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BEIJING REVIEW

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A CHINESE WEEKLY OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

- Peasants' Enthusiasm for Science
- Cartagena South-South Conference





Zhang Yuanfang (right), a peasant in Linfen County, Shanxi Province, examines wheat hybrids he is developing.



A teacher from the Fujian Agricultural College shows a peasant in Youxian County how to cultivate sugarcane.

Yue Cuifang, 21, a peasant in Hubei Province, gained a command of microchemistry through self-study.



A soil specialist from abroad learns how to apply fertilizer to the subsoil.



SPOTLIGHT

Wang Jinzhang, a technician at the Hebei Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, explains to young peasants how to prune the Chinese chestnuts in summer.



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COVER: Ding Xueli, a peasant expert of Hui nationality, breeding rice seedlings.	

Photo by Chen Siyu

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

China's Friendship With Turkey and Nepal

Sino-Turkish relations, based on a solid historical foundation, have further developed in the past dozen years. Prospects are good for new co-operation in civil aviation, trade, journalism and culture (p. 21).

Like his tour of the three other Asian countries, President Li's coming visit to Nepal is expected to bring Sino-Nepalese relations to a new stage of development and help maintain Asian peace and stability (p. 19).

Solving Problems While Consolidating the Party

Party consolidation, now underway in central and provincial leading departments, is required to bring tangible results, as erring Party members are helped to overcome privilege-seeking, bureaucratism and other unhealthy tendencies. It is expected that through this effort, the Party will become fully capable of leading the people to fulfil the goals of the modernization programme (p. 4).

Craze for Science and Technology

More and more peasants in Fujian Province are interested in science and technology. Science books and journals are sold in increasing numbers, and agrotechnicians' on-the-spot explanations at rural fairs have helped solve peasants' immediate problems (p. 24).

Kampuchean Resistance Forces Growing Stronger

Kampuchean resistance forces have scored a significant victory in the fight against Vietnamese aggressors during the past two-thirds of the dry season. They have also expanded their range of operations (p. 12).

The Cartagena Conference

Our special correspondent reports on the recent South-South conference held in Cartagena, Colombia. The conference examined the economic problems facing Latin American countries and looked for ways to shake off the effects of the global economic crisis. Excerpts from a statement issued by the conference are also included (p. 16).

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Solving Problems While Consolidating Party

by AN ZHIGUO
Political Editor

The Communist Party of China has decided to rectify its work style and consolidate Party organizations over three years, beginning last winter. This work is now being carried out in the Party organizations of the central, provincial, municipal and autonomous regional leading bodies (including the Party organizations of the various ministries and commissions as well as offices, departments and bureaus of these two levels) and the Party organizations in the leading bodies of the People's Liberation Army.

The current Party consolidation should not repeat the excessive struggles of the past, nor should it be done perfunctorily. Party consolidation should be carried out simultaneously with rectification and this has been made an important policy as was outlined in the Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party on Party Consolidation issued last October. It says, "In the course of consolidating the Party organizations, we should resolutely and promptly solve all problems which can be solved immediately, so that people both inside the Party and out can see in good time the concrete results of the Party consolidation."

The Communist Party of China now has 40 million members. Most of them are diligent and conscientious in serving socialism and the people. But some Party members and cadres are not using the power and position given them by the Party and people to work for the welfare of the masses. Instead, they are seeking personal gains.

Some Party cadres in leading positions are seriously affected by bureaucratism; their revolutionary will has waned from eating three square meals a day yet doing no work. These two unhealthy tendencies have directly tarnished our Party's image and prestige among the people, and impaired

Party consolidation should be carried out simultaneously with reform and this has been made an important policy

the interests of the people. Checking these unhealthy tendencies has been regarded by many organizations as a breakthrough in the current Party consolidation.

There is a housing shortage in China's cities. Yet some leading Party cadres take advantage of their power and position to occupy more rooms than they need, arousing strong resentment among the masses. In response, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection issued an open letter in March last year calling for a check to this unhealthy trend of occupying extra rooms. Investigations have shown that 21,900 cadres at and above the county and regiment level have occupied extra rooms, amounting to 642,800 square metres more than they actually need. Rooms covering 469,000 square metres have been returned, or extra rent has been charged in accordance with stipulations. The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection met again this February,

demanding that the problem of occupying extra rooms be resolved completely by July, or at the latest before the end of this September.

The Chongwenmen Hotel incident was uncovered in Beijing last year. During the new products exhibition in Beijing, the hotel accommodated many people from all over the country. The attendants, with the connivance of the deputy manager of the hotel who is a Party member, took the opportunity to buy new products at low prices from exhibition groups. Members of the Shanghai exhibition group were kicked out of the hotel because they refused to comply with this corrupt practice.

After the incident, the Beijing municipal Party committee and the people's government seriously examined and dealt with the case. They dismissed the deputy manager from his post. Other erring Party members and cadres of the hotel also made self-criticisms and disciplinary action was taken against some of them. The results of the case were reported in a city-wide circular to serve as a warning to others.

Documents being passed around without taking any action and the delay in getting things done are major manifestations of some leading cadres' bureaucratic style of work.

Since the Party consolidation started, leading cadres of the Beijing municipal Party committee and the people's government have changed their work style and try to handle official business on the



spot. They, together with the leaders of various departments, have gone to the surrounding counties to find out about the situation and solve problems. Some urgent problems in accelerating commodity production in the rural areas have been solved there and then, and the ways of solving the others have been found.

News reports about Party cadres who have corrected their favouritism in employment and job assignments for their children, relatives and friends have been warmly received by the masses.

In order to strengthen their relationship with the masses, more and more leading cadres have been talking to visitors and reading the letters from the people. In some cities special telephones have been set up by the mayors to listen directly to the opinions of the masses.

In addition to rectifying the style of work, the current nationwide Party consolidation should also unify the thinking of all members to conform to the Party line, principles and policies adopted since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee, strengthen discipline and purify the Party's organizations. Problem solving will run through the whole process of Party consolidation.

With the development of the Party consolidation, the Communist Party of China, full of new vigour and vitality, will lead the Chinese people towards fulfilling the goals of the socialist modernization drive.

Comments and Suggestions

Originally I wanted to talk about my impressions of *Beijing Review* after reading the last issue of 1983, but now I may just as well begin with issue No. 48.

In this issue I liked the article "Remembrance of the Well-Digger" most. I regard it as the best one of 1983, but, had the content covered wider fields (i.e., the friendship between China and various other nations in the world) instead of confining itself only to Japan, it would have had greater impact (I think so even if Comrade Hu Yaobang's visit to Japan would confirm more fully what was said in the article). The late Comrade Zhou Enlai not only dug the well of friendship between China and Japan, but also opened a wider and deeper well of friendship between socialist China and other third world countries. But all the same, the article's great influence was not diminished by its limitations.

I also feel that in the current struggle against ideological contamination in China, *Beijing Review* should do more work to lead people to remember the staunch communist fighters and leaders who devoted their wisdom, energies and finally their lives to the communist cause, the international communist movement and the friendship between various nations, bringing their influence into play.

In this respect, I think you should publish some articles in commemoration of Comrade Mao Zedong, in spite of his errors in his later life. Articles remembering Comrades Soong Ching Ling and Lei Feng and other model Chinese and foreign Communists, such

LETTERS

as Norman Bethune, who laid down their lives in China for the communist cause, are needed.

As for the column "From the Chinese Press," I find it instructive. But some of the excerpts are too short and simple.

I find the documents very useful. They may be taken as the fundamentals for all people who love socialist China and want to keep abreast of the political viewpoints of the Chinese Communist Party. Therefore, to eliminate this column would mean the demise of *Beijing Review*.

As regards the layout, I think every issue is fine, but some are better than others. You are not bold enough in using pictures. The pictures are too small, and I have noticed that they always appear near the edge of the page, in the upper and lower corners.

The new design of the front cover is beautiful. But, in my opinion, if the whole page were covered with a single picture with some words on it, it would look more serious.

I also have the impression that the colours do not match very well. For instance, black and white pictures should not be captioned with colour headlines.

Here I'd like to suggest that you change the readers' "Letters" into "Voice of Our Readers" or "Our Readers' Viewpoints." Apart from that, in order to help the readers understand each other, know the realities of each other's countries, and exchange books, magazines and viewpoints, I suggest you open a sub-column which might be called "Exchange," so as to guide correspondence among your readers.

Benjaïd Sall
Dakar, Senegal

Wan Li on Bilateral Relations

"The Chinese Government and people will give a warm welcome to Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone when he arrives for a visit on March 25," Vice-Premier Wan Li told a group of Japanese journalists on March 2 in Beijing.

Chinese leaders Hu Yaobang and Zhao Ziyang will talk with the Japanese Prime Minister on bilateral relations and international issues of common concern, Wan said.

He also answered other questions from the 15 Japanese journalists led by Taro Okabe and 13 Beijing-based correspondents.

Sino-Japanese Relations. "Both China and Japan have strong points. Japan is an economic power with advanced science and technology while China is a developing country. Their co-operation in science, technology, economy and trade can grow," Wan said.

"The Sixth Five-Year Plan has been basically fulfilled, and China is mapping out its Seventh Five-Year Plan. We will discuss economic, scientific and technical co-operation with Prime Minister Nakasone in this regard," he added.

Relations between the two countries have developed a great deal since the establishment of formal diplomatic ties. Furthering friendly relations and co-operation is of vital importance to maintaining peace in Asia and the world, Wan pointed out.

Sino-Soviet Relations. Wan said while he was in Moscow for President Andropov's funeral he spoke for 40 minutes with G. O. Aliyev, First Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. Both expressed the hope to see better

state relations. "I don't think that the policies of a country will change with the death of a single person," Wan added.

Wan said that "China hopes for better state relations with the Soviet Union, based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. We especially want a friendly peaceful border. The fourth round of consultations between the two countries will take place in Moscow March 12. We will have to wait and see whether there will be any substantial progress."

Wan Li said China has invited I. V. Arkhipov, another Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, to visit China later this year. He was in China in the 1950s as an adviser, and is now in charge of trade with foreign countries. "We are ready to discuss trade and scientific and technological co-operation with him. A bigger increase in trade and co-operation between China and the Soviet Union can be expected," Wan said.

But he added, "As for the hegemonist acts of the Soviet Union, we will criticize them as usual in the interests of the people and peace of the world."

Sino-US Relations. Wan said of President Ronald Reagan's scheduled trip in April, "We welcome

President Reagan on his return visit to China, which will increase our mutual understanding. Better Sino-US relations will definitely benefit world peace.

"But no significant progress can be made in our bilateral relations before the Taiwan issue is properly resolved," he noted. "Certain accords of a scientific and technological nature will most probably be reached between our two countries during Reagan's visit."

The Korean Peninsula. "China is very much concerned about the situation on the Korean Peninsula," Wan told journalists. "We support the proposal for tripartite talks offered by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We welcome every measure that helps ease the situation on the peninsula. We do hope that the Korean Peninsula will become a peaceful one."

Not long ago, he continued, President Kim Il Sung proposed forming a confederation of Koryo and promised not to take any military action against the southern part of Korea. "We back him fully," Wan said.

"We hope that south Korean and the American troops stationed there will not launch military actions either. They should settle disputes with the north through negotiations," he said.

Xianggang Motion Causes Concern

Senior unofficial legislative councillor Roger Lobo's motion for a full debate on the future of Xianggang (Hongkong) has aroused concern and unease among Xianggang people.

The motion, which was announced on February 24 and will be introduced at a meeting of the Legislative Council (LEGCO) on March 14, says LEGCO "deems it essential that any proposals for the

future of Hongkong should be debated in this council before any agreement is reached."

An administration spokesman in Xianggang said he welcomed the introduction of the motion into LEGCO by unofficial members.

The British Minister of State for the Foreign Office and Commonwealth Affairs, Richard Luce, said on February 27 during his visit to Xianggang that an agreement on Xianggang's future would be tabled for debate by the British Parliament and LEGCO before a final decision was reached.

He later added that Britain did not know how that decision would be put to the people of Xianggang or how to test their reaction.

By suddenly proposing the motion while the Sino-British talks on Xianggang are still going on, Lobo has raised peripheral issues and aroused concern among the people of Xianggang.

Some newspapers pointed out that the day before the motion was put forward, Michael Brown, a member of the British Conservative Party, said, "This House will not endorse any proposals made by the British Government and the Chinese Government regarding the future status of Hongkong" unless adequate steps are taken to consult the people of Xianggang on the acceptability of such proposals.

These developments show that Lobo and Brown coincided in opinion without prior consultation, leaving no doubt that they will again play the public opinion card and harp on the old tune of the "three-legged stool."

"The Legislative Council claimed that it represents the will of Hongkong's people," said Huang Menghua, a member of Hongkong's Urban Council. "But this is not precise because legislative councillors are all named by the governor instead of being elected.

So no representation can be mentioned here."

Mun Kin-Chok, President of the Business Administration Department of the Chinese University of Hongkong, said, "The Sino-British talks on the Hongkong issue are something between the two governments and should not be restricted by LEGCO. And the latter should not have any influence over the agreement between Britain and China."

"If LEGCO functions in the Sino-British talks," Mun added, "a

'three-legged stool' will appear. This is what Beijing has opposed from the very beginning."

Others noted that if the LEGCO motion was passed it would violate the Sino-British agreement to keep the content of the talks secret, and would harm the good atmosphere of the discussion. New unrest would emerge in Xianggang, affecting stability and prosperity. Opponents of the motion said they hoped the Xianggang authorities would adopt a wise attitude in handling this incident.

Wu Xueqian in Burma and Malaysia

Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian found sincere friendship and agreement on many issues during his visit to Burma and Malaysia, February 22 to 28.

In Burma he talked with Burmese Foreign Minister U Chit Hlaing and met with President U San Yu and Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha.

During their talks, the two foreign ministers pledged to further strengthen and develop co-operation and "paukphaw" (Burmese for brotherly) friendship between their countries. They said they were satisfied with their relations between the two countries, and agreed to further increase the economic co-operation and trade exchanges between them.

Both countries take great interest in peace and stability in Southeast Asia. The two foreign ministers exchanged views on the situation, and agreed that the key to solving the Kampuchean issue is to withdraw all foreign troops from that country.

Wu praised the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence put forward by China, Burma and India.

In Malaysia, Wu talked with his Malaysian counterpart Muhammad Ghazali Shafie. He also met with Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datud Musa Bin Hitam.

Ten years ago this May China and Malaysia established formal diplomatic relations. Wu said he was delighted to visit the country in this year. He said he believes Sino-Malaysian relations will grow even broader in the next 10 years.

The two foreign ministers exchanged views on issues of mutual concern. They held many identical opinions. They also discussed the problems between them, which contributed greatly to mutual understanding.

Wu said, "We Chinese people are dedicated to building up the country, and want a peaceful international environment and peace and stability in Southeast Asia. Our two countries have different social systems and ideologies, but this is not and should not be an obstacle to the further development of Sino-Malaysian relations."

On the Kampuchean issue, both countries restated their common

stand that the key to the question is the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea. They pledged to continue their support for the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

Upon leaving Burma for Malaysia, Wu stayed briefly in Thailand to talk with Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila about international issues, the situation in Southeast Asia and Kampuchea and bilateral relations. They agreed on many points.

Wu at a Press Conference

Before his departure from Malaysia, Wu Xueqian answered questions at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur.

On the Kampuchean Issue. The Chinese Government has always advocated a fair and reasonable solution to the Kampuchean issue through consultations among all parties concerned, Wu said. China wants a political solution, but the major obstacle comes from Viet Nam. So far there has been no sign of Viet Nam's willingness to commit itself to a troop withdrawal from Kampuchea, he pointed out.

Wu said that while Viet Nam has gained nothing on the battlefield so far this year, the Democratic Kampuchea Coalition Government is playing a bigger role and has initiated military operations with some success.

Wu said that to promote a political solution to the Kampuchean issue, the Chinese Government wishes to co-operate closely with the ASEAN nations. He told reporters that in his talks with Malaysian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ghazali Shafie, both agreed on the need to redouble their aid to the Kampuchean resistance forces and to make joint efforts to help win greater sympathy and support for the patriotic resistance forces in the international arena.

The Future of Kampuchea. After the Vietnamese troop withdrawal, Wu said China hopes to see a peaceful, neutral, independent and non-aligned Kampuchea. China doesn't stand for one-party rule in Kampuchea, but hopes to see a coalition of various political parties, he added. He also said Kampuchea should choose its own government through general elections, under the supervision of the United Nations.

Wu said that China does not pursue any self interest in Kampuchea. Viet Nam's repeated accusations of the so-called "Chinese threat" are totally groundless, as China is now engaged in building itself into a modernized state, he said. "On the Kampuchean issue, we want no more than justice. Together with the Southeast Asian countries we are trying to find a solution to the issue which will bring peace and stability to the region," Wu said.

On international support for Kampuchea, he said China will be willing to join other countries concerned in providing international guarantees that after Viet Nam withdraws Kampuchea will become a peaceful and neutral country.

Relations Among Asian Communist Parties. Asked to comment on the relationships among the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the communist parties of Southeast Asian nations, including the Malaysian Communist Party, Wu said this is an issue which emerged after World War II. Party problems in various countries should be handled by the governments of the countries concerned. This is an internal affair in which China will never interfere.

China's relations with the communist parties of Southeast Asian nations have basically been solved through consultations with the countries concerned. He said the CPC maintains only a moral re-

lationship with the Malaysian Communist Party. Wu pointed out that it is common international practice for a party in one country to maintain ties with a party in another country. The CPC maintains relations with communist parties of many other countries, including some nationalist parties in Africa and socialist parties in Europe. In fact, socialist parties of various countries have relations with each other, Wu said, adding that some religious bodies also keep international ties. Such moral relationships are clearly international.

Visas for Malaysians of Chinese Origin. China has never issued entry permits to Malaysian citizens of Chinese descent to visit their relatives in China, Wu said. "We have more than once expressed our opposition to dual nationality. We believe that resident Chinese in Malaysia, after they have voluntarily taken Malaysian nationality, should be considered Malaysian citizens, not Chinese citizens. There was a full exchange of views on this issue with the Malaysian leaders during my visit. I am convinced that appropriate measures can be found in the future to solve this problem so that there will be more exchanges of visits," the Chinese Foreign Minister said.

Peng Zhen Meets Burundi Guests

Peng Zhen, Chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, met a delegation from the Burundi National Assembly and Party of Unity and National Progress led by Emile Mworoha, Assembly President and Party General Secretary.

Peng said China adhered to the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence and would never become a superpower or oppress and ex-

exploit other nations. "What we are doing conforms to our words," he noted.

China and Burundi could help each other and fulfil each other's needs in many fields, he said. We can also draw lessons from each other's experience, Peng pointed out, adding that he hopes China's NPC and the Burundi National Assembly will hold more exchanges to increase their mutual understanding and help promote

the growth of co-operation between the two countries.

Mworoha said great progress could be seen in relations between the two countries in recent years, and there were bright prospects for co-operation in handicrafts and industry. He also noted that he and his colleagues had learnt much from the achievements of the Chinese people and their talks with Chinese leaders on many questions.

More Township Governments & Villagers' Committees Established

The establishment of township governments aimed at separating administration from economic management has developed further in China's rural areas. By the end of last year more than 22,000 township governments had been established in about 1,100 of the country's 2,300 counties.

In areas where township governments have been set up, the township committees of the Communist Party of China concentrate on dealing with Party affairs and carrying out the Party's principles. The township governments play their role as grass-roots units of power, making all-round plans for the development of local economy, culture, education, public health and other public affairs.

At the same time, villagers' committees have been spreading in villages under the administration of township governments. By the end of 1983 more than 170,000 villagers' committees had been established.

The Constitution stipulates that the villagers' committee is a mass organization of self-management. It manages public affairs and social services of the village, and helps the local government in

administration, production and construction.

Leaders of the villagers' committees are elected by the villagers. The committee includes a mediation group, a public security group, a public health group, etc. A villagers' committee is in charge of one or several hamlets.

The establishment of township governments and villagers' committees is an important part of China's rural restructuring. The work is expected to be completed by the end of 1984 in all of the country's rural areas except Tibet and Xinjiang (two minority nationality autonomous regions), where it will be finished by the first half of 1985. According to an official of the Ministry of Civil Affairs, 600,000 more villagers' committees will be established this year.

More Places Opened To Foreign Visitors

The Chinese Government decided that as of February 20, places opened to foreigners would increase from 135 to 148. The

newly opened places include Xianyang in Shaanxi Province, Dali in Yunnan Province and some other scenic spots and historical sites.

Of these cities and counties, foreigners may visit 30 without obtaining travel permits or giving advance notice to the Chinese authorities. These include Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and Guangzhou, scenic spots such as Suzhou, Hangzhou and Qingdao, and the ancient capitals of Luoyang and Xian. The Lunan Yi Nationality Autonomous County is famous for its stone forest and the newly opened Xianyang city was the capital of the Qin Dynasty—China's first feudal dynasty some 2,200 years ago.

Foreigners may visit 118 other places after obtaining travel permits. These include Chengde city and Zunhua County, sites of ancient buildings; the world-famous ancient artistic Dunhuang Grottoes; the Dazu stone carvings; the Omei, Huangshan, Jiuhua and Lushan Mountains; the Huangguoshu waterfall; the cities and counties in Dali; the oil base of Daqing and Kenli County; the iron and steel base of Anshan city; Angu County where the Changbaishan nature reserve is located; Jingdezhen, known for pottery and porcelain in Jiangxi Province; and the newly established special economic zones of Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Xiamen.

Since China adopted the policy of opening to the outside world, the number of foreigners who come to China for visits, trade talks, scientific and technological and cultural exchanges and sight-seeing has increased considerably. These relaxed restrictions on foreigners who tour China will promote friendly exchanges between the Chinese people and those in the rest of the world. More places will be opened to foreigners by the Chinese Government in the future so as to facilitate travel in China.

Volunteers Flock To Qaidam Basin

Seventeen thousand volunteers from all over the country went to the Qaidam Basin in Qinghai Province last year to help open up the underdeveloped area.

More than 7,000 people have recently gone to rebuild the Qinghai-Tibet Highway and another 3,000 are engaged in the construction of the Xining-Golmud Railway. Many workers have taken up their jobs at a new lead-zinc mine which has begun to take shape in the Xitie Mountain.

These volunteers include cadres, technicians, college graduates and workers. They went in response to a call made last July by Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang to open up the northwest after he inspected the region.

Since then, the provincial authorities have received tens of thousands of letters and cables, among them are requests from more than 600 college and technical school graduates for work in Qaidam.

China began in the 1950s to develop the Qaidam Basin, which covers more than 200,000 square

kilometres in the northwestern part of Qinghai. Fifteen types of minerals have been found, most of which have not been exploited.

In the Sixth Five-Year Plan (1981-85), the state has designated five projects in the area as major, including the first-phase construction of the Xining-Golmud Railway, the construction of a potash fertilizer plant with an annual capacity of 200,000 tons, the development of the lead-zinc mine and the expansion of an oilfield.

Steel Production To Expand in 1984

China's steel output reached 39.95 million tons in 1983, surpassing the Federal Republic of Germany to place fourth in the world after the Soviet Union, Japan and the United States.

Proceeding from this basis, in 1984 China will continue developing its steel industry, centred on raising the quality and increasing the variety of products and lowering the consumption of energy and raw materials, according to Li Dongye, Minister of the Metallurgical Industry.

He said that this year's profits and taxes from the industry are expected to reach 9,500 million yuan, 5 per cent more than last year.

To achieve this goal, the state will speed up construction of the Baoshan Iron and Steel Complex in Shanghai, the Wuhan Iron and Steel Company in Hubei and the Wuyang Iron and Steel Company in Henan, all key construction projects.

The designed annual production capacity of the Baoshan steel complex upon completion will be 6 million tons each of steel and iron. After the first phase of construction is finished in 1985, the complex will produce 3 million tons of iron, 3.12 million tons of steel and 0.5 million tons of seamless steel tubes.

Also in 1984, the state will technologically transform 29 projects, including those of the Anshan and Baotou steel companies. Anshan is the largest steel production base in China.

Minister Li Dongye said China is producing oil pipes, ship steel plates and cold-rolled silicon steel sheets up to international standards.

Happy Lives Enjoyed by Rural Elders

Cui Naifu, Minister of Civil Affairs, promised happiness to the disabled and childless old peasants in their later years. So long as he was in office, he said, he would do his best to popularize old people's homes in rural China.

China has now more than 11,000 rural old people's homes. Obviously the figure is far from suf-



The first batch of volunteers from Beijing off for Qinghai Province.



The government of Jinxiang County, Shandong Province, bought a new fur coat for each of the 1,120 childless old peasants in the county.

ficient. There are 800 million peasants living in the vast countryside; the number of old people's homes equals only one-fifth of all the nation's townships.

Old people's homes are usually funded by the people's communes or township governments, adding no burden to the peasants.

As a result of the rapid development of the rural economy, more and more old people's homes have been built in the past few years and their management has improved, illustrating the great potential to build one such home in each township to meet the peasants' demand.

Since the co-operative movement in 1956, a "five guarantees" system has been carried out in China's rural areas. According to this system, the five needs (food, clothing, fuel, education and burial) of helpless disabled, orphans, old widowers, widows and single peasants are taken care of. With the further development of the social economy, this system will include even more practical measures.

Among the 2.98 million childless old people, orphans and disabled in China's rural areas, more than 90 per cent receive supplies or subsidies under the "five guarantees" system and 147,000 elders live in old people's homes.

Peasants Invest Money in Education

As more and more Chinese peasants become well off, they are investing their money in education. Their actions are praised as far-sighted.

Peasants in Xuwen County, Guangdong, added 4.6 million yuan last year to the state's grant of 1.7 million yuan to finance education. They set up 113 school buildings last year and began 17 more this year. The facilities put together cover 45,700 square metres. Local peasants decided to make the primary and middle school buildings more beautiful than the government offices in the next three years.

Xuwen County is located on the southeast coast, and its simple school buildings are often threatened by hurricanes. In the past, the peasants had little money and the state was not in a position to take care of everything there, so they could not improve their educational facilities. When hurricanes blew up, all were worried about the shabby classrooms.

After 1979, peasants saw their wallets grow fatter year by year. Last year, per-capita income was quadruple that of 1978, laying the material foundation for improving the schools.

In Huaibin County, Henan Province, 50-year-old Wu Jinan spent more than 5,000 yuan of his earnings to start a primary school. In 1983, he donated the 1,000-yuan award he received from the county authorities for his voluntary help to encourage education in the area.

Wu Jinan's out-of-the-way village had no primary school, and the children had to walk two kilometres every day to attend classes at the brigade school. At the beginning of 1982, only 9 of the 147 school-age children in the village went to school.

Wu contracted to farm two hectares of land in 1980. Planting hybrid seeds and using chemical fertilizers, he harvested a bumper crop that year, becoming the first well-to-do peasant in his village.

Between 1981 and 1982, he reaped successive record harvests to earn 4,000 to 5,000 yuan annually, plus sideline production profits.

Beginning from 1982, Wu Jinan gradually invested his money to open a primary school in his village. At the end of last year, his school enrolled 110 pupils, all free of charge. The two teachers are paid by Wu.

This year he plans to enlarge his school into a full-fledged primary school, teaching all five grades.

Kampuchea

Bright Prospects for Resistance

by YAN MING

THE battle situation in Kampuchea has changed noticeably during the past two-thirds of the dry season. In contrast with the past five years of Vietnamese aggression in that country, this year's dry-season offensive never got off the ground. Instead, the Kampuchean resistance forces have won victory after victory in operations far behind enemy lines.

On Jan. 19, the Kampuchean National Army captured Kompong Thom city, capital of Kompong Thom Province and a heavily guarded communications centre in a three-pronged attack. On Jan. 27, Feb. 2 and 11, the Kampuchean army attacked and occupied the provincial capitals of Siem Reap, Pursat and Battambang and a number of county seats.

According to Radio Democratic Kampuchea, many Vietnamese soldiers were killed in these battles, and enemy logistical installations such as granaries and fuel and ammunition depots were destroyed. Sections of highway six between Kompong Thom and Siem Reap and of highway five and the railway between Pursat and Battambang were cut off. Vietnamese strongholds along the lines were captured, a number of villages were liberated and Vietnamese command posts and institutions of the puppet regime were destroyed. The Vietnamese aggressors suffered heavy losses.

The national army has expanded operations from the border mountains to the interior plains.

The Democratic Kampuchean forces have linked up their supply lines from the western and northern borders to Kompong Thom and Kompong Cham Provinces, and set up a second fan-shaped battle line from western Kompong Cham to Kompong Thom, Kompong Chang and Kompong Speu. This poses a great threat to the Vietnamese in the hinterlands and ties down many units of their main force.

The Democratic Kampuchean army's advance indicates a certain improvement in its tactics and combat capability. It is now capable not only of attacking and taking bigger Vietnamese strongholds, but also of cutting off major enemy communication lines and raiding important cities, towns and logistical bases guarded by Vietnamese troops. The Vietnamese aggressors find themselves in growing difficulties, coming short of mobile forces and sup-

plies, with their fighting capability whittled down.

This change conforms to the basic law of development of a war of resistance against aggression. Five years ago the Vietnamese aggressors, with inflated arrogance, overran Kampuchea and considered themselves invincible. But as time goes by the momentum of aggression has been battering. Viet Nam's dry-season offensive is losing its force every year. The gap between its ambition and its capacity has widened.

But richer in experience and made wiser by the reverses it suffered, the Democratic Kampuchean Government has been pursuing new policies in the areas under its control, and has won popular support. Since the three resistance forces joined hands, the Democratic Kampuchean Government has gradually gained the political, diplomatic and military initiative. Norodom Sihanouk said on Feb. 15 in Singapore, "All the (resistance) groups are growing in strength and are giving a better performance in the war against the Vietnamese."



At present, a fundamental change in the relative strength of the Vietnamese aggressors as against the Kampuchean resistance forces has yet to come. Hanoi has still not lost its superiority in military strength and

armaments. As before, it refuses to leave Kampuchea. Instead, it is sending more reinforcements and heavy arms to western Kampuchea, poised for another offensive against the key bases of the resistance forces.

Therefore, the road to ultimate victory for the resistance forces remains long and hard. But what has transpired in the war proves time is in favour of the resistance against aggression and not the aggressor.

Middle East

US Setback in Lebanon

by YU KAIYUAN

THE United States ended its 17-month of military presence in Lebanon with a phased withdrawal of its marines to warships off the Lebanese coast, marking a serious setback in carrying out its policy towards Lebanon.

Since Israel's invasion of Lebanon in the summer of 1982, the United States has gone from offensive to retreat. Over the past 17 months, the US administration has four times replaced its Middle East envoys, who have shuttled between Israel, Syria and Lebanon. Scores of US warships have been cruising off the 240-kilometre Lebanese coast, shelling Syrian and Moslem positions on several occasions in direct involvement in Lebanon's intertal armed conflicts.

Though nearly 300 US soldiers were killed in Lebanon and its diplomatic mission there was attacked time and again, Washington has not shrunk from its determination to stay involved in Lebanese affairs.

A senior US government official has made it clear that the Reagan administration attaches so much importance to Lebanon because it regards that country as a testing ground for implementing Reagan's Middle East programme and reviving the "Camp David spirit." It is also another site for Washington's regional contention with Moscow. The development of events in Lebanon — from the

Israeli invasion to the conclusion of the Lebanese-Israeli accord in May, 1983, with US Secretary of State George Shultz as the mediator — was, by and large, in line with what Reagan wanted. The Lebanese-Israeli accord has been called a victory for Reagan's Middle East policy and a point for the United States in its contention for dominance in the region.

However, the tide began to turn against Washington after Moscow launched a counter-offensive. Following the signing of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, the Soviet Union increased its arms supplies to Syria. The arrival of more sophisticated Soviet weapons and the presence of more than

4,000 Soviet advisors in the country helped Syria resist the US demand for a simultaneous withdrawal of both Syrian and Israeli troops from Lebanon.

Meanwhile, by backing the opposition forces in Lebanon, the Soviet Union rendered the Lebanese Government unable to ratify and put the agreement into effect. It was finally forced to repeal the accord.

The heavy losses the US marines suffered in Beirut have touched off strong reaction in the United States and accelerated Reagan's decision. However, because of the coming presidential election, the Reagan administration will not admit defeat.

Southern Africa

Situation Beginning to Ease

by MA SHIKUN and
BAO SHISHAO

THE long pent-up tension in southern Africa has begun to ease as the South African authorities enter into business-like negotiations with the Governments of Angola and Mozambique.

The joint Angolan-South African commission's emergency meeting, held in the southern Angolan town of Cuvelai on Feb. 25, agreed to monitor the ceasefire in southern Angola, which was occupied by the South African troops, beginning March 1.

The representatives of the Governments of Angola, South Africa and the United States met in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia on Feb. 16. A joint Angolan-South African commission was subsequently set up to supervise the ceasefire and cessation of hostilities in south Angola. According to the decision of this commission, South Africa began to withdraw its troops from Angola.

On Feb. 20, delegations from the Mozambican Government and South African regime agreed at their second meeting in Maputo to

sign a security agreement in order to further peace in southern Africa.

The talks among South Africa, Angola and Mozambique were supported and welcomed by many frontline countries. Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda personally opened the meeting on Feb. 16, pointing out the historical opportunity to make progress in troubled southern Africa. He said the tripartite talks would lay the cornerstone for genuine peace in the region.

Zimbabwe's Prime Minister Robert Mugabe spoke at the parliament on Feb. 22, welcoming the talks among Mozambique, Angola and South Africa. He said the leaders of Mozambique and Angola had pledged to him that the aim of the talks was to gain peace in southern Africa, from which Zimbabwe would benefit. He also pointed out that the success of the talks depended on the good faith of the South African authorities.

The conciliatory moves by the South African authorities towards their neighbouring countries can be ascribed to two factors.

First, during his African tour Chester A. Crocker, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, had put pressure on the South African authorities to change their rigid attitude to one that would help US President Ronald Reagan in his campaign for re-election.

Second, the policy of apartheid and the military subversion and aggression against its neighbours have long subjected the South African authorities to universal condemnation and placed them in an agonizing state of isolation. Feeling the pinch, they at last decided to make some policy adjustments.

Observers are of two different opinions concerning the recent developments in southern Africa. The optimists believe they will break the deadlock, pave the way to eventual implementation of UN

resolution 435 and accelerate the process of Namibia's independence. This in turn will bring peace and stability to southern Africa. The others call attention to the fact that the South African authorities have not waived their demand to link Namibia's independence with the evacuation of the Cuban troops from Angola. Nor have they pledged to observe UN resolution 435. They are making some concessions, merely as a way to relieve the enormous pressure on them. The best advice is to take note of what the South African authorities say and see if they keep their word.

Paris-Bonn

An Important but Difficult Mission

by XIA ZHIMIAN

THE Federal German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and French President Francois Mitterrand met in Paris on Feb. 24. Their talks were in preparation for the summit of the European Economic Community (EEC) in Brussels on March 19-20. They discussed agricultural market reform, Britain's share of the EEC budget and ways and means to increase the EEC's financial resources.

This was Kohl's second meeting with Mitterrand in two months. It reflects the two leaders' determination to revitalize the European Community during France's chairmanship in the first half of this year.

Over the past year, the EEC has been tormented by disputes over internal problems such as financial resources, agricultural policy and Britain's contribution to the budget.

The EEC summit in Athens last December ended in failure. They could not even agree on a political statement for publication at the end of the meeting, an unprece-

The African countries, and particularly the frontline countries, want peace and stability, and cherish freedom and independence even more. They have repeatedly stated that in talks with South African they have never given up their principled stand and resolute support of the struggles of the Namibian and South African people for national independence and against racial discrimination. They have come to realize that if racism and colonialism are not eliminated, there will never be genuine peace and stability in southern African.

dent event in the community's 26-year history.

Quarrels over different approaches to the community's problems have greatly weakened its role in international affairs. The community has seldom been heard recently speaking with one voice on issues of North-South dialogue, the Middle East conflict, southern Africa and European security—a question of vital importance to West European countries. Newspapers in Bonn voiced the fear that if there is another "Athens summit," the community "will lose its chance to act as a major political factor in world politics."

Politicians in the two countries are keenly aware of how these grave problems urgently require a solution. Federal Germany and France, as the two main founders and also the greatest beneficiaries of the community, are faced with a solemn duty to seek a way out of the EEC's present difficulties.

Following the break-off of the talks on intermediate-range nuclear forces in Geneva late last year, Kohl acted quickly, citing "European issues" as his country's

priority in diplomatic affairs. This was followed by his message to Mitterrand early January, underscoring the "special responsibilities" of their two countries in this respect and pledging his firm support for France's role as chairman of the EEC in the first half of this year.

Last month Kohl met with Mitterrand, and reportedly France put forward a new proposal. On Feb. 15 Kohl indicated in a speech that after the elections for the European Parliament on June 17, he, along with several of his "political friends," will put forward new proposals for an European political alliance and the formulation of a "common security policy for Europe," with Federal German-French co-operation functioning as its core.

The press in Bonn revealed that Kohl and Mitterrand are fostering closer co-operation and even a

"two-nation alliance," in an effort to smooth over the EEC's current difficulties. Mitterrand, current Chairman of the EEC, is currently shuttling between the capitals of the 10 EEC countries in search of a compromise, in preparation for the community's forthcoming summit.

Kohl and Mitterrand's bid to increase co-operation and promote West European alliance has won strong public support in their two countries. The Bonn publication *Allgemeine Wochenzeitung* said that the unity of the two countries' forces represents a "historic task" which will benefit not only the nations involved, but also the West European alliance.

However, it is not easy for Federal Germany and France to unite or West Europe to unite. The mission undertaken by Kohl and Mitterrand is important but tough.

mineral fell to US\$840 million in 1983. About half of that (\$350 million) had to be spent on loan payments and remitting the interest on foreign debts.

Because of serious drought, agriculture and livestock dropped by one-fourth in the past year. The price of food increased rapidly, and the Bolivian Government did not have enough foreign currency to import grain.

Under these circumstances, the working people staged a series of strikes, demanding an improvement in their living standards. They want a raise in pay and more food and consumer goods. Workers in the Central Trade Union Federation of Bolivia have suggested that the wage hike should be linked to the rate of inflation.

The Bolivian Government is in a dilemma, facing the demands of the working people. The wage increase will certainly burden the government budget since 70 per cent of Bolivia's businesses are state-owned. This would also be contrary to the government's current economic austerity policy, and the programme to hold down the inflation rate.

Privately owned enterprises are firmly against the wage increase because they cannot get any assistance from the government. In February, the Bolivian Government promised the trade unions to raise wages by 57 per cent. The private entrepreneurs protested and closed their businesses for 48 hours.

For various reasons, the Bolivian Government cannot find out any sound ways to solve its economic problems. Despite efforts to remedy the country's economic woes, the readjusted economic plans cannot be implemented. This has aroused widespread discontent, and the nation-wide strikes will not stop for the time being. The instability in Bolivia will continue.

Bolivia

Social Turmoil Gets Worse

by LI ZHIMING

THE social turmoil in Bolivia has intensified recently as a result of the serious economic difficulties. The Bolivian national federation of drivers announced an indefinite strike on Feb. 23, paralyzing road transportation. Strikes by public doctors and teachers continue to disrupt those services.

In the past year, strikes have broken out frequently in this country. Bolivia's political instability was caused by the marked deterioration of economic conditions, the decreased income of workers and other employees and their lowered living standards.

Since President Hernan Siles took power in October 1982, the Bolivian economy has not improved much because of the limited

domestic and international conditions. In 1983, the gross domestic product (GDP) of Bolivia dropped 14 per cent, exactly the same as the rise in unemployment. Inflation passed 300 per cent.

Bolivia is now in the midst of its worst economic and financial crisis. Although the national budget deficit has gradually decreased, it still accounts for 11 per cent of the total GDP. Bolivia's international balance of payments has also been getting worse in the past year. One-third of its foreign currency depends on natural gas exports to Argentina. But Argentina has its own economic difficulties, and still owes Bolivia more than US\$200 million for the gas.

As production fell and the price of tin ore dropped, the total value of Bolivia's major exported

The Cartagena South-South Conference

The 4-day conference was a big success at a time when Latin America is in the grips of a sustained recession and increasingly disillusioned with the integration process

by ZHENG FANGKUN
Our Special Correspondent

CARTAGENA, with all the charm of the tropics, is famous as a historically important link between the old and new world. During the recent South-South Regional Conference, it again served as a link, not in trade, but in the exchange of ideas. Although the conference lasted only four days, from Feb. 23 to 26, the benefits gained and the impression left on the more than 80 delegates and observers from 20 countries in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe will be unforgettable.

The conference, co-sponsored by the Third World Foundation and the National University of Colombia, was a great success at a time when Latin America has been in the grips of a sustained recession and a growing disillusionment with the integration process. The concrete principles and guidelines formed at the conference will not only affect the Latin American region, but will help shape the whole framework of future South-South co-operation.

The Cartagena conference is the first regional conference held under the Beijing Programme. It marks an important step towards the worldwide South-South II conference, scheduled for 1986. At the conclusion of South-South I in Beijing last April, it was decided to convene a summit of third world academics every three years in a different capital, using the intervening period for a thorough study of specific regional issues

and problems. Latin America was chosen, as the region with the most experience of the successes and failures of co-operation.

New Economic Order Needed

The conference opened at the convention centre near the walled old city. In his inauguration address Colombian President Belisario Betancur told the delegates,



"Cartagena is a microcosm of relationships, crystallized in underdevelopment and in the fullness of a young rising independent nation in search of a more equitable distribution of its fruits."

The president emphasized the need to establish a new economic order. He agreed with Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang's statement at the last conference that the international community should do its best to apply the criteria set down in the International Development Strategy approved by the United Nations.

The ever-widening gap between the North and South is unsustainable, and a development strategy which does not provide for the improvement of 80 per cent of mankind cannot be justified, the president said.

Discussion focused on how Latin American nations could shake off the effects of the sustained global economic crisis, which has plunged

many of them into the worst economic situation in more than 50 years.

Burdened with foreign debt, many countries have had to cut imports, reduce investment and leave their factories idle, leading to a sharp decline in production. Although the economies of some developed countries began to show signs of recovery last year, the developing countries are still reduced to austerity measures.

The Latin American nations have paid a high price for their cutbacks and readjustments, but they have not achieved the positive results they deserve. The developed countries continue to shift their economic problems on to their southern neighbors by lowering the prices of primary products, raising the cost of manufactured goods and practising protectionism. Worldwide high interest rates have also led to a sharp increase in foreign debt, capital outflow and rising import prices for these countries.

Increasing Confidence

A Chinese delegate pointed out that developing countries cannot place their own hopes for an upturn on the economic recovery of the developed countries. Austerity measures are also limited in their economic effects.

He and other Chinese scholars stressed the need to increase confidence in regional integration and co-operation. They advised a more flexible approach to various types of co-operation. Rigidly adhering to set forms sometimes

creates restrictions in working together, they pointed out.

While advocating regional co-operation, China has always held that the establishment of a new international economic order is essential to the solution of third world countries' problems.

The Commonwealth Secretary-General S.S. Ramphal said in an interview that regional integration cannot be a complete answer to the crisis. Even wider South-South co-operation is not enough. North-South negotiations must be another factor in solving economic problems, because the North created the major difficulties for the third world, Ramphal said.

Two specific proposals were made at the conference, one aimed at a substantial reduction of international interest rates and extension of repayment periods, the other calling for the establishment of a South Bank. The statement made by the Cartagena Conference described these two proposals as "steps in the direction of restructure and reform of the international monetary and financial

system, to which all developing countries are committed."

Two Important Lessons

The conference examined the failure of different strategies and plans for regional co-operation in depth, and offered guidelines for further co-operative action, Altaf Gauhar, secretary-general of the Third World Foundation, said in an interview.

"One important lesson which emerged at this conference was that the conceptual framework under which institutions like the world bank, the IMF and GATT were established is no longer valid," Gauhar said.

"Another lesson is that regional co-operation cannot be pursued as an economic activity isolated from the development process," he added. "Regional co-operation will only succeed if it is an integral part of the overall development strategy."

Political collaboration was also deemed vital to regional co-operation. President Betancur specifically referred to the peace efforts by the Contadora group in Central

America in his opening speech. The statement of the conference commended the group's efforts as "an approach to be emulated in dealing with regional problems."

The statement says that if the shared goals of democratic stability and sustained growth are to be realized, regional economic integration must be joined by meaningful political co-operation, embracing not only governments, but also social movements, political parties and the academic world. Such co-operation would strengthen the independence of the region and pre-empt interventionist solutions to disputes, which can only accentuate Latin America's dependency.

The Third World Prize

At the inauguration ceremonies, Arvid Pardo of Malta was awarded the 1983 Third World Prize for insisting on the concept, later affirmed by the United Nations' General Assembly and a 1982 maritime law convention that the bottom of the ocean, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, cannot be owned by any individual nation.

South-South Regional Conference

The Cartagena Statement

Following are excerpts from the text of the South-South Conference statement on the role of regional integration in the present world economic crisis which was adopted on Feb. 26, 1984 in Cartagena, Colombia. — Ed.

Global Economic Crisis and Latin America

• The participants noted that the Cartagena conference was held at a time when Latin America is

faced with economic and social difficulties, unprecedented in the last 50 years, resulting from unusual levels of foreign indebtedness and from acute recession in most countries. In 1985, interest payments alone absorbed 42 per cent of merchandise export earnings of Latin America as a whole, putting a massive strain on liquid assets and causing rising unemployment. Its present debt is greater than that during the great depression of the thirties.

• The distressing economic situation in the Latin American region is very much a part of the global economic crisis which equally afflicts the developing Asian and African regions. The situation of the least developed countries is particularly grave. The creditor countries, the private commercial banks, and the international financial institutions are pursuing policies and adopting measures which far from alleviating the condition of the develop-

ing countries, are frequently aggravating their already acute difficulties. The adequacy and even the relevance of the present international monetary and financial system is now in question.

- Even though the economy of the United States has recently shown signs of recovery, there are legitimate and widespread doubts about its persistence and durability and, above all, about its capacity to spread to the rest of the industrialized world. This recovery has failed to bring about (and even if it did persist it is doubtful if it could bring about) significant improvement in the international position of developing countries, enabling them to reduce their debt burden and resume economic growth, thereby easing their social and political difficulties.

- A substantial part of the present crisis stems from the high degree of militarization of the economic and political systems all over the world, which is encouraged by the strategic policies of the superpowers. The world's military spending, together with enormous levels of debt servicing liabilities today, represent the major factors in the persisting high rates of interest.

- Most Latin American countries have been forced to reschedule their foreign debts under extremely precarious conditions and on onerous terms as a consequence of the lack of co-operation of the creditor countries and of the dogmatic and rigid position assumed by the international monetary fund. Because of this, they have also been forced to implement drastic monetaristic adjustment policies aimed at abrupt restriction of domestic demand and imports, in order to generate a trade surplus to help cover debt service. This has dramatically deteriorated the prevailing social conditions in these countries and has put pressure on their political systems, in turn putting at risk the possibil-

ities of maintaining, restoring, and strengthening their democracies. This situation threatens to transgress the limits of economic and social tolerance in these countries.

- The situation demands that Latin American countries adopt policies of demand reactivation and development based in much greater measure than in the recent past on an expansion of their domestic market, and, therefore, on a better use of domestic resources, and on an improved distribution of income. It also demands a greater flexibility from their creditors in the approach to renegotiation than that offered up to now. There should be greater focus on long-term perspectives in order to establish compatibility between the debt service and development possibilities in Latin American countries. If this is not done, however painful the effort made by countries to service their debts, they will find it impossible to continue to do so.

Regional Integration

- Latin America has had long experience of attempts at regional economic co-operation and integration. The first initiative by CEPAL, as early as 1951 in Central America, was followed by the creation of regional and sub-regional integration schemes, as well as by specific co-operation in the fields of trade, finance, production and infrastructure, as well as in the establishment of a regional legal framework and regional institutions.

- Regional economic integration has traditionally constitute an important component in the development of Latin American policies. Faced with the need to reinforce domestic development processes, integration is required to play a role which is perhaps different but more important than in the past.

- Acting on a short-term view, governments have chosen to avoid the immediate costs involved in

maintaining reciprocal trade, and risked dismantling an established process. This constituted an important element in a development strategy aimed at reducing external vulnerability, and represents, in the long term, greater cost, which could have been avoided.

Reform of International Monetary and Financial System

- The proposals for debt re-organization and for the establishment of a South Bank are steps in the direction of restructure and reform of the international monetary and financial system to which all developing countries are committed. The Latin American countries have experienced the inefficiency and harshness of the present arrangements to an unusual degree in recent years. They have been exposed to simultaneous pressure on the terms of trade, interest payments six times higher in real terms than the historical long-run rate, collapse of their exports, both within the region and to other developing countries, enormous devaluations, and widespread corporate distress of both public and private enterprises. The need for internal and external reforms is overwhelming and urgent. At the same time the productive capacity, human skills and organizational ability now available in Latin American countries places them in a unique position to be forerunners in the efforts at comprehensive reform.

Regional Political Co-operation

- The review of the experience of the Latin American region indicates that if the shared goals of democratic stability and sustained growth are to be achieved, there must, in addition to regional economic integration, be meaningful political co-operation among its democratic sectors, embracing not only governments but also social

movements, political parties and the academic world. Such co-operation would be aimed at strengthening democracies and re-designing the role of the armed forces to ensure that they do not assume unwarranted political roles and to check and roll back militarism and militarization in the region. It would also aim at promoting peaceful solutions of disputes among countries of the region, in order to strengthen independence and pre-empt interventionist solutions that can only accentuate the region's dependency.

South-South Co-operation

• The conference recognized that the Latin American struggle for freedom, justice and peace and against external intervention and domination is part of a historic process in which the entire third world—embracing Asia, Africa, and Latin America—is engaged. This points to the need for comprehensive and sustained South-South co-operation aimed at adopting unified strategies, pooling resources and sharing experience and knowledge for the attainment of shared goals. To this end, the conference supports efforts to promote more effective organization and technical support machinery for the South to undertake systematic research and strategic planning and to promote constant contact and collaborative research between national, regional and sub-regional institutions, both governmental and non-governmental. It therefore supports the process of continuing consultation between third world state leaders and scholars of which this conference forms a part.

NOTE: The participants presented a variety of views and put forward many useful suggestions on the issues under discussion. Not every participant subscribes to each and every sentence of this statement, but it represents overall the general consensus of the conference on the issues discussed.

March 12, 1984

Sino-Nepal Relations— Retrospect and Prospects

Linked by common mountains and rivers and sharing similar experiences in the past, the two peoples have lived in harmony for generations

by MA MUMIN

former Chinese Ambassador to Nepal



The Sino-Nepalese relationship has withstood the test of the complicated international situation over the past 30 years, and become an outstanding example of developing relations between countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

CHINA and Nepal are good neighbours, linked by common mountains and rivers, with a border stretching more than 1,400 kilometres. The two peoples have lived in harmony for generations.

Both China and Nepal are Asian countries with ancient civilizations. Their peoples have dis-

tinguished histories and have built two splendid cultures through their own wisdom and labour. They both cherish freedom and independence, and have traditionally resisted foreign aggression. As developing countries and members of the third world, the two countries had similar experiences of oppression and exploitation by imperialists and colonialists in the past, and face the common tasks of safeguarding their independence, upholding their sovereignty and developing their national economies today.

Since the two countries established diplomatic relations, they have kept developing and expanding their co-operative relationship in politics, economics, trade, culture and other fields. The frequent exchange of visits between the leaders of the two countries has promoted mutual understanding and friendship.

In 1982, King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and Queen Aishwarya Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah visited China's Gansu Province and the Tibet Autonomous Region. The success of the visit added more goodwill to Sino-Nepalese friendship.

The Government of Nepal follows a diplomatic policy of independence, peace and non-alignment. It always defies brute force, upholds justice and is opposed to foreign aggression and interference. Today, Nepal plays an active role in international affairs and its world prestige is growing daily.

China and Nepal have the same or similar views on some major

international issues. Nepal was one of the first countries to recognize the People's Republic of China and one of the sponsors of the proposal to restore China's legitimate seat in the United Nations, for which it made ceaseless efforts. China consistently supports Nepal's just struggle to safeguard its national independence and state sovereignty and firmly supports King Birendra's proposal to declare Nepal a peace zone. The Chinese people highly appreciate and admire the efforts made by the Nepalese Government to uphold the principle of non-alignment, promote unity among the third world countries, develop co-operation in South Asia and safeguard Asian peace and stability.

Led by His Majesty King Birendra, the Nepalese Government and people are working hard to exploit their natural resources, build factories and develop agricultural production. They have had gratifying results in developing a self-reliant national economy.

China has helped Nepal build highways, factories and warehouses. Eighteen projects have already been completed with Chinese aid given gratis, promoting Nepal's economic construction. During the work on these projects, Chinese engineers and technicians established sincere friendships with their Nepalese colleagues and the Nepalese workers. They helped each other, co-operated fully and overcame difficulties through joint efforts. This ensures a high level of quality for these projects, and the support of the public.

In the last few years, the two countries have introduced various forms of economic co-operation. For instance, China took part in the bidding for construction projects in Nepal, and offered Nepal technological consultation and labour services, all with fruitful results.

Trade between the two countries has developed rapidly in recent years. Nepal now exports rice, medicinal herbs, leather, tobacco and other goods to China and imports textile and light industrial products, machinery and equipment. Since the two governments

The good relations between the two nations are not only in their own fundamental interests but also conducive to peace and stability in Asia. It is the cherished hope of both peoples to constantly strengthen their friendship, and there are broad prospects for furthering co-operation between them.

signed another trade agreement in 1981, their volume of trade has increased fairly quickly, exceeding US\$20 million. Small-quantity trade along the border areas has also shown an increase. In the past two years, China has provided Nepal with machinery and equipment under preferential terms by the method of deferred payment, to help it develop small and medium-sized industry. Both countries are satisfied with this new way of co-operating.

Sino-Nepalese friendly relations and cultural exchanges have a long history, dating back 1,500 years. Monk Fa Xian of the Jin Dynasty (265-420) and Monk Xuan Zang (Tripitaka), a noted scholar of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) travelled to Nepal. A famous Nepalese architect and artist, Arnico once worked in China, and the White Pagoda in downtown Beijing is his handiwork. Their stories have

spread far and wide among the people of both countries.

Since the two governments established diplomatic relations, individuals and groups in cultural, academic, sports, journalism and religious fields have frequently exchanged visits. By inspecting and learning from each other's work, they have enriched their own cultures and strengthened the good neighbourly ties between their countries.

The co-operation between China and Nepal in various fields has borne fruit and the development of friendly relations in various fields has brought satisfaction. Our relationship is characterized by mutual respect, understanding, equality and sincere co-operation. It has withstood the test of the complicated, changeable international situation over the past 30 years, and become an outstanding example of developing relations between countries based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

Sino-Nepalese friendship is in the fundamental interests of the people of both countries. It will also help maintain Asian peace and stability. The people of both countries hope to constantly strengthen this friendship and open up new fields of co-operation. There are broad prospects for further developing friendly co-operative relations.

President of the People's Republic of China Li Xiannian will soon visit our close neighbour Nepal. He is the first Chinese president to visit Nepal, marking a milestone in relations between the two countries. Li's visit will further promote the traditional friendship between the two peoples and the co-operation between the two countries, and will bring Sino-Nepalese relations to a new stage of development. □

Everlasting Sino-Turkish Ties

The hearts of the Chinese and the Turks are intimately linked, though they are separated by thousands of miles

by LIU CHUN

WHEN His Excellency President Kenan Evren arrived in China in December 1982 at the invitation of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and the Chinese Government, he became Turkey's first head of state to visit China, the first country he toured after coming into office.

Li Xiannian's coming visit to Turkey will also be part of his first trip abroad after becoming President of the People's Republic of China. As China's first ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, I find immense joy in the exchange of visits by leaders of both nations, which will certainly be significant in Sino-Turkish friendship.

The hearts of the Chinese and the Turks are intimately linked, though we are separated by thousands of kilometres. Both have ancient civilizations, the Silk Road brought our forefathers together more than a millenium ago.

During my tenure of office in Turkey, I was impressed by the ubiquitous presence of Chinese arts and crafts — whether in public buildings or in the homes of my Turkish friends — and the way my hosts praised Sino-Turkish friendship.

I remember visiting Istanbul's Topkapi Museum, which used to be an imperial palace. In the porcelain showroom, I learnt that three-fifths of the exhibits came from China. In fact, the 4,584 pieces on public display were chosen from the museum's stock of 10,512 porcelain pieces from our Tang (618-907) through Qing (1644-1911) Dynasties. The gables of the gallery were aglow with pictures depicting the unloading of a shipment of Chinese porce-

lain. These pictures point out the ancient ties between China and Turkey.

In the mid-19th century, both nations fell victims to imperialist powers bent on carving up the world, and were reduced to semi-colonies. Similar experience gave



Similar experience gave rise to mutual concern and sympathy between the people of the two nations. . . . Encouraging each other in revolutionary struggle, they have together made their impact felt on the world at large and the East in particular.

rise to mutual concern and sympathy between the Chinese and the Turks. In the early 20th century, democratic revolutions directed against foreign invaders and decadent rulers took place in both countries. Sun Yat-sen and Mustafa Kemal Pasha emerged as great leaders of their people, and eventually became much revered among all oppressed nations and peoples in the world.

Encouraging each other in revolutionary struggle, we have together made our impact felt on the world at large and the East in particular.

Today, as third world countries, we are faced with the same task of maintaining national independence and sovereignty and developing our national economies. Opposing hegemonism and safeguarding world peace, we hold identical views on a wide range of major international issues. Premier Zhao Ziyang said, "We can complement each other's strengths by overcoming weaknesses and learn from each other by swapping experiences."

During the years I spent in Turkey, I felt the solid historical foundation of Sino-Turkish friendship. One day in 1972 as I met the Speaker of Turkey's Senate, I heard him profusely praising China's foreign policy which regards all countries, large or small, as equals. The Speaker, who was a prestigious general and airforce commander before he retired, was disgruntled with certain big power's hegemonic policies, and believed that Turkey and China could become friends with each other.

On October 29, 1973, China sent a government delegation to take part in the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Turkey. As part of the celebrations, the Bosphorus Bridge, which spans Europe and Asia, was opened the following day amid great ceremony on the Asian side of the Bosphorus Strait. Government officials, people's deputies and foreign guests strolled across the bridge from Asia to Europe. The whole city of Istanbul was jubilant. On our way back from the ceremony, the five-star red flags fluttering on our cars aroused the attention of the crowds, all in their holiday best, which jammed the streets. Waving bouquets, they immediately cleared a lane to

let us pass. Some chanted "Qin! Qin!" the Turkish name for China, which was established for the first time as a unified country during the Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.), and others shouted, "We welcome you! . . . We love you! . . . Sino-Turkish Friendship!" When we opened the windows, flowers were tossed into our cars. Our excitement about this overflowing friendship lingered for a long time afterwards. Even today, I can still recall those friendly faces in the streets.

In early 1976, I left the beautiful Turkey reluctantly, but with firm confidence in the wide potential for developing Sino-Turkish friendship.

Just as I expected, further progress has been made in the relations between the two countries in the eight years since my departure. After President Evren came to power in 1980, contacts became more frequent.

Since 1972, when China and Turkey established embassies in each other's capitals, they have steadily expanded their co-operation by signing a series of bilateral agreements in such fields as civil aviation, trade, journalism and culture. Towards the end of 1981, China and Turkey signed an agreement on economic, industrial and technical co-operation. During President Kenan Evren's 1982 China visit, the two nations sign-

ed a plan for cultural exchanges in 1983 and 1984 and a summary of a conference on a mixed committee for economic, industrial and technical co-operation. Turkey also held its first industrial and trade exhibition in Beijing.

Last September, China gave an export commodity show in Istanbul. Four months later, the mixed committee met again in Beijing to sign another agreement.

Today, with spring coming, President Li Xiannian is going to visit Turkey. This is bound to boost Sino-Turkish friendship and co-operation. The good relations between our two peoples, indeed, augur well for a bright future. □

Third National Census (IV)

Birthrate of Women of Child-Bearing Age

THE 10 per cent sample tabulations of the third national census indicated that 91.76 per cent of women at child-bearing age (15-49) did not have any children in 1981. Of those who had children, 47.30 per cent had their first babies, 25.67 per cent had their second, 12.86 per cent had their third, 6.62 per cent had their

fourth and 7.55 per cent had their fifth babies or more.

Women who had their third babies or more were in various age brackets, with 40 per cent being 25-29. The rate of multiple births was also high among women aged 30-34, accounting for 35.82 per cent.

The sample data shows that in 1981 the fertility rate of China's women at child-bearing age was 2,584 for the year.

From the sample survey, we can see that there is a close relationship between the number of children born and their parents' education levels, as shown in the following table:

Birth Rate Among Women of Child-Bearing Age in 1981

Table 1 (Statistics from the 10% sample survey of the third census only, excluding Tibet)

Age Group	Number of Women	Women Who Had Children	First Babies		Second Babies		Third Babies or Above	
			Number	Percentage of Total	Number	Percentage of Total	Number	Percentage of Total
15-19	6,146,707	37,715	35,371	93.78	2,250	5.97	94	0.25
20-24	3,637,843	527,621	396,464	75.14	109,668	20.79	21,489	4.07
25-29	4,474,465	1,056,574	495,339	46.88	341,238	32.30	219,997	20.82
30-34	3,499,581	299,405	35,784	11.95	65,678	21.94	197,943	66.11
35-39	2,560,530	84,197	3,120	3.71	5,045	5.99	76,032	90.30
40-44	2,254,023	32,048	690	2.15	872	2.72	30,486	95.13
45-49	2,227,208	6,933	267	3.85	132	1.90	6,534	94.25
Total	24,800,357	2,044,493	967,035	47.30	524,883	25.67	552,575	27.03

Total Fertility and the Percentage of First Born, Second Born and Third Born and Above of Women at Child-Bearing Age in 1981

Table II (Statistics from the 10% sample survey only, excluding Tibet)

	Fertility Rate	First Born (%)	Second Born (%)	Third Born and Above (%)
1. Shanghai	1.316	87.04	12.03	0.93
2. Beijing	1.589	85.11	12.02	2.87
3. Tianjin	1.645	78.54	16.17	5.29
4. Liaoning	1.773	71.48	19.20	9.32
5. Jilin	1.842	60.16	25.25	14.59
6. Zhejiang	1.982	54.08	26.83	19.08
7. Heilongjiang	2.062	54.10	26.74	19.16
8. Jiangsu	2.076	61.11	26.09	12.80
9. Shandong	2.104	60.56	24.54	14.90
10. Shanxi	2.385	47.74	27.78	24.48
11. Shaanxi	2.394	49.64	26.27	24.09
12. Sichuan	2.434	56.56	24.15	19.29
13. Hubei	2.445	50.29	27.70	22.01
14. Inner Mongolia	2.621	44.19	26.44	29.37
15. Hebei	2.650	52.27	27.50	20.23
16. Henan	2.651	44.55	27.85	27.60
17. Fujian	2.717	40.94	29.99	29.07
18. Gansu	2.728	43.35	24.88	31.77
19. Jiangxi	2.790	36.62	28.19	35.19
20. Anhui	2.799	37.40	28.56	34.04
21. Hunan	2.833	43.26	30.81	25.93
22. Guangdong	3.283	36.96	27.92	35.12
23. Yunnan	3.814	28.30	22.71	48.09
24. Xinjiang	3.883	27.14	18.15	54.71
25. Qinghai	3.927	26.63	19.79	53.58
26. Guangxi	4.103	31.10	23.89	45.01
27. Ningxia	4.120	30.37	20.51	49.12
28. Guizhou	4.355	23.91	20.35	55.74
Total	2.584	47.30	25.67	27.03

Parents' Education Level and Multiple Births

Table III

Education Level	Multiple Birth Rate (%)	Third Born Rate (%)	Fourth Born Rate (%)	Rate of Fifth Born and Above (%)
University	1.23	0.82	0.17	0.24
Senior Middle School	3.41	2.50	0.55	0.36
Junior Middle School	9.15	5.69	1.95	1.51
Primary School	26.75	13.74	6.76	6.25
Illiterate	40.19	17.54	9.86	12.79
National Average	27.03	12.86	6.62	7.55

Peasants' Enthusiasm for Science

The popularization of scientific and technical knowledge will eventually free the 800 million Chinese peasants from a long outdated farming system and effect profound changes across the nation's vast countryside.

by LI YONGZHEN
Our Correspondent

THERE is a proverb in Chinese — "In the heavens no power is greater than Thunder God and on earth no power is greater than Mother's Uncle" — meaning that although the Thunder God is in charge of wind, rain, thunder and lightning in mythology, an uncle is the arbitrator of family disputes. Today, peasants have added a

twist to the proverb: "The power of mother's uncle is no longer greater than that of an agro-technician." Called "gods of wealth" by the peasants, the scientific and technological personnel in the rural areas are more esteemed than "mother's uncle." They have been invited home and in the offices and are frequently intercepted for advice while going about their ways. How did the peasants' craze for science and technology arise?

Now peasants in Fujian sing a popular song: "Develop the forests and animal husbandry by using the mountainous superiority, expand salt-water aquaculture by using the shoals and bring prosperity to farming, forestry, animal husbandry, sideline occupations and fishing by scientific farming." Speaking of the changes in the rural areas and particularly scientific farming, the people are unanimous in praise of the production responsibility system.

Changes Follow Responsibility System

IN Fujian Province on China's southeast coast, agricultural production was administered in the past by the collective, and undue

emphasis was put on growing grain. The exceptional natural advantages which the province enjoyed had not been fully tapped.

Wang Qingyuan, a fish-breeding expert in Hubei Province, teaching peasants how to prevent fish diseases.



The Longtian commune in Fujian County has 39 production brigades and 747 production teams with a total of 19,789 households. In the past, the production team was the basic accounting unit. The team leader has one job — to toll the bell summoning everyone to work — while the commune members laboured carelessly in the fields. The policy of "everybody eating from the same big pot" and absolute equalitarianism in distribution was implemented. Scientific farming was the business of the production brigade or the production team's agricultural technician. His job was not to teach an understanding of advanced measures for agricultural production assigned by the leadership at the higher level, but simply to disseminate them, make demonstrations, explain operating instructions and check upon it. The commune members copied these measures mechanically, without knowing why something should be done a particular way or whether it was done well.

The production responsibility

system has broken with that tradition. The land has been contracted to the peasant households, and under the guidance of the state plan the peasants are putting it to good use. They decide what crops should be grown and how they should be grown. Thus the role of the peasants has shifted from that of mere producers to producer managers. If they do their work well, the surplus over and above the state quota belongs to them. If they do their work poorly, they must compensate the production team for a portion of the losses. Therefore, they take agricultural production seriously.

At Longtian commune, each production team formerly had a team leader and an agricultural technician, who were to manage the team's affairs. That arrangement is no longer adequate. Each household needs someone who has acquired the agricultural techniques to manage the family's affairs.

The responsibility system has greatly boosted the peasants' efficiency in production. They can use part of their time for working their contracted land; the rest of the time they can engage in diversified production, such as raising oxen, sheep, bees, chickens, snakes, ducks and fish, growing flowers and mushrooms, processing grain, taking up long-distance transportation and planting trees. Some peasants are specialized in breeding, processing or transportation, others are specialized in growing grain. This kind of division of labour has led to the advent of "specialized" and "key households." These households' labour productivity and rate of marketable commodity are higher than those of ordinary households. Therefore, they prosper much quicker. Their success has evoked the admiration and emulation of other peasants. By March 1983, the total number of specialized



Zhou Yannian, an old peasant in Shandong Province, trying to increase his knowledge by reading science books.

and key households had increased to 420,000 in Fujian Province, or 10 per cent of total peasant households. For China as a whole, the figure is 24 million, or 13 per cent of the total peasant households. It is evident that each specialized trade needs special skills, knowledge and experience. Hence, the peasants' requirement for scientific and technological knowledge.

The responsibility system has sparked the peasants' enthusiasm, but at the same time it has aroused the concern of some people. Chen, a middle-aged peasant in Jianyang County, contracted to work on 0.73 of a hectare of paddy-field. He applied pesticide costing 121 yuan to the early rice. The result was that the rice seed-

lings turned red while insect pests were not killed. Chen was worried to death about it.

Studies show that among the labour force in the rural areas, those who are over 50 account for 20 per cent of the total, those between 35 and 50 years old account for 20 per cent, and those from 16 to 35 years old account for 60 per cent. In short, most peasants are young or middle-aged. Because of the 10 chaotic years during the "cultural revolution," many of them lack general knowledge and agricultural techniques, and some cannot even do simple field work, to say nothing of scientific farming.

The figures offered by the Fujian Agricultural Bureau indicate

there are only 19,300 agricultural technicians in the province. If each household needs one agro-technician to manage farmwork, then this number could only meet the needs of the Longtian commune. But there are 900 communes in the province. Moreover, if you take away the technicians specializing in forestry and aquaculture, there are only 4,134 who are really specialized in growing crops. This means each technician has to be responsible for 640 hectares of land, which is a massive task. Furthermore, the 320,000 technical cadres who remain in the rural areas throughout the country make up less than 0.04 per cent of the total rural population.

It is not strange, therefore, that such things as "intercepting the god of wealth" have happened again and again in the rural areas. The development of agriculture depends on science and the policies of the state. The policies have played an important role, but agricultural science cannot catch up and the technical force has grown too slowly. What should be done?

Things will eventually sort themselves out. The new situation has created the fresh tasks of popularizing science in the rural areas. It won't do to slip back into the old rut. Fujian Province has, first of all, focused attention on bringing into play the role of the existing agricultural technicians and mobilized the initiative of various segments with these technicians as the backbone.

Organizations engaged in the popularization of agricultural science in the rural areas fall into two categories. Those in the first category are government organizations which include the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery and its subordinate agricultural bureaus in various places, the agricultural science popularization stations and the

veterinary stations at the commune level; the State Science and Technology Commission and its subordinate organizations, and the scientific and technological commissions of the county level. Those in the second category are led by the Scientific and Technological Association, which is a mass organization of scientific and technological workers. Its membership includes technical workers of various professions and it has a wide participation and many specialities and has set up organizations at the grassroots level. The communes have science-popularization associations, the production brigades have

science-popularization groups and the peasants have the scientific and technological demonstration households. In the past, government departments at various levels were responsible for the popularization of science. Since the adoption of the responsibility system in the rural areas, this has proved to be insufficient. Since their restoration after the "cultural revolution," the scientific and technological associations have developed rapidly in recent years. Now the two contingents are working together and providing diversified services for the peasants to achieve prosperity through scientific farming.

Agricultural Technical Service Companies

IN recent years, technical service companies have been set up in various parts of Fujian. These service companies have allied themselves with the agricultural technical stations, which were mainly in charge of the popularization of science, with the supply and marketing co-operatives in charge of selling chemical fertilizers, and with the insecticide shops in charge of providing insecticides. They conduct contracted undertakings according to specialized fields, so as to provide technical consultations and services for the peasants.

The treatment of plant diseases and insect pests is a complicated problem. Many peasants cannot distinguish one plant disease or insect pest from another. They have not acquired the necessary knowledge and the result was that they often applied insecticides excessively. Sometimes plant diseases and insect pests were eradicated on one plot of land, but because neighbouring fields were not treated, the diseases and pests there would return to the first field. The peasants spent a lot of money but profited little from

their efforts. Now with the establishment of these service companies, they are in charge of treating and preventing plant diseases and insect pests on large tracts of land and give advice to peasants whenever they have any problems.

For instance, an old woman named Pan from Zhangpu County came to the service company to inquire how she could eradicate leaf rollers (an insect species) on her 0.3 hectare of rice field. A technician made up a prescription of 0.08 kilogramme of insecticide for her. Pan put the insecticide into the bottle she had brought and it cost her only 0.40 yuan to wipe out these insect pests. However, in the past, the supply and marketing co-operatives did nothing but sell insecticides, and it was up to the peasants themselves to obtain a prescription.

The service companies in various parts of the province have contributed greatly to plant protection. In 1982, they contracted to prevent and control plant diseases and eliminate pests or spray insecticides on rice, sweet potato, peanut and fruit tree plots total-

ling 50,000 hectares. Remarkable progress was made. In 1983, the contracted area jumped to 170,000 hectares, but the expenses for insecticides went down 30 to 50 per cent, the labour force for preventing and controlling plant diseases and eliminating pests dropped by 60 per cent, and the total loss went down by 10 to 20 per cent.

The contracted items of the service companies also include the popularization of the improved varieties and application of manure. Incomplete statistics show that 869 agricultural technical service companies with 6,000 technicians have been set up throughout the province.

Apart from contracts for irrigation, chemical herbicides, machine ploughing and the application of manure, there is another form of comprehensive output-related responsibility in the rural areas. A series of technical measures — from sowing to harvesting — have been provided by the service companies. This ensures that agricultural output will meet the quotas stipulated in the peasants' contracts. The service companies are rewarded if there are any surpluses and they must compensate the peasants if output falls below the quota. For instance, the Zhongxin Commune Service Company in Pucheng County signed 38 technical contracts with 25 production teams. It succeeded in increasing 25 tons of improved plant varieties, and earned 17,000 yuan as a reward. The Guanqian Commune Service Company in Longxi County signed contracts with the peasant households for breeding improved plant varieties on 40 hectares. After harvest, it received 4,000 yuan for technical guidance. This kind of technical contract has not only helped the peasants achieve high yields and learn science and technology, but also enabled the technical workers to play their role, increase their



He Fengchen (left), a senior agronomist in Sichuan Province, teaching a peasant woman how to prevent and control plant diseases and eliminate pests in the fields.

incomes and enhance their enthusiasm for passing on their know-

ledge of science and technology to the peasants.

Demonstration Households

THERE are many self-taught experts in the rural areas, including large numbers of educated youth and demobilized soldiers. They either have some skills or have acquired more general knowledge. Statistics from some localities show that peasants with proficiency in a particular line account for 1 to 2 per cent of the total labour force in the rural areas. That is to say, there are several million skilful peasants

across the nation, and this labour force should not be overlooked.

Since 1981, they have been organized into science-popularization associations at various levels in Fujian. At present, some 400 science-popularization associations with a total membership of 25,000 have been set up at the commune level. At the grass-roots level, there are 51,000 scientific and technological demonstration households, responsible for passing on

new techniques to the peasant households.

There is a scientific and technological household in the Longtian commune in Fuqing County headed by Li Ruiyuan, 36, with a net annual income of 13,000 yuan. It is a family of 13 with four able-bodied farm workers who, apart from farming the contracted land, also keep bees and grow mushrooms. Their per-capita income is 1,000 yuan. Li Ruiyuan has prospered by relying on science and technology. By

the rural areas, a science-popularization association was set up in his commune. He applied to become a scientific and technological household at the commune level, getting a recommendation by the production brigade and passing an examination and being approved by the commune. Later Li's family became a scientific and technological household at the county level.

"Scientific and technological households should undertake experiments assigned by the science-



Gao Wentang (left), an agrotechnician in Shandong Province who has done well in improving peanut strains, has been promoted to be an agronomist.

passing on his knowledge and experience to other households, he enjoys popular support. His achievements have been covered again and again in the press. One paper reported that he intends to go to university at his own expense.

Li Ruiyuan returned to his native district in 1962 to take part in field work before finishing his first year of senior middle school. With what knowledge he had and his fondness for scientific experiments, he won the high esteem of his neighbours. After the adoption of the responsibility system in

popularization association," Li said. "They are responsible for spreading their experience to the ordinary households."

In 1982 Li Ruiyuan took on the task of experimenting with five strains of yams on five plots of different soil. In April of that year, the county agricultural bureau estimated the per-hectare output of No. 76.121 to be 7.2 tons, that of *Chaoshu No.1* 5.7 tons, *Bailiu* 4.7 tons and *Hongwei* 4.8 tons. To make sure, Li's father dug a few one day and, finding the *Chaoshu No. 1* strain smaller than the others, said it was a mis-

take to plant them. But Li did not take it seriously and thought it was too early to tell which one was the best. On November 21, the harvest day, the *Chaoshu No. 1* yams registered 9.9 tons per hectare, the highest of the five. It was much better than the old local strains. Li's father smiled and the villagers vied with one another to obtain this strain.

Another example is Li's application of potash fertilizer on his 0.6 hectare of land. The villagers were not accustomed to using potash fertilizer and 9,000 kilograms of it had been stockpiled for five years at the supply and marketing co-operative. One day Li applied some. His two neighbours thought he was short of manure and offered to lend him some. No, Li said, applying a little potash fertilizer would enrich the soil and would help the crops grow. His neighbours did not believe him and insisted on using urea. The result was overgrowth and the plants yielded almost nothing. But Li reaped two tons of yams on his still thin land. The news spread quickly and the villagers rushed to the co-operative to buy potash fertilizer. Not only did the stockpile sell out but potash fertilizer became in great demand. The supply and marketing co-operative had to ration it according to the size of the field tilled by each peasant.

Naturally not all of Li's experiments succeeded. In 1982 he undertook to try out an imported strain of rice. Because it was not pure, Li garnered only 720 kilograms of rice from his 0.24-hectare field, less than the yield of good local strains. He made up the losses himself. But failure is the mother of success. The others learnt from his failure.

"Referring to priorities," Li said, "we science and technology popularization households enjoy priorities in several fields, such as getting new strains, new fertilizers

and new pesticides first and receiving training and having the chance to visit other places to exchange experiences." After a pause, he added, "Now potash fertilizer is in short supply, but I can get another 50 kilogrammes from the county and 75 kilogrammes from the commune in addition to the ration for my field. If you call that privilege, then I have it."

In the first half of 1983, Li took part in three training courses at the county or commune level. A small piece of his land had been under water for several years and had yielded nothing. On a training course run by the county, Li learnt how to treat his land with cupric sulphate. He spent only 1.40 yuan to buy 750 grammes of cupric sulphate and harvested a

crop worth 35 yuan. With this method, he helped another villager to improve 0.4 hectare of low-lying land and double his crop output.

Li feels it a glory to popularize science and technology in rural areas. He co-operates actively with scientific and technological workers from the county and commune and has conscientiously done experiments on his field, regardless of success or failure. In addition, he sees it as his duty to help others to prosper. In 1983, he subscribed to 42 newspapers and periodicals for 100 yuan instead of 17 in 1982. He opened a reading room for the peasants with these publications. Every day dozens of peasants come to read, some of them staying to the early hours of the next day.

tors ask scientists and technicians to write articles about how to solve problems peasants may meet in their work or introducing advanced production skills and techniques. These articles are welcomed by the peasants.

Han Renxi, the editor-in-chief, listed many true stories to show the great influence the newspaper has had. Xie Xuetan in Minhou County contracted 0.14 hectare of paddyfield which yielded only 470 kilogrammes of rice in two crops in 1981. In 1982, he cultivated a good strain of rice with a method introduced by the newspaper and reaped 891 kilogrammes, nearly double his 1981 figure. Bao Jiudian in Pingnan County harvested 2,250 kilogrammes of rice from his 0.47-hectare contracted field in 1981, lagging behind others in his brigade. In 1982, he did what the paper said and increased his rice output by 50 per cent, while the others reaped a lean harvest owing to plant disease.

The newspaper has introduced many methods in developing a diversified economy which have been adopted by more and more peasants. It introduced a new method of planting mushrooms in sugar-cane fields instead of special

Fujian Science and Technology Paper

ONCE thought a good harvest only depends on three things: intensive labour, more investment and good weather," begins an article written last September by Lai Linyuan from Wuping County for *Fujian Keji Bao* (Fujian Science and Technology Paper). In 1982 Lai spent more money and time than anyone else in his brigade on rice cultivation, but his output was the third lowest.

When he found out the peasants with the best harvests subscribed to *Fujian Keji Bao* and other scientific periodicals, he started reading them also. Armed with his new knowledge, Lai planted early rice in 1983, saved 44 yuan, and increased his grain output by 262.5 kilogrammes.

Established in 1978, the tabloid weekly *Fujian Keji Bao* had published 272 issues by the end of 1983. On the first page is news about science and technology in

the province; and second page tells of successes in farming and developing a diversified economy. Basic everyday life is covered on the third page while know-how about rural science and technology in foreign countries and tidbits are on the fourth. The edi-

Students of a veterinary centre in Liaoning Province listening to a talk by an experienced vet.



rooms which require an investment. The Jianhua brigade in Xianyou County followed the method and, by cultivating 3,000 square metres of mushrooms, increased its income by 39,500 yuan. Hua Zhaorong in Shanghang County, who processes rice flour, suffered losses because of his poor quality. He improved his processing skill after reading the newspaper and his flour is now in great demand.

Some articles concerning production and everyday life have also played their role. A middle school student in Tongan County and his family raised more than 40 ducks. One day the ducks consumed pesticides in the field and four of them died at once. The rest were in danger. But the student succeeded in saving them by carrying out emergency measures described in the newspaper. A nine-year-old girl in Xianyou County who ate toxic cassava was saved by a method introduced by the newspaper.

The newspaper's editorial department is only manned by a dozen people. The paper has a readership of 175,000 in the province, averaging a copy for every 24 households. Many peasants say that a year's subscription, which costs the same as two packages of cigarettes, is like having an instructor available for giving advice on production. It was well worth the money. The *Fujian Keji Bao* has great influence in the rural areas and attracted the attention of local governments at all levels. As a result, many similar newspapers have been published in other counties and cities. County heads often give guidance through these papers when they find any problems in production. All provinces and autonomous regions in China have their own science and technology newspapers, and that in Hunan Province has the largest circulation, averaging a copy for every 36 peasants.

Science and Technology Fairs

A FAIR is a traditional way in rural areas of exchanging local products. It is held once every 5 or 10 days. Peasants sell their farm and sideline products and buy the goods they want at the fair. The peasants, men and women, old and young, and even those who live in remote areas dozens of miles away come to the fair for a look. The usually quiet streets liven up with crowds of people.

The idea of the fair is now being used by scientific workers to popularize science and technology among the peasants. In May last year, Dehua County held a

large science and technology fair on Shanjiao Street.

A month before the fair, hundreds of posters were sent to every village in the county to tell the peasants about the contents of the fair. The responsible unit, the county's association of science, and 47 other units in various fields covering agriculture, forestry, livestock breeding, medicine, supply and marketing co-operatives and the bookstores did their share to make the fair a success.

On the day of the fair, both sides of the street were lined with 253 pictures and photos about

Li Weichuan, an agrotechnician in Hebei Province, has written a 70,000-character textbook on agricultural science.





He Xueqing (right), an assistant agronomist in Guangdong Province, passing his knowledge on growing orange trees to an old peasant.

science and technology and 6,500 specimens and samples of achievements gained in scientific research in rural areas. One hundred and twenty-five agronomists, veterinarians, engineers, doctors and their assistants set up stalls to introduce good strains of domestic animals, new skills in developing a diversified economy, and methods to conserve water and soil. Agronomist Wu Desheng dissected a hybrid rice sample on the spot and explained its characteristics, how to prevent disease and what fertilizer is needed. Snake doctor Zeng Huade, with a viper around his neck, vividly told the peasants about the common species of snakes in the mountain areas, their characteristics, the danger they bring to the people and treatment of their bites. The scientists' on-the-spot explanations attracted thousands and elicited 5,300 questions.

Peasants from all 12 science and technology popularization households in the county told about their experiences while selling their domestic animals and poultry and sideline products. A peasant specializing in livestock breeding came with his *sanhe* cow weighing 700 kilogrammes

and showed how to breed using frozen semen. A chicken raiser introduced his skills and sold 300 eggs for breeding. Zhou Yunteng, about 60, is well known for a good strain of potatoes he has developed. In 1981 all his potato plants but one were frozen. Zhou believed that a strong strain could be developed from the surviving plant. He cultivated it carefully and gathered a good harvest that year. Since then the peasants from three nearby counties have come for his potatoes. At this fair, he sold 70 kilogrammes not long after his arrival.

Science and technology popularization fairs are being developed in depth and their contents are gradually concentrating on a special subject. For instance, a cow fair and a mushroom fair were held in Yongchun County.

Local governments are making efforts to raise the educational level of the peasants. To adapt middle-aged and young peasants to the new situation, Fujian Province has initiated numerous activities to popularize scientific and technological knowledge in rural areas. One thousand and one hundred vocational schools were opened throughout the province

with an enrolment of 52,000 peasants, and 5,700 scientific and technological training classes were held for 550,000 people. About 65 per cent of the young and middle-aged peasants in the province have taken part in various training courses. The broadcasting stations have initiated programmes on science and technology, which have been welcomed by the peasants.

China attaches great importance to raising the technical and cultural level of the young peasants and various kinds of training courses have been run by all provinces and autonomous regions in the country. In 1979, over 1.5 million peasants attended the training classes. The number increased to 14.9 million in 1985. In addition to four national universities and colleges for the peasants, 400 of the 2,300 counties in China have set up their own agro-technical schools, and the counties, communes and production brigades also run training classes of various types. In 1985, about 6.5 million peasants throughout the country attended literacy classes to learn how to read and write. □

Modern Drama Analyses Divorce

The ethics and emotions of divorce are examined in depth in a new play, "Case Study of 15 Divorces," staged by the Central Experimental Drama Theatre in Beijing.

The play takes its name from the title of a graduation thesis being written by the play's heroine, a university student in sociology.

For her thesis, she observes several divorce cases in the local court, where she knows many of the people involved.

The couples seeking divorce include two modern young people who married in haste, an old pair who no longer love each other, and a couple who always argue over money and other trivial mat-

ters. One woman wants to separate from the man she had married in order to save her persecuted father, because her husband scrambled for power and position during the "cultural revolution." A pair of loving intellectuals help the wife's mother set a former mistake to right in the court. She had abandoned her husband when he was wrongly accused during the "cultural revolution," and although the man has already died, she seeks to reinstate her marriage and undo her mistake.

"I would rather suffer alone than bring pain to both of you."



Most of these couples are played by only two actors, who change their appearance and voices to suit each character. They also narrate throughout the story. A group of blocks are used as stage settings. The easy changes of scene and character help push along all the changes in time and the characters' psychology.

Eventually, the heroine finds herself involved in a divorce case, when she meets a former boyfriend at the court. They had parted when the girl insisted on moving to the city from the countryside, and the boy had since married a country girl. But the boy finds himself back in the city, caring for his sick mother far away from his wife.

The heroine again feels love for her former boyfriend, but he is upset to see her. When his wife comes to visit him, she gets the idea that his old girlfriend is more suitable for him, so she sends the court a statement of divorce.

In a moving talk with her husband, the simple country woman

explains what she has done. They remember when he parted so reluctantly from his wife after being transferred to the city. He could not bear to leave the burden of looking after her sick mother to her alone. Pretending to be glad, she comforted and encouraged him. She tells him that although she suffers deeply, she would rather suffer alone than bring pain to both of them. Her selfless words of love quickly clear the confusion of her husband, who rushes after her as she departs.

The heroine, left behind, begins to understand from her observations of other broken couples that she cannot gain her happiness at the expense of others. When she finds herself in the position of the "other woman," she resolves to conquer her feelings and learn

from the country woman's high ideals.

The questions raised by the heroine must also be confronted by the audience. What place does love, ethics and responsibility have in society, and what is the proper way to seek personal happiness?

Although the play is presented in one act, the flexibility of the set design provides for many scene changes, from the courtroom to the offices, a roadside, and even the gate of a kindergarten.

The drama was well received throughout its 80 performances last October through this February. It was so popular, that it was reopened for a short run at the beginning of March. It is no doubt that the Central Experimental Drama Theatre have a hit on their hands.



Measuring for a Shirt.
by Guo Fengyin

phasize their own feelings and impressions. Influenced by thousands of years of folk art, the paintings are often not so much representations of scenes, but of impressions. For example, in pictures by Ruan Sipo, 77, second prize winner, the bottom of a chicken's foot is often visible, although the bird is standing. "The upper side of the foot is boring, while the under side is as beautiful as a flower," she explained. "As a painter, I should express what is beautiful."

The compositions of these peasant paintings are bold. Many ignore the formal rules of perspective, painting from various angles with views from above, below, one side and the opposite, organizing all the facets into one picture organically. A good example is *Watching the Circus*. The painter seemed to have walked all around the audience and then drew all his impressions on one plane.

China's Peasants Paint With Feeling

The art of China's peasants is filled with the rich rural scenes and weathered working people they see every day. An exhibition of 292 of these works made up the First National Exhibition of Peasant Paintings towards the end of last year in Beijing.

The paintings, including New Year pictures, traditional Chinese paintings, gouaches, picture-books, woodcuts and other folk art forms, were selected from more than 10,000 works by peasants and

herdsmen throughout China, including Tibet, the "roof of the world."

The first prize winner of the exhibition was *Happy Later Years* by Zhang Yuyan, a 19-year-old girl from Dongfeng County, Jilin Province. The huge canvas, more than seven metres wide, portrays 51 vivid, varying and lively people, most of them old.

Peasant paintings are as fresh as real life. The painters em-

Happy Later Years (detail).

by Zhang Yuyan



Peasant painters often give no clue as to the size or location of each subject by painting them dark or bright, vague or solid, big or small.

Some peasant painters extend this impressionistic attitude to their use of colour. Unrestricted by natural colours, they would rather use striking hues to express their own feelings. Tao Linping, a young peasant, painted the snow red. "Although the weather was cold, I always felt warm in my heart when I played in the snow," he said. "But my paintings were always cold when I painted according to the colours of nature. Finally, I decided to change the snow to red, and successfully reflected the enthusiastic and happy atmosphere — the life I intended to portray."

Chen Muyun, another artist, always paints chickens, ducks and birds in plumage of various striking colours when he decorates beds, trunks and shelves for rural brides. People were puzzled, but he said, "The bride's bedroom will become a purchasing station if I paint the poultry as they look in real life."

The number of peasant painters is increasing all over China. Two counties, Shaanxi's Huxian and Shanghai's Jinshan, have taken the lead. In Huxian alone, 1,900 peasants paint during their spare time. Apart from displaying their talents on blackboards, mobile wall-newspapers and small exhibitions, they also cut paper window decorations for their fellow villagers and paint trunks for brides. Their paintings have been exhibited in many countries.

While there is no doubt that peasant painters need more instruction from professional artists, people are of different opinions as to how to raise their level of skill. Some think peasants should fol-

A New Song by Taiwan Composer



Hou Tak-kin sings "The Descendants of the Dragon."

Hou Tak-kin is a young Taiwan composer who returned to the mainland last June. Recently he visited a Shanghai reformatory. *Mud and Lotus* is an impromptu song he composed for the young inmates:

Forgive me,
I know I was wrong;
Help me,
I'll correct my errors.
It's a pity yesterday has slipped away.

But tomorrow will never get by me.

Out of rotten pods,
The bean sprouts are pure;
Above dirty mud,
White lotus is blossoming.

My dear mother,
You've become pale and thin,

Tomorrow you'll be proud of your child.

"I got the message from the students' eyes," he said. "They were so expressive and full of aspiration that I could not help but speak about what was in their hearts."

Hou is noted for his campus song, *The Descendants of the Dragon*, and now works with the Dongfang (Oriental) Song and Dance Ensemble.

His *Mud and Lotus* was published in the first issue of the monthly magazine *Law and Life*, which aims to help young people understand the law, so that they will abide by it.

low the course of students in fine arts schools, i.e., to begin drawing sketches and learning the methods of perspective. Others insist that peasant painters should develop their skills in their own ways, adding certain necessary specific techniques. At present the latter method has been adopted in the two leading counties. In Huxian, the instruction the peasant painters receive takes into account the fact that many of them can do papercuts and paint temple murals. In Jinshan, the painters' skills are developing on the basis of embroidery skills. Women painters

are taught to use a brush the way they embroider with a needle. These effective lessons have drawn an increasing number of peasants to painting.

CORRECTIONS: In our issue No. 9, 1984, page 29, paragraph 1, line 14 in the left column, for "rapid deployment forces" read "light divisions and commandos" and paragraph 2, line 15 in the same column should read: "However, many economists are not so optimistic about what will happen later on."

Issue No. 10, page 9, second column, 7th line from bottom should read: "has taken part in leading the readjustment of the national economy and in the drive for socialist modernization."



Children Playing in Winter.



Women Textile workers.



A PLA Soldier and a Tibetan.



An Oil Worker.

Papercuts by Zhao Yuliang

Born in 1946 in Beijing, Zhao Yuliang is a designer at the Beijing Printing and Dyeing Mill. His works show a simple, lucid and lively style influenced by northern Chinese papercuts.



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