

BEIJING REVIEW

北京周報

A CHINESE WEEKLY
OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

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NŌNG

Hua Guofeng on
Cultural Revolution,
Chairman Mao and Other
Questions

Reforming the Chinese
Written Language



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Chairman Hua Replies to Yugoslav Correspondent

Chairman Hua Guofeng gives written answers to questions put to him by a Yugoslav correspondent. The answers deal with numerous major questions on the current situation in China, the Cultural Revolution, Chairman Mao Zedong, the trial of the gang of four, socialist democracy and legal system, China's road of socialist development and Sino-Yugoslav relations (p. 12).

Reforming the Chinese Written Language

Is it necessary to reform the Chinese written language? If so, why? How is the reform carried out? And what has been done so far? (P. 19.)

New Economic Policies Yield Results

State-owned industrial enterprises with greater power of self-management have increased in number, and in their output value and profits, too (p. 3); rural economy is developing, and more peasants are becoming better off through collective strength (p. 4); small-scale individual economy, once banned as a "capitalist tail," is being restored in the cities and towns as a supplement to the state and collectively owned economy, thereby enlivening the market and adding to the convenience of the people (p. 3).

Hanoi's Manoeuvres

Hanoi is at it again, professing that it cherishes and wants peace but deliberately sidestepping the real issue — its military occupation of Kampuchea. The

ASEAN countries harbour no illusions and refuse to be taken in (p. 7).

French Neutron Bomb

The French decision to make the neutron bomb in 1982 or 1983 to offset the present military imbalance in Europe is well received by other NATO countries but makes Moscow unhappy (p. 8).

Beijing Opera Goes to U.S.

A 70-member Beijing opera troupe is presently touring the United States, with a galaxy of famous actors and actresses and a rich repertoire that will enthral the audiences (p. 29).



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COVER: The evolution of the Chinese character "nong" (meaning agriculture). Its unsimplified and simplified forms are in the first row, and its phonetic form is in the second row. The characters below are its various forms inscribed on oracle bones or bronze artifacts and in the "xiao zhuan" (seal character) style.

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ECONOMIC

More Enterprises With Greater Power of Self-Management

The number of state-owned industrial enterprises given greater power of self-management had increased to 6,600 by the end of June, according to the State Economic Commission. They now account for 16 per cent of the total number of state-owned industrial enterprises, and their output value and profits make up about 60 and 70 per cent respectively of the total. (See p. 4, No. 22 for other related facts.)

The Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China held in December 1978 drew attention to the fact that one of the serious shortcomings in economic management in China is the over-concentration of authority and that the local authorities and industrial enterprises should, under the guidance of unified state planning, have greater power and inde-

pendence in management. The State Council worked out some regulations in this regard in July last year, and experiments have since been carried out in a number of enterprises.

The expenditures, welfare funds and bonuses of factories used to be provided by the state according to fixed proportions. The defect of this system was that good or bad management had nothing to do with the interests of the enterprises and workers. Unified control over foreign trade was even more rigid.

Now the new policy stipulates that, provided they fulfil the state plans, the factories can have their own production plans, produce goods needed on the market at home and abroad and sell them according to the prices fixed by the state. They can retain part of the foreign exchange earned from exports to import advanced equipment and technology, and they can also retain part of the profits for expanding production, for improving the workers' welfare and for bonuses. Apart from this, they have the right to recruit workers and staff members according to

their ability, mete out rewards or punishments, and appoint their own cadres of the middle level and below. The new practices are conducive to giving scope to the initiative of the enterprises and the workers, and improving economic work as a whole.

Beginning this year, the authorities concerned have strengthened their leadership over this work, with the result that the number of enterprises with greater power of self-management has increased significantly and independence in management has taken diversified forms.

Economists on Individual Economy

While ensuring the dominant position of the socialist public ownership, the policy of restricting individual economy should be changed to giving it appropriate support and improving overall control. This was the view of a number of economists at a recent discussion meeting in Beijing on the structure of the ownership of the means of production.

Individually owned shops or stores, which were branded as "capitalist tails" and closed down when the ultra-Left line held sway, have been rapidly restored in various parts of the country. Many stores run by husband and wife or by brother and sister have emerged in the streets and lanes of many cities and towns. In northeast China's Liaoning Province, there are now more than 10,000 households running such stores; in Shanghai, there are 10,000 such individually owned shops, of which about 1,500 have emerged



In a workshop of the Sichuan No. 1 Cotton Printing and Dyeing Mill which is now operating with greater power of self-management.

since last spring. In Beijing, more than 500 households have started or reopened their stores since the municipal bureau of industry and commerce issued a notice to the effect that retired personnel with special skills and young people waiting for jobs are permitted to engage in any work on their own.

The economists are of the opinion that individual economy should be allowed to exist and develop within defined limits so as to enliven the market and add to the convenience of the people. As China's productive forces are still backward, there are many trades that depend on manual labour, such as repair work and the service trades, which the people need in their everyday life but which cannot be handled entirely by the state and collectively owned economy. This is where individual economy comes in.

The participants have cited numerous advantages of the individual economy in meeting the needs of the people in their daily life. Individual labourers can engage in lines not taken up by the state-owned enterprises, such as producing small commodities or preparing special snacks which the people like. An example is baked sweet potatoes which the people in Beijing and Shanghai and other cities are fond of eating in winter but which have disappeared from the market for years. Another advantage is that individual small traders, such as husbands and wives running stores selling household requirements, work longer hours, while only a few state-owned stores operate day and night. Added to these, pedlars selling small articles give great convenience to the city dwellers by bringing the goods to their doorsteps. And there are those labourers who often visit residen-

tial quarters to repair pots and furniture, sharpen knives and scissors or give the old or disabled a hair-cut.

Some economists are of the opinion that it is necessary, theoretically to make clear the nature of individual economy in socialist society and its relationship to public ownership. Individual economy must not be regarded as capitalism or as something that will engender capitalism. In present-day China, public ownership of the means of production is in an absolutely dominant position and labour force is no longer a commodity. Generally speaking, individual economy will not engender capitalism because in the scope of management, the supply of raw materials, price and taxation, it is subject to control and restriction by the public economy and by the state organs concerned.

The discussion also dealt with the question of giving assistance to and improving the control over individual traders, helping them with the supply of goods and raw materials and changing the method of taxation. In addition, the principle of more pay for more work should be upheld, and that those who violate the law and discipline in doing business will of course be dealt with accordingly.

Becoming Well-Off Through Collective Strength

The prospects are bright for Chinese peasants to become well-off at an early date by relying on the collective economy. The rural areas now have 1,622 production brigades whose income has increased considerably, according to a spokesman of the State Agricultural Commission.

The average annual per-capita income in these brigades last

year exceeded 300 yuan (not including income from household sideline occupations), and in 71 of them the average income was more than 500 yuan. This was a significant increase over the average of 83.4 yuan for the rural population as a whole.

More than half of these brigades are on city outskirts. Topping the list was a fishery brigade in Chongming County under the Shanghai municipality, where the average per-capita income was 1,055 yuan.

Although these production brigades account for only a fraction of the nation's total of about 690,000, their success proves that if the Party's new rural policies are firmly implemented, peasants throughout the country can become well-off step by step, as is the case with the said brigades the great majority of which rapidly developed their collective economy only after the downfall of the gang of four in 1976.

One of the reasons accounting for their prosperity is that production has been carried out in a way that is best suited to local conditions.

An example is the Mengdingshan Brigade in a mountainous area in east China's Zhejiang Province. In view of its altitudinal and foggy weather, the brigade has in the last few years planted 7.8 hectares to tea from which it earned more than 35,000 yuan last year. This raised its members' annual income to 424 yuan. Before 1976, however, the brigade was rather poor because it had to concentrate on grain production even though the natural conditions there were not suitable and only 0.2 hectare was irrigated land. In those days when the gang of four held sway, any attempt to become better off by diversifying the economy was condemned as en-



A rural production team in Anhui Province has succeeded in increasing the income of the collective by raising geese as a sideline occupation.

couraging the peasants to take the capitalist road.

Mechanization of farm work has brought fruitful results in some parts of China, especially in the northeast which is one of the areas given special government aid in this respect. A notable example is the Handaqi Brigade in the sparsely populated Heilongjiang Province. The brigade is endowed with fertile soil and most of the farm work is mechanized. Last year, the brigade delivered or sold a large amount of grain to the state, averaging four tons from each member, and income was 722 yuan per capita.

Sideline occupations and setting up of various kinds of industrial enterprises also contributed to their success. For instance, in 42 brigades in Jiangsu Province where average per-capita income exceeded 300 yuan, income from sideline occupations and industries accounted for more than half of the total in 12 and one-third in 22.

Other factors that have helped these brigades achieve prosperity are improvement in management and scientific farming.

Farm Mechanization

Farm mechanization in China will make big headway in the ten years beginning 1980. The slogan of "realizing farm mechanization by 1980," however, is not practical.

This was said by Yang Ligong, Minister of Agricultural Machinery, in an interview with a correspondent of *Nongye Jixie* (Agricultural Machinery). His talk was published in issue No. 7 of that journal this year.

In areas where machinery can be widely used, he added, farm mechanization should be realized at an earlier date. These areas include Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang Provinces in the northeast, Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, and the plains along the Huanghe, Huaibe and Haihe Rivers.

In the 80s, there should be notable progress in mechanization in the pastoral areas, where artificial grasslands will be built and livestock breeding centres will be set up in places engaged in both farming and animal husbandry. In the suburban areas of big and medium-sized cities, mechanized poultry, pig and cattle farms will be set up.

The minister said that since the convocation of the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee, the leadership in various fields of work has made a reassessment of the slogans, plans, requirements and regulations laid down in the past, amended those which have been proved wrong or impractical, upheld and implemented the others which have been proved correct.

The slogan "Farm mechanization will be basically realized by 1980" was put forth in the late 50s. Before raising this slogan, the departments in charge of farm mechanization did not make a systematic investigation and analysis of the economic conditions and outstanding features of the nation's agriculture, and they underestimated the complexities and difficulties involved in farm mechanization. As ours is an economically backward country with a weak industrial base, it was just impossible to accomplish farm mechanization within 25 years, counting from 1956. Moreover, the national economy suffered heavily during the ten disastrous years of the Cultural Revolution, making the job of realizing farm mechanization more difficult than ever.

Speaking of the prospects of farm mechanization in the 80s,



Spreading poisonous balls to kill rats and locusts on an Inner Mongolian pasture.

the minister said that a way for a Chinese-style farm mechanization must be found. In addition, the farm machinery industry must be reasonably readjusted, an adequate number of agro-technicians, mechanics and managerial personnel must be trained so that mechanization may proceed at a faster pace.

POLITICAL

Local People's Courts

There are more than 3,100 local people's courts at various levels throughout China. This is a major achievement in the building of a socialist legal system, said the new weekly *Zhongguo Fazhibao* (China's Legal System) in its first issue which came off the press in Beijing on August 1.

In the ten chaotic years (1966-76), most of the people's courts existed in name only or were defunct. They were restored only after the downfall of the gang of four and have since been strengthened. Some courts at the grass-roots level have set up about 18,000 sub-courts in remote regions, industrial and mining areas, farms and pastoral areas.

In pursuance of the laws enacted and promulgated by the National People's Congress, the restored people's courts have done a large amount of work and achieved remarkable results in strengthening public security, dealing blows at criminals, re-examining and redressing frame-ups and wrong cases, handling civil disputes, implementing the Criminal Law and the Law of Criminal Procedure and conducting open trials.

Zhongguo Fazhibao is devoted to publicizing the laws and publishing news reports on the building of the legal system.

Education on law has in the main been restored and is making rapid progress. It is planned this year to enrol 2,500 students in the law institutes or departments.

Punishment for Squanderers of Public Funds

The city Party committee of Hegang in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province announced recently at a rally the decisions by organizations concerned to fine and take Party disciplinary measures against Li Ying, deputy director of the local administration bureau of coal industry, and the others involved.

During its 15-day tour inspecting safety measures in the mines last April, a 27-member group led by Li Ying squandered 1,398 yuan of public fund on dining and wining every day.

Owing to poor management, the Hongqi Cartons Factory in the city of Chongqing in Sichuan Province could not sell its products. Instead of taking appropriate measures to improve management, the factory's leading members spent more than 1,430 yuan last February on buying gifts for its customers or inviting them to feasts and turned these expenditures into production costs. The Party's commission for inspecting discipline in Chongqing investigated the case and decided recently that all those concerned must repay the squandered money.

These are two examples of a number of cases reported recently in the central and local newspapers in which certain units and individuals were punished for violating Party discipline.

In the modernization drive, the Party Central Committee has been making great efforts to strengthen Party discipline and improve the Party's style of work. It has adopted the Guiding Principles for Inner-Party Political Life and set up commissions for inspecting discipline at all levels. As a result, marked achievements have been made, but owing to the damage done during the ten tumultuous years and the influence of the ideology of the exploiting classes, violations of Party discipline still occur from time to time. A leading member of the city Party committee of Hegang pointed out at the rally: Squandering public fund and other acts that violate Party discipline are impermissible and will be sternly dealt with.

Appeasement Not the Answer

WHEN U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim visited Hanoi, the Vietnamese authorities repeatedly declared that they "cherished an earnest desire to settle the Kampuchean problem." They averred that they really "cherished and wanted peace." They also made it clear to Waldheim that any solution to the Kampuchean issue cannot go beyond the scope of the "four-point proposal" (see issue No. 31, p. 9) put out at the Vientiane ministerial meeting, and peace in Kampuchea can come about only according to Hanoi's conditions.

The world already knows that Hanoi's "four-point proposal" is nothing but a ploy, because the Vietnamese authorities have deliberately sidestepped the real issue—the Vietnamese military occupation of Kampuchea. Instead, they want to make tension on the Kampuchean-Thai border, created by Viet Nam itself, as the main topic for talks. In this, Viet Nam is trying to coax Thailand and other ASEAN countries into dealing with the Heng Samrin regime and thus getting them to recognize this Viet Nam-installed regime.

In an August 1 statement reflecting the opinions of other ASEAN foreign ministers, Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee Philippine Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo pointed out: The ASEAN countries "oppose all manoeuvres to divert world attention from this fundamental issue. They therefore reject

any and all efforts aimed at legitimizing the presence of Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea and the regime sustained by them."

ASEAN Proposal. The ASEAN statement of August 1 proposed the establishment of a demilitarized peace zone in Kampuchea under U.N. supervision and also reiterated the call for the stationing of a United Nations observers group on the Thai side of the Thai-Kampuchean boundary.

According to this proposal, all parties to the conflict must not conduct hostile activities in this area so that the safety of the refugees is safeguarded and relief and aid material to the refugees can be moved in freely.

This positive proposal initiated by the ASEAN nations in the interest of peace and stability in the region is a reliable basis for preventing the Indochinese situation from deteriorating further and for settling the refugee issue according to humanitarian principles.

The ASEAN proposal is acceptable and reasonable, but Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach preferred to malign it. He claims that it helps safeguard the security of Thailand but not the security of Kampuchea. In his opinion, Thailand threatened militarily by Viet Nam should not be permitted to consider measures for safeguarding its security. This only goes to show that Viet Nam has not learnt to be more circumspect after the thrashing it got when its troops struck

into Thailand in June. Recent Vietnamese vituperation and threats against Thailand do not reassure Thailand of its safety, nor do they show that Hanoi's proposal is an honest one.

Tension in Southeast Asia is the direct result of Vietnamese ambitions to dominate other countries. The evidence is there for all to see: the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea, the use of Kampuchean territory to directly menace Thailand and its recent armed attack into Thailand. Nguyen Co Thach's "security of Kampuchea," in these circumstances, can only mean making the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea legal and permanent and securing legitimacy for the Phnom Penh puppet regime, which would lead to establishing Vietnamese hegemonism over Southeast Asia.

Hanoi's requesting Waldheim to use his good offices to defuse tension with Thailand is no more than a sham.

Appeasement Is Not the Solution. To stabilize the situation in Southeast Asia and cool the situation between Viet Nam and Thailand, it is essential to, first of all, solve the Kampuchean issue. And to do this, the November 1979 U.N. resolution demanding the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Kampuchea must be fully carried out.

In talking to Secretary-General Waldheim, the Vietnamese authorities studiously avoided mentioning this resolution. Then right after the talks, Nguyen Co Thach made a point of categorically rejecting the resolu-

tion. He declared that Viet Nam was determined to stick to its position, adding that it was willing to live with the current situation for "30 years if necessary." So much for Vietnamese "sincerity" and "earnest desires."

Hanoi is the source of conflict in Indochina and tension on the Thai-Kampuchean border. To end the conflict and tension, all that is necessary is for Hanoi to carry out the U.N. General

Assembly resolution and withdraw its troops from Kampuchea. Only then can the Kampuchean issue be solved and can there be peace and stability in Southeast Asia. If this is overlooked and illusions are entertained about Vietnamese intentions and unprincipled compromises are made, then there will be more trouble ahead.

— "Beijing Review" news analyst An Ding

The French Neutron Bomb

PRESIDENT d'Estaing said at a press conference that a decision to research and manufacture the neutron bomb had been reached at a national defence committee conference in December 1976. Initial experiments were successful, he said, and an official decision to produce this kind of weapon would be made in 1982 or 1983. The disclosure caused quite a stir in France and elsewhere. Political groupings of all persuasions, except for the French Communist Party, were not against the decision and Western commentators predict the French neutron bomb would right the imbalance of forces in Europe.

The United States pioneered research on the neutron bomb, but opposition inside and outside the United States, particularly from the Soviet Union, forced President Carter in 1978 to give up its production.

In the early 60s, when General de Gaulle began building a French *force de frappe*, his thinking was that an aggressor

attacking French territory would have to risk his cities and industries being knocked out by French strategic nuclear might. President d'Estaing, too, has emphasized the traditional *force de frappe*. France has spent some 53,600 million U.S. dollars since 1960 to develop nuclear arms. Still, compared to the nuclear arsenals of the superpowers, France's is rather insignificant and it is this that has led French military experts to redesign their national defence to current realities. Here the research and manufacture of the neutron bomb figures prominently.

Neutron Bomb Controversy. There were heated discussions recently over the neutron bomb in France. Giscard's ruling Union for French Democracy (U.D.F.) published a "White Book" in May with seven proposals for improving national defence. As the document noted, military interventions the Soviets have taken were all characterized by surprise, so it proposed building up the French

nuclear arsenals in quantity and quality, developing not only its strategic nuclear forces but also its tactical nuclear weapons, including the neutron bomb. The Gaullist Rassemblement Pour la Republique, another big political coalition in France, also warned in a "Blue Book" called "Reflections on Defence" of the offensive posture of the Soviets and expressed grave concern over the present military imbalance in Europe. This document reaffirmed the doctrine of "massive dissuasion" in French military strategy and declared that tactical nuclear weapons such as the neutron bomb could only serve as the last warning. It proposed, however, that research and development of the neutron bomb should be continued, just in case. There are some divergences of view on this issue but both parties are committed to improving national defence, renovating French nuclear weapons and countering Soviet aggression.

Reaction Abroad. News of the French neutron bomb was well received by other NATO countries. A high-ranking NATO officer said that if a crisis overtook Europe involving the Soviet Union, "French forces would co-operate with NATO troops," and "any neutron weapon deployed by France would benefit the West."

Moscow was not happy about the French decision to research and develop the neutron bomb. When the Soviet media reported President d'Estaing's speech at the press conference, the relevant paragraphs were deliberately deleted.

— Ru Sheng and Li Qun

U.N. Women's Conference

Equality, Development and Peace

REPRESENTATIVES of women of more than 140 nations met from July 14 to 30 in Copenhagen for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985).

The conference reviewed the progress made in the first half of the decade (1976-1980) and worked out "a programme of action" for the next five years after 17 days of debates and consultations. Sometimes the exchanges were quite heated.

The programme reflected the determination of women to attain the three main objectives for the ten years: equality, development and peace. Emphasis was put on realizing three secondary goals for the next five years: employment, health and education.

The three main objectives for the decade are interrelated, the programme declared. It is only under conditions of peace that it is possible to move forward

to the full implementation of the other two objectives of the decade. The world is not at all tranquil. There are factors vitiating peace. Women in some countries are still suffering from wars of aggression.

The programme called on all countries to realize as early as possible the goals set forth in the plan of action adopted at the 1975 world women's conference in Mexico City. Other resolutions adopted at the Copenhagen conference included those about the plight of the Palestinian women living in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories, the sufferings of women living in apartheid South Africa and women refugees in various parts of the world.

Xinhua correspondents wrote from Copenhagen as follows:

A Useful Meeting

More than 2,000 delegates from countries with different

social systems and levels of economic development met in Copenhagen. Many similar problems and tasks confronted them all. Discrimination, for example, still exists in one form or another everywhere and inquiries into the cause of this inequality and ways and means to achieve equality were keenly discussed. The consensus was that there must be a peaceful international environment if women are to attain equality and social development. Therefore women must do their part to preserve world peace.

Many delegates expressed sympathy and solidarity with the women of South Africa, victims of apartheid, and assured Palestinian women of their resolute support in their just struggle against Israeli aggression.

Many appealed for more relief and aid to women and children who make up more than half the world's refugees.

Friendship and Support

The Chinese delegation led by Kang Keqing met other delegates in and outside the conference, renewing contacts with old acquaintances and making new friends. They discussed common problems and their solutions and in the process improved mutual understanding and friendship.

Mrs. Imelda Marcos, wife of the Philippine President and an old friend of the Chinese women, met and embraced Kang Keqing. Thai, Chinese and Pakistan delegates met frequently and when Kang Keqing met Mrs. Mugabe for the first time and congratulated her on Zimbabwe's hard-won



Kang Keqing, head of the Chinese delegation, addressing U.N. women's conference.

independence, Mrs. Mugabe thanked her for the support the Chinese people had given Zimbabwe in the fight for independence.

Discordant Note

The Soviet delegation tried covertly and overtly to prevent the Kampuchean delegation from attending the conference. This did not endear the Soviet delegates to representatives of most justice-upholding countries.

In one sharp confrontation over Kampuchean representation, when Ieng Thirith of Kampuchea rose to address the conference on July 17, the Soviet delegate again made a disgraceful scene, challenging the Kampuchean delegate's right to represent her country. The Soviet provocation was soundly rebutted by Huang Ganying, deputy head of the Chinese delegation, who pointed out that the delegate from Democratic Kampuchea was the sole legal representative of

Kampuchea, a fact recognized in a resolution of the 34th General Assembly of the United Nations. The Soviet delegate was in no position to invalidate the resolution, she declared.

After the conference chairman over-ruled the Soviet objection, Ieng Thirith addressing the conference as the legal representative of Kampuchea, denounced Hanoi for its aggression against Kampuchea and told the world of how the women of Kampuchea were fighting to drive out the Vietnamese. Her speech was loudly applauded. The delegates from Zimbabwe warmly embraced her after her speech.

Many thoughtful people have pointed out at the conference that women everywhere should actively oppose attempts by any power to dominate the world, stop wars of aggression and do all they can to safeguard world peace. This, they say, is the pressing task for all women in the 1980s.

Political Violence Mounts In Guatemala

ALL this year, political violence in Guatemala has climbed with the temperature.

When a group of peasants occupied the Spanish Embassy in the capital on January 31 to protest government suppression of the peasants, police stormed the embassy and 39 people were killed. Thousands of Guatemalans poured out into the streets to join the funeral for the peasants killed. Police opened fire on the mourners and many more people were killed. Government repression has set off a wave of political violence that is threatening to engulf the whole country.

Armed anti-government organizations in Guatemala have stepped up their fight against the armed repression. Groups of guerrillas are active in the capital as well as in other cities and in the mountains. In early February, the guerrillas ambushed a government patrol in the department of El Quiche, killing a dozen soldiers. In March, another group of guerrillas, who call themselves the Revolutionary Organization of Insurgent People, occupied for a while dozens of villages in the departments of Quezaltenango and Guatemala. Guerrillas also attacked the cars carrying the national police chief, deputy chief

and the interior minister and executed a high-ranking officer commanding the suppression of the guerrillas. In less than half a year, nearly 100 members of the armed forces were killed. In a joint statement issued in May, the Armed Guerrillas of the Poor, the Revolutionary Organization of Insurgent People, the Insurgent Armed Forces and the Labour Party, appealed for the formation of an anti-government "Revolutionary Alliance" comprising "all the progressive forces in the country."

The Guatemalan military has cracked down on opposition elements. Round-ups and killings in the cities are common. Half the country's military forces are engaged in operations in El Quiche and other departments where guerrillas are active. Right-wing para-military organizations have unleashed a wave of terrorism, kidnapping and assassinating members of the opposition factions. Terrorist organizations have harassed and attacked San Carlos University, said to be the centre of anti-government activities. It is estimated that more than 1,000 political party and organization leaders as well as prominent people have been killed this year.

Guatemala is an economically backward country, where there is an enormous income gap between rich and poor. The people, especially the Indians who make up more than half the population, are cruelly oppressed and exploited. Social contradictions have grown continually more acute. Since the Arbenz government was overthrown in 1954, Guatemala has been ruled by a military junta and violence has become a part of the political life. In the past six months, in particular, political violence has increased and uneasiness has

mounted. Local and foreign businessmen are fleeing the country, taking their assets with them. Political leaders, leading trade unionists and university professors are leaving, too.

Foreign papers describe Guatemala as one of the "most volatile powder kegs" in Central America, a country "sinking into a covert sanguinary civil war."

— Zhang Hua

Terrorism in Italy

THE bomb that blasted Bologna's main station on August 2 killed and wounded 184 people. This horrible massacre shocked decent people everywhere, and underscored the proliferation of political violence in Italy.

Terrorist Organizations. It is believed that there are over a hundred fairly large terrorist organizations, which the Italians generally refer to as belonging either to the "Left" or "Right," "Red Brigade" terrorists and "Black" terrorists. The latter are neo-fascists. The former, the "Red Brigades" are products of the late 60s and early 70s, when there was an upsurge in mass activities and a revival of fascism. At first, they all were the clandestine arm of public mass organizations. Then they gradually turned into terrorist organizations. Italian police believe that the Bologna blast was "most likely" the work of neo-fascists.

Terrorist organizations in Italy have deep-seated social roots. The growth of terrorist organizations stems from political unrest, deepening unemployment and a deteriorating economy and the existence of a long tradition of Mafia terrorist activities. In addition, it cannot be ruled out that terrorism is being resorted to by some political forces to harm and bump off their opponents. Something like three-quarters of the 1.5 million unemployed

are young people under 29, which police say are being recruited into the various terrorist organizations.

International Connections. Italian terrorism is not without international connections. President Alessandro Pertini drew attention to this in his New Year TV speech. On August 4, speaking at a special senate session Prime Minister Francesco Cossiga also said that international connections in the Bologna blast could not be excluded. Police have captured caches of foreign-made weapons and the Red Brigade killers

who kidnapped and murdered the former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro had used Soviet weapons and Czech pistols very rarely seen in Italy. The terrorists say they are using political violence to provoke the government into using extreme measures of suppression so as "to lay bare the state system and to stir the masses to rise up in armed struggle." But the opposite has happened. A poll taken of 5,000 Italians between 15 and 64 showed that 75.4 per cent of them were willing to cooperate with the police against terrorism.

The massive rallies and demonstrations in major cities including Rome, Bologna, Milan, and Turin, protesting the senseless mass murder at the Bologna railway station, are indicative of the horror and abhorrence terrorism has aroused in the people.

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Hua Guofeng Answers Questions From Yugoslav Correspondent

Following is Chairman Hua Guofeng's written answers to questions from Dara Jane-kovic, correspondent of the Yugoslav newspaper "Vjesnik" on July 26, 1980. — Ed.

Current Situation in China

Question: It has been nearly four years since the death of Chairman Mao Zedong. How do you assess the developments in China since the arrest of the gang of four in the autumn of 1976?

Answer: Fundamental changes have taken place in China since the overthrow of the gang of four in the autumn of 1976. Our work in every field has been brought back to a Marxist-Leninist-Mao Zedong Thought orientation. China has entered a new stage of development.

I am referring primarily to:

1. The Cultural Revolution has been brought to a conclusion, ending a decade of chaos and ushering in a political situation of stability and unity.

2. At the Party's 11th National Congress and in the subsequent Plenary Sessions of the 11th Central Committee, our Party formulated and perfected a Marxist ideological line, political line and organizational line. The fine traditions of our Party are being restored and carried forward. Guidelines and policies that have the support of the Party membership and the people throughout the country are being implemented with marked success.

3. The emphasis of our work for the Party and the country as a whole has shifted to socialist construction. The national economy, once on the verge of collapse, has witnessed a recovery and is expanding during the period of adjustment. We are now working on and finalizing a long-term plan for economic development and introducing a step-by-step restructuring of our economy.

4. We have redressed the wrongs in a large number of cases of miscarriage of justice.

Democracy is being practised more vigorously within the Party and the state. Legislative and judicial work is being strengthened.

5. Adhering to the policy of opposing hegemonism and defending world peace, we have developed friendly relations and co-operation with many countries. The resumption and development of friendly relations and co-operation between China and Yugoslavia in an all-round manner is an event of great significance not only to our two countries but to the international situation as well.

Cultural Revolution

Q: Chinese newspapers and the world press widely reported and are still reporting the negative effects of the Cultural Revolution once denoted as the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. Has the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party made a theoretical analysis of this extraordinary movement which swept across China and all its institutions like a hurricane for a whole decade? Will the 12th National Congress of the Communist Party of China say something in this regard? Despite its clearly negative effects, it affected the lives of hundreds of millions of people and mobilized the Chinese people to take part in this mass political movement. How is this fact to be explained?

A: The Cultural Revolution as a historical event is over. Our Party and people are continuing their onward march while summing up their past experiences, including those of the Cultural Revolution. Like all major events in history, the Cultural Revolution stemmed from certain socio-historical conditions. A theoretical analysis of the Cultural Revolution from that angle will be very meaningful, and such an analysis is on the agenda of our Party's 12th National Congress.

Q: In my book on China entitled *Peace Would Then Reign Over the World, The Same Warmth*



Comrade Mao Zedong with Comrades Liu Shaoqi (second from left), Zhou Enlai (first from left) and Zhu De (third from left) in 1957.

and *Cold Throughout the Globe*, I described the famous cartoon depicting 36 of China's most prominent Party and state leaders (the Cultural Revolution was launched to oust them). They have now been rehabilitated in one way or another. Are their rehabilitations genuine? Can their rehabilitations be taken as a criticism of the Cultural Revolution? How should one assess Liu Shaoqi in comparison with Chairman Mao Zedong?

A: The Party and state leaders whom you spoke of and who were unjustly charged during the Cultural Revolution have been truly rehabilitated with their reputations restored. Those who are still with us have been given posts again. This is one of the major steps we have taken to redress the wrongs of the Cultural Revolution.

The injustice suffered by Comrade Liu Shaoqi has also been corrected. Our Party thinks highly of Comrade Liu Shaoqi, who was a great Marxist and proletarian revolutionary, and whose whole life was dedicated to the communist cause. For a long time, he was one of our Party's principal leaders. He firmly supported the correct line represented by Comrade Mao Zedong at the enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the Party's Central Committee held in Zunyi, Guizhou Province, in 1935. He made important contributions to theory and

practice on such matters as Party-building, the workers' movement and the Party's underground work. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, he was actively involved in the formulation and implementation of the Party line, principles and policies on socialist revolution and construction. He made some mistakes and had some shortcomings, but he always faithfully carried out the Party line. His contribution to China's democratic revolution, socialist revolution and socialist construction cannot be obliterated. Like Comrades Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai and Zhu De, Comrade Liu Shaoqi will live for ever in the hearts of the multi-national Chinese people.

Concerning Chairman Mao Zedong

Q: It is claimed that the current leadership in China considers that Chairman Mao Zedong—who was in fact the most outstanding figure in all of China's long history and whose extraordinary role in liberating China and in the Chinese people's cause cannot be denied—implemented correct policies before 1958, that is, before the Eighth National Congress of the Communist Party of China, but made mistakes subsequently. Is this true? What mistakes did he commit?

A: Comrade Mao Zedong was indeed the most outstanding figure in Chinese history, whose contributions to revolutionary theory and practice surpassed those of any other Chinese leaders. But he was a man, not a god, and he was not immune to mistakes.

Reviewing the history of our Party, we note that after Comrade Mao Zedong was affirmed as its leader in 1935 and up to 1957, our Party won victories in the War of Resistance Against Japan and in the Liberation War; it seized state power, carried out the socialist transformation of the ownership of means of production and undertook socialist construction on a massive scale. In the period from 1958 to the eve of the Cultural Revolution, our Party committed some rather big mistakes in its work. We were over-ambitious in our economic work, and in some cases we erroneously exaggerated the gravity of class struggle.* Despite these mistakes, however, the Party line, taken as a whole, was correct.

In the decade of the Cultural Revolution, from the second half of 1966 to that of 1976, our Party committed grievous and serious mistakes.

As Chairman of the Party, Comrade Mao Zedong of course bore responsibility for these mistakes.

We in the Party are reviewing the Party's history and, in particular, the history during the 30 years since the founding of the People's Republic, in preparation for a summary of our experience at the 12th National Congress of the Party.

Q: In a letter to his wife Jiang Qing dated July 8, 1966, Chairman Mao Zedong wrote: "Things always tend to turn into their opposites. The higher one is boosted, the harder one will fall, and I am prepared for a crash to smithereens. Even so it is nothing terrible. Matter is indestructible; it is broken up, that's all." How are we to interpret these words of his today?

A: In writing these words, Comrade Mao Zedong had in mind Lin Biao's eulogies to attain his own purposes. Lin Biao was then engaged in a deliberate campaign to turn Comrade Mao Zedong into a demigod. This so irked Comrade Mao Zedong that he decided to point out the wrongness of such a campaign of eulogy.

* Meaning accusing comrades as class enemies during numerous political movements. — Tr.

Q: It is presumed, and even written, that Mao Zedong suffered from palsy and had much difficulty in speech in the period before his death. Is there any truth to these statements? If so, to what extent did Chairman Mao influence the day-to-day affairs of the Party and state in his last years? I am asking this question because a new edition of my book is about to come out, and I want to check historical facts.

A: Comrade Mao Zedong was not well in his old age, and shortly before his death, he was so ill that he had much difficulty in speech and movement. The gang of four took advantage of this opportunity to hoodwink and deceive Comrade Mao Zedong and step up their conspiratorial activities. His leadership of Party and state affairs was of course gravely impaired. But he was not entirely unaware of the conspiratorial activities of the gang of four, which he exposed and criticized.

Gang of Four

Q: I wonder what has happened to the gang of four? It is said that they will soon be put on trial. Do they epitomize the ultra-Leftist policy of the majority in the Party leadership at that time? Do they epitomize the ultra-Leftist policy of Mao Zedong himself, who, in a "big-character poster," called for "bombarding the headquarters," i.e., the supreme leadership of the Party and state? Some papers abroad carried the "unconfirmed report" that Jiang Qing died of illness last summer. Is this true?

A: While the gang of four did usurp some Party and state power, they could not represent the Party or Comrade Mao Zedong, who stated explicitly at two meetings of the Political Bureau that "She (meaning Jiang Qing) doesn't speak for me, she speaks only for herself," and "In a word, she represents herself." Comrade Mao Zedong sharply criticized the gang of four and told them to "practise Marxism-Leninism, and not revisionism; unite, and don't split; be open and aboveboard, and don't intrigue and conspire. Don't function as a gang of four! Stop doing that any more. Why do you keep on doing so?" It was Comrade Mao Zedong who coined the name the gang of four.

The main reason for the mistakes made by our Party during the Cultural Revolution, was that its analysis of how things stood in the Party and the country as a whole was contrary to the actual situation. Hence our Party adopted erroneous policies and methods of struggle.

The gang of four, however, capitalized on our Party's mistakes and tried to change China's socialist system completely. So the mistakes committed by our Party and the conspiracy of the gang of four are two different things.

All the members of the gang of four are alive. They shall be put on trial and dealt with in accordance with legal procedures.

Democracy and Legal System

Q: People all over the world are following closely the events in China and its policies for building socialism. Of course, there is much speculation among the flood of articles, commentaries and news analyses. For instance, some have written about the "Spring Thaw in Beijing," or about "Democracy Wall Banned" or about the non-official newspapers published in China. Respected Chairman, would you like to comment on these events and the reports about them?

A: Foreign comments in this regard boil down to whether or not there is democracy in China and China's attitude towards democracy.

The essential feature of China's socialist democracy is that the mass of labourers and all the people, sharing the ownership of the means of production, enjoy the right to manage affairs of state and economic and cultural affairs. Never before in the history of China have the people enjoyed such extensive democracy, which we call the system of people's democracy.

Socialist democracy in China was seriously impaired when Lin Biao and the gang of four were running things. In the three years and more since the downfall of the gang of four, a series of important measures have been taken to restore and extend socialist democracy, which has resulted in a lively political atmosphere.

There have been comments abroad about the matter of the "four big rights" (translated in the 1978 Constitution as the right "to speak out freely, air their views fully, hold great debates and write big-character posters"). Experience in China has demonstrated that instead of fostering real democracy, the "four big rights" have in practice served to curb and undermine the people's democratic rights. For instance, big-

character posters were often the means to make unsubstantiated charges against, or even slander and defame other people, without the authors having to bear legal responsibility for what they wrote. That is why people in China are against the continuation of the "four big rights." On the recommendation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress has decided to move an amendment to the Constitution at the next plenary session of the National People's Congress for deleting the relevant provision.

The Chinese Constitution stipulates that citizens enjoy freedom of speech and other rights. Abolishing the "four big rights" is for the sake of guaranteeing democracy, not to nullify it. Over the last three years and more, democracy has been practised and promoted through a variety of ways. Politically: the holding of national and local people's congresses and the people's political consultative conferences, the election of cadres at the county level and below, the revival of the various democratic parties, the trade unions, the Youth League, the women's federation and other mass organizations, and the conscientious handling by government departments of letters from the people, or receiving and attending to those who lodge complaints in person. Economically: participation by workers in the management of enterprises and by commune members in the management of production and distribution of commune-, brigade-, or team-run units. The voicing of opinion: newspapers regularly print criticisms and suggestions from the people, and government offices, enterprises, schools and military outfits maintain wall newspapers and blackboards for the voicing of criticisms and suggestions. Through these channels, the people are ensured ample rights and opportunities to supervise the work of leading organs and leading

Lawyers of the Beijing Legal Advisory Office giving legal advice to visitors.



cadres, make their voice heard on affairs of state and participate in its management.

Q: In the present conditions in China, what does decentralization and greater democracy signify? In this connection, will the Constitution have to be amended?

A: We are thinking about ways of extending democracy and are taking a series of measures to correct the over-concentration of power that now prevails. The primary aim for so doing is to release the enthusiasm, initiative and creativeness of the entire Chinese people in the drive for modernization. Greater democracy and the strengthening of the rule of law have a strong bearing on the maintenance of political stability and unity and serve to plug up the loopholes in our political system that future conspirators like Lin Biao and the gang of four could use for staging a counter-revolutionary comeback.

In this spirit, we shall suggest to the National People's Congress that it amend the Constitution accordingly.

Q: How do you explain the fact that the People's Republic of China did not enact some of its basic laws until a very late date, and there are still some basic laws that have not been enacted at all (by this I mean laws relating to the role of the judiciary)?

A: We started to enact laws right after the founding of the People's Republic. In the decade from 1954 when China's first Constitution was adopted up to 1963, more than 1,100 laws, decrees and regulations were enacted, including such important ones as the Land Reform Law, Trade Union Law, Marriage Law, Military Service Law, Customs Law, Regulations Governing the Punishment of Counter-Revolutionaries, Regulations Governing the Punishment of Embezzlers, and Regulations Governing the Arrest and Detention of Persons Accused of Crimes.

In the case of some very crucial laws, we repeatedly studied all the aspects involved and revised the drafts. For instance, we started work very early on drafting a criminal law, and by 1963 there had been 33 drafts of this law already.

Owing to the violation of socialist legality by Lin Biao and the gang of four during the Cultural Revolution, all work on the enactment of laws came to a halt, and ten whole years were wasted.

After the downfall of the gang of four, we in China stressed the importance of strengthening the legal system. Seven important laws

were adopted by the Fifth National People's Congress at its Second Session held last year. These include the Electoral Law for the National People's Congress and Local People's Congresses of the People's Republic of China, the Criminal Law, and the Law of Criminal Procedure. These seven laws came into force on January 1, this year. Meanwhile, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress has reiterated that all laws, decrees and regulations enacted since the founding of the People's Republic that do not conflict with the present Constitution and other laws, decrees and regulations adopted by the Fifth National People's Congress or by its Standing Committee shall continue to remain in force. At present, we have not relaxed our work to perfect China's legal system.

China's Road of Socialist Development

Q: It is said that China is still painfully seeking its own road of building socialism. Do you see this as the result of the "two-line struggles" that have broken out in nearly every stage of China's social development since the founding of the Chinese Communist Party?

A: In searching for a road of development suited to conditions in China, the Chinese Communist Party has adhered to the principle of integrating the universal truth of Marxism with the concrete practice of the Chinese revolution, i.e., integrating theory with practice, proceeding from reality in all cases, and seeking truth from facts — all of which were advocated by Comrade Mao Zedong. History proves that this is the only road guaranteeing success for China's revolution and construction. We won victory in our democratic revolution because we found a road suited to the conditions in China. After the founding of the People's Republic, we have kept to the above principles and continued to win important successes in the cause of socialist revolution and socialist construction. We are now striving to find a way by which to attain socialist modernization suited to the actual conditions in China.

Q: It was almost unthinkable a few years ago that young men and women from China would be going to study in countries with social systems different from China's. Do you think this will cause additional difficulties and problems for China?

A: In recent years, we have been sending some young people to countries with social systems different from ours to study.

This not only helps to enhance the friendship between the Chinese people and other peoples but also enables us to learn the advanced economic, cultural, scientific and technological knowledge of other countries. We were aware from the very beginning that this might have certain negative effects, but this needn't be a cause for worry.

Sino-Yugoslav Relations

Q: State relations between the People's Republic of China and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia improved in the early 70s. Subsequently, there was a pause, followed by a period of marked improvement, especially after President Tito's visit to Beijing and your visit to Yugoslavia a year later. How do you assess these developments today? Do you think it regrettable and an unfair trick of history that Chairman Mao Zedong and President Tito never met each other?

A: The friendship between China and Yugoslavia is built on a firm foundation. Our two peoples had similar experiences in the past, and each carried on their revolution in an independent manner and brought it to victory. In the arduous struggle for national and social liberation, the revolutionaries and the peoples of our two countries sympathized with and supported each other. The period of strained relations between China and Yugoslavia was but a minor episode in their history. Our relations clearly began to improve and deepen in the 1970s along with the changes in the international situation as a whole and when our mutual understanding deepened step by step. Comrade Tito, who was then eighty-five, visited China in 1977. This was a historic event. A year later, I made a successful visit to Yugoslavia. Thereafter, the Party and state relations between China and Yugoslavia entered a new period of lasting, stable and comprehensive development. The Chinese people and I myself are all sincerely pleased with these developments.

Comrade Mao Zedong was keenly interested in developing Sino-Yugoslav relations. He held Comrade Tito in high esteem. It would have been an historic event if these two great

men could have met each other. But they are no longer with us. We should redouble our efforts to defend, strengthen and develop the friendship between China and Yugoslavia, in which they are both very interested, and thus realize their last wishes.

Q: But you, Chairman Hua Guofeng, have met President Tito twice, once in Beijing and once in Brioni. Have you anything particular you wish to say about these two meetings?

A: Yes, I met with Comrade Tito twice, and each time we had long and friendly conversations. Through these two meetings, I was deeply impressed by his penetrating analysis of the international situation and his remarkable foresight, by his scientific explanation of and the strong faith he had in Yugoslavia's road of socialist self-management and the policy of non-alignment, by his deep and sincere sentiments towards the Chinese revolution and the Chinese people, and by his rich experience in struggle and his modesty. I think that he was indeed a great statesman and grand strategist. Though he has left us for ever, the memory of his illustrious life and the cause for which he fought will live on for ever.

Q: Though your visit to my country was short, you still saw quite a lot. What are your impressions of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia?

A: I have been to Yugoslavia twice. Although my visits were brief, my impressions are un-

Chairman Hua Guofeng visiting the Beograd Agricultural Combine of Yugoslavia on August 23, 1978.



forgettable. On my first visit, I toured your capital and the Republics of Serbia, Macedonia and Croatia and saw some associations of workers in industry and agriculture. I noted your tremendous achievements in building the material foundations for socialism and raising the living standards of the people, in developing socialist democracy and implementing the principle of national equality, friendship and unity, and in safeguarding the achievements of your revolution and construction and building up a powerful national defence.

I went to Belgrade again not long ago to attend Comrade Tito's funeral. In the days of national bereavement at the passing of their long-tested leader, we noticed that the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic and the Presidency of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia were exercising effective leadership, that the People's Army and the total national defence system were vigilantly carrying out their sacred duties, and that the Yugoslav people were working with redoubled efforts to realize their pledge to Comrade Tito. I firmly believe that Yugoslavia will continue to advance along the course charted by Comrade Tito of socialist self-management and non-alignment.

On both my visits to Yugoslavia, I was accorded a warm and friendly reception by the Yugoslav Party, Government and people. I would like to take this opportunity to extend to them my heartfelt thanks and my cordial greetings and best wishes.

Q: How do you assess the co-operation between China and Yugoslavia in recent years? How are its prospects? In other words, what do you think are the most fruitful areas for future co-operation?

A: The Party and state relations between China and Yugoslavia, based on full equality, mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, have witnessed a rapid development in recent years. Our leaders meet often, and goodwill missions and study groups exchanged visits frequently. Our two countries consult regularly on pressing international issues of common concern. Our two sides share identical positions on matters of principle. Economic co-operation is making steady progress. Scientific, technological and cultural co-operation is also progressing smoothly. Both sides realize that there are great potentialities yet to be tapped, and that there is wide scope for developing the friendly relations and co-operation in every field.

Q: Co-operation between the Chinese Communist Party and the League of Communists of Yugoslavia were suspended for a long time. How does the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China evaluate this period in the past? And what about our present co-operation and its prospects?

A: Relations between the Chinese and Yugoslav Parties have been resumed, and the two sides think highly of this. The friendly relations between our two Parties in recent years have developed rapidly, splendidly and satisfactorily. They will continue to develop.

Support for Non-Aligned Movement

Q: Since you became the head of the Communist Party and the Chinese Government, you have often stressed that China belongs to what you call the third world. In your toasts to President Tito both here in Beijing and later at Brioni, when you were visiting Yugoslavia, you paid high tribute to the non-aligned movement. You reiterated this tribute in your congratulatory message to the Sixth Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Countries held in Havana. You were in favour of the non-aligned movement closing its ranks and playing a more active role. Bearing in mind the fact that Premier Zhou Enlai led a Chinese Government Delegation to the 1955 Bandung Conference, which is regarded by the non-aligned movement as a stage in its development, how do you view the prospects for co-operation between the People's Republic of China and the non-aligned movement?

A: I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to pay tribute again to Comrade Tito and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for their signal accomplishment in founding the non-aligned movement and helping it to grow and develop. As you are aware, China firmly supports the non-aligned movement in its struggle against imperialism, colonialism, foreign domination and hegemony in all their forms, and deeply appreciates its important role in safeguarding world peace and the cause of human progress. On our part, we are grateful to the non-aligned states for their goodwill and support. We are confident that through the efforts of Yugoslavia and other non-aligned countries, the non-aligned movement will succeed in excluding all outside interference and stick to its correct orientation. China will, as always, render strong support to the non-aligned movement. □

Reforming Written Chinese

by Our Correspondent Ling Yang

A number of our readers have raised this question: Is it necessary to reform the ancient Chinese written language with its complicated structure in the course of modernization? The following articles highlight the major reforms of Chinese to date. — Ed.

Necessity of Reform

THE Chinese ideograph is used by 900 million people — one-fourth of humanity. Although it serves as a record of China's earliest cultural history and is preserved in the ancient classics which few countries in the world possess, it is a serious impediment to the development of modern society.

Chinese written language is the only complex one in the world that provides no indication to its pronunciation, nor is knowing how to say a word helpful to learning how to write it. The meaning, writing and pronunciation of each individual character has to be separately memorized. Thus learning Chinese is much more time-consuming than learning a romanized language. The Chinese language as presently constituted also presents a formidable obstacle to eradicating illiteracy, and upgrading education.

Other factors which call for the reform of Chinese include:

1) the time consumed in writing and typesetting it;

Strictly speaking, the Chinese language here refers only to the Han written language, the most common one among the dozens of written languages of the various nationalities in China. We will deal with the languages of minority nationalities in another article.

2) the difficulty in telecommunications, indexing and typewriting;

3) the development of communication and technology; and

4) the increase of new words and words with foreign origins.

The desire to simplify the Chinese written language is not new. Many simplified versions were popular among the common people and other ways of writing, such as the correspondence style (*xing shu*) and the free, running style (*cao shu*) were used to replace the orthodox style (*kai shu*) with its complicated structure. Since the latter part of the last century, a number of suggestions for reforming the language have been put forward but it was not until China became a unified, socialist state that a reform could be instituted in an organized fashion.

The Programme

In 1951, the late Chairman Mao Zedong put forward the following guiding principle: It is necessary to reform our written language, which must move towards the phonetization common to all languages of the world.

After conducting a thorough investigation of the problem and inviting input from special-

ists and scholars, the government put a plan into action. On New Year's day of 1956, all newspapers and periodicals were typeset horizontally instead of vertically. Gradually people began to change their way of writing as well. This facilitated the use of a Chinese phonetic alphabet later on.

Then in 1958, Premier Zhou Enlai put forward a threefold proposal for reforming written Chinese: simplifying the ideograph, popularizing the standard "common speech" (based on the northern dialect and with the Beijing pronunciation as the standard), and devising and implementing a plan for phoneticizing the language.

The reform of the characters is a necessity. But this ideographic language has been used for several thousand years; to change it into a romanized language is a strenuous and complicated task which will take a long time to bring about because of the technicalities involved, the social customs and people's attachment to the ideograph.

Ye Laishi, vice-chairman of the Committee for Reforming the Chinese Written Language and a linguist, has been working on language reform for more than 40 years. In his opinion the simplification of the ideograph has received wide public acceptance and more characters will be simplified in the future. From now on, emphasis should be put on standardizing the Chinese characters and drafting a list of standard modern Chinese characters. Continued efforts

teachers of Chinese language, cultural workers and other concerned parties around the country. After a one-year trial in various newspapers and magazines, the State Council promulgated in 1956 the First Scheme for Simplifying Chinese Characters.

The first scheme included 515 simplified characters and 54 simplified radicals (the basic structural parts of the Chinese ideograph). They were to be popularized gradually in four groups. In 1964, the Committee for Reforming the Chinese Written Language released a list of 2,238 acknowledged simplified characters. They were more rational than the original forms and the number of strokes was reduced by nearly a half.

In addition, different characters with the same pronunciation and similar meaning were merged into one, and characters for obscure place names were replaced by more commonly used ones with similar pronunciation. This reduced the number of ideographs by 1,100 and simplified the memorization process required.

Following are some statistics on the simplification of Chinese characters at that time:

- In a document of 2,258 characters (Opening Address to the Eighth Party Congress in 1956), 31 per cent of them are simplified ones. The total number of strokes is 22.6 per cent less after simplification.

- In 100 editorials of newspapers, the average number of strokes is 9.15 if the characters are unsimplified; and 7.67 in simplified forms.

- Among the 2,000 commonly used words, the average number of strokes of the unsimplified forms is 11.2, while that of the simplified is 9.8, 12.5 per cent less.



A comparison of unsimplified (above) and simplified (below) characters.

Because the First Scheme for Simplifying Chinese Characters was very successful, a Second Draft Scheme was promulgated in December 1977. At a meeting of the Committee for Reforming the Chinese Written Language, it was concluded that the trial implementation of the second scheme had not been satisfactory and the scheme needed to be revised.

ous parts of the country, familiarized themselves with the Beijing dialect and spread it to other areas. During the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the term "Mandarin language" (official speech) was common. At the end of the last century, those scholars who supported phonetic Chinese advocated the use of "national speech" (*guoyu*) and a written vernacular language. Their expressed form is "common speech."

The popularization of a standard spoken language is a critical step for realizing the goal of phonetic Chinese as an alphabetic written language must be based on a common language.

In 1955, the national meeting on reforming the Chinese written language defined the term "common speech" as a form of speech based on the northern dialect and with the Beijing pronunciation as its standard. Later it was added that the modern vernacular style of writing is its grammatical structure. Professor Wang Li, a well-known linguist and vice-chairman of the Committee for Reforming the Chinese Written Language, explained: "Common speech" is, basically speaking, Beijing speech, excluding Beijing slang.

"Common speech" is heard throughout the country in broadcasts and films, on the TV and stage. In the past few years, clerks and bus conductors in many places, especially in big and medium-sized cities, have been using the "common speech" and it is taught in primary, middle and teachers-training schools. This facilitates not only the standardization of pronunciation, but also that of grammar and vocabulary.

The government's policy towards realizing "common

Popularization of "Common Speech"

HUNDREDS of millions of people speak some variant of Chinese. The dialects and sub-dialects are many. As a result, people living in different parts of the country cannot understand one another and even the speech of two counties in the same province can be quite different.

However, over the years a common language gradually came into use among the Han people. Because Beijing was the political, economic and cultural centre of China for the last 800 years and more, the northern dialect became predominant. Officials and merchants came to Beijing from vari-

The Various Dialect Areas of China



1. "Common speech" (standard spoken Chinese) area.
2. Jiangsu and Zhejiang dialect area.
3. Hunan dialect area.
4. Jiangxi dialect area.
5. Kejia dialect area.
6. Northern Fujian dialect area.
7. Southern Fujian dialect area.
8. Guangdong dialect area.

speech" is to first "advocate and practise it in certain areas and then gradually popularize it." Advocating "common speech" does not mean wiping out dialects. Dialects will be amalgamated with "common speech" only in the wake of

Chinese Phonetic Alphabet

THE Scheme for Chinese Phonetic Alphabet (Pinyin) was approved by the National People's Congress in 1958 on the basis of a draft worked out by the Committee for Reforming the Chinese Written Language. Earlier, the committee had studied various schemes for romanizing Chinese and turned out a draft after careful consultation with many departments and scholars. The scheme employs the 26 letters of the Roman alphabet, four digraphs (zh, ch, sh, and ng), two diacritical marks (" , ^) and four tone marks (- , ˇ , ˘ , ˙).

the development of communications, the growth of co-operation in production and cultural exchanges. This move will take several hundred years. That is why certain localities still have broadcasts in dialects.

Since south China has many dialects, this is why the popularization of "common speech" is emphasized. Schools serve as an important centre of dissemination, particularly because the young can more easily learn a language. As actors, actresses and announcers play quite a big role in the dissemination of language, as army-men may go to various parts of the country and as the workers and staff of the service trades have wide contacts, they are strongly encouraged to use "common speech."

Much experience has been gained in the endeavour of disseminating "common speech" over the past years, but, of course, popularization cannot be done in several campaigns. The pace of progress in the city may be quicker than that in the countryside.

Seventy-year-old Professor Zhou Youguang, a member of the Committee for Reforming the Chinese Written Language and a research fellow, told me about the historical development of the romanization of Chinese and the characteristics of the pinyin scheme. The account below is based on his description.

Historical Background

From the Roman days 2,000 years ago, Europeans found it necessary to romanize the name of China and the names of Chinese persons, places and ob-

jects. They spelt the name of the country as *Chin*, *Chine* and *China* and that of silk as *si*, *siricum* and *silk*. Marco Polo romanized Chinese place names in his *Book of Travels*, but the spellings were irregular and sometimes confusing.

In the early 17th century, Jesuits who came to China from Western Europe began to romanize Chinese characters in a regular way in order to facilitate their own study of the Chinese language.

In the 19th century, Protestant missionaries came to China from Europe and translated the Bible into local dialects. Seventeen dialectal versions of the Bible in romanized Chinese were thus published.

In 1867, the British diplomat Thomas Francis Wade worked out his system of romanizing Chinese for the use of his colleagues and himself. Later the Wade system became the standard romanization scheme for names of Chinese persons and places and Chinese characters in English, a position it continued to hold until the 1970s.

The first Chinese who romanized Chinese characters was a Qing Dynasty scholar. In 1892, he devised 55 alphabet letters to romanize south China's Xiamen (Amoy) dialect. In the following decades, Chinese scholars have devised dozens of schemes to reform written Chinese. Whether they used strokes of Chinese characters, shorthand signs, or alphabets, their common aim was to reflect the inherent characteristics of written Chinese and to facilitate the study and application of Chinese for both Chinese and foreigners.

Among the most influential schemes were the 1928 Guoyu Luomazi (romanized national speech) which used alphabet letters with the tone of each

word denoted in the spelling) and the 1931 Ladinghua Xinwenzi (romanized new language). The latter was devised by Qu Qiubai, an outstanding early leader of the Chinese Communist Party, and was used to wipe out illiteracy among the 100,000 Chinese then working in the far east of the Soviet Union in the early 1930s. The romanized new language system received warm support from two cultural leaders. Lu Xun and Guo Moruo. In the liberated areas during the arduous war years of the mid-30s, at least 20,000 Red Army fighters learnt to read and write as a result of the popularization of the romanized new language system, and the system was taught in some 100 peasant evening schools in Yanan, the centre of the revolution.

But in the Kuomintang-ruled areas, the reactionary government suppressed the movement to popularize the romanized new language which had effectively wiped out illiteracy among the working people.

In New China

After the founding of the People's Republic, there was a strong public sentiment to re-

form written Chinese in the 1950s. Some 1,200 schemes were proposed. Linguists studied dozens of major schemes devised over the past 300 years and the experiences of neighbouring countries which had once used the Chinese written language. After repeated trials, they recommended using the Roman alphabet instead of devising a new alphabet based on the strokes of Chinese characters. In the 50s, languages in more than 60 countries were based on the Roman alphabet and it was also acceptable to the Chinese masses by that time. After careful consideration, the Committee for Reforming the Chinese Written Language made the final decision. It can be said the 1958 scheme was a concentration of people's wisdom and it ended some 60 years of disputes and confusion arising from the romanization of the Chinese language.

Professor Zhou Youguang said the present scheme was an improvement over the Wade system which had been widely used in English for 100 years. The Wade system was unscientific and unreasonable in that its phonetic system did not tally completely with standard

spoken Chinese. It had too many signs which were often omitted in daily usage or in printing for convenience, thereby leading to a confusion because many characters with different pronunciations had the same spelling.

Here are some special features of the Chinese phonetic alphabet.

1. Abolition of the symbol of aspirates, for instance:

Wade system: p t k p' t' k'

Pinyin: b d g p t k

2. Avoidance of variant sounds and variant ways of writing and reduction of the number of digraphs, for instance:

Wade system: ch ch' hs

Pinyin: j q x

Wade system: ch ch' sh

Pinyin: zh ch sh

Wade system: ts ts' s

tz tz' ss

Pinyin: z c s

3. Use of tone marks to denote characters with the same pronunciation but different tones.

1st tone	2nd tone	3rd tone
妈 mā	麻 má	马 mǎ
(level)	(rising)	(falling-rising)



Books, periodicals, newspapers and maps in the pinyin scheme.

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4th tone light tone
 骂 mà 嘛 ma
 (falling) (no mark)

4. Spelling each word as a unit. For instance the People's Republic of China is *Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo* not *Zhong Hua Ren Min Gong He Guo*.

5. To avoid confusion with previous syllables, the apostrophe is used in front of syllables beginning with a, o and e. For instance

pí'ǎo (皮袄) is different from piào (瓢); hǎi'ōu (海鸥), qǐ'é (企鹅).

In the past 20 years, the Chinese phonetic alphabet has been widely used in the following ways:

- Taught in primary schools throughout the country (except Taiwan) for denoting the sounds of the characters. (The same is done in the Republic of Singapore.) It takes about four weeks for pupils to learn pinyin. They are then able to use the pinyin scheme to pronounce new words.

- Used for publications using "common speech," especially in publications for children.

- As the common alphabetical basis for devising new written languages for minority nationalities in China. (So far 12 minority written languages have been devised.)

- Used as a means for teaching Chinese to foreigners.

- For the arrangement of indices.

- Trial-use in telegraph.

- Used as the basis of dactylographical signs for teaching deaf-mutes.

- Accepted as the international standard for the romanization of Chinese geographical names by Resolution No. 8 adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Standardiza-

tion of Geographical Names (1977). The resolution noted: "The Scheme for a Chinese Phonetic Alphabet' is linguistically sound and is most suitable for the romanization of Chinese geographical names."

Beginning from January 1979, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Xinhua News Agency and other organizations related to foreign languages have adopted this scheme for romanizing Chinese personal, geographical and other proper names for languages using the Roman alphabet. At that time the name of this magazine was changed to *Beijing Review*.

From June 15, 1979, the United Nations began using the Chinese pinyin scheme as the standard spelling for names of persons and places of the People's Republic of China for those languages using the Roman alphabet.

How to Pronounce the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet

Following is the Chinese phonetic alphabet showing the pronunciation with approximate English equivalents. Spelling in the Wade system is in parentheses for reference.

"h"	(h),	a consonant, as in her, strongly aspirated;
"i"	(i),	a vowel, two pronunciations: 1) as in eat 2) as in sir in syllables beginning with the consonants c, ch, r, s, sh, z and zh;
"j"	(ch),	a consonant, as in jeep;
"k"	(k),	a consonant, as in kind, strongly aspirated;
"l"	(l),	a consonant, as in land;
"m"	(m),	a consonant, as in me;
"n"	(n),	a consonant, as in no;
"o"	(o),	a vowel, as "aw" in law;
"p"	(p),	a consonant, as in par, strongly aspirated;
"q"	(ch),	a consonant, as "ch" in cheek;
"r"	(j),	a consonant pronounced as "r" but not rolled, or like "z" in azure;
"s"	(s, ss, sz),	a consonant, as in sister; and
"sh"	(sh),	a consonant, as "sh" in shore;
"t"	(t),	a consonant, as in top, strongly aspirated;
"u"	(u),	a vowel, as in too, also as in the French "u" in "tu" or the German unlauded "u" in "Muenchen";
"v"	(v),	is used only to produce foreign and national minority words, and local dialects;
"w"	(w),	used as a semi-vowel in syllables beginning with "u" when not preceded by consonants, pronounced as in want;
"x"	(hs),	a consonant, as "sh" in she;
"y"		used as a semi-vowel in syllables beginning with "i" or "u" when not preceded by consonants, pronounced as in yet;
"a"	(a),	a vowel, as in far;
"b"	(p),	a consonant, as in be;
"c"	(ts),	a consonant, as "ts" in its; and
"ch"	(ch),	a consonant, as "ch" in church, strongly aspirated;
"d"	(t),	a consonant, as in do;
"e"	(e),	a vowel, as "er" in her, the "r" being silent; but "ie", a diphthong, as in yes and "ei", a diphthong, as in way;
"f"	(f),	a consonant, as in fool;
"g"	(k),	a consonant, as in go;

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"z" (ts, tz), a consonant, as in zero; and
 "zh" (ch), a consonant, as "j" in jump

The old spelling or usage is given in parentheses for reference.

How to Spell Chinese Names Of Persons

• The names of persons of the Han nationality are spelt according to "common speech" or the standard spoken Chinese; names of persons of other national minorities are spelt according to their original pronunciation.

• The names of persons of the Han nationality have two parts — a surname and a name (Yang Li, Deng Xiaoping); compound surnames are spelt as one word (Ouyang Wen, Ximen Lusha).

• The surname precedes the name, both are capitalized, as Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai. Two-syllable names are spelt as one word.

• Diacritical marks can be dispensed with in spelling the names.

The following names of some Party and state leaders who are often mentioned in *Beijing Review* are spelt according to the Chinese phonetic alphabet.

Chen Yun	Song
Deng Xiaoping	Renqiong Wang
Fang Yi	Renzhong
Gu Mu	Wan Li
Hua Guofeng	Yang Dezhi
Hu Qiaomu	Yao Yilin
Hu Yaobang	Ye Jianying
Li Xiannian	Yu Qiuli
Peng Chong	Zhao Ziyang

How to Spell Chinese Place Names

Following are the names of municipalities directly under the central authorities, provinces, provincial capitals, autonomous regions for minority nationalities and their capitals*, well-known cities and rivers.

Anhui	(Anhwei) Province	Kaifeng	(Kaifeng)
Anshan	(Anshan)	Kunming	(Kunming)
Beijing	(Peking)	Lanzhou	(Lanchow)
Changchun	(Changchun)	Liaoning	(Liaoning) Province
Changjiang	(Yangtze) River	Luda	(Luta)
Changsha	(Changsha)	Luoyang	(Loyang)
Chengdu	(Chengtu)	Nanchang	(Nanchang)
Chongqing	(Chungking)	Nanjing	(Nanking)
Daqing	(Taching)	Nanning	(Nanning)
Fujian	(Fukien) Province	Ningxia Hui	(Ningsia Hui) Autonomous Region
Fuzhou	(Foochow)	Qingdao	(Tsingtao)
Gansu	(Kansu) Province	Qinghai	(Chinghai) Province
Guangdong	(Kwangtung) Province	Shaanxi	(Shensi) Province
Guangxi	(Kwangsi) Autonomous Region	Shandong	(Shantung) Province
Zhuang	(Chuang) Autonomous Region	Shanghai	(Shanghai)
Guangzhou	(Kwangchow)	Shantou	(Swatow)
Guilin	(Kweilin)	Shanxi	(Shansi) Province
Guiyang	(Kweiyang)	Shenyang	(Shenyang)
Guizhou	(Kweichow) Province	Shijiazhuang	(Shichiachuang)
Hangzhou	(Hangchow)	Sichuan	(Szechuan) Province
Harbin	(Harbin)	Suzhou	(Soochow)
Hebei	(Hopei) Province	Taipei	(Taipei)
Hefei	(Hofei)	Taiwan	(Taiwan) Province
Heilongjiang	(Heilungkiang) Province	Taiyuan	(Taiyuan)
Heilong	(Heilung) River	Tangshan	(Tangshan)
Henan	(Honan) Province	Tianjin	(Tientsin)
Hohhot	(Huhehot)	Urumqi	(Urumchi)
Huaihe	(Huaiho) River	Wuhan	(Wuhan)
Huanghe	(Yellow) River	Wuxi	(Wuhsi)
Hubei	(Hupeh) Province	Wusuli	(Wusuli) River
Hunan	(Hunan) Province	Xiamen	(Amoy)
Jiangsu	(Kiangsu) Province	Xian	(Sian)
Jiangxi	(Kiangsi) Province	Xining	(Sining)
Jilin	(Kirin) Province	Xinjiang	(Sinkiang) Uygur Autonomous Region
Jilin	(Kirin)	Yinchuan	(Yinchuan)
Jinan	(Tsinan)	Yunnan	(Yunnan) Province
		Zhejiang	(Chekiang) Province
		Zhengzhou	(Chengchow)
		Zhujiang	(Pearl) River

*The spellings of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, the Tibet Autonomous Region and Lhasa remain unchanged. □

Democratic Factory Management Helps

The Chongqing Hairdresser Instrument Factory no longer operates in the red now that its directors are democratically elected.

Last year this collectively owned enterprise with 200 workers lost 140,000 yuan. This January it ran at a deficit of 15,000 yuan. These losses were covered by the city's metalware company. Meanwhile the workers were paid with bank credits. The factory could not afford to cover its workers' medical fees. Bonuses were out of the question. How could this bleak situation be turned around?

In April a factory director was democratically elected. There were 14 candidates, nine nominated by the workers, five who put their own names forward. At the election meeting, 42-year-old Yuan Yutang, one of the five, made a number of proposals about how the factory should be run. His suggestions reflected his experiences both in production and management for he had been a worker since he was 15 years old, working as a turner, a workshop head and in the trade union. The workers felt enthusiastic about his proposals and elected him factory director.

The factory's management committee in charge of production and administration was reconstituted. It has five members — Yuan Yutang, the two deputy directors and two members appointed by Yuan.

A new democratic management committee was also formed to supervise the leading cadres. It included five workers elected by a newly established congress of workers and

staff members to a two- to three-year term. Wang Deliang, chairman of the trade union, was elected committee chairman.

The factory assumed full responsibility for its profits and losses. The workers began making all budgetary decisions, knowing that how the factory was run would have a direct impact on their livelihood. Workers became more enthusiastic as production improved.

The group which turns out spare parts for driers, for instance, increased its April output by 2.5 times after a quota system was instituted. Last April's accounts showed the factory was running in the black. In addition to their wages, every worker received an average bonus of ten yuan that month. Thus, the development of production was beneficial both to the state finances and the workers' living standards.

Bird Business Flourishes in Beijing

A plain looking bird was selling for 160 yuan — equivalent to three months wages for

a worker — at the biggest bird market in Beijing. It fetched the highest price ever asked for a bird since the bird markets reopened here three years ago because of its ability to imitate a dog's bark, a cat's meow or a bird's warble. Called a *huamei* in Chinese, this bird is a thrush native to south China.

At this open-air market in Longtanhu Park, southeast of the city, cages are hung on trees, and the singing of birds mingles with the cries of vendors. Usually, there are over 30 varieties of songbirds on sale. An untrained *huamei* sells for 20 to 70 yuan; a Mongolian skylark, for 4 to 40 yuan; a linnet, for 3 to 20; a myna, for 5 to 20 yuan; and a pigeon, for 3 to 20.

The market opens at 5:00 in the morning and closes at 11:30 a.m. Five hundred people come to browse and buy on weekdays; on Sunday their numbers reach 3,000.

Many coming to the market are retired. "I haven't much to do at home, particularly in the daytime when the rest of my family goes to work," commented bird-fancier Wang, a retired grain shop assistant. "I love birds. They are nice



At a bird fair in Beijing.

People in the News



Wen Minsheng, secretary of the Party committee of Heilongjiang Province and the first secretary of the Harbin municipal Party committee, often makes on-the-spot investigations and helps people solve practical problems in their daily lives.

At a municipal Party standing committee meeting in October 1978, Wen Minsheng proposed that every leading cadre in the city take the bus, have meals in cheap restaurants, pop into neighbourhood compounds to check on the living conditions and visit an ordinary home at least once a month. Since then, he has set an exemplary model in this regard.

By taking the inner-city and suburban buses and trams, he familiarized himself with the drivers' complaints about their work and traffic problems and came across some hooligans fighting in the street. He discussed these problems with the departments concerned and had them solved one by one. During one of his bus trips, he heard that the policy of "to each according to his work" was not being observed and bonuses were being distributed on an equalitarian basis. These problems were looked into and the method for bonuses practised before the Cultural Revolution was reinstated. As a result better service was provided and the bus system was run more efficiently.

Wen ate in 16 city restaurants without giving prior notice. When he found the hygiene or the service unsatisfactory, he would talk with the manager and make some good suggestions.

He has been to many neighbourhoods and learnt that there are four common complaints — a shortage of housing, not enough jobs for middle school graduates, poor public security and unsatisfactory public morality. He talked about these problems again and again in various meetings and saw to it that ways for handling them were worked out. Since 1979, 200,000 youth waiting for jobs have been assigned work. In addition, 530,000 square metres of residential space was built in 1979, providing new homes for quite a number of people who used to live in cramped housing.

companions. They get you up early in the morning and you can take them out for a breath of fresh air." He had just bought a *huamei* for 25 yuan, half of his monthly pension.

Cages, bird food, feeders, pigeon whistles and other paraphernalia for birds are available at the market. Potted flowers and goldfish are also sold.

The number of bird keepers in Beijing is estimated to be about 50,000. The Beijing

Flower, Goldfish and Bird Company, the city's only state-owned bird shop which is located in the Temple of Heaven Park, sold 1,884 birds in the first six months of this year.

● *A Clinic of Tibetan Medicine*

A white tent was pitched on the banks of the Zhange River on the Golog grassland, Qinghai Province. It houses a clinic of Tibetan medicine. People

come from every corner of the Golog Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, northwestern Sichuan and southern Gansu grasslands to see the old doctor there. His name is Kanlun Manba, a standing committee member of the autonomous prefecture's committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and a well-known doctor in Tibetan medicine.

Kanlun Manba has recently reopened his clinic. The news of its reopening spread quickly over the plains. Many Tibetan herdsmen rode from afar, with their tents on the backs of their yak, to seek his medical advice. His reputation also attracted some cadres of the Han nationality working in the region.

The old doctor began to study medicine when he was 16. He once lived in the famous Dege and other lamaseries and delved into the classics on Tibetan medicine. Later, he travelled around the Golog grassland to treat the herdsmen. He acquired rich medical experience and acquainted himself with more than 2,000 herbs grown in the region. He is particularly experienced in treating highland chronic diseases.

Though he is 72 years old and has cataracts in both eyes, he refuses to sit around and collect his pension. And when Jiuzhi County opened a clinic of Tibetan medicine in his native Suhurima commune last September, he chose to continue practising medicine in his tent rather than move to the spacious new buildings. Kanlun Manba also teaches apprentices working under him, gives lectures to the commune's barefoot doctors and is writing a book summing up his lifelong medical experience.

DRAMA

Beijing Opera Troupe Goes to U.S.

A 70-member troupe of the Beijing Opera Company in the capital left China on August 7 for a three-month tour of the United States. It will give performances in New York City, Washington D.C., San Francisco, Chicago and six other major cities.

The troupe is headed by Zhang Menggeng. He began his career in Yanan during the 1940s. Since 1949 he has worked both as a critic and leader of traditional operas. The troupe's art director and one of its star actresses is Zhao Yanxia, who studied under Xun Huisheng, one of China's four most famous Beijing opera actors performing female roles.

On hearing that two Beijing opera troupes from Taiwan Province will be performing in the United States at the same time, Zhao Yanxia commented: "I am delighted at this news. I long to meet my former Beijing opera colleagues and friends who are now in Taiwan. Although we have been separated for 30 years, we have all done a lot to develop the art of Beijing opera for our country."

While on tour in the United States, Zhao Yanxia will play two roles: a beautiful and kind-hearted goddess who earlier had lived as a carp in *Goddess of Green Waters*, and a clever, unaffected girl in *Jade Bracelet*. Zhao is known for her superb acting, creative characterization and clear enunciation in singing and speaking. She ex-

cels in playing the various women of ancient times.

Other members of the Beijing opera troupe have also distinguished themselves on the stage.

The brilliant actor Li Yuan-chun captures audiences with his rendition of the dexterous Monkey King in the mythological opera *Monkey King Fights 18 Luohans*. His fighting feats are astounding.

The young actress Zhao Huiying presents a stunning performance of the white snake in *White Snake Finds the Magic Herb* (a scene from the full-length opera *Story of the White Snake*), and the Princess Red Fish in *Princess Red Fish*. In these two operas, which depict female celestials falling in love with ordinary men, Zhao Huiying is especially deft at kicking away spears that are coming from all directions.

The 39-year-old Yang Shao-chun gained his popularity in the early 1960s for his excel-



Zhao Yanxia in the opera "Goddess of Green Waters."

lent acting, his skilled movements, and his unusual costuming. He has toured Australia, New Zealand, Burma and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He will play the leading role in *Yandang Mountain* and *The Three-Forked Crossroads* during the U.S. tour.

Most of the selections in the troupe's repertoire are scenes from full-length operas. While many were picked for their dazzling fighting scenes, some classical opera scenes were included for those who appreciate traditional singing and acting techniques.

Beijing opera, the most popular theatrical form of traditional Chinese opera, was first staged in Beijing in the middle of the 18th century. It combines singing, music, dialogue, dancing and acrobatic fighting. Fifty years ago, the master opera actor Mei Lanfang headed the first troupe of more than 20 Beijing opera actors and actresses touring the United States.

Many of the actors and actresses in the present Beijing Opera Company are students of Mei Lanfang and other virtuosos, such as Cheng Yanqiu, Tan Fuying and Ma Lianliang.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Better Hygiene and Sanitation in Sichuan

In the vast rural areas of Sichuan Province susceptibility to disease has been reduced markedly.

Statistics show that the incidence rates of 12 major



A medical worker in Emei County, Sichuan Province, making her rounds in the countryside.

acute infectious diseases have dropped for three consecutive years. The 1979 rate of rural Sichuan showed a 13.5 per cent fall as compared with the previous year. Diseases like measles, infantile paralysis and diphtheria have been largely eliminated, and leptospirosis has been brought under control.

With a population of more than 80 million, Sichuan Province has always attached importance to disease prevention and improvement of environmental sanitation in the countryside.

For three years since 1977, about 60 million rural people were inoculated each year free of charge against diseases, including infantile paralysis, measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, tetanus and leptospirosis.

Measures have also been taken to improve environmental sanitation in the countryside. With more than 5 million methane generating pits built in the province, excrement and urine, filth and mire have been disposed of safely.

Drinking water has been improved in rural Sichuan. On the west Sichuan plain, all the conventional wells have been transformed into mechanized sealed ones. In the hilly areas

in north and central Sichuan where droughts are frequent, more than 400,000 wells have been sunk, including mechanized ones. People there no longer drink from ditches and pools.

There are currently 15,000 medical workers at the grass-roots level and more than 160,000 barefoot doctors in the province who have played an active role in improving sanitary conditions and treating and preventing disease in the countryside.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Artifacts Aid Astronomy

Significant advances have been made in studying ancient astronomy during the last decade as a result of archaeological discoveries according to a report delivered recently in Chengdu by Yan Dunjie, a research fellow at the Institute of the History of Natural Sciences. Important findings include inscriptions on tortise shells, bamboo slips and silk as well as star maps and astronomical devices.

A long controversy over what calendar was used in the early part of the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-220 A.D.) was ended in

1972 by the discovery of a calendar written on bamboo slips in Shandong Province. This bamboo calendar from the reign of Emperor Wudi revealed that the Zhuan Xu calendar which began on the first day of spring was used in those days, not the Yin calendar which began on the winter solstice.

In 1973 the earliest drawings of comets were unearthed. Twenty-nine charts of comets drawn on silk were taken from a Han Dynasty tomb in Hunan Province. Dating back more than 2,000 years, they predate similar findings in other parts of the world by several hundred years.

Historians formerly believed that the earliest mention of lunar mansions in historical records was in 239 B.C. However, in 1978 a wooden box was unearthed from a tomb in Suixian County, Hubei Province which was dated around 439 B.C. The name of each of the lunar mansions was written on the box.

A colour chart testifying to the cultural interflow between China and foreign countries was unearthed in Hebei Province from an ancient tomb (built in 1116) of the Liao Dynasty. It contains both the Chinese lunar mansions and the Western 12 signs of the zodiac.





LETTERS FROM READERS

Educating the Young

As soon as I received your issue No. 21, I read the articles about educating the younger generation. They are really good articles which I have been looking forward to for a long time.

I take a great interest in Chinese youths and wish to know about their present and future. I can't get sufficient information from the Japanese newspapers.

The middle school girl said in her article in this issue that there are also many contradictions and defects in socialist society. With the help and understanding of many people, however, she could see that, in spite of these contradictions, fundamental changes had taken place since the smashing of the gang of four and that achievements were the main aspect in China. Her own progress in this struggle is a clear proof.

Reports like the ones you have published, which tell the readers about the true situation in China, are a great encouragement to us young people who live in the Japanese society and are weighed down by numerous worries.

Akemi Nomura
Kyoto, Japan

I am especially interested in articles on education and school life. The contents of such articles in *Beijing Review* are very rich, for which I wish to extend my congratulations.

Miguel Ramon Bauset
Alboraiia, Spain

Away With Feudal Ideas

I give my support to the article "Away With Feudal Ideas" in issue No. 27 and I hope you'll make efforts in this respect in the days to come.

When will China wipe out feudal ideology? I have pondered

over this question and read many books. My opinion may be childish, but I think when China solves its population problem and overcomes feudal ideology, it will become one of the greatest nations in the world. Of course, there are many obstinate people, and I think it will be an arduous task to really solve this ideological question.

Tsutomu Takada
Saitama, Japan

About Competition

The articles discussing economic theory under the title "Should There Be Competition in Socialist Economy?" in issue No. 22 was of great interest to me. It was an extremely lively and interesting discussion, with excerpts from articles in the Chinese press giving a most competent answer to this important question.

T. Chamberlain
Hants, the United Kingdom

I read with great interest your theoretical articles. I'd like to give my personal opinion on the articles under the general title "Should There Be Competition in Socialist Economy?" in issue No. 22. I agree with what Jin Mingjun said in his article "Competition No. Emulation Yes." I think so-called "competition" means only that the strong will edge out the weak, and that the gap between the strong and the weak will not be eliminated by learning from each other. At the same time I doubt that the weak enterprises will do better on the market because of pressure from the strong ones. Moreover, competition can never be a principle that will regulate and bring about a balance between production and consumption. (This point was stressed in the other two articles.) Isn't it necessary to develop production of commodities in the various localities so as to meet local demands? And how should foreign trade be regulated? I don't think these problems can be solved through competition. On the contrary, competition will only obstruct the balanced development of production in the country as a whole.

Susanne Aberle
Heidelberg, W. Germany

Thanks for Your Answers

We were very glad to receive your answers to our questions put in December last year on behalf of the study group in the local

Denmark-China Friendship Association.

We discussed your answers and made further investigations in the field of economic theory, especially the one put forward by Xue Muqiao. In this way our understanding of the matter improved substantially, though new questions have arisen.

The answers you gave us were translated and published in the internal magazine of the friendship association, in order to urge other study groups to write to *Beijing Review* if they have got questions of any kind. We feel very encouraged, indeed.

Erik Simonsen
Odense C. Denmark

Stereotyped Pictures

I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the pictures you publish practically have no variation at all. As a French saying puts it: Uniformity breeds monotony. The people in your pictures are always and under all circumstances happy. I know that the Chinese people have enough to eat, there is no discrimination and the Chinese Government does everything within its power to improve the people's livelihood. But it just won't do to take pictures of people smiling regardless of the time, place and particular situation. Under certain conditions, smiling is just not needed because it mars other facial expressions.

The monotony of clothes can also be seen in your pictures. This, of course, does not apply to the clothes of the minority peoples.

Handel Frederic
Verneuil en Halatte, France

International News

The international column is most important because it gives a true and concrete analysis of international issues. This is particularly so in your reports on the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Another article which caught my attention was entitled "Regional Hegemonism in the Caribbean" in issue No. 21. Though the analysis was somewhat superficial, it was objective. Through this report readers in other parts of the world will know something about the struggle waged by the people in this area for complete liberation.

Ulises Gonzalez A.
Codazzi Cesar, Colombia

CHINESE DRAMAS

(In English)

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