jobs. They receive food grain and non-staple food, and monthly pay in cash. All the refugees, children and adults, are in good spirits."

Chinese Bank Supports Co-operation With Foreign Countries

The People's Construction Bank of China will give priority in allocating funds or extending loans to enterprises engaged in co-operative ventures with foreign countries.

The bank has taken this decision at a recent meeting in Beijing. It will give priority to enterprises that:

— Undertake to import foreign equipment but are in need of capital;

— Plan to add equipment for conducting compensatory trade with foreign countries or for processing raw materials from abroad on order;

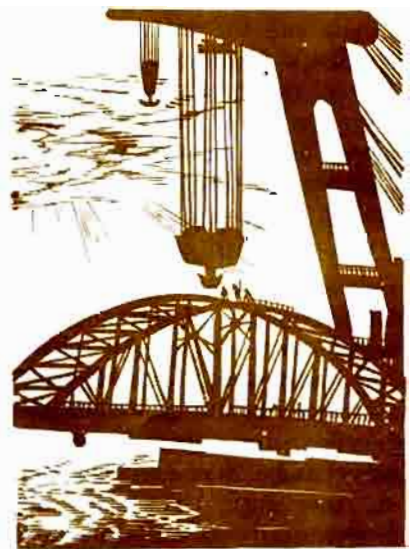
— Make investments as required of the Chinese side in a joint venture;

— Require production funds and circulation capital to undertake construction projects contracted with foreign countries; and

— Require funds for undertaking joint surveys or designing projects with foreign countries.

The bank has also decided to give priority to light and textile industries, enterprises that produce export commodities and enterprises that require relatively small investments but yield quick returns and turn out products urgently needed on the market.

Under the direct leadership of the State Council, the People's Construction Bank of China is responsible for allocating funds and extending loans for capital construction and for renovation, expansion and rebuilding of existing enterprises. It has 2,500 branches throughout China.



Economic Theory

On the Aim of Socialist Production

Renmin Ribao has published an article by its Special Commentator on the purpose of socialist production — a fundamental issue. The author observed that for many years there was the widespread tendency in China of carrying on production for the sake of production, thereby resulting in an economic structure which was disproportionate in development and which failed to meet with the people's needs.

A change should be gradually brought about in the inner structure of heavy industry, geared to serving agriculture and light industry. In making overall plans for social production, it is imperative to follow the order of agriculture, light industry and heavy industry, and take into consideration the question of supplying the people with consumer goods.

WHY is it necessary to promote the development of production under socialism? How? Why is it necessary to bring about a constant upswing of labour productivity? How? These questions may seem self-explanatory, but actually they are not so simple. As shown by many years' practice, quite a number of comrades have not yet acquired a clear understanding.

Production for Production's Sake Impracticable

In his book *Economic Problems of Socialism in the U.S.S.R.* (1952), Stalin criticized Yaroshenko's viewpoint of production for production's sake. A review of his criticism will help clarify the aim of socialist production.

Stalin expounded the basic economic law of socialism and formulated it as follows: "The securing of the maximum satisfaction of the constantly rising material and cultural requirements of the whole of society through the continuous expansion and perfection of socialist production on the basis of higher techniques." Yaroshenko did not quite agree with Stalin's definition. He said: "The chief thing in this

definition is 'the securing of the maximum satisfaction of . . . the requirements of the whole of society.' Production is presented here as the means of attaining this principal aim — satisfaction of requirements. Such a definition furnishes grounds for assuming that the basic economic law of socialism formulated by you is based not on the primacy of production, but on the primacy of consumption." He declared: "The essential features and requirements of the basic economic law of socialism may, it seems to me, be roughly formulated as follows: The continuous expansion and perfection of the production of the material and cultural conditions of life of society."

Stalin held that Yaroshenko was completely wrong in his views and his statement on the basic economic law of socialism. Stalin said that Yaroshenko had "completely failed to understand the essence of the problem," pointing out that what was said here was not the primacy of consumption or of production, but of what aim society sets social production, to what purpose it subordinates social production under socialism. He further pointed out: "Comrade Yaroshenko forgets that men produce not for production's sake, but in order to satisfy their needs. He forgets that production divorced from the satisfaction of the needs of society withers and dies." Stalin raised the question whether one should speak of the aim of socialist production. His own answer to it was in the affirmative, with concrete elaboration. He wrote: "Maximum satisfaction of the constantly rising material and cultural requirements of the whole of society is the aim of socialist production; continuous expansion and perfection of socialist production on the basis of higher techniques is the means for the achievement of the aim." He also noted that the formula prescribed by Yaroshenko did not have a vestige of Marxism. "With him, production is converted from a means into an end, and the maximum satisfaction of the constantly rising material and cultural requirements of

society is thrown out. What we get is expansion of production for the sake of expansion of production, production as an aim in itself; man and his requirements disappear from Comrade Yaroshenko's field of vision."

Is Stalin's criticism, his analysis of the aim of socialist production correct? Yes, it is; it is made from a Marxist viewpoint.

Marxism maintains that in any given society, people engage in production with a certain aim, not for production's sake. The aim of social production is an objective thing, independent of man's will. It is determined by the nature of the relations of production; in other words, it serves the interest of whoever is in possession of the means of production. Accordingly, if the relations of production differ in nature, the aim of production cannot be the same.

Under capitalism, as the means of production are in the hands of capitalists, the only aim of production is extraction of the maximum amount of surplus value. Consumption by the labourers is considered necessary only when such consumption ensures the capitalists a supply of labour power and surplus value. Under socialism, as the means of production are publicly owned, and exploitation has been eliminated with labourers becoming masters of the means of production, hence there is a fundamental change in the aim of production. Production no longer aims at surplus value, but at meeting the needs of the labouring masses and the constantly rising material and cultural requirements of the whole of society. There cannot be any other aim. Lenin once pointed out emphatically: "Socialism alone will make possible the wide expansion of social production and distribution on scientific lines and their actual subordination to the aim of easing the lives of the working people and of improving their welfare as much as possible. Socialism alone can achieve this. And we know that it must achieve this, and in the understanding of this truth lies the whole complexity and the whole strength of Marxism." (*Speech at the First Congress of Economic Councils*, 1918.)

Producing for the Sake of Production: Its Various Manifestations

Stalin's criticism of Yaroshenko was made public more than 20 years ago. How well do we understand his correct thinking on this matter? Today, in this country, there are not many people who will publicly advocate production

for the sake of production as Yaroshenko did. But, as is demonstrated by many years' practice in our economic construction, doing things out of harmony with the basic economic law of socialism and the tendency to produce for the sake of producing have been quite common. Some of the manifestations of this tendency are as follows:

(1) **In making overall plans for social production, our planners did not proceed from the people's need for consumer goods but from targets for increased production of a certain number of main products.** The most important ones number about 30 or 40, including those of both heavy and light industries and agriculture. Because for a long period 'taking steel as the key link' served as the guideline for the development of industrial production, our overall social production was in fact arranged with the accent placed on iron and steel production and an eye to the development of heavy industry. Thus plans were drawn up in the order of heavy industry, light industry and agriculture, not the other way round. This resulted in overlooking the people's needs for consumer goods right from the start.

(2) **In the distribution of the national income, great importance was attached to accumulation at the expense of consumption.** During the First Five-Year Plan (1953-57), the ratio between accumulation and consumption was handled in a fairly proper way, a share of 24.2 per cent for the former and 75.8 for the latter. This proportion brought about a fairly rapid development of production and thus a quite substantial uplift in the people's living standards. During the Second Five-Year Plan (1958-62), the rate for accumulation, however, was increased to 30.8 per cent, and in 1959 and 1960 it was as high as around 40 per cent. It averaged 33 per cent between 1970 and 1978 and exceeded 36 per cent in 1978. As the level of our economic development and national income is still very low, the rate of accumulation on such a scale is obviously too high, so high that it has seriously affected the improvement of the people's livelihood.

(3) **In the distribution of accumulation funds, greater importance was attached to productive undertakings at the expense of non-productive undertakings.** During the First Five-Year Plan, productive construction comprised 71.7 per cent of the total sum of investment in capital construction, while non-productive construction made up 28.3 per cent, with 9.1 per cent for the construction of housing pro-

jects. At that time, this proportion was proper, because while guaranteeing the successful progress of the 156 major projects then under way, it also made possible the building of non-productive projects like housing estates and public utilities. Between 1966 and 1978, however, productive construction took up a much bigger share, more than 85 per cent, so that non-productive construction was left with a correspondingly smaller proportion. This brought a deep drop in non-productive construction, resulting in overcrowded public transport, tight living quarters for workers and staff members, and many other inconveniences in the people's daily lives.

(4) In the distribution of productive accumulation, greater importance was attached to heavy industry at the expense of agriculture and light industry. For many years, there was too much investment in heavy industry and too little in agriculture and light industry. Between 1966 and 1978, of the total amount of investment in capital construction, heavy industry took up more than 55 per cent, agriculture, a little more than 10 per cent, and light industry even less, only about 5 per cent.

In the distribution of the investment in industry itself, the proportion between light and heavy industries was 1 : 8 during the First Five-Year Plan, 1:10.8 during the Second Five-Year Plan, 1:12.8 during the three years of economic readjustment (1963-65), 1:14.1 during the Third Five-Year Plan (1966-70), 1:10.2 during the Fourth Five-Year Plan (1970-75) and 1:8.3 in the first three years of the Fifth Five-Year Plan period (1976-80). Although there has been an increase in the investment in light industry in the last three years, generally speaking, that in heavy industry has been too "heavy" and that in light industry too "light." This is quite obvious. Furthermore, in heavy industry itself, the metallurgical industry got the lion's share of investments. Between 1952 and 1978, state investment in capital construction in that branch alone was more than twice as much as that in the whole of light industry. During the early years of the founding of the People's Republic, it was quite necessary to maintain a high proportion of investment in heavy industry, the metallurgical branch in particular, considering the undeveloped state of basic industry in our country. But as the situation changed, there should have been a proper increase in the proportion of investments in agriculture and light industry and a relatively smaller proportion of investment in heavy industry. Actually



Urban-rural trade. Woodcut by Gu Yuan

this was not done, and is a major factor accounting for the disproportionate development of our national economy.

(5) In setting up the inner structure of heavy industry, greater importance was attached to its own needs rather than to serving agriculture and light industry. This was manifested mainly in the fact that in all-round allocations, the proportion assigned to heavy industry was too large. Take steel products and electric power for instance. In 1978, 29 per cent of the steel products made in this country was used for machine building, only 15.5 per cent was allotted for agriculture and the maintenance of agricultural machinery, and only 11.7 per cent for light industrial goods. In the consumption of electric power, the shares for agriculture, light industry and heavy industry were 11.5, 12.8 and 53.7 per cent respectively. Comparatively little machinery was built by heavy industry for light industry, being 6.1 per cent of the total output in 1972. There was a further drastic decline in 1976, when the portion dropped to 2.1 per cent. In the last two decades and more, although there has been a substantial increase in heavy industry's supply of raw materials for light industry — this now accounts for about 30 per cent of light industry's output value as against 15 per cent or so in the early years of liberation — it still falls short of the needs of light industrial development. Many light industrial products using industrial goods as raw materials have

been in short supply, and usually not even available. In the meantime, the productive capacity of quite a few light industrial enterprises has not been fully utilized.

(6) **Producing in disregard of market demand.** The enterprise managers were answerable only to their higher-ups in many cases, not to the customers or consumers. To fulfil their output or output value targets, or to merely go after surplus, they often ignored market demands for different varieties and specifications of goods. Some enterprises produced poor-quality goods, with little variety and specifications; and there was no market for them. This resulted in tremendous overstocking and waste.

Deviating from the aim of socialist production, producing for the sake of production and following a tendency to develop heavy industry for the sake of developing heavy industry — this is why many problems in our economic work remained unsolved for a long time in the past. Our economic structure is highly irrational, its development lop-sided and its relations with the needs of the people, adrift — this is the serious aftereffect of producing for the sake of production.

The Lessons

Why has this tendency prevailed for so many years? Well, this is a very complicated matter. Interference and sabotage by Lin Biao and the gang of four is one thing. But apart from that, there are at least the following problems that we need to be aware of:

To begin with, we have failed to handle the relationship between production and consumption properly, attaching greater importance to the former rather than to the latter.

Some comrades view consumption as a sheer negative thing. So they have the mistaken view that the country will become affluent in no time if we produce as much as possible and consume as little as possible. They fail to see that consumption at the same time also means production, namely, reproduction of the labour power. Consumption by the labourers means a reproduction of the labour power, which is an indispensable, important condition for social reproduction. The labourers will take an active part in production only when their consumption has been taken care of. This is all the more important in our socialist society because labourers in our country are the masters and to satisfy their daily needs in a still better way is a task determined by the socialist nature of our state.

Some comrades also fail to see the active role consumption plays in production. It is true that production plays a dominant role and determines consumption. But, the other aspect of the matter is that the process of production comes to its end only at the time of consumption, which makes it possible for a new start of another process of production. Besides, consumption also provides a market for production and gives rise to the need for further production; it, therefore, provides a powerful stimulus to the development of production.

Secondly, the principle of giving priority to the growth of the means of production has been understood in a one-sided manner, with the mistaken view that the production of capital goods can develop independent of the production of consumer goods.

According to the Marxist theory of social reproduction, in circumstances where technical progress has given rise to a higher degree of mechanization and automation, priority should be given to the growth of the production of capital goods, that is, its growth should be faster than the growth of the production of consumer goods. This is a law that applies both to capitalist social reproduction and socialist social reproduction, a law we must adhere to without any wavering. But the fact is that giving priority to the growth of the production of capital goods cannot be considered in isolation from the growth of the production of consumer goods. Otherwise, an imbalance will follow. In a populous country like ours, the proportion of the production of consumer goods ought to be larger, relatively speaking, so as to meet the people's daily needs.

Prior attention to the growth of the production of capital goods does not preclude prior attention to the growth of the production of consumer goods within a specific period. If and when the production of the latter seriously lags behind the production of the former, it is necessary to let the development of the production of the latter surpass the production of the former so that backwardness in the production of consumer goods can be done away with as quickly as possible. At this moment of readjusting the national economy, priority should be given to the development of agriculture and light industry. This, immediately, will reduce the tempo of the development of some heavy industrial branches, but, in the long run, is worth it. Comrade Mao Zedong provided an answer to this question as early as 1956 in *On the Ten Major Relationships*.

A one-sided understanding of the principle of paying prior attention to the growth of the means of production will surely obscure the orientation of heavy industry.— what it is to serve. For many years, our heavy industry has been serving its own branch excessively, while doing too little to serve agriculture, light industry and the people's livelihood. This has something to do with such a one-sided understanding of matters. There should be a gradual change in the inner structure of our heavy industry. In the building of heavy industry, there should be more investments in that part of heavy industry which serves agriculture and light industry; in the production of heavy industry, there should be an increase in the production of machinery and equipment for agriculture and light industry and in the production of raw materials for light industry. Heavy industry itself should make use of all available conditions to produce daily necessities and durable consumer goods in the service of the masses. The arms industry, in particular, must take the road of producing both for military purposes and for civilian use.

In short, in handling the relationship between the production of capital goods and the production of consumer goods, we must follow the order of agriculture, light industry and heavy industry with each economic department making arrangements for its production and construction in that order. This is especially so in making overall plans for social production — the order must be agriculture, light industry and heavy industry and the point of departure, the people's consumer needs. But this does not mean that in the allocation of investment first priority should be given to agriculture and light industry should have a greater share than heavy industry. If we do that, we will make mistakes.

Thirdly, blind pursuit of high targets.

Ours is an economically backward country; it is the desire of all to advance the national economy within the shortest time at the highest speed possible. But the pace of economic development is subject to the limitations of objective economic conditions. Some people thought that under socialism, the pace of economic development could be determined according to their subjective wishes, and they refused to take real possibilities into consideration. With this kind of thinking, they fell into error in a bid to speed up the tempo

of development. The high targets, which they set for production and construction, especially in the field of heavy industry, turned out to be incompatible with the objective situation. These high targets, moreover, were mainly set for the iron and steel industry, with an eye to boosting capital construction and expanding productive capacity. As a result, non-productive construction was neglected, agricultural and light industrial production was affected, and there were not much consumer goods for the public and the overall balance of the national economy was destroyed. And so, more haste, less speed.

Blindly going after high targets is an expression in the economic realm of the mentality that "Leftism" is better than Rightism. For many years, we opposed only Right deviation, not "Left" deviation; we opposed only conservatism, not rashness; we emphasized the need to develop the national economy at high speed only from a political point of view, without so much as analysing the real possibilities of high-speed development from an economic point of view. These are the major ideological reasons for setting high targets over a fairly long period of time.

At present, everyone is thinking about problems in our economic work. We must adhere to the principle that practice is the sole criterion in testing truth, sum up our experience in this respect and draw lessons from it.

(An abridged translation of a "Renmin Ribao" article, October 20.)



The latest pattern. Paper-cut by Zhao Yuliang

Policy on Religion

by Xiao Wen

Many readers have written in asking about religion in China. We have heard from Mr. Christian Schlagitweit of Austria, from Mr. Jose R. Castro of Peru and from Mr. Leon Goossens of Belgium, for instance. Following is an article about China's policy on religion. — Ed.

FREEDOM of religion is a fundamental policy in China and Chinese citizens are free to believe or not to believe in this or that religion. Non-believers can become believers and believers can give up believing. All citizens are allowed to believe in religion in as much as they are free to propagate atheism. There is no predominant religion and it is forbidden for one religion to assume a dominant position over other religions in China. All religions are equal and none is discriminated against.

Consistent Policy

In the period of the new-democratic revolution, the governments led by the Chinese Communist Party promulgated a series of policies on religious affairs. In May 1936, soon after the Red Army arrived in northern Shaanxi where there were many Moslems, the local government declared that it protected mosques, imams and the freedom of religion for the Moslems. In his *On Coalition Government* publish-

ed on the eve of the victory of the War of Resistance Against Japan in 1945, Comrade Mao Zedong said: "All religions are permitted in China's Liberated Areas, in accordance with the principle of freedom of religious belief. All believers in Protestantism, Catholicism, Islamism, Buddhism and other faiths enjoy the protection of the people's government so long as they are abiding by its laws. Everyone is free to believe or not to believe."

Soon after the founding of New China, the right to religious freedom was written into the Constitution.

In the semi-feudal and semi-colonial old China, churches were under the control of imperialism and monasteries and temples were connected with the feudal system of exploitation. After nationwide liberation, Party and state leaders received on many occasions religious representatives, encouraging them to oppose imperialism, love the country, and make greater contributions to the socialist motherland. Since then, in accordance with the wishes of the believers, they set up their religious bodies or patriotic organizations with the support of the people's government. These organizations engaged in massive patriotic movements to oppose imperialism, which ended the control of churches by Chinese or foreign exploiting classes, and did away with feudal privileges enjoyed by religious rulers and their oppression and exploitation. Religious bodies functioned on their own and democratically ran their own churches. Proper religious activities were carried on normally.

However, religious freedom was practically non-existent when Lin Biao and the gang of four held sway. In order to restore the Party's religious policy, Article 147 of the Criminal Law, which was promulgated last

Burban Shahidi, Chairman of the China Islamic Association, speaking at a Corban festival reception.



July and is to come into force as from January 1, 1980, stipulates: "A state functionary who unlawfully deprives a citizen of his legitimate freedom of religious belief or violates the customs and folkways of a minority nationality, to a serious degree, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than two years, or to detention." Article 165 stipulates: "A sorcerer or witch who uses superstition to spread rumours or to fraudulently acquire money or articles shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than two years, or to detention, or to public surveillance or, in serious cases, to imprisonment for two to seven years." These regulations guarantee by law the citizen's right to freedom of religion.

Anyone who distorts religious policy, or carries on illegal activities in the name of religion, resulting in disrupting social order, or production or normal day-to-day life, must be given education and their activities stopped. Those who violate the law to a serious degree must be punished according to law.

Religion and Superstition

Belief in the supernatural and in magic is superstition. Religion is superstitious, but superstition is not equivalent to religion.

By religion, we mainly refer to Protestantism, Islamism, Buddhism and other faiths that have a long history and have a wide influence among the people in many countries. Each has its scriptures or holy books, doctrines, rituals and organizations.

By feudal superstition, we mean sorcery, witchcraft, fortune-telling, palmistry, phrenology, magic and so on. All these are of course absurd and are not believed by those who have some cultural and scientific knowledge. Such feudal and superstitious practices are strictly banned by the government. Those who are hoodwinked to take part in such practices are given education.

Nevertheless, the situation is complicated in real life. Some people are accustomed to such practices as worshipping their ancestors, believing in the existence of a soul, spirits and ghosts. So long as their activities do not affect the political and productive activities of the



Jokhan Monastery in Lhasa reopened.

collective, the government will not prevent them by administrative means, but will patiently dissuade them from engaging in such practices.

Accords With Objective Law

Why has the Chinese Government laid down the above-mentioned policies on religious affairs?

Marxists are atheists. They hold that religion is idealism, which runs diametrically counter to materialism and science. But on the other hand, religion, being a product of history, has its own objective law governing its origin, development and passing away. It is a social ideology. The basic reason of its origin and existence is rooted in natural oppression and social oppression, as well as in people failing to find explanations to these two oppressions. They therefore seek help from mystic power. Religion makes the working people put up with adverse circumstances and fatalistic in their struggle against nature and in the class struggle. That is why Marxists hold that religion is opium which lulls the will of the people.

In the period of socialism, the social and ideological origin of religion still exists, religion will still be around for a considerable time. Banning religious activities will only lead to more primitive superstitious activities, overtly or covertly.

Religious belief is an ideological problem and a private matter of an individual. Of course there are differences between those who believe in or not believe in religion, between those who believe in this religion or that religion, but it does not prevent them from uniting together to work for the four modernizations. The govern-

For Your Reference

Origin of Religions In China

IN China, there are Daoism, Buddhism, Christianity (including Catholicism, Protestantism and the Orthodox Eastern Church) and Islamism.

Daoism originated in ancient China when the Han people worshipped celestial beings and necromancers of the Qin and Han Dynasties sought an "elixir of life" and attempted to contact spirits. Daoism arose towards the end of the Eastern Han Dynasty in the second century.

Buddhism was introduced into China from India via Central Asia in the first century. It gradually mingled with Chinese thought and culture and after the Southern and Northern Dynasties (420-589), native Buddhist sects such as Tiantai and Chan Zong sects appeared in China, which later spread to Japan and other countries.

In areas inhabited by Mongolians and Tibetans, the dominant religion is Lamaism.

Both Daoism and Buddhism had had great influence in Chinese history. Many simultaneously believed in Buddhism and worshipped Daoist deities but most would not enter a temple to burn incense except in the hope of gaining something. It was impossible to know exactly how many were believers of these two religions.

In the mid-7th century, with the development of communications between the East and the West,

Islamic Arabs and Persian merchants in turn arrived in China and built mosques. According to earliest related historical records, in 651, an Arab envoy appeared before the Tang Dynasty emperor and expounded the Islamic creed and Arab customs and habits. Historians consider that the year of 651 marked the introduction of Islamism to China.

Before liberation, in north and northwest China, most of the Huis, Uygurs, Kazakhs, Uzbeks, Tajiks, Tartars, Khalkhas, Salars and other minority peoples were followers of Islamism. There are nearly 10 million Moslems in China.

Some Christian religious sects found their way to China in the Tang Dynasty (618-907). They never became very widespread and subsequently vanished. In 1582, Catholicism was reintroduced to China by the Italian Jesuit missionary Matteo Ricci (1552-1610). It is believed that the Catholic cathedral near Xuanwumen, Beijing, was built by Matteo Ricci and another missionary named Johann Adam Schall von Ball (1591-1686) in the early 17th century.

But it was only in the last hundred years that Christianity was introduced into China in a big way. After the Opium War in 1840, many Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox Eastern Church missionaries played a despicable role serving imperialist and colonialist aggression against China. That provoked continuous resistance from the Chinese people against the imperialist missionaries, the most famous one being the Yi He Tuan (Boxer) Movement in 1900.

On the eve of liberation, there were about 3 million Catholics, 700,000 Protestants and a small following of the Orthodox Eastern Church in China.

ment will on no account take administrative measures to force people not to believe in religion. Only through propaganda and education and through social practice will people come to the correct conclusion as to whether accept religion or not, believe in superstition or science, idealism or materialism, which are diametrically opposed, and free themselves of mental fetters.

Act According to Policy

When the gang of four ran amuck, its members sabotaged the state policy on religion, declaring that religion "no longer exists." Under the influence of their ultra-Left line, normal religious beliefs and activities were obstructed. Monasteries, temples and churches were closed down or demolished. Religious personages were persecuted and customs and habits of certain minority nationalities were even wantonly interfered with.

The three years after the downfall of the gang of four saw the policy of freedom of re-

ligious belief being reimplemented. Clerics have returned to the monasteries, temples and churches to handle religious affairs and carry on religious activities. Religious organizations have resumed their activities. Famous monasteries, temples and churches have been gradually repaired and reopened. Many victimized religious personages have been rehabilitated and some have been reinstated in their former posts.

Recently, on the basis of running churches independently and self-reliantly and introducing democratic management, Catholics in the Beijing area elected Michael Fu Tieshan their bishop. Noted religious personages have been elected Deputies to the Fifth National People's Congress or members of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. For instance, Banqen Erdini of Tibet is Vice-Chairman of the Fifth

CHINA
TO GOVERN

(Continued on p. 22.)

Reforming Local Organs of State Power

by Xu Chongde

THE Organic Law of the Local People's Congresses and Local People's Governments of the People's Republic of China (referred hereafter as the Local Organic Law) adopted by the Fifth National People's Congress at its Second Session introduced some major reforms in the local organs of state power in the country, aimed at further bringing out the initiative and creativeness of the local organs of state power.

Changes of Names and Titles

Local revolutionary committees at all levels are to be renamed people's governments, or the management committee in the case of a commune. The revolutionary committee was a form of "unified leadership" and a "provisional organ of authority" born of the Cultural Revolution in 1967. In practice it replaced the local Party committee, the local people's congress and the local people's government, took over their functions and became an organ combining the three into a single whole. Although the revolutionary committee included representatives from the revolutionary cadres, the People's Liberation Army and the revolutionary masses, it was by far not as broadly or fully representative as a people's congress elected on the basis of universal suffrage and the executive organ of a people's congress. In so far as its effectiveness was concerned, it was a far cry from the people's congress system which has a democratic basis and enables governments at all levels to handle things in a centralized way with great efficiency.

Later on, there were some changes in the nature of the revolutionary committee, especially after the overthrow of the gang of four, when the system of people's congresses was restored. Being no longer an all-powerful local organ, it was changed into an executive organ elected by a people's congress. It no longer differed in nature or status from a local people's government at any level in the days before the Cultural Revolution. So it isn't necessary to continue to call it a revolutionary committee. Besides, the old local people's governments,

which represented the people, signify that in our country all power belongs to the people and the people are the masters of the country. Accordingly, the Local Organic Law adopted recently has made this logical change.

In connection with this change, the Local Organic Law has abolished the title chairman of the revolutionary committee and restored such titles as provincial governor, autonomous region chairman, city mayor, prefecture head or county head.

Local Powers Enlarged

Appropriately enlarging the powers of the local authorities under the unified leadership of the central authorities is an historical experience gained after the founding of the People's Republic in handling the relations between the central and local authorities. Comrade Mao Zedong pointed out in 1956: "Our attention should now be focused on how to enlarge the powers of the local authorities to some extent, give them greater independence and let them do more, all on the premise that the unified leadership of the central authorities is to be strengthened." (*On the Ten Major Relationships*.) To bring about the four modernizations, it is necessary to consolidate the unified leadership of the central authorities with a national unified plan and unified discipline. This is beyond doubt. But our country is so big, so populous and the conditions are so complex that it will not help socialist construction if everything is concentrated in the hands of the central authorities and too many restrictions are imposed on the local authorities.

The Local Organic Law works out things in the following two aspects on the question of enlarging the powers of the local authorities:

One, apart from granting more functions and powers to the local organs of state power at all levels in making decisions on affairs within its own jurisdiction according to the principles of the Constitution, it also specifically lays

down that the people's congress of a province, national minority autonomous region or municipality directly under the Central Government and its standing committee, may, in the light of the specific conditions and actual needs of its own administrative area and in conformity with the Constitution, laws, policies, decrees and orders of the state, enact and promulgate local statutes. This is a major reform.

China has 30 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government, over 2,000 counties and more than 50,000 people's communes. The specific features of the various localities are as varied as their economic and cultural conditions. The Constitution and laws for the country as a whole have become increasingly inadequate to cope with the situation. They can only reflect things com-

mon to all localities in the country and solve problems common to all localities; they can hardly reflect the specific features in every locality or solve its specific problems.

As we proceed with the four modernizations, such specific problems will certainly grow in number. For this reason, to implement in a better way the Constitution and laws and integrate them with the actual conditions in various localities, it is necessary to grant local authorities the power to pass local statutes to decide on certain major issues in the light of local conditions. This is most conducive to bringing into full play the specific strong points of the localities and promoting socialist construction.

Two, the Local Organic Law has worked out new provisions for the various units under the

Beijing Municipal Government Elected

A MUNICIPAL people's government of Beijing was elected on December 13 at the closing meeting of the third session of the Seventh Municipal People's Congress of Beijing to replace the municipal revolutionary committee, a provisional government body set up during the Cultural Revolution.

Sixty-three-year-old Communist Lin Hujia was elected mayor of Beijing. A native of Shan-

dong Province, he joined the revolution in 1937 and was admitted into the Communist Party the following year. He is first secretary of the Beijing Municipal Committee of the Chinese Communist Party.

Of the 12 vice-mayors elected, one is Professor Lei Jieqiong, 74, a nationally renowned expert in law. She belongs to the China Association for Promoting Democracy, a democratic party. The other 11 vice-mayors are Communists.

According to the government work report made by Lin Hujia on behalf of the former municipal revolutionary committee, a group of non-Communist specialists and other people will be made directors and deputy directors of departments and bureaus under the municipal government. It is anticipated that non-Communists will also join governments of districts and counties under the Beijing municipality. "Non-Communists will be guaranteed the same powers as Communists holding the same posts," Lin Hujia stressed.



Deputies to the Beijing Municipal People's Congress electing the mayor and other municipal leaders in December.

people's government. In the past, the various administrative organs (boards, bureaus, divisions and sections) were supposed to be subordinated to a double leadership but in actual fact they were mostly subjected to the control of the corresponding organs at the next higher level so that the initiative of the people's government at the same level was restricted.

The Local Organic Law now explicitly provides that the various administrative organs work under the unified leadership of the people's government of the corresponding level, that, with the exception of a few organs which work under the leadership of the corresponding organs at both the upper level and the central authorities, all other organs' relationship with the organs at higher levels and those of the

central authorities are changed into one of vocational guidance. This will greatly strengthen the powers of the local organs of state power and bring the socialist initiative of the localities into full play.

Changing the Organizational Forms

The Local Organic Law has changed the committee system adopted by the local governments in the last 30 years; in the case of the county people's governments and above, an organizational form similar to that of the State Council (the system of council of ministers) is adopted so that the first leading member of the various administrative organs (board directors, bureau directors, etc.) are all included in the composition of the local people's governments.

The mayor and vice-mayors were elected by secret ballot from a field of 16 candidates in the Great Hall of the People. The list of candidates was drawn up by democratic consultations between the municipal Communist Party committee on the one hand, and the municipal committees of the various democratic parties, people's organizations and non-party public figures on the other. It became official only after it was submitted for discussion to the deputies attending the municipal people's congress session and won the approval of the majority.

Taking part in the polling were 1,128 people's deputies out of the total of 1,249. Also by secret ballot, the deputies elected the chairman, vice-chairmen and members of the standing committee of the Beijing Municipal People's Congress, the presidents of the city's higher and intermediate people's courts, and chief procurators of the municipal people's procuratorate and the municipal sub-procuratorates. Candidates for these posts were nominated in the same fashion.

The 42 members of the standing committee of the municipal people's congress were chosen from 47 candidates. Communist Jia Tingsan was elected chairman, and five of the 14 vice-chairmen are non-Communists.

Jia Tingsan, 67, a native of Hebei Province, joined the Communist Party in 1939.

On the proposal of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, the session

elected Professor Ma Yinchu, 97, deputy to the Fifth National People's Congress. He is a leading economist and honorary president of Beijing University. He does not belong to any political party. In the 1950s, he was criticized for alleged errors in advocating "Malthusianism" when he pressed for control of the growth of population. The correctness of his population theory was not recognized until after the overthrow of the gang of four in October 1976.

A spokesman for the presidium of the third session of the seventh municipal people's congress said that the elections were the first of the kind conducted since the Cultural Revolution began in 1966. The number of candidates being more than the number elected was another new feature.

According to the spokesman, following the municipal people's congress session, people's congresses at the district and county level will elect their own standing committees. District and county governments will be elected to replace revolutionary committees of the same level. Deputies to district and county people's congresses will be elected directly by the voters. Experiments have been made in the East City District and suburban Huairou County in carrying out these important reforms which will enable the people to exercise more fully their right to take part in running state affairs and help strengthen the links between the government and people.

At the same time they are no longer appointed by the administrative organ at the higher level or by the State Council; their appointment or removal is thus to be decided on by the standing committee of the people's congress at the corresponding level. This change in the organizational form is to the advantage of bringing about political democratization in our country, and conforms to the needs of modernization; this not only enlarges the powers of the local authorities but also enables the local governments to exercise unified leadership over the various administrative units under them in a more centralized and effective way.

In connection with this democratic measure of enlarging the powers of the local authorities, the Local Organic Law provides that standing committees are to be established for county people's congresses and above.

According to the 1954 Constitution and the organic law adopted that same year, local people's congresses at all levels do not have standing organs. The reason for this was that their work was not so heavy as that of the National People's Congress. The National People's Congress exercises the legislative power while the local people's congresses do not. Moreover, the localities down below are not so big, which makes it easy to call a people's congress. Lastly, the local people's governments at all levels, as executive organs, can at the same time exercise the functions and powers of the standing committee of a people's congress.

In the light of our experience in the past 25 years, it has become highly necessary for the local people's congresses at the county level and above to establish standing committees as permanent organs exercising the state power in the localities when the congresses are not in session.

One, now that the powers of the localities have been enlarged, their work is also much heavier than before. According to the new provisions, since the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government have the right to enact local statutes, the reason for not establishing standing committees is ruled out.

Two, with the development of the four modernizations, the local people's congresses at all levels will be entrusted with more tasks and work. Many day-to-day, quite urgent, important things need to be decided on and handled

promptly. Obviously they cannot be solved by the congress that meets only once a year. With the setting up of standing committees, things can be taken care of in time.

Three, it will be more convenient and proper for a standing committee rather than a government to perform duties like the following: calling meetings of the people's congress at the corresponding level, making regular contacts with the people's deputies, organizing and making arrangements for the deputies to visit places, make inquiries or inspect work, presiding over elections for the next people's congress, deciding on the appointment or removal of leading members of the various administrative organs under the government at the corresponding level and deciding on the appointment or removal of certain members of the court and the procuratorate of the corresponding level and so on.

Four, the establishment of a standing committee will facilitate real and regular supervision over the government. A people's government, as a matter of course, should place itself under the supervision of the people's congress at the corresponding level. But in the past when the people's congress was not in session, the people's government exercised the functions and powers of the standing organ of the people's congress, which is tantamount to the people's government supervising itself. Now with a standing committee, this drawback can be avoided and control and supervision over the people's government by the people can be greatly strengthened. Moreover, supervision over the organs of state power at the lower levels, the court and the procuratorate by the standing committee of a people's congress rather than by a people's government is more in keeping with the principle of democracy. It is also much better for a standing committee than a government to receive the people and listen to their complaints and opinions about the government, the court, the procuratorate at the corresponding level as well as personnel working in these organs.

A people's congress is an organ for the people to exercise the state powers. Now the people's congresses at the county level and above have established standing committees to attend to things when the congresses are not in session, these standing committees will be able to regularly exercise the state power within these localities on behalf of the people. This is undoubtedly an expansion of socialist democracy.

NATO to Deploy New Missiles In Europe

NATO will bolster its "theatre nuclear force" (T.N.F.) in Europe to counter Soviet nuclear superiority. Meeting in Brussels on December 12, NATO's foreign and defence ministers decided to authorize the deployment of 108 Pershing II missiles with a range of about 1,800 kilometres (to replace the current Pershing I-A missiles) and 464 ground-launched cruise missiles with a range of about 2,400 kilometres by 1983.

Why?

West European countries have been concerned about strengthening and modernizing their T.N.F. — a term used to describe missiles with a range of less than 5,000 kilometres and bombers with a range of less than 8,000 which are deployed by either of the two military blocs, NATO and the Warsaw Pact, on the continent. NATO based its decision on several factors.

Growing Soviet Military Threat. In recent years the Soviet Union has greatly expanded its conventional arms and nuclear weapons under the signboard of "detente" and "disarmament." While the military balance between the Soviet Union and NATO was in the latter's favour during the 60s, the Soviet Union surpassed NATO during the 70s in conventional arms in Europe and reached a parity with the United States in intercontinental strategic weapons. Moscow then gained the upper hand in theatre nuclear weapons in Europe in 1977 by deploying its SS-20, a mobile missile with multiple warheads and a range of 4,500-5,000

kilometres, which can hit any target in Europe without fear of NATO's present tactical missiles which only have a range of 100 or so kilometres. The Soviet Union has already deployed 120 of these missiles and 90 supersonic "Backfire" bombers. As the West European countries have nothing to counter the SS-20, it is no wonder they feel threatened.

Moscow Not Limited by SALT II in Europe. Originally the NATO defence strategy was based on the backing of U.S. strategic nuclear forces, and the U.S. tactical nuclear forces stationed in Europe were sufficient to offset the Soviet lead in conventional arms. Now that the Soviet Union has gained superiority in theatre nuclear weapons, and the SALT II treaty signed last June between the Soviet Union and the United States placed no curbs on Soviet development and deployment of its nuclear weapons in Europe, there are growing doubts about the dependability of the U.S. "nuclear umbrella." The West European countries are therefore eager to strengthen their defence and modernize their T.N.F. to avoid becoming mere chips in the nuclear gamble.

Soviet Reaction

Moscow was furious when the NATO nuclear planning group drafted a T.N.F. modernization programme not long ago in preparation for the Brussels meeting. It spared no efforts to have the plan scotched from the very outset. On October 6, Brezhnev kicked off an intensive propaganda offensive against the plan with his speech in Berlin. He pledged to unilaterally withdraw 20,000 Soviet troops and 1,000 tanks from East Germany within one year and offered to reduce the number of Soviet medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe if NATO abandoned its T.N.F. modernization plan. He, however, warned that if NATO turned a deaf ear to him, there would be serious consequences.

Despite these efforts, particularly Gromyko's jaunt to West Germany and Boris Ponomarev's trip to Italy, the Soviets failed to obtain their objectives. The Soviet Union then



Plucking a hair. Cartoon by Jiang Fan.

used the Warsaw Pact foreign ministers meeting to issue a call for disarmament talks between the two sides in another attempt to delay or block NATO's decision to deploy the new missiles. It also staged a splashy ceremony in East Germany for the withdrawal of 100 Soviet troops and invited Western correspondents as part of a massive propaganda blitz.

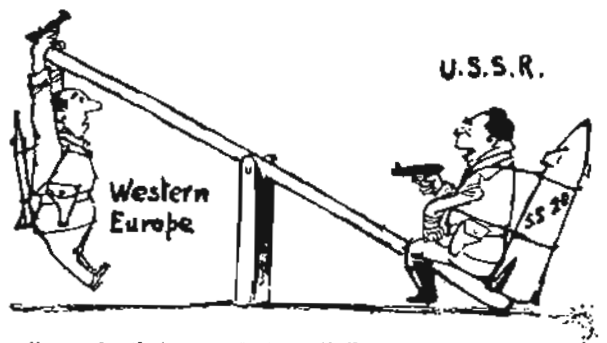
After repeated consultations, the NATO members decided to deploy the new missiles and at the same time to hold negotiations with the Soviet Union. In other words, they want to strengthen their position before going to the bargaining table. This new policy is a blow to Moscow's hopes.

What Lies Ahead

The struggle between NATO and the Soviet Union over T.N.F. in Europe will become increasingly complicated and arduous. Though the NATO plan envisages basing Pershing II missiles in Britain, West Germany, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands, only the first three have given their full approval. Belgium and the Netherlands still have reservations and have stated that their final decisions will depend of the outcome of the arms negotiations with the Soviet Union. Although the Brussels meeting authorized the new missiles, they will not

be deployed for another three years. Obviously, Moscow will not abandon its attempts to foment dissension and sabotage during this period, nor will it slacken its arms expansion. Therefore, even if NATO deploys the new missiles as planned, the balance of power in another three years will be heavily against NATO.

The Soviet Union is on the offensive in every sector of the globe. In a drive to encircle Western Europe, it is seizing key areas and strategic raw materials in the Middle East, the Horn of Africa, the Gulf region . . . right up to Indochina. This is a harsh reality that the Western countries have to confront and seriously deal with.



Europe's "balance of strength."

Cartoon by Fany Cheng

(Continued from p. 16.)

National Committee of the C.P.P.C.C.; Wu Yaozong, the late president of the National Committee of the Protestant Churches of China for Self-Administration*, was a Member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress right up to his death on September 17, 1979. Among Deputies to the Fifth N.P.C. and members of the Fifth National Committee of the C.P.P.C.C. are more than 20 religious personages. They take part in discussing state affairs and their opinions are being equally respected.

Places of religious activities are being repaired and reopened. There is a government policy for the protection of well-known monasteries, temples and churches and many of them have been listed as key historical relics under state protection. Special units have been set up and put in charge of maintaining and repairing religious sites and buildings.

Research on religion has been reactivated. A Chinese Society of Religion has been set up with Zhao Puchu as its honorary president, Ren Jiyu its president and Ding Guangxun and others vice-presidents. A research institute on religion has been established in Nanjing University. Its work consists of revising the Chinese edition of the Bible, selecting and editing Western religious episodes and Christian literature. Scholars and research institutes on religion are writing and translating outline history of Christianity, histories of Buddhism, Islamism and Daoism in China and a history of the relations between Buddhism in China and abroad.

* Wu Yaozong, secretary-general of the Chinese National Council of the Young Men's Christian Association, initiated in 1950 the patriotic movement of self-administration, self-support and self-propagation of the gospel among Chinese Protestants. As a result, the National Committee of the Protestant Churches of China for Self-Administration was set up.

Two Offensives, One Purpose

— Kremlin tries to poison Sino-Japanese relations

MOSCOW recently let loose a big propaganda offensive, attacking Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira's official visit to China and distorting Sino-Japanese relations of peace and friendship.

Moscow claimed that the bilateral co-operation between Japan and China following the conclusion of their treaty of peace and friendship "has become a factor of instability aggravating tension in Asia" and "constituted an exceptionally grave menace to the cause of peace and security in Asia." Moscow described Prime Minister Ohira's trip to China as a "suspicious visit." It alleged that the Sino-Japanese summit talks "may lay emphasis on the defining of Chinese and Japanese spheres of influences in Asia and Southeast Asia in particular."

Moscow even accused Japan of being "muddle-headed" in its attitude towards China. Japan's China policy was characterized as "short-sighted and even fatal."

Why has the Kremlin flown into such a towering rage at Prime Minister Ohira's China visit, which was aimed at promoting a further development of the friendly relations between the two countries? The only explanation is that Sino-Japanese friendship and co-operation is not to the liking of the Kremlin.

In recent years, the Soviet Union has redoubled its efforts to press forward an expansionist policy in Asia. This has been borne out by these indisputable facts: Its massive military presence and acquisition of military bases in the Red Sea area and the Indian Ocean; its attempts to stir up fresh conflicts in the Middle East; its infiltration and expansion into Southern Asia with Afghanistan as its base; in the Far East, its organizing a new command and deploying more SS-20 missiles, Backfire bombers and warships including the aircraft carrier *Minsk*; its turning Japan's northern islands into a military base, and its using Viet Nam, a "Cuba" in the East, as its outpost

to expand and to create an atmosphere of turbulence and intranquillity in Southeast Asia.

By sharp contrast, China and Japan have strengthened their relations of friendship and co-operation and contributed to the preservation of peace and stability in Asia and the world in the spirit of the treaty they concluded.

In the Sino-Japanese joint press communique issued on the occasion of the Japanese Prime Minister's official visit to China, the two countries reiterated that they would "make sustained efforts, on the basis of their respective positions, for the preservation and securing of peace and stability in Asia and in the world." What is bad about this?

The Soviet social-imperialists, however, have considered it unprincipled for China and Japan to engage in positive economic co-operation and cultural and scientific-technological interflow. They described China's modernization programme as "infamous" and alleged that Japanese economic co-operation with China signified Japan's "practical participation in modernizing the Chinese armed forces." This shows that in Soviet thinking, it conforms to Moscow's strategic interests of dominating Asia and the rest of the world when Asian countries, and China in particular, remain poor and backward.

Coupled with this propaganda offensive, a Soviet diplomatic offensive got under way in Tokyo. On December 4, the day before Ohira's visit, Soviet Ambassador to Japan Dmitri Polyanisky again pressed the Japanese Government to accept the Soviet draft of a "treaty of good-neighbourliness and co-operation." At the Japan-U.S.S.R. round-table conference the next day, December 5, the Soviet Minister of the Merchant Marine, Timofei Guzhenko, urged the Japanese side to negotiate with the Soviet Union a "document of new principles for good-neighbourly and friendly state relations," a manoeuvre designed to beguile Japan into

prising up its four northern islands. The implicit Soviet criticism at the conference of Japan's China policy indicated an effort to "have Japan turning more towards the Soviet Union," as a Japanese newspaper has noted.

Both the malicious attacks from Moscow and the beguiling manoeuvre in Tokyo harbour one objective, and that is to poison Sino-

Japanese relations and these two nations' relations with other Asian countries and to undermine Sino-Japanese co-operation and the mutual trust of the Asian nations. This ultimate aim is to make the situation in Asia more volatile and conducive to the Kremlin bringing Asian countries under its control one by one and eventually fulfilling its plan for dominating Asia.

South Korea in Confusion

A DISARRAY unprecedented in the ranks of the ruling clique of south Korea has occurred following the killing of Pak Jung Hi on October 26. Emergency martial law was proclaimed, political activities were banned, the press censorship was tightened, schools were closed and all opposition was suppressed. At the same time, the ruling clique hurriedly realigned forces, made the puppet "prime minister" Choe Gyu Ha "acting president" to handle routine affairs, elected Kim Jong Pil President of the Democratic Republican Party and began behind-the-scene manoeuvrings. After the death of Pak Jung Hi, opposition democratic forces pressed harder for their demands.

As soon as Pak Jung Hi was buried, many people issued statements advocating the "abrogation of the system of a one-man dictatorship" and demanding the "right of workers, peasants and other labouring people to live," the "nullifying of the Yusin constitution" and the "resignation of Pak Jung Hi's confidants." These included head of the New Democratic Party Kim Young Sam and three prominent members of the National Conference for Democracy and National Unification, — a joint organization wanting to overhaul the system — the former "president" Yoon Bo Sun, former "presidential candidate" Kim Dae Jung, Hyam Sok Hon of religious circles, as well as representatives of several mass organizations.

After Choe Gyu Ha on November 10 spoke about holding an election to "fill the vacant post of president," in accordance with the present

"constitution," Yoon Bo Sun immediately denounced it as an attempt to "maintain vested interests illegally obtained through corruption," and urged the present regime to step down to allow the setting up of a democratic provisional government with democratic forces participating.

Not long ago, students and people from all walks of life in Seoul and Kwangju also held rallies demanding the abolition of the "Yusin constitution."

On December 6, with the support of the military and the Democratic Republican Party, Choe Gyu Ha was elected "president." This does not mean, however, that a solution has been found. Choe Gyu Ha is merely a transitional figure. The "Yusin constitution" concocted by Pak Jung Hi has to be changed.

At present, the opposition parties and democratic forces, oppressed under the rule of Pak Jung Hi, are very active. On the day Choe Gyu Ha was elected "president," Yoon Bo Sun reiterated his opposition to the election and demanded that Choe Gyu Ha shorten his term of office as much as possible. Kim Young Sam also expressed his hope that the constitution would be amended within two to three months and free general elections be held within one year. The spokesman for the South Korean Revolutionary Party for Reunification said that the recent "presidential election" and the setting up of a "provisional government" meant the

(Continued on p. 28.)

DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

Interview With Pol Pot

Kampuchean Prime Minister Pol Pot recently told Japanese reporters, "Viet Nam is trying to complete its war of aggression during the present dry season, but it is failing to accomplish its ambitions because of difficulties within Viet Nam and the fighting conducted by our guerrillas who are spread like the meshes of a net within Kampuchea."

A group of Japanese reporters travelled on December 8 and 9 into the heartland of the Kampuchean guerrilla resistance movement to have this rare interview with the Prime Minister. In good spirits, he replied to their questions. "We have a complete network of contacts linking the East, Central and West. . . . If a certain place is attacked, then we resort to the offensive in another place to keep enemy forces stationary. Viet Nam has poured 200,000 men into Kampuchea and eight divisions are now bottled up in the eastern and northern parts of the country."

During the four-hour interview, Pol Pot noted that at present the Great National Patriotic and Democratic Union is Kampuchea's "supreme body." Its foremost task is to protect the nation and the people from extermination by Hanoi and its aim is to unite Kampuchean forces at home and abroad. He said that he is in contact with all elements including the Free Khmer and Khmer Serika and that he has contacted Samdech Norodom Sihanouk on several occasions.

The Prime Minister pointed out that his country enjoyed "the support of the majority of the countries of the world and the ASEAN countries in particular." Noting that the ASEAN countries are facing the threat of Vietnamese aggression, he said that "the Southeast Asian countries and those in the Pacific region are well aware that it would be wrong to pursue an appeasement policy when the Soviet Union and Viet Nam are waging a full-scale war, in Kampuchea."

Pol Pot also gave another interview to Per Forslind, a correspondent for the Swedish pa-

per *Svenska Dagbladet*, during which he stressed that Viet Nam is trying to annihilate the whole of the Kampuchean nation with a view to turning Kampuchea into a springboard for further expansion in Southeast Asia. He cited Hanoi's use of toxic chemicals as one example of its efforts to wipe out the three-million-strong Kampuchean nation.

ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES

Armed Rebellion Quelled

An official of St. Vincent and Grenadines announced that his country had quelled an armed rebellion.

Early on the morning of December 6, a group of unidentified armed personnel attacked a police station and the airport on Union Island, a three-square-mile island which they occupied that afternoon.

Prime Minister Milton Cato the next day declared a state of emergency and imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew as he dispatched a police task force to the occupied island. He appealed to the United States, Britain and Barbados for military help. Barbados responded by sending a police force to help.

Ten Caribbean countries condemned the rebellion and pledged support for Cato's government. A government spokesman of Grenada, a neighbouring country to the south of St. Vincent and Grenadines, denied any involvement of his country in the rebellion.



Pol Pot (left), Ieng Sary (middle) and Mrs. Ieng Thirith in the jungles of western Kampuchea.

Implementation of U.N. Resolution Urged

A joint communique issued following the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting in Kuala Lumpur urges the U.N. Secretary-General to take concrete steps to effectuate as soon as possible the U.N. resolution on the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Kampuchea.

The meeting was held at Thailand's request because tension along the Thai-Kampuchean border was mounting and fighting might spill over into Thailand.

The communique declares that the ASEAN countries will continue to recognize the Democratic Kampuchean Government whose credentials were accepted by the U.N. General Assembly at its 34th session. "To do otherwise would only be to put the stamp of approval on the act of foreign military intervention and the imposition of a regime which is sustained by foreign military forces," the communique stresses.

On his return from Kuala Lumpur, Thai Foreign Minister Upadit Pachariyangkun appealed to all countries which uphold justice to continue to recognize the Government of Democratic Kampuchea, as ASEAN members and Australia and New Zealand are doing.

Earlier, Britain had withdrawn its recognition of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea, but had withheld recognition for the Heng Samrin regime. Sir Ian Gilmour,

Lord Privy Seal and foreign affairs spokesman in the House of Commons, had declared that "the dependence of the Heng Samrin regime on the Vietnamese occupation army is complete." "There is no reason to doubt that without the presence of the occupying troops it would be swept away by resurgent Cambodian nationalism."

Observers have noted that the British decision has come at a time when the Vietnamese authorities are pushing their all-out dry-season offensive against the Kampuchean people in defiance of the U.N. General Assembly resolution which calls for an immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Kampuchea. This decision hurts only the Kampuchean people's struggle against the Vietnamese invaders. It also has unfavourably affected the countering of Soviet and Vietnamese expansion in Southeast Asia and the preservation of stability and peace in that region and Asia as a whole.

New Zealand Prime Minister Robert Muldoon and Australian Foreign Minister Robert Peacock had stated respectively that New Zealand and Australia would not withdraw their recognition of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea.

LEBANON

Against Iranian Volunteers

The Lebanese Government recently announced it was against any Iranian plan to send volunteers into southern Lebanon to fight for the Palestinian guerrillas.

Lebanese officials became concerned when Iranian religious leader H. Mohammad Montazeri declared that he would send "thousands of volunteers to south Lebanon soon to fight alongside Palestinian Commandos — whether the Lebanese Government likes it or not."

It was reported that a special envoy from the Iranian Revolutionary Council had visited Lebanon and told the press in Beirut after he had met with the Lebanese Prime Minister that a detachment of Iranian volunteers would be sent to the southern Lebanese front, where Christian Lebanese militia and Israeli frontier troops are combating Palestinian guerrillas.

The Lebanese Foreign Ministry also notified Iran that the dispatching of Iranian volunteers to southern Lebanon would pose a serious threat to the people there, to the Palestinian cause and the area at large. It would also constitute a violation of all the decisions and resolutions adopted at Arab and international conferences. The Lebanese Government has stated that it will not give entry visas to these Iranian volunteers and will close Lebanese air space including the Beirut International Airport to Iranian planes trying to land without permission.

CORRECTION: In our issue No. 46, on page 26, right column, the 11th line from the bottom, for "more than one birth" read "more than two births."

● **Botanical Garden**

Picturesque Dinghu Mountain, a popular sightseeing spot in Guangdong Province, is the site of a natural botanical garden.

The mountain has a favourable subtropical climate, with abundant rainfall and fertile soil which provide a conducive environment for a great variety of plant life.

As far back as the Tang Dynasty (618-907), the mountain was a sacred place for Buddhist pilgrims. As a result its temples and 260 hectares of forests were protected over the centuries. After liberation, the government set apart mountain areas for forestry and the afforested area of Dinghu was expanded to 1,130 hectares. With the establishment of a botanical

research institute in 1956, the mountain has turned into an important centre for studying subtropical plants.

The mountain contains about 2,500 simple and complex plant varieties. Many of them are rare, ancient plants that have practically become extinct. For instance, this is the only place where Tsoongiobendron tree can be found. Unique to China, it has high quality timber, grows rapidly and is economically very valuable. There are vast stretches of these trees growing in Dinghu Mountain.

Erythrophloeum tree is high on the list of precious trees protected by the state. It can only be found in a few places in south China. Tracts of Erythrophloeum trees, the oldest more than 100 years old, now grow on the mountain.

There also are ornamental trees and those whose wood, roots, stems and leaves can be used for making medicines, fibers, oil, fodder and raw materials for the chemical industry. For instance, purple-flowered azaleas are used to treat patients suffering from chronic bronchitis.

● **Tap Water in Parkor Street**

For the first time in Parkor Street, Lhasa, capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region, there is running water.

Most residents of the old city live in Parkor Street. Under the Tibetan feudalist slave system, before the democratic reform in 1959, there were a few wells which were exclusively for slave-owners. Other

people had to fetch water in big wooden casks, which they carried on their back, from Lhasa River some kilometres away.

After liberation, a new city district was built with running water put in, but people living in Parkor Street had no running water as their homes were fairly widely scattered.

The city this year funded the putting in of 1,350 metres of pipes to provide tap water for more than 2,000 households and a dozen of enterprises.

● **Diamond Presented**

Pan Cunyun, a university student, presented a 13.583-carat diamond to the state and was awarded a pocket electronic calculator and 500 yuan.

A native of Qianyang County in Hunan Province, 11-year-old Pan Cunyun had found a curious stone while playing with his elder brother on a hill near his home in 1966. He was taken with it and kept the stone.

Pan joined the army last year and was later enrolled into an army university. When he read a report about diamonds in the newspaper, it occurred to him that the stone he had found might be a diamond.

When Pan returned home during the summer vacation this year, he sent the stone to the Hunan provincial geological bureau for appraisal. The yellowish, transparent stone proved to be a diamond. It has been valued at more than 100,000 yuan.

This discovery has sparked interest in diamond prospecting in the area.



Measuring a banyan tree in a protected area of Dinghu Mountain.

● **Not a Lonely Old Man**

Zhong Laihao, a 78-year-old man who lives singly in a Guangdong village, south China, has been taken good care of by four girls.

One day in 1964, a girl in his village saw the old man carrying water with difficulty, so she began to fetch water for him. She did this every day for six years until she married. Then her younger sister took over the job for the next five years. When she left, a girl cousin of hers continued this daily chore.

Two years ago, Zhong moved away to live in a new house, there too, a girl living nearby made it her task to fetch water for him. When he fell ill, this girl also did the cooking for him and looked after him. Now Zhong Laihao is spending his remaining years in happiness.

● **A Coalfield Verified In Guizhou**

Chinese geologists recently confirmed that a coalfield in southwest China's Guizhou Province has reserves of more than 15,000 million tons of good quality coal, mainly anthracite.

Average thickness of the seams is 10 metres and the seams are close to the surface.

● **Offshore Unloading Platform**

China's first offshore platform for handling cargo recently went into operation at the entrance of the Shanghai harbour. Named *Shuang Feng Hai*, it was converted from a 100,000-ton-class ore carrier.

Though Shanghai harbour is the largest in China, handling one-third of the nation's import and export commodities,

its navigation channel at the estuary of the Changjiang River is not deep enough for large freighters. The platform is used to unload part of the cargo from large ore and grain carriers to reduce their weight before they enter the port. The platform has already serviced four huge ore carriers with a total cargo weight of 300,000 tons.

In order to keep pace with expanding foreign trade, eight major automatic loading and unloading projects as well as some pontoons are being built for the harbour.



China's first 100,000-ton offshore platform for handling cargo.

(Continued from p. 24.)

continuation of Pak Jung Hi's type of dictatorship, nothing more than a "second Yusin rule."

The tactics of the south Korean rulers might change, but there will be no fundamental changes in the basic policy the Pak Jung Hi's regime followed. The sharp contradictions between the democratic forces and the people of south Korea on the one hand and the ruling clique on the other will still be there. On December 12, south Korean "military control commander" and army chief of staff Chung Sung Hwa was arrested. According to a statement

by the south Korean "defence minister" Ro Jae Hyu, the arrest of Chung Sung Hwa and "other military men" was because of their involvement in the October slaying of Pak Jung Hi by Kim Chai Gyu, "director of the central intelligence agency." The next day, south Korean "president" Choe Gyu Ha sacked the "defence minister." Reporting on this surprise change, the Japanese news agency Kyodo said that the situation apparently indicates a continued schism among rival military leaders. There will be fierce struggle over how to change the constitution and other questions. The confusion in south Korea will not disappear overnight.



SOCIAL SCIENCE

Historian Reviews Zigzag Progress

In an academic discussion on social sciences held in Beijing, historian Li Shu gave a report entitled "Thirty Years of China's Social Sciences." Some of the main points are summarized below.

China's social science, with Marxism as its guiding thought, emerged during the period of the May 4th Movement in 1919. Applying the Marxist theory, Comrade Mao Zedong creatively solved a series of practical problems concerning the Chinese revolution. Mao Zedong Thought is the crystallization of the wisdom of the whole Party in its revolutionary struggles. This is a great achievement in China's social sciences.

Since the founding of New China, there has been an unprecedented progress in social sciences. These include the following developments in particular:

In June 1955, the Chinese Academy of Sciences established the department of philosophy

and social sciences. Under it, research institutes were subsequently set up in the fields of philosophy, economy, archaeology, history, modern history, linguistics, literature, foreign literature, nationality, religion, law, world history, world economy, the history of natural sciences and information. More than ten academic journals were published, among them, *Lishi Yanjiu* (Historical Studies), *Jingji Yanjiu* (Economic Studies), *Zhexue Yanjiu* (Philosophical Studies), *Wenxue Pinglun* (Literary Review) and *Faxue Yanjiu* (Law Studies). Academic associations including those for studying the history of China, economics and philosophy were set up one after another.

In addition, there were 37 special organizations for studying social sciences in 22 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions before the Cultural Revolution. Over 20 academic periodicals, specialized or comprehensive, were published regularly in these places.

Since the beginning of the 50s, those who engaged in studying social sciences have translated, compiled and published large numbers of classical works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and works by Mao Zedong, including *The Collected Works of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels*, *The Collected Works of V.I. Lenin*, *The Collected Works of J.V. Stalin* and *Selected Works of Mao Zedong*. Various selected works and separate articles in pamphlet form by these authors were also brought out. After making an intensive study of these classics, those working in the field of social sciences turned out many articles which

either comment on or publicize the classics or help supply notes and explanations for them. Historians systematized, edited, annotated and checked many of China's ancient classics which are of important value in Chinese history, such as *Zizhi Tongjian* (A Mirror of History) and *Ershisi Shi* (Twenty-Four Histories), which were punctuated and checked against the authoritative texts. Much has been done in introducing works about Western social sciences, compiling textbooks for universities and colleges and publishing important academic works.

A number of research institutes organized social scientists to investigate society, study dialectics and extend their social investigations into national minority areas. Some investigative reports gathered great quantities of material that have proved helpful in further expounding and proving the universal law of social development revealed by Marx and Engels, and in probing the special laws governing the development of Chinese society. Chinese linguists have made outstanding achievements in reforming Chinese characters, the standardization of the Chinese language and the study of dialects.

In the early 50s when China's social science began to forge ahead, it was influenced by Soviet dogmatism and modern superstition. During the Cultural Revolution, Lin Biao and the gang of four took advantage of this dogmatism and modern superstition to impose a feudal autocracy which nearly undermined all the achievements gained in social sciences and other fields of study in our country.

Lin Biao and the gang of four completely denied the achievements in social sciences made since liberation. They dissolved scientific institutes, banned academic organizations, destroyed or damaged vast amounts of reference material and abolished courses in pedagogy, logic, political science, law, sociology, ethics, aesthetics, psychology and library science. They persecuted social scientists, particularly old specialists who had achieved success in their fields.

Three lessons should be drawn in the light of a historical survey of the uneven development of China's social sciences over the past 30 years:

1. It is imperative to uphold materialism and seek truth from facts, and not to adopt a bookish approach or proceed from subjective wishes.

2. It is necessary to adhere to dialectics, to understand and apply Marxist theories correctly and to oppose oversimplifying them and reducing them to absolutes or formulas.

3. In handling a science, it is imperative to comply with the laws governing that particular science.

All three lessons embody the spirit of seeking truth from facts.

Since the gang of four was toppled, New China's social sciences have developed to a new stage and shown great promise.

To promote social sciences, we must give full play to democracy, and call for scientific study of the policies, theories and practical problems of socialist construction. Full freedom should be given to such research and to discussions of its findings. Science will flourish if a democratic system is guaranteed and if it is encouraged, not restricted. Only when science advances and the cultural level of the people rises, can China's socialist modernization develop at high speed.

MEDICINE

Separated Siamese Twins In Good Health

The Siamese twins who have survived surgical separation four years ago are now healthy and active. A recent check-up at the Beijing Children's Hospital showed that the two boys, Hu Yongda and Hu Yongtao, compare favourably with other children of their age in terms of intelligence, strength and weight.

They were born in a village not far from Beijing, and brought to the hospital on November 6, 1975, ten days after birth. Weighing three kilograms at birth, the twins were joined from the lower part of their breastbones to their navels. Their livers were also attached, but all other organs were independent. Each had a hernia on his right side. Because their lives were endangered by pneumonia, surgeons separated them on December 2.

After the operation, doctors and nurses formed a special medical group to give the children round-the-clock care. Though Yongda's pneumonia was more serious, he was able to leave the hospital two and a half months later since his abdominal wall was intact. Yongtao remained hospitalized for another four months because he was lacking part of his abdominal wall and developed a huge abdominal hernia. He underwent corrective surgery for his abdominal wall a year after the separation operation. At that time both twins were growing well and beginning to walk. Yongtao's hernia was repaired after this year's check-up. His brother had had the operation earlier.

The state covered all medical expenses. The children's mother, a commune member, and their father, a worker, only paid for food.

Surgeons at the Beijing Children's Hospital published a paper on the successful operation in the 1978 September issue of *Chinese Medical Journal*.

Such surgery was attempted on two previous occasions in New China — in 1957 in Hunan Province and in Shanghai in 1966. In both cases, only one twin survived.



Left: The twin brothers before being separated.
Right: A recent photo of Yongda (right) and Yongtao.

In 1957, the Shoudu Hospital in Beijing treated a case of adult Siamese twin brothers. The 71-year-old brothers had worked in a circus run by a foreign capitalist. They had been humiliated and disgraced wherever they toured. As they were ill they were separated by surgery but only one survived.

MUSIC

Yehudi Menuhin in Beijing

Yehudi Menuhin, a world-famous violinist and educator who has played an active role in international music circles, recently wound up a ten-day visit to China at the invitation of Lu Ji, chairman of the Chinese Musicians' Association.

Mr. Menuhin gave three concerts in Beijing. Accompanied by the Central Philharmonic Orchestra, he enthralled his



audiences with a rendering of Mozart's *Violin Concerto in A Major* and Brahms' *Violin Concerto in D Major*. His deeply moving performance, which was free from ostentation, brought the house down.

The Chinese musicians unanimously hailed his superb skill. One of them said: Mr. Menuhin, who has stood at the peak of violin artistry for half a century, still retains the charm of his youth. His rich creative

power, and simple but imaginative and passionate performing style impress his audiences.

As an educator, Mr. Menuhin was eager to impart some of his knowledge to young Chinese players. He gave three lectures for nearly 3,000 musicians from all parts of the country. He also listened to the performance of several teenagers.

During his visit to the Central Conservatory, he presented a violin to Chinese musicians on behalf of the Musicians' International Mutual Aid Fund. He said that the gift was being given in the name of the musicians of the whole world. This renowned activist who has devoted himself to promoting mutual understanding and friendship among peoples of different countries remarked: "From what I have already heard here, I feel that we in the West have as much to learn 'as to give.'"

ON THE STAGE AND SCREEN

Modern Drama

• *Save the Girl*, from the northeastern city of Changchun, is being staged in Beijing as part of the celebrations for the 30th anniversary of the founding of New China. The main character is an innocent girl who becomes a criminal because of the bad influence of the gang of four. Later, she turns over a new leaf with the help of her teachers, classmates and neighbours.

• *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, adapted from an American feature film of the same name, describes the reactions of their families and friends to a black doctor and a white girl announcing their intention to marry. The China Youth Art Theatre does a

good job in bringing this foreign film alive.

Dance-Drama

Princess Wencheng depicts a historical episode of 1,300 years ago in classical dance. Princess Wencheng of the Tang court marries the king of Tibet and strengthens the unity and economic and cultural exchanges between the Hans and Tibetans.

Visiting Foreign Artists

• Song and dance performance by 12 teenage children from the

Children's Theatrical Troupe of Bangladesh.

• A Berne string quartet from Switzerland.

• Performances by the New Zealand Maori Song and Dance Group.

A scene from *Princess Wencheng*.



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