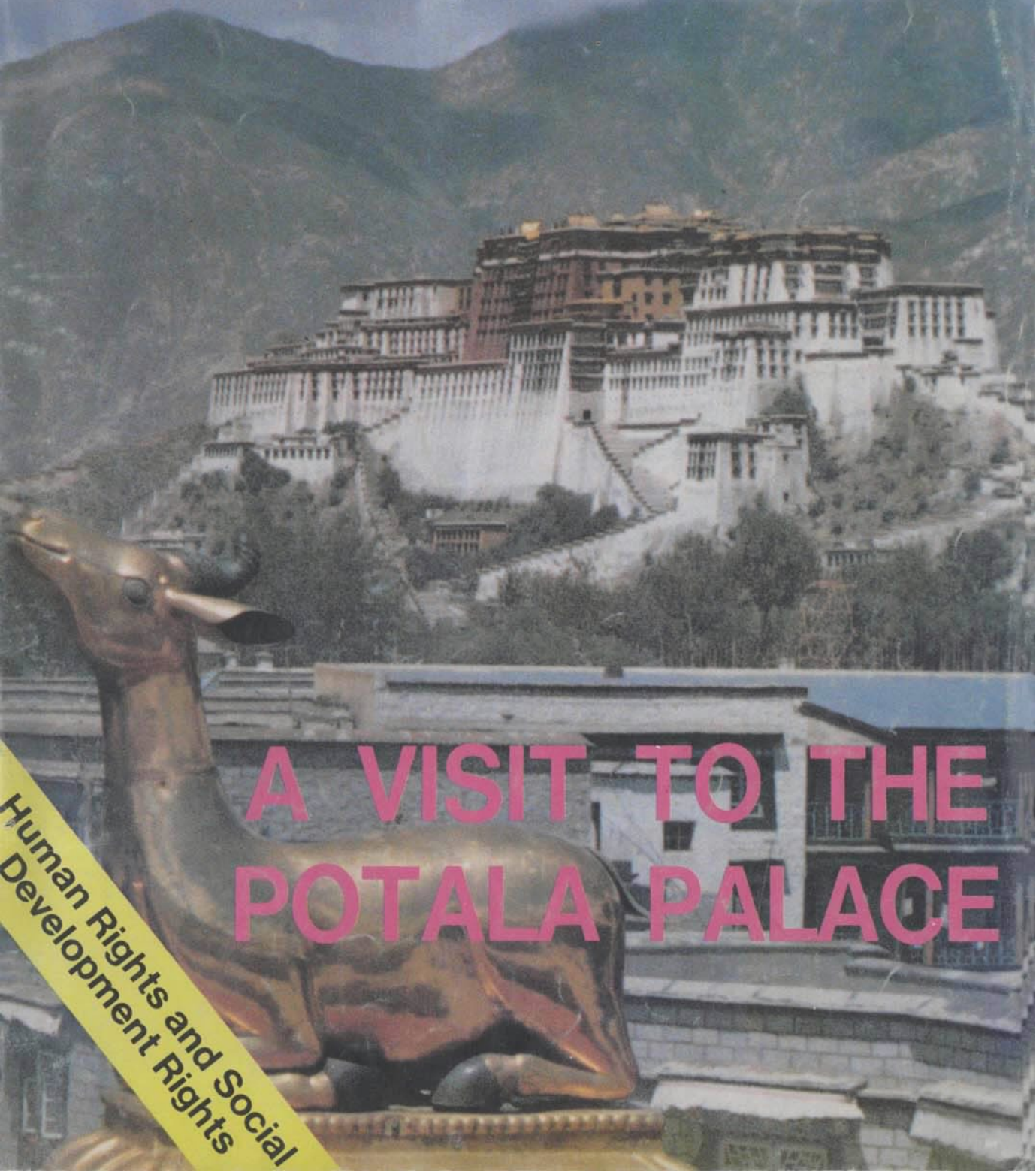


A CHINESE WEEKLY OF NEWS AND VIEWS

# Beijing Review

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## A VISIT TO THE POTALA PALACE

Human Rights and Social  
Development Rights



A simple village bridge.

*Photo by Wang Guangxiang*

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

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### Human Rights and Social Development Rights

□ The opinion that human rights are the precondition and the crux of a society is not a comprehensive summary of the notion of human rights, nor does it correctly expound upon the relationship between human rights and man's economic and social development. This article discusses the evolution of the concept of human rights as well as its role in a country's development process (p. 12).

### Tibetans Speak Out on Human Rights Issue

□ Some Westerners allege that the Tibetan people have no human rights at all. As the answer ultimately lies with Tibetans themselves, our correspondent interviewed some Tibetans for their view on the subject during a recent trip to Tibet (p. 15).

### The Potala Palace Under Major Renovation

□ The 300-year-old Potala Palace, Tibet's most famous building, has been in danger of decay for many years. In order to protect this valuable cultural structure, the Chinese government has decided to carry out a five-year renovation project. Begun in October 1989, the work is scheduled to be completed in 1993 (p. 19).

### Beijing: Safe Against Terrorism

□ Deputy Director of the Beijing Public Security Bureau recently told a news conference that no terrorist acts against foreigners have occurred in Beijing since the Gulf war erupted. More foreign tourists came to Beijing in January than in the same period last year (p. 5).

### Gulf War Affects World Oil Market

□ The Gulf conflict will have a tremendous impact on world oil prices. The fluctuating of oil prices will partially depend on the final outcome of the war, but primarily depend on whether the allied forces are successful, in safeguarding Saudi oil fields from Iraqi missile attacks (p. 7).

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## CPC Guarantees Freedom of Religion

China's religious circles have recently been assured of continuous freedom to enjoy religious belief, while they should contribute to the country's stability and development.

This was the message from the Party chief, Jiang Zemin, during talks on January 30 with five leaders from different religious groups.

Invited to the occasion were Zhao Puchu, chairman of the Chinese Buddhists Association; Ding Guangxun, chairman of the Chinese Christian Patriotic Movement Committee; Chinese Catholic leader, Zong Huai ren; Daoist leader, Li Yuhang; and Chairman of the Chinese Islamic Association, Shen Xi axi.

The religious leaders aired their views and suggestions about the overall religious work and expressed their willingness to contribute to socialist construction under the leadership of the Communist Party.

Jiang noted that it is a basic policy of his Party and government to respect and protect citizens' right of free religious belief and their normal religious activities, adding that the proper handling of religious issues was a significant part of the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

As for the religious circles, the Party chief said, they should support the leadership of the CPC and socialism, and conduct their religious activities within the framework of state law.

Jiang told the religious leaders that the state intended to give more effective administration and supervision to the implementation of the laws, regulations and policies relating to religious work.

He believes that this will benefit both the society and religious

circles by protecting their legal activities and rights while preventing illegal activity or foreign infiltration in the name of religion.

However, the general secretary promised that the Party's policies towards religion would never change because of enhanced administration and supervision. ■

## Gold Mining Gains New Impetus

China's efforts to boost its gold production is gaining momentum with a governmental promise of investing more money during the upcoming five years.

According to the second national work conference on gold production, which opened on January 27, the state will invest 7 billion to 8 billion yuan in gold mining during the Eighth Five-Year Plan (1991-95), nearly double the 1986-90 figure.

China's gold industry has developed rapidly in the past five years. Gold mine reserves were 2.7 times the figure of the Sixth Five-Year Plan (1981-85) and

exceeded the total reserves confirmed over the past 36 years.

During the 1986-90 period, the country's gold production grew at an annual average rate of 11 percent. Last year's output was 17 percent more than the previous year.

According to the conference, investment priority will be given to developing state-run gold mines in the upcoming five years, especially those with high output potentials.

With state investment, the gold industry will launch 138 large and medium-sized projects during the Eighth Five-Year Plan period. Several large mines will be built in Guizhou, Liaoning, Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang.

Investment will also be used for the expansion of existing gold mines in Hebei, Shandong, Henan, Guangdong and Hubei provinces.

By 1995, the industry will have 19 large gold mines each with an annual production of one ton; so far it has only five such mines. The number of gold smelters, each with an annual output of more than 5,000 kilogrammes, will increase to six.

Thus, the framework of the industry's mass production will be

A gold mining ship of the Gold Mining Bureau in Huanan County, Heilongjiang Province, at work. XUE CHAO



initially established by the end of the Eighth Five-Year Plan. And in the next decade, the country will develop 10 gold production bases.

In the next five years, gold production is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 8.7 percent. This will increase China's credit rating and the country's ability to meet its debt obligations.

Indiscriminate gold mining will be prevented, according to the conference, as individuals are now prohibited from mining gold. Legal measures will be taken to punish illegal gold miners.

## Beijing: Safe From Terrorism

No terrorist acts against foreigners have occurred in Beijing since the Gulf war erupted on January 17, Wang Dingfeng, deputy director of the Beijing Public Security Bureau, said at a recent news conference.

Because of the Gulf showdown, some foreign embassies and agencies in Beijing have requested Chinese authorities to provide additional safety measures. Wang said the authorities responded by tightening up security measures to protect tourists and foreigners residing in Beijing. Wang added that stability reigns throughout the metropolis.

In 1990, the number of foreign tourists travelling to Beijing reached 1 million, none of whom suffered from violence. Miao Lisheng, deputy director of the Beijing Tourist Bureau, told the conference that tourism in Beijing has not been affected by the Gulf war. More foreign tourists came to Beijing in January than in the same period last year. This

clearly shows that the unrest in the Middle East does not in the least affect foreign tourists' interest in China, Miao said.

by Staff Reporter Han Baocheng

## China Supports UN Meeting on Gulf War

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said on January 31 that China is in favor of a UN Security Council meeting to discuss the Gulf issues at an appropriate time.

Speaking at a weekly news briefing in Beijing, Li Zhaoxing noted that many countries are making positive efforts for a peaceful resolution of the Gulf war. "This is commendable," he said.

"It is also understandable that some countries have called for a UN Security Council meeting in their regard," Li added, in response to a question about China's attitude toward some third world countries' calling for such a meeting on the Gulf war.

He said, "We have always supported a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis through political and diplomatic channels, and is also in favour of holding a UN Security Council meeting at an appropriate time to discuss relevant issues."

In its first two weeks, the war has deprived many civilians of their lives and properties. "We have deep sympathy with the victims," Li said. "We once again call on the warring sides to exercise maximum restraint so as to save the people in the Middle East from an even worse disaster."

The spokesman said the Chinese government is deeply worried about the oil spill in the Gulf. The enormous amount of oil released into the sea has

brought about serious environmental pollution. This in turn has damaged the marine biological resources and disrupted the ecological balance, Li pointed out. He urged all parties concerned to refrain from such acts.

Asked to comment on Japan's decision to send self-defence forces aircraft to the Gulf region to evacuate refugees and to donate another US\$9 billion towards the allied forces' efforts, the spokesman urged Japan to act prudently on these sensitive issues.

Li also said he hoped Japan would make efforts to seek a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis.

On February 1, the Chinese Foreign Ministry denied a report that China was attempting to sell arms to Iraq even after the embargo was imposed against Iraq. The accusation was contained in an article published in the *Christian Science Monitor* on January 31 by James L. Tyson.

A spokesman from the ministry said the above-mentioned report by James L. Tyson, resident correspondent of the *Christian Science Monitor* in Beijing, is "sheer fabrication." The information department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry has given him a serious warning, the spokesman added.

## New Wholesale Rice Market Opens

Situated in Wuhu, a city in East China's Anhui Province, the Wuhu Wholesale Rice Market opened in January 15, succeeding the Zhengzhou and Jiujiang markets which opened respectively in Henan Province last October and in Jiangxi Province last December.

The Wuhu market negotiates

and transacts rice according to normal trade practice, market director Li Dajun said. Various departments and rural enterprises which are engaged in grain management, production, processing, supply and marketing can apply for membership.

Li said that the market is primarily engaged in spot transactions, but will also deal with wholesale transactions of futures (within a year). Rice and other grains and cereals can be traded on the market through negotiations and auctions. Purchase prices are allowed to fluctuate within the framework of the state's guideline regulations, he added.

The Chinese economic circles consider the establishment of the Wuhu rice market as a step taken to reform China's grain purchasing and selling system.

Since China decentralized state monopoly on grain transactions in 1978, the government has combined state plans with market regulation allowing peasants to sell surplus grain on the open market after meeting their state-fixed quotas for the delivery of grain. In recent years, the development of grain production has led to a constant increase of grain sold on markets. But because of the absence of standardized grain wholesale markets, the transactions often went beyond control, causing prices to fluctuate sharply, therefore dampening the enthusiasm of grain producers and managers.

Now, wholesale grain markets have achieved expected results in stimulating grain circulation and stabilizing prices. The spot transaction of grain concluded on the Zhengzhou wheat market two months after its opening totalled 140,000 tons. On the opening day of the Wuhu rice market, a total of 100,000 tons of rice were traded, satisfying both purchasers and sellers.

To meet the increasing de-

mand for grain, Zhu Yuchen, an official from the China National Cereals Trade Corporation in charge of wholesale markets, said that this year China plans to open another three wholesale grain markets in Jilin Province, Wuhan of Hubei Province and Beijing. Meanwhile, he added, China will improve existing market facilities with loans from the World Bank. ■

## New Theory on Dinosaurs' Extinction

Chinese scientists argued that defects in hereditary gene structure accounted for the extinction of dinosaurs, although some died of heart diseases.

Dinosaurs, which thrived during the Mesozoic Era (225 million to 65 million years ago), were the largest land creatures ever to live on earth. But after 140 million years of dominance, they suddenly became extinct in the late Mesozoic period. In order to unravel this great mystery, scientists worldwide have come up with one theory after another.

Many attributed the phenomenon to "competition failure," "parthenogenesis" or "climate deterioration." Some believed that the dinosaurs died because of "sudden change brought about by a celestial body's collision with earth."

Jiang Jiuyu, an associate research fellow, and his colleagues from the Institute of Geochemistry of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, based their new theory on a recent study of trace elements found in dinosaur eggshells.

Jiang and his group made spectrum analysis of 11 chemical elements found in the shells of 70-million-year-old dinosaur

eggs uncovered in Nanxiong County, Guangdong Province, and hard tissues of gill-lamella creatures that lived during the same era. Compared with modern-day chicken eggshells, they found the amount of magnesium contained in dinosaur eggshells was 10 times lower than in today's unhatchable chicken-egg shells and about 30 times lower than in hatchable eggshells.

Jiang explained that this indicates the hereditary gene structure of dinosaurs had insufficient levels of magnesium.

Modern molecular biology proves that an animal embryo or plant seed contains more trace elements than the mature animal or plant. In the genetic information carrier, the nucleic acid, there are many elements such as chromium, iron, zinc, manganese, magnesium, copper and nickel. All these elements, chiefly magnesium which is called "the seed of life," may affect the stability of metabolism and structure of the nucleic acid. It means that the lack of magnesium in oviparous animals would result in underdevelopment of their ova or deter their embryos from maturity.

Crustal movements caused earthshaking changes to occur during the Mesozoic period. The shift of chemical elements and substances generated tremendous changes in the environment. The chemical analysis of 1,700 rock samples collected in South China, where the dinosaur-egg shells were found, indicated the levels of sodium, aluminium, magnesium, iron, titanium and phosphorus in those rocks decreased over time.

The findings by Jiang and his colleagues have been brought to the attention of Chinese experts from geochemical, geopalaeontological and celestial chemical circles. They said that their research has provided new convincing evidence to exploring the mystery of ancient animals' extinction. ■

# Gulf Crisis Shakes Oil Market

by Cen Youjiu

*The eruption of the Gulf crisis, touched off by Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait, has seriously disrupted the oil market, causing drastic price fluctuations. This makes it difficult to predict oil price prospects for the 1990s.*

Recent major fluctuations of oil prices on the world market are the result of a chain reaction triggered by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August. Without the invasion and subsequent Gulf war between Iraq and the US-led multinational forces, the average oil price of US\$18 per barrel, set by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), was expected to have lasted well into 1992.

## Damage Done

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait prompted the United Nations to impose a trade embargo against Iraq, which in turn led to an abrupt suspension of oil supplies

by 4-5 million barrels per day. A serious worldwide oil shortage ensued, prompting a dramatic rise in oil prices. At one time the price skyrocketed to more than US\$40 a barrel, a level equalling the peak years of the 1980s. Last August, after the invasion, the price stood at US\$27.61 per barrel, 50 percent higher than the preceding month.

The shortage prompted OPEC member states to increase their oil production to meet the demand, resulting in a balance between supply and demand. According to statistics, crude oil production by OPEC countries after the increase reached 23 million barrels per day, about the same level as the pre-crisis OPEC production. However, the



Victim of the Gulf oil spill.

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unpredictability of war allowed psychological factors and speculation to dominate the oil market. As a result, although supply and demand was held in balance, oil prices fluctuated vigorously, a phenomenon rarely seen before. For example, although OPEC allowed its members to produce more oil than their assigned quotas last August, the stationing of US-led multinational troops in Saudi Arabia and neighbouring countries and the increased danger of war sent the average price for West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil to US\$39.66 — US\$41 at its highest point — per barrel in the fourth week of September 1990 from US\$27.45 in August, a 44-45 percent increase. In late October, when rumours came that Iraq might pull out of Kuwait, prices drastically dropped. Such fluctuations were the direct result of possibilities of war or peace.

The increase in oil prices caused by the Gulf crisis and the increased production beyond assigned quotas by member states of OPEC have laid the foundation for a drastic drop in oil prices once the crisis is over. This is because the rises have triggered slight recessions in the West, which reduced the increasing demand for oil that has existed there in recent years. The US economy, for example, has slipped into a recession after eight consecutive years of growth, a peacetime record. As a result, oil consumption has dropped considerably. Oil consumption last October dwindled by 5.5 percent compared to the same period of the previous year. Once Kuwait and Iraq resume their oil production to pre-crisis levels, and the current oil producers refuse to reduce their production, an oil glut of more than 4 million barrels per day will occur. Taking into account

the increased production by non-OPEC oil-producers and the worldwide decline in demand for oil, a greater glut will inevitably appear. In that scenario, oil prices will drop drastically to around US\$15-20 a barrel. This will delay for one or two years the advent of a time when OPEC once again will assume control over the international oil market.

### War Impact

The US-led multinational troops launched a sudden air assault against Iraq on January 17, 1991 after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein refused to withdraw from Kuwait by the January 15 deadline set by the United Nations Security Council. The final outcome of the war will be a decisive factor in determining oil prices.

The rise or fall of oil prices depends on whether the US-led multinational attack on Iraq is successful, the oil fields in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are destroyed, and particularly on the degree of destruction of oil fields and the length of the war.

If the allied forces are successful in the war and the US anti-missile system can play its powerful role in protecting Saudi oil fields from Iraqi missile attacks, oil prices will slump. The prices of WTI will fall to US\$20 per barrel and the spot OPEC basket of crude oil prices below US\$18 per barrel for a period. This is because:

1. During the five months prior to the Gulf crisis escalating into war, international oil prices skyrocketed and then fluctuated at a high level. As mentioned above, except for an oil supply shortage within less than a month following the Gulf crisis, the fluctuations indicated the fear of buyers and sellers that

the war will certainly lead to the destruction of Saudi oil fields and future skyrocketing prices. In other words, the dramatic high gyrations of oil prices has been the result of the threat of war, and psychological and speculating factors. After the war erupted, OPEC members such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela increased their oil production to make up the difference created by a suspension of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil exports. The daily output of OPEC members except for Iraq and Kuwait soon reached 23 million barrels. Therefore, no oil shortage but an oil glut is visible in the current international oil market.

2. The oil reserves of Western industrialized nations are adequate to meet their demands for several months. It was reported that Western industrialized countries had taken advantage of OPEC members' overproduction of oil before the crisis and the sluggish market to stockpile tremendous supplies of oil. At present, the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has stored 470 million tons of oil — the import volume of 150 days which can meet 100 days of consumption in OECD countries. Besides, the United States has 600 million barrels of strategic reserves capable of making up the daily shortage of three million barrels for 200 days. The International Energy Agency (IEA) had declared before the war that once the outbreak of war suspended oil production in the Middle East, it would provide the world market with 2.5 million barrels every day. US President George Bush also stated that he would use US strategic oil reserves in the event of a war.

3. The economic recession in Western countries has decreased



demand for oil. According to IEA statistics, the world's need for oil will reduce by three million barrels per day this year, because the oil price rise has slowed down economic growth and led to the introduction of energy-saving measures. Thus, even with the Gulf war cutting supplies by three million barrels per day, the world market will maintain a balance between supply and demand without using its oil reserves.

4. Under such circumstances, if the multinational forces achieve success and the oil fields in Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are not destroyed, both the buyers and sellers may expect a surplus of 4.5 million barrels per day and a fall in oil prices when the war is over.

Clearly, the interaction of the above circumstances contributed to dramatic changes in Brent oil prices which increased from US\$30 to US\$33.5 per barrel in the first day of the Gulf war and then plummeted to US\$19.05 per barrel in the second day and further dropped US\$2 in the following days. Oil prices will continue falling if the Operation Desert Storm of the US-led multinational forces to liberate Kuwait is successful. The price of oil will probably fall to US\$15 per barrel.

However, oil prices will rise and fall alternatively if the war lingers on for a long time, such as for two or three months, during which the ground war is deadlocked and under the condition that Iraq's attacks on Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabian oil fields does not significantly affect the world's oil supply. If such a situation occurs, the price of WTI is estimated to swing around US\$20 per barrel. The swinging range will be between US\$15 to US\$29 per barrel. For example, oil prices increased immediately when it was reported

that Iraq had destroyed some of Kuwait's oil fields and the US-led multinational troops would not win the war in a short time. The WTI price rose from US\$20.4 per barrel on January 18 to US\$24.55 per barrel on January 23.

Oil prices will certainly skyrocket if Iraq destroys not only all of the oilfields in Kuwait but also part or most of the oilfields in Saudi Arabia while the ground forces of multinational troops are drawn into the war and suffer heavy casualties in their attack against Iraqi forces which appear unexpectedly difficult to defeat. If that situation happens, oil prices will probably jump as high as US\$30 and even to US\$40 and US\$50 per barrel. Oil prices will remain high and fluctuate at an escalated level for a long time.

The reasons for the possibility of a price hike lie in the fact that if that situation occurs, the world market will experience a shortage of 4 million barrels of oil per day. In addition, the speculating psychology of some people will result in a surge in oil purchases which will lead to skyrocketing oil prices and stimulate worldwide demand for oil. Moreover, the strategical oil stock of OECD nations is only equivalent to the amount of their imports of five months. Their oil stock will be inadequate to meet their demand if the war is protracted and heavy damage is inflicted on the oilfields in Saudi Arabia. Of course, this scenario is highly unlikely because the multinational forces own a decisive edge in military strength.

If Iraq is successful in the war, oil prices will demonstrate a tendency of decreasing in the first couple of months of the postwar period. However, after that, they will rebound to the price of US\$21 per barrel and continue

to rise to US\$23 per barrel. This estimation is based on the fact that if Iraq wins the war, its presence in Kuwait will be permanent and its position in OPEC will be strengthened. As OPEC member, Iraq has repeatedly called for increases in oil prices.

However, if the multinational troops win the war, the spot price of US\$21 per barrel set by OPEC will plummet to US\$15 and perhaps even lower. The price of WTI will drop to US\$18 and probably even to US\$15 per barrel. In the following two or three months, the spot price of oil will rebound to a level of US\$21 per barrel and fluctuate around US\$18 per barrel.

The reasons are as follows:

First, oil reserves of four oil producers in the Gulf -- Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Qatar -- account for 40 and 55 percent of the world's and OPEC's total reserves respectively. Their surplus capacity accounts for more than 80 percent of the OPEC's total surplus capacity. Presently, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates alone account for 47 percent of OPEC's total oil output. Including Kuwait's output which will be restored after the war, the oil output of five OPEC members in the Gulf will reach more than 50 percent of OPEC's total output. As the initiators of the new OPEC low-price and quota strategy, these countries have always taken advantage of their surplus capacity to stabilize oil prices around US\$18 per barrel. Therefore, if they win the war with the help of the United States, West European countries and Japan, they will certainly further strengthen their alliance with these countries and use their surplus capacity to stabilize oil prices at about US\$18-20 per barrel. This will speed up economic growth in the West, promote a steady increase

in worldwide oil consumption and rapidly restore OPEC's control over the world oil market.

Second, with the end of the Gulf war, Iraq and Kuwait will gradually restore their oil production and exporting. Then, if those OPEC members which have produced extra-quota oil to meet the market's demand during the crisis do not reduce their extra-quota production, a buyer's market with a glut of 4 million barrels a day will appear. Thus oil prices will slump drastically. However, it is more difficult to reduce than increase output. It is estimated that great efforts will be necessary to balance the oil market by reducing the output of OPEC mem-

ber countries. This will lead to a fluctuation of oil prices around US\$20 per barrel, between US\$15 and US\$25. Reports say that Iran has planned to increase its daily output to 5 million barrels next year, up from its current 3.5 million barrels, and Kuwait will also ask to enjoy preferential treatment on its quota so it can make up for its losses during the Gulf crisis and war. Consequently, OPEC will face more difficulties when attempting to reduce its oil output.

Third, the slump of oil prices since the start of the war will offset a series of medium- and long-term consequences resulting from soaring oil prices during the Gulf crisis before the

war, such as the fall of economic growth rate and oil demand in the West, both of which are unfavourable to the restoration of OPEC control over the market. It is expected that once the war ends, influenced by the slump of oil price, economic growth rate in the West will increase and the oil demand in the global market will return to its level prior to the crisis. This will allow oil prices to gradually rise and become relatively stable again. It is also estimated that oil prices will return to pre-crisis levels within one or two years and that price fluctuations will be similar to those experienced in the year or two before the crisis. ■

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## Japan's Mideast Policy Evokes Controversy

by Zhang Guochen

**A**fter the Gulf war broke out, Japan's "Middle East contribution policy" has once again become a popular topic of debate among Japanese politicians.

At the January 18 Diet session, convened one week earlier than originally scheduled, political parties had intense debates concerning the two major policies Japan may follow in the Gulf war — one, giving more money to the United States-led allied forces, and the other, sending trans-

port planes from its self-defence forces to the Gulf.

On the issue of further donations, politicians wondered if it was constitutional to give money to the allied forces, and, if money was provided, how much would be appropriate and where it would come from.

Japan provided the multinational forces with US\$2 billion last year. Now that war has erupted in the Gulf, the United States has called on the Japanese to make ad-

ditional financial contributions.

During talks with his Japanese counterpart Ryutaro Hashimoto on January 20, US Secretary of the Treasury Nicolas F. Brady urged Japan to make more financial contributions to the Gulf war which "match Japan's national power."

The Japanese treasurer privately told the United States that Japan was willing to add another US\$5 billion to the contributions it had made al-

ready, but Americans rejected the offer because they considered the amount too small.

A US congressman argued that the small amount the Japanese government was prepared to contribute towards the Gulf war was an illustration of Japan's less than wholehearted co-operation with the multinational forces.

It was reported that the congressman (whose name was not given) cited the example of a private Japanese firm, National Electric Corporation, which could afford the 5.5 billion dollar price tag to purchase MCA, a giant American entertainment conglomerate.

Under pressure from the United States, the Japanese government announced on January 24 that it would give an additional US\$9 billion in financial support to the multinational forces.

But where the money will come from worries the Japanese people. Jiji (the Japanese Current Affairs News Agency) said that it seems "inevitable" to increase oil, corporate and tobacco taxes to raise the necessary revenue. This proposal has drawn sharp criticism from opposition parties, the Consumers Association and ordinary people even before it was formally put forward, because this will certainly be an increased burden on the Japanese people.

As for whether Japan's donation to the multinational forces violates its constitution, the Japanese government contends that these forces are acting in accordance with the United Nations resolutions and, therefore, the Japanese donation is for the restoration of peace.

However, the opposition considers that any financial aid to the multinational forces inflames the Gulf war and constitutes a violation of the Japanese constitution. As evidence, Japanese jurists have cited the following reasons:

— The multinational forces, after all, are not UN troops prescribed in the United Nations Charter;

— The UN Security Council resolution, which permits "the use of all necessary means," does not specify that force must be employed;

— The Japanese donation does not go to the United Nations, but directly to the United States.

Since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis last August, the United States has repeatedly called on the Japanese to contribute money, materials and even personnel. The US ambassador to Japan said that Japan is capable of doing more in the Gulf than just donating money.

Accordingly, Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu proposed to the Diet (parliament) on January 18 that transport planes of the Japanese self-defence forces be sent to the Gulf to help evacuate refugees. The first of Japan's four civilian planes chartered by the government left Tokyo on January 25 for London en route to Cairo for refugee evacuation operations. Three other civilian planes also left for Cairo on January 26.

Japanese opposition parties were quick to initiate their attack on the government's policy towards the Gulf war.

The Japan Socialist Party (JSP) accused the government of acting in a "fascist" manner

over its decision to dispatch self-defence forces transport planes to the Middle East. Ko-meito Chairman Koshiro Ishida said that the party could not agree to the US\$9 billion being used for the purchase of weapons and ammunition.

With the situation in the Gulf escalating quickly, some members of Japan's ruling party, the Liberal Democratic Party, began advocating the reinterpretation of the Japanese constitution. This represents a new development in favouring the deployment of troops abroad.

Moreover, for the first time in history a senior official of the Liberal Democratic Party described Article 9 of the Japanese constitution, which stipulates the renouncement of war, as the "utopian unconditional pacifism." He said, "Japan's self-defence forces cannot be left out of the new mechanisms created to contribute to world peace."

These statements and the government's attempts to use the Gulf war to send troops overseas cannot but arouse vigilance among the public at home and abroad.

The Iraqi ambassador to Japan stated in explicit terms that Japan has made itself an enemy of Iraq by taking such action. He also declared that Iraqi troops would surely bring down Japanese transport planes used for carrying refugees. This remark has cast a dark shadow over Japanese public opinion. Some newspapers have asked if the self-defence forces would fight back if such a possibility actually arises. If they did, they pointed out, then Japan would become a belligerent state pure and simple. ■

# On Human Rights and Development Right

by Guo Jisi

Recently there has been much talk about human rights and one oft repeated view is that human rights are the precondition and the crux of a society. According to this view, there can be no social tranquility, progress and development without the protection of human rights and that only by protecting human rights is it possible to safeguard world peace and promote the economic and social development of various countries. This opinion, however, is not a comprehensive summary of what human rights mean, nor does it correctly expound upon the relationship between human rights and a country's economic and social development. Instead, it inappropriately highlights the role of human rights in society and places it in a position above all else. Such a position is not only theoretically untenable, but also lacks a convincing and factual basis. It is necessary, therefore, to discuss the development of the concept of human rights as well as its role in a country's development process. By doing so we can better understand the relationship between human rights and a country's social and economic development.

## I. Economic Development Is the Foundation for Human Rights

Human rights are closely related to development—they are complementary and mutually promotive. Fundamentally speaking, however, it is the development

level that determines the extent to which human rights are guaranteed and not the opposite. Human rights are not an absolute and abstract concept. Neither are they empty slogans. But their enjoyment is restricted by economic and social conditions. The history of human progress irrefutably demonstrates that mankind's higher spiritual demands increase as productive forces develop and material living standards improve. These demands, however, can be met only with a solid material foundation. Thus, the presentation of the concept of human rights and its transformation into a current international issue of common concern is, primarily, due to mankind's economic and social progress and the development of productive forces. The industrial revolution in Europe first promoted this liberation of productive forces, led to the birth of the new bourgeoisie and the emancipation of the mind. A challenge to traditional feudal royal and religious authority arose, which put forward such ideas as man's natural rights and the equality of human beings. Actually, these ideas did not begin in modern society, and were not the "parent" of Western countries. In the peasant revolutions which broke out in China and the rest of the world, such slogans as equality and equalizing social wealth were raised. Such beautiful dreams, however, could not

be turned into reality primarily because of the lack of the necessary economic and social foundations.

Approaching the question from another point, it is not true that progress, economic development and a happy life depend on the introduction of a bourgeois democracy and a Western system of government. Currently, some third world countries have attempted to introduce Western democracy and copy Western capitalist political and economic models. However, these countries have not been able to develop themselves and poverty still exists. Even in Western countries which picture themselves as nations of a high degree of democracy and freedom and parade themselves as "guardians of human rights," their human rights conditions are by no means perfect and complete. For example, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights clearly stipulates that everyone has the right to work. One should ask, therefore, if there is any developed country in the world that has solved the problem of unemployment and guaranteed its people the right to work? Also, the problems of sexual and racial discrimination obviously run counter to the idea of human rights preached in Western countries and to the goal put forward in international human rights conventions. Clearly, the theory that human rights decide everything is untenable.

## II. The Factors Affecting Development

A variety of factors are needed for sound economic and social development of a country. They include favourable climatic, geographical and human conditions. These conditions are both subjective and objective, internal and external, factors. It goes without saying that when people of a country enjoy full democratic rights, their subjective initiative can be brought into normal play, and this is an important factor for promoting the development of a country. Development is in the interests of all the people. It is necessary to stimulate the enthusiasm of all the people and to ensure that every citizen can give full play to their ability, participate in the process of development and have the equal right and opportunity to enjoy the fruits of development. But this is by no means the only decisive factor. In terms of the natural environment, whether the resources are rich, whether climatic conditions are also favourable and communications are convenient are also factors which will influence a country's development.

To develop, a country needs a peaceful and stable international environment, and its state sovereignty and people's right to self-determination must be guaranteed and respected. Only then can the government of a sovereign state and its people work out a development strategy in conformity with the nation's reality and, in accordance with changing conditions, make timely and appropriate readjustments. At present, world political factors such as racism, colonialism and hegemonism affect third world stability and development. These problems have not been eliminated and instances of foreign invasion and occupation and encroachment on people's right of self-determination still frequent-

ly occur. Therefore, opposing any form of power politics and safeguarding national independence and state sovereignty are prerequisites for guaranteeing a country's right to development. Also, the maintenance of a peaceful and stable international political environment and actively promoting friendship and co-operation among countries are important conditions of development. At the same time, the government of each country must actively promote democracy and the legal system and maintain social stability and order, thereby creating the internal basis for economic and social development. While devising a development strategy, however, a nation cannot mechanically copy the experiences of other countries in disregard of its own conditions, because this does not help the development of a country but will make it go a roundabout way in its advance. It is counter-productive to take a model suited for one country as a panacea and peddle it everywhere, to use the standards of one nation to judge another or to use the economic systems of different countries as a universal standard for judging a country's human rights.

Along with the continued development of modern science and technology, the world has increasingly become an inseparable entity. The interdependent relationship among countries has become more and more evident. No country can develop in a state of self-isolation. Therefore, international co-operation has become an increasingly important factor in the development of a country, and the situation for the developed countries is no exception. Such co-operation, however, is possible only when it is based on mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit. In particular, as the North-South problem becomes increasingly prominent, international co-operation

regarding development should be aimed at narrowing, not expanding, the economic gap between the North and the South.

The close relationship between human rights and development underlines the inseparability of human rights and promotion of a country's economic and social development. In order to raise the level of human rights enjoyed by a country's people, therefore, it is necessary to boost the economic, social and cultural development of the people, so as to eliminate poverty and hunger and raise the nation's cultural level.

There are some people in the world, however, who pay undue attention to a handful of domestic anti-government forces and the "human rights" of so-called dissidents while ignoring the interests and well-being of the broad masses of people. Since they dislike the political, economic and social systems of a country, they support a country's anti-government forces and try to apply pressure on the government. They create turbulence in the country in an attempt to subvert the legal government. Such practice goes well beyond concern with human rights. It is not a real concern for the human rights of all the people but instead adversely impacts the enjoyment of human rights by the people of that country. Therefore, all countries, particularly developed countries, in their discussion of the human rights issue, should, first, respect the political, economic and social system chosen by the people of various countries and should adopt effective measures to eliminate the unfair and unreasonable international economic structure. Such a step will improve the international economic environment and gradually eliminate the unfavourable factors restricting the development of various countries, particularly

the developing countries. Only when this is done will there be genuine contribution to the promotion of human rights.

### III. The Development Right Is, In Itself, an Important Human Right

History has proved that the concept of human rights is not immutable, but is, instead, being steadily developed and enriched along with the development of society. Over the past 200 years or more since the slogan of human rights was raised by the bourgeoisie in the 18th and 19th centuries, the concept has undergone great changes. In particular, over the past 40 years since the end of World War II, the United Nations has formulated dozens of declarations and conventions on human rights. As a result, the content of human rights is no longer limited to the purely personal right put forward in the early period of the bourgeois revolution. It now includes the content of such collective human rights as economic, social and cultural rights, development right and the right to national self-determination. Some experts and scholars have divided human rights into different historical stages—i.e., human rights of the first, second and third generations—and some have even put forward a view of human rights of a fourth generation. Therefore, protection of human rights not only means protection of citizens' personal democratic rights, but also the protection of the right of a country and nation to independence, survival and development.

The determination of human rights is usually confined to a narrow meaning, setting some of the content of human rights (civil rights and political rights) against other human rights such as the right to develop. In discussing the protection of human rights, the focus is often placed on certain individual rights,

while the important prerequisite for such protection, the right of a country and nation to independence and development, is played down by every possible means and in some instances not even recognized. Obviously, this is wrong. At present, the international community generally recognizes the development right as a human right that cannot be deprived. This is evidenced by the United Nations paying increasing attention to the question of development right. The United Nations Human Rights Committee adopted a resolution in 1989, deciding to designate the question of development right as a separate topic for discussion and as an item which should receive top priority and continued concern from the human rights council in examination and approval. A global consultation on the question of development rights was held in early 1990.

The development right, as a human right, is both individual and collective. It means, in addition to the enhancement and improvement of the living standards of the entire people, the all-round development of the economy, society, culture, education, public health, and social welfare system of a nation and the realization of social justice. It recognizes the interdependent and inseparable relationship between economic, social and cultural rights and civil and political rights.

The formulation of the development right is of great significance for it represents another important supplement to and development of the traditional notion of human rights. It has so enriched the concept of human rights that human rights are now more in conformity with the current world situation. The emergence of the development right not only is the desire of the developing countries, it is also the requirement of our time and the

inevitable product of mankind's economic and social development. It also reflects the reality of international relations wherein North-South relations have become a prominent problem in international relations. Changing the old unreasonable international economic order, realizing the development right and providing an effective guarantee for the economic, social and cultural rights of the people of various countries, thereby creating the most basic conditions for the people of various countries to genuinely enjoy various human rights and basic freedom—this is the common theme of developing countries.

To sum up, the determinism of human rights turns the relationship between the protection of human rights and the development of the state and nation on its head, failing to realize that individual rights and collective rights are inseparable. While stressing individual rights, it neglects the right of development and raises the role of individual rights to an inappropriate level.

It must be noted that some Western countries, using human rights as a signboard, deliberately exaggerate the role of individual rights and adopt various means to apply pressure on developing countries, forcing them to change their current economic and social systems and accept the Western values. This is not only inconsistent with the lofty goal of protecting human rights, but conflicts with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and with the basic tenets of the international law on non-interference in the internal affairs of another country. Such actions offer no protection for human rights for they only hamper the development of the international community and are detrimental to normal relations between countries. ■

# Tibetans Speak Out on Human Rights

by Our Staff Reporter Li Rongxia

Some people in the West think the Tibetan people have no human rights at all. What are the facts? Since the answer ultimately lies with Tibetans themselves, reporters of *Beijing Review* interviewed some Tibetans for their view on the subject during a recent trip to the Tibet Autonomous Region.

## The Obvious Facts

Chapai Cedan Puncog, 69, has retired from his post as vice-president of the Tibetan Academy of Social Sciences and is now an adviser of the academy and a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Tibet, Puncog said, had a feudal-serf social system before 1959. It practised a feudal lord dictatorship which combined politics with religion and a feu-

dal lord monopoly economic system based on manors. Three kinds of lords—aristocrats, monasteries and temples, and the local government—joined together to become a serf-owner ruling class. Accounting for only 5 percent of the Tibetan population, they nonetheless controlled nearly all the means of social production, owned all the serfs and all the wealth of society which the serfs created. The serfs made up 95 percent of the local population but did not themselves have any means of production. They and their children belonged to their serf-owners. When they registered their newborn children, the male child belonged to the father's owner while the female to the mother's. Couples wanting to marry had to get permission from their owners instead of their own parents and, after marriage, they still belonged to their former owners. They had to

work for their owners without pay and also had to hand in various kinds of taxes. Their economic position was so low that they did not have any kind of political rights.

According to Puncog, Tibet carried out a democratic reform of social system in 1959 and eliminated the feudal-serf system. The reform completely changed the life of the serfs, transforming them into masters of society and of their own destiny. Since then, they have been able to enjoy all the civil and political rights guaranteed by the Chinese Constitution. They have also enjoyed full rights in economic, social and cultural activities. The reform thus brought them basic human rights for the first time.

The Tibet Autonomous Region implemented the people's congress system after its establishment. Under this system, the Tibetan people have the right to elect those deputies and administration leaders whom they most trust. The local people's congress exercises the right of autonomy and the right to administer the region. Many people who were serfs in the past have taken up leading government posts and, today, 66 percent of the leading members at the regional and prefectural levels are Tibetans.

Tibetans are not only emancipated politically but are also freed from economic oppression. Under the joint effort of local people and people from other areas of the country, Tibet has made much progress in the last several decades. Especially since

Cering Lhamo and her daughter.

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Cering Lhamo (first, left) and other members of her 12-household mutual aid team 30 years ago.

1980, the regional economic construction has experienced a rapid development. The 1990 total industrial and agricultural output value amounted to 1 billion yuan, nearly five times the total output before the democratic reform. The grain output topped 600,000 tons, four times the total before the reform. The annual per-capita income of farmers and herdsmen was about 400 yuan in 1990. Industry, communications, energy, culture and education, public health and other facilities have been greatly developed in Tibet. Today, the region boasts a group of small and medium-sized energy and building materials enterprises and has established a highway network with Lhasa as the hub. The Tibetan region has 2,437 schools of various types with an enrollment of 160,000 and 95 hospitals that provide free treatment to the Tibetan people.

In the last four decades, Puncog said, the labouring people in Tibet fully enjoy human rights

in all fields and their standard of living has been getting better and better.

### A Serf-Turned Official

Cering Lhamo, 64, was a vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the Tibet Autonomous Regional People's Congress until her retirement in 1984. We interviewed the old lady at her home in Zedang Township, Shannan Prefecture.

In front of her house, she has sown a plot with green vegetables. The doors and windows of her new house are drawn in colourful, traditional Tibetan designs. Both in the outside courtyard and inside the house everything is clean and tidy.

She received 10,000 yuan from the government for retirement in 1984. She then built her house and now lives with her daughter.

Talking about her life over the last several decades, Lhamo said, "I was born into a serf's family. I was sent here by my owner at

the age of 12. I spent nights in a cowshed with not enough clothes to keep warm. I didn't even have a bowl for food. I was always hungry, not even having butter tea. Instead, I drank tea made of a wild mountain plant. Every day, I had to finish whatever chores my owner assigned me. There was no freedom at all until the democratic reform in 1959 when I was emancipated. For the first time, I could control my destiny. I now enjoy all kinds of rights and have property of my own—0.4 hectare of land the government granted to me, a new house of about 30 square metres, a cow, six head of sheep, two goats and a horse."

Recalling the past, she said, "I am grateful to the Communist Party. My parents gave me life but could not decide my destiny. I became a serf and never had the love of my parents. It is the Party which gave me a new life.

"I have tried my best to work hard in order to repay the Party's kindness. I joined the Party in July 1961. I once worked as a commune Party secretary, deputy secretary of the prefectural Party committee and a member of the Standing Committee of the county Party committee. In 1976, I was elected vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the Tibet Autonomous Regional People's Congress.

"Now I am retired and have a comfortable life with a monthly pension of more than 400 yuan. I do not like staying at home. I always help village leaders with some projects and try my best to do something for my villagers," Cering Lhamo concluded.

### Aristocrat in Old Tibet

Jingzhong Gyamcan Puncog, 64, is vice-chairman of the Tibet Autonomous Regional People's Political Consultative Conference.

Puncog related how he was an



aristocrat in the old days, explaining that the first part of his name, Jingzhong, denoted his official position—the fifth of seven high officials in the old Tibet government. “I have worked with both the old and new governments but, as you can imagine, the experience has been quite different,” he said. “In the old days, the serfs who made up 95 percent of the region’s population had no human rights. Even government officials had to do what they were told or they would be punished. Today, both government officials and labouring people are masters of the country and enjoy the basic human rights which all civilized societies should grant their citizens.”

Puncog told a story about Gaxuba Qoiji Nyima who was a third highest official of the old local government and was retired from the post of vice-chairman of the Tibet Autonomous Regional People’s Political Consultative Conference. When Sichuan, a neighbouring province of Tibet, was liberated in 1949, he told his servants that the Communists would soon come to Tibet. The servants spread the

news while shopping. Since the news was not what the local authorities wanted to hear, they seized Qoiji Nyima, beat him and sent him into exile in Shannan.

“After the democratic reform,” Puncog continued, “the officials like myself of the old government who were born into an aristocratic family gained the forgiveness of the labouring people and were given important positions in the new government. Moreover, since the Communist Party practises a democratic consultative system, my colleagues and I could make many suggestions to the local government. The local government was responsive to our suggestions and tried its best to solve the problems involved. This was quite different from the old society in which government officials could not speak out nor voice opinions. In 1987, I went to Qamdo and found that the cultural relics of a monastery which were taken away during the turmoil of the ‘cultural revolution’ had not been returned. I also discovered that the people of a county under the city’s jurisdiction were suffering from many



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Jingzhong Gyamcan Puncog.

diseases resulting from poor sanitation. I talked with the local government about the problems. In response, the officials demanded that the cultural relics be returned and money be earmarked for the improvement of the environment of sanitation.

“The region has more than 1,400 patriotic people associated with old Tibet,” Puncog said. “They live comfortably now. They always relay to the government the views and opinions of the masses and show their utter devotion to the Party, sharing their honour or disgrace with it. They have contributed their best efforts to the construction of new Tibet.”

### ‘I Made the Right Decision’

In a residential courtyard close to the Ramqe Monastery in downtown Lhasa, Chilei Dagyal, 53, who came back from Nepal together with his wife and daughter in 1985, was interviewed.

“I left Tibet for India in 1959 when an armed rebellion took place,” he said. “I lived on relief funds for the first six months and, later, worked as a highway

Chilei Dagyal.

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**Emancipated serf Zhaxi Wangdui of Doilungdeqen County casts a vote for deputies to the local people's congress.**

builder. It was a hard life with 60 people living in a big tent. The two Indian rupees a day for my work were barely enough for food. Two years later, I enlisted as a "Tibetan soldier" and was tricked into fighting the Tibetans in Ngari. When I left the military forces 12 years later and went to Nepal, I made a living as a carpet weaver. Later, I bought a house there and opened a small store. Although I lived better in Nepal, I did not feel happy because I was far away from my hometown and my relatives. I missed them."

"In Nepal," Dargyal said, "I heard a lot of bad news about Tibet—the Tibetans did not have any human rights and led a poor life. At the time, I had no contact with my relatives in Tibet. In 1984 a friend of mine met one of my relatives in Lhasa. He brought me a letter in which my relative expressed the hope that I would return and see the great changes which had taken place in my hometown.

"I returned immediately to visit Lhasa and its surroundings. I discovered that Lhasa had really

changed a lot. The low residential houses were replaced by new buildings and there had even been new highrises such as the Holiday Inn. The market was flourishing and the shelves were full of goods. The people's living standards had increased several times over. On the streets, the old people wore clean new Tibetan robes; the young people were fashionably dressed. All appeared healthy and happy. Many ordinary people were working at leading posts at various levels. They enjoyed full democratic rights. What I saw in Tibet gave the lie to what I had heard abroad."

Dargyal said that he stayed in Tibet for only two months although his passport allowed him to stay six months. "I decided to go back and move my home back to Tibet as quick as possible," he added.

Chilei Dargyal returned to Tibet in June 1985 after 26 years of overseas life. The local government covered his moving costs and arranged a house for his family. On New Year's Day every year and other holidays the local government always sent people to see whether everything is OK with his family and they always brought the family some butter, tea bricks and subsidies. "I was elected a member of the Lhasa People's Political Consultative Conference in 1987," Dargyal said. "Many of my proposals have been accepted by the government. I get a salary from the government and my wife and daughter weave carpets at home. Today, we have a better life. I made the right decision."

Lhaba Zhoima, an official in charge of returning Tibetans, says that since 1980 Tibet has received 7,000 overseas Tibetans on visits and arranged housing for 1,600 Tibetans who returned to live permanently.

## The Right to Vote

Puncog, 66, is from Dagar Township of the Quxu County near the Lhasa River. Since Tibet put into place the people's congress system after the democratic reform in 1959, Puncog at each election has conscientiously exercised his right to vote.

When the deputies to the county people's congress were elected last year, for example, he considered carefully before finally deciding whom to support. Jamyang, the Party secretary of No. 6 Village, had done a lot for his villagers and was respected by the local people for his fairness. The deputy county magistrate Qongda immersed himself among the masses and showed much concern for their standard of living. He often helped them with their troubles and problems. Chagu, a prefectural school teacher, worked hard to train the younger generation and for his effort won the respect of all the people in the prefecture. For their work, they each won the vote of Puncog.

"Election of the deputies to the local people's congress is a serious matter and shouldn't be done carelessly," Puncog said. "If it is done well, it will be a fair representation of the public. Otherwise, the interests of the masses and the state will be infringed upon. Therefore, we should adopt a serious attitude towards the election and elect those who really work for the people."

"In the past," the old man said, "my family and I were serfs of the Dana Manor. We had no freedom at all. We broke our back with hard work every day. We were not provided with enough clothing and food and we were always beaten. We had no human rights at all. Today the Party and the government give me the right to be treated as a human being. Now, we have a happy life." ■

# Potala Palace Under Overall Renovation

by Our Staff Reporter Li Rongxia

**T**he Potala Palace is Tibet's most famous building, its architecture and beautiful frescoes are a display of Tibetan wisdom. Today, more than 300 years after its construction, however, the Palace is in danger of decay and, in order to protect this valuable cultural legacy, the Chinese government has decided to carry out a five-year renovation project on the Potala Palace.

Wherever one goes in Lhasa, one can see the silhouette of the magnificent Potala Palace. Built on Hongshan Hill in western Lhasa City, the Palace is a cluster of the world's highest ancient structures above sea level and a Tibetan Buddhist shrine. Among all of Tibet's temples, monasteries and palaces, the Potala Palace is the most famous.

The Potala Palace winds its way upward in accordance with the natural shape of the hill. Its main building, 13 storeys and 110 metres high, is divided into two major sections: the side section, covered in white earth, is, not surprisingly, called the White Palace, while the centre, which is plastered with red earth, is called Red Palace.

In the front of the Potala Palace, a winding pavement with ladder-shaped balustrade leads up through a gate to Deyangxia (the east courtyard). This is a platform of 1,600 square metres. During auspicious occasions in the past, opera performances and sorcerer's dance took place there for the amusement of the Dalai Lama.

Climbing up the ladder from the west of Deyangxia and pass-

ing through a zigzagging corridor, one reaches the Cogen Hall (east hall), the largest palace in the White Palace, where the Qing government minister chaired the ceremony for the official installation of the Dalai Lama.

Climbing up three more stories one reaches the top of the White Palace. The main building of the White Palace houses two bedroom suites of the Dalai Lama. Situated in a high terrain, the suites receive sunshine all day long and so are called sunshine hall.

Going from the White Palace to the Red Palace, one passes through the main building, the Dalai Lama's holy pagoda hall, and various halls used for worshipping Buddha.

The west hall, the Sixi Puncog Hall or the holy pagoda hall of

the 5th Dalai Lama, covers some 660 square metres and is the largest hall in the Red Palace. The hall consists of three stories, of which the holy pagoda is 14.85 metres high, and in it has been placed the embalmed body of the 5th Dalai Lama.

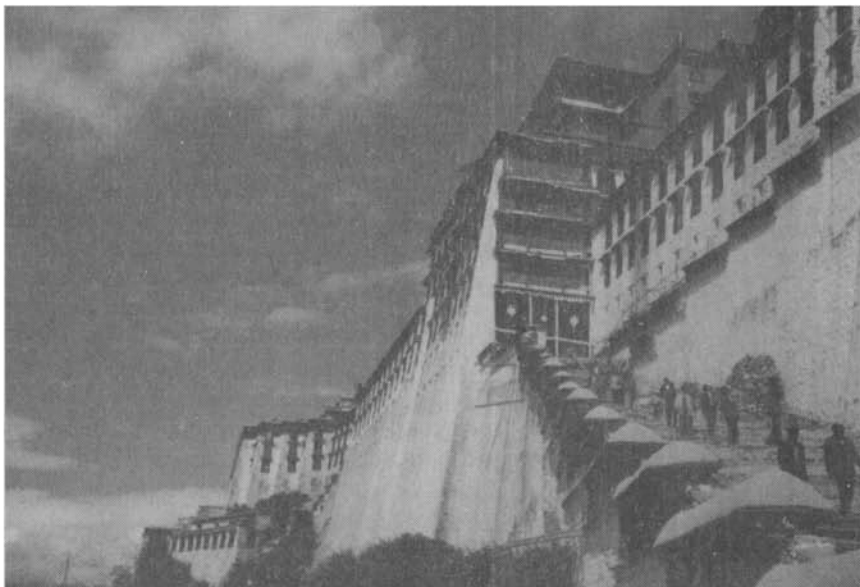
The holy pagoda halls of the 7th through the 13th Dalai Lama are in the same pattern as that of the 5th Dalai Lama, differing only in size.

The holy pagoda halls are mostly decorated with gold pinnacles which glitter in dazzling sunshine.

The highest hall of the Red Palace is Sasong Nanje where there is a portrait of Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty and the emperor's memorial tablet bearing inscriptions in four languages—Chinese, Tibe-

The front of the Potala Palace.

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tan, Manchu and Mongolian. The Dalai Lama used to pay homage to the emperor's memorial tablet every year, an act which indicated the Dalai Lama's subordinate relationship to the emperor.

In the north of the Red Palace are the Fawang Cave and Pebalakang Hall, left over from the Songtsan Gambo period in the 7th century. Kept in the Buddhist hall were the statues of Songtsan Gambo, Princess Wencheng and other ministers, vivid and unsophisticated statues which are precious works of art handed down from the Tufan period.

### Frescoes

The many frescoes which cover the walls of large and small halls in the Potala Palace are fascinating. There are 698 frescoes, all vivid and in bright colours, in the picture gallery on the second floor of the Sixi Pungcog Hall. They are extensive displays of rich Buddhist art and Tibet's unique landforms and scenery in which one sees not only the scene of the palace's construction, but also descriptive scenes of horse racing and shooting on horseback.

On the northern wall of Dasong Geguodao Porch is depicted a scene of a crowd welcoming Princess Wencheng of the Tang Dynasty on her entrance into Tibet. On the streets are the horse carts and guards of honour. A viewer seems to hear the crescendo of music as the town people turn out to welcome the princess.

According to Tibetan historical records, in the early 7th century, Tibet established the Tufan regime under the slave system. In 633, when Tufan made Lhasa its capital, there were frequent contacts with the Tang Dynasty and active communications with the royal family of the Tang Dynasty. In 641, Princess Wencheng of the Tang Dynasty was married to



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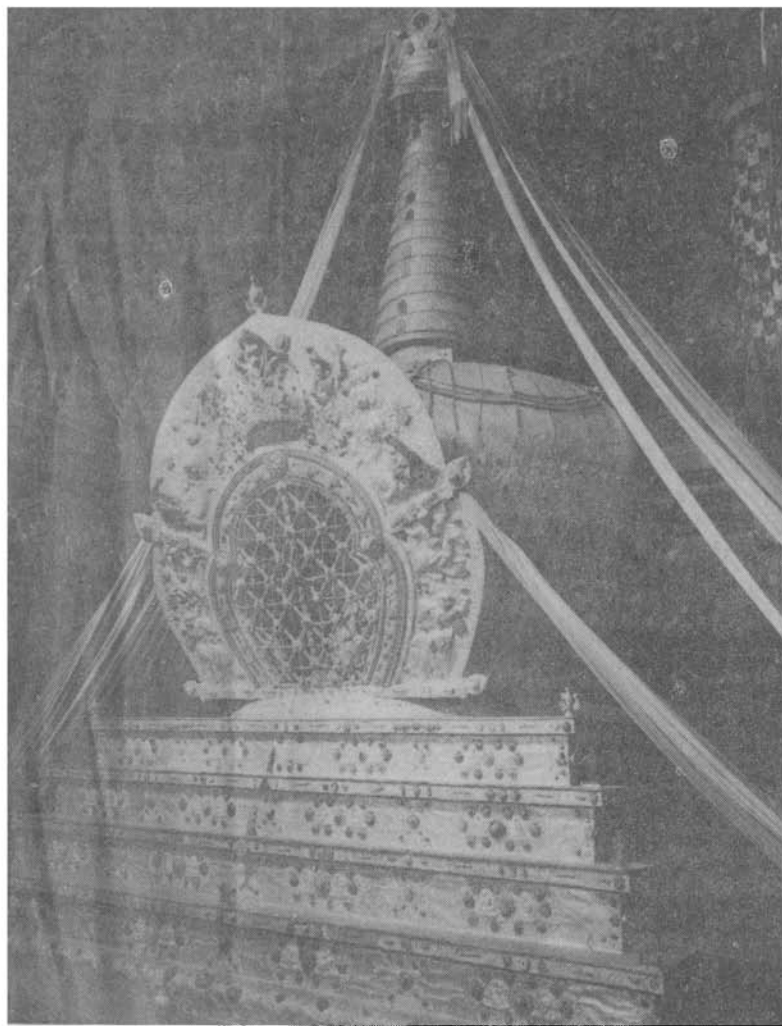
A fresco on the second floor of the West Hall depicts a pastureland scene.

Tufan Zanpu Songtsan Gambo, who rebuilt palatial rooms for the princess, as well as a city so that the princess could pass this achievement on to descendants. Some 999 rooms were built on the Red Hill in Lhasa. These, when added to the red mansion on the top of the hill, were the earliest buildings of the Potala Palace. Pious Buddhist believers compared this to Putuo Hill, the shrine of Buddhism, hence the name of Potala Palace for "potala" is a transliteration of Putuoluo.

It is regrettable that the palace was not completely preserved.

Between 754 and 797, much of the building was destroyed when lightning caused a fire. Also, in the late years of the Tufan Dynasty, turmoil and the chaos of war brought destruction to the palace. Only Gogde Zhabu (Fawang Cave) and Pebalakang (Paba Hall) were preserved.

The present Potala Palace was rebuilt in the 17th century. The 5th Dalai Lama, leader of the Yellow Sect of Buddhism, built the complex of the White Palace during a three-year period beginning in 1645 and upon its completion he moved his residence there. After the 5th Dalai Lama



The holy pagoda for the 13th Dalai Lama.

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passed away, the Red Palace was built in 1693 in order to commemorate the holy pagoda where his body was placed.

The frescoes of Potala Palace used line drawing and evenly spread colour as the basis for models. The use of colour was particularly skilful, giving a bold, unconstrained, clear and exquisite impression which embodied the traditional characteristics of Tibetan drawings. At the same time, they reflect, to different degrees, the influence of traditional Chinese ink and brush styles. For example, a few drawings among the frescoes of the Potala Palace

depict the history of palace construction—stonemasons busy at work and labourers struggling with their heavy loads along the mountain paths. Such techniques followed the traditional Chinese painting methods used for drawing landscapes.

Building methods for the Potala Palace were also influenced by Han nationality. The golden pinnacles and the complex *dougong* (carved brackets supporting the eaves from the columns), are the main decorative feature of Tibetan halls, temples and monasteries. The upturned eaves were developed from the Han style and,

in the western Sixi Puncog Hall and other places, one can see that the square wooden columns and *dougong* as well as the large roofs of Han buildings add lustre to the Potala Palace. It is said that during the Songtsan Gambo period, many Han masons were invited to Lhasa to demonstrate their skill. When the 5th Dalai Lama rebuilt the Potala Palace, Emperor Kangxi of the Qing Dynasty sent 114 masons to Lhasa to help with the work.

### A Potential Danger

A visit to the Potala Palace reveals that holes have been bored in many wooden columns and a small medicine bottle hangs on each. According to local government officials, it is one method of preventing wood rot from setting in.

Government officials say that most of the buildings of the Potala Palace are more than 340 years old. The oldest are the Fawang Cave and the Pebalakang Hall which were built more than 1,300 years ago. Since the Potala Palace was constructed mainly of stone, wood and earth, it is surprising that it has survived for so long. As a matter of fact, however, it is clear to experts that the palace is now in great danger of collapse.

As early as the time of the ninth and tenth Dalai Lamas, the Potala Palace was in a state of disrepair. The 13th Dalai Lama had some of the buildings maintained but unsafe conditions were discovered during the time of the 14th Dalai Lama. After Tibet's peaceful liberation in 1951, the central government and the local government of the Tibet Autonomous Region made routine examinations of the Potala Palace. In particular, since 1981, the State Administrative Bureau for Museums and Archaeological Data has adopted a series of measures to protect the Potala Palace, allocating a special fund

of more than 1 million yuan, while the autonomous regional government has invested an excess of 3 million yuan. But dangerous situations have emerged repeatedly in the magnificent building because of long years of neglect. In June 1984, for example, a fire caused by a short circuit after the old electric lines had been gnawed away by rats damaged the Qamba Buddhist Hall. When the palace was struck by lightning in 1987 because there was no lightning arrester on the palace, the electric meter was damaged, the telephone line was broken and four areas of the roof of the northern White Palace were damaged.

Local government officials say that the State Administrative Bureau for Museums and Archaeological Data has sent people many times to make on-site investigation into the conditions of the Potala Palace and that they report renovations are urgently needed. The most serious areas in need of repair are 61 main and 16 secondary buildings, and the danger mainly resulted from wood rot and rat infestation.

Since the structures of the Potala Palace were built one upon another, if a lower beam gave way, an upper floor would fall, a pillar would sink and slant, tenons would be out of joint and a beam would crack. A dozen or so halls have in this way been damaged. They include the holy pagoda hall of the 5th Dalai Lama, the hereditary hall of the Dalai Lama, the Fawang Cave and the East and West Halls. They face danger of imminent collapse and, unless renovations are done in time, the consequence could be irreparable.

In view of this, the autonomous regional government reported the dangerous condition of the Potala Palace to the State Council in September 1987. In March 1988, the State Council convened a special meeting on the mainte-

nance of the Potala Palace at which it was decided that the Ministry of Finance would allocate 35 million yuan for a five-year comprehensive maintenance programme beginning in 1989. In October 1989, the autonomous regional government made an announcement regarding the maintenance of the Potala Palace. On October 11, 1989, a grand sutra chanting ceremony was held in accordance with Tibetan customs and religious rites, and construction formally started.

The renovations have unfolded gradually with one hall after another being repaired. Because the work areas are narrow, it doesn't appear that large-scale construction was taking place. Even so, some halls have been repaired and interior decoration is under way.

### Original Style Kept

Local government officials say, "The maintenance of the Potala Palace proceeded strictly in accordance with the principle of 'maintaining the original condition' and 'dealing with an emergency and reinforcing key positions and maintaining the key points,' in order to ensure that its historical, artistic, scientific and economic values are not adversely affected.

"In compliance with this principle, the building materials used for the maintenance are basically the same as the original materials in quality and specifications. For example, the rotted wooden structures were replaced with wood, not other material. Current renovations are required to meet the standard that there will be no heed for minor repairs in 50 years and major ones in 100 years. All new wooden material has been treated against rot. An appropriate amount of new technology and new materials will be used in areas not visible to the

public so as to increase safety and endurance."

Experts from the Timber Research Institute under the Chinese Academy of Forestry Sciences, who were at the palace for work connected with wood preservatives, said that in order to prevent rot, a series of necessary steps had been taken. They first conducted laboratory test of insects in order to determine which insect killer to use, then applied the killer five to six times and finally used a treatment method of vacuum plus pressure. At the same time, the water content of the wooden structures is kept below 20 percent. Most of the wood was locally produced. The Yingtan Timber New Technology Development Corp. built



CHEN ZONGLIE  
A statue of Princess Wencheng in the Potala Palace.

a timber preservative factory on the southern bank of the Lhasa River and, at the same time, treated existing wooden structures to kill insects and prevent their spread.

In order to protect the vivid, colourful frescoes of the Potala Palace, a group of technical experts were organized jointly by

the Sichuan Cultural Relics Management Committee, the Henan Ancient Building Research Institute and the State Administrative Bureau for Museums and Archaeological Data to cleanse and repair the frescoes.

Whether the Tibetan cultural relics of the palace can be properly protected is an important maintenance question. Jia Yang, head of the maintenance office, said that in the current maintenance programme, fixed-site cultural relics such as the holy pagodas would be wrapped up and protected, while movable cultural relics will be registered at the management office of the Potala Palace and stored. Once restored, they will be replaced in their original positions.

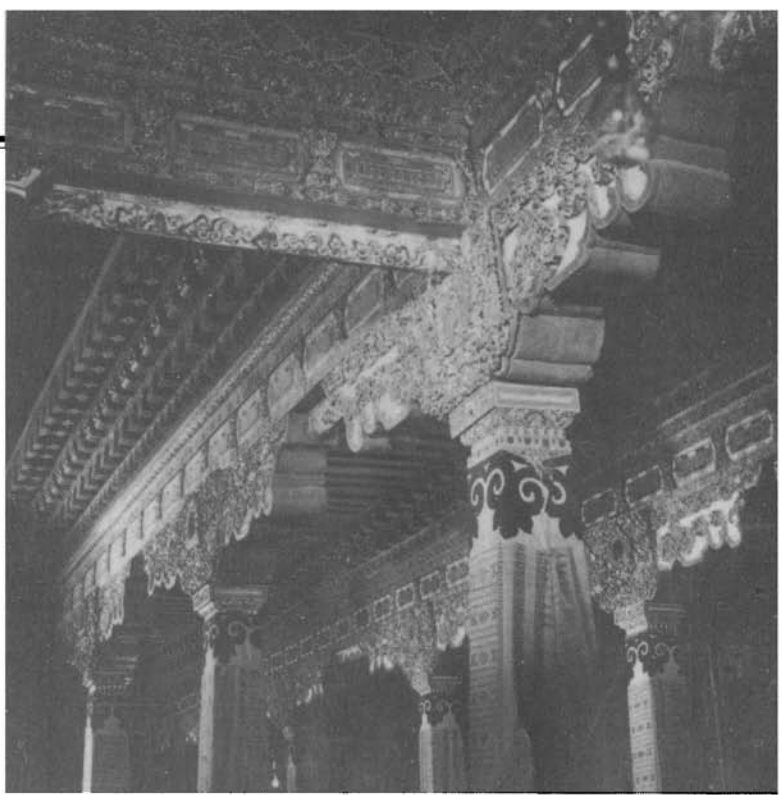


A beautiful portrait of Tara.

CHEN ZONGLIE

In addition, a lightning device, and an automatic fire alarm and extinguishing system will be installed.

The unit responsible for the renovation is the Tibetan Ancient Architecture Corp. which once participated in the repair work of the Juglakang (Jokhan) and Sangye monasteries and the Qamba



The exquisitely painted beams and rafters in the Potala Palace.

CHEN ZONGLIE

Buddhist Hall of the Potala Palace and is highly experienced.

### Work Progress

Overall renovation is expected to be completed in 1993 with 77 buildings repaired in five years. The steps for renovation are: first to keep up the maintenance of the main buildings, the foundation and then of the auxiliary buildings and buildings above the ground, deal with any emergencies which might arise and then keep up maintenance on the general structures.

According to Jia Yang, over the past year and more since construction started, work has proceeded smoothly. Construction of 12 projects have begun one after another, including removal of 2,000 tons of garbage and cleaning 126 square metres of frescoes. The cleaned frescoes are now dazzling brilliantly in colour. In regard to repairs which affect the wall body or frescoes with cracks, some 93.8 square metres have been peeled off and, in halls where repair work has started, more than 5,000 pieces of

artifacts have been moved.

Renovation is being carried out in accordance with a definite construction plan with each stage being checked and evaluated by the concerned government department.

While implementing the renovation plan, efforts are also made to protect the buildings of the Potala Palace and implement an overall plan. There is a tentative plan to place the ancient castle located in front of the Potala Palace and other auxiliary buildings under the management of the department in charge of the protection of cultural relics. It is also proposed that residential houses be rearranged and the original gates of the ancient city repaired in order to create a magnificent square in front of the Potala Palace.

Jia Yang said, "Renovation of the Potala Palace has caught the public's attention. We will work hard to fulfil this historical task so that the Potala Palace—man's cultural treasure—will stand forever on the 'Roof of the World'."

## Changes in Previous Tibetan 'Lifelong Serf Village'

by Lu Xiaofei and Liu Wei

*Tremendous changes have taken place in the Tibetan langsheng (lifelong serf) village. The langshengs, who had no personal freedom to speak of in the past, are now freemen who have their own attractive and spacious houses, draught animals and land.*

The manor of Benjor Hunpo, which lies to the south of the Zongshan Castle in Gyangze County of the Tibet Autonomous Region, was formerly controlled by an aristocrat named Paglha and was well known among the nearly 100 villages in Gyangze. The current village head Lhaba Logyal used to be Paglha's serf. During our recent visit to the village, Logyal related stories about the past and present of the village while we sat around him on woollen carpets and drinking strong buttered tea. Benjor Hunpo is now a small village with only 43 households and a total population of 290. Among the older generation, except for the 15 households which were Paglha's personal serfs, the remaining 27 households were Paglha's lifelong serfs known as langsheng. They were only allowed to marry between themselves and so their children were also langshengs. The village was well known. Whenever its name was mentioned during the early days of the democratic reform in 1959, people would quickly say "That's a langsheng village."

After the democratic reform, however, the social status of the former langshengs changed dra-

matically. In 1980, the central government introduced the policy of rehabilitation in Tibet and exempted agricultural and pastoral areas from tax payment. In 1984, local farmers and herdsmen were allowed to use the land distributed to them and to own the livestock raised by themselves. They were assured that the policy would remain unchanged for many years. Since then, their standard of living has improved day by day.

At the entrance to the village, when Lhaba Logyal took us to a small courtyard, an old woman, Lhaba Jeba, greeted us. She also was a former langsheng. Opposite her new house, there still stands a row of old "langsheng rooms," a black adobe house which was partitioned into 14 rooms, 4 square metres each. "In the past, a langsheng family had to live in such a small room no matter how many members it had," said the village head. "The tiny building housed as many as 14 families." The village maintained the "langsheng courtyard" to remind future generations of the bitter past.

There is a lane winding west to east through the village which is just wide enough for the village Jiefang-brand truck to get by.

Twenty new houses, all two-storeyed buildings with a small yard, have been built on both sides of the lane. Although they look a little disordered, even Paglha's house, which is located at the eastern end of the lane and was once regarded as the village palace, is eclipsed by them.

Although it is endowed with good farming conditions, the Gyangze Plain used to yield only 750 kg of grain per hectare in the early days of the democratic reform because of the backward cultivation methods. When a 17-km long irrigation channel was built along the village's southern fringe in 1983, however, it enabled the village to irrigate its 67 hectares of farmland with the water of the Nianchu River. In the same year, in order to put into practice the advanced agricultural techniques for increasing production, the Gyangze County sent a large number of agrotechnicians to the villages. In 1990, the county fulfilled its target of more than 50 million kg of grain and oils two years ahead of schedule and became the first county on the Tibetan Plateau with an annual output exceeding 50 million kg. Benjor Hunpo, whose production and living standards are average for the



county, fulfilled its target of 4,500 kg of grain per hectare. The output of some experimental plots in the village topped 7,500 kg per hectare.

Nyima Guzhoi and his wife were also langshengs of the Paglha family. An assistant of the village supply and marketing cooperative, he is more educated than most other villagers. The couple live frugally, saving much of their income to send their children to school. Except for the oldest daughter who is doing

**After the democratic reform, Nyima Guzhoi, a former serf for life of the Paglha family, became an assistant to his township's supply and marketing co-op. Now, he is retired.**



Nyima Guzhoi's new home and cows.

farmwork, the other six children have all received formal education. One is a cadre in Lhasa, one a teacher in Xigaze, and two are workers in Gyangze. Their third daughter Zholgar is studying foreign language in Qingdao, Shandong Province while their fourth daughter Qoinzang is a second-grade student at the livestock department of the Tibet College of Agronomy.

Last year, the village's per-capita income topped 900 yuan. The former langshengs have all moved into new, stylishly furnished houses. Like others, 73-year-old Lhaba Jeba has built her family earnings and possessions up from nothing. Now her family is considered "middle class." Last year, one hectare of her family's land yielded 5,600 kg of grain and oils, "a record high for the family," according to Lhaba. The family's per-capita income from agriculture alone was more than 1,000 yuan. When she shows off her barn, the old woman's happiness is evident. "We owe all these to good policy and scientific farming," she says.

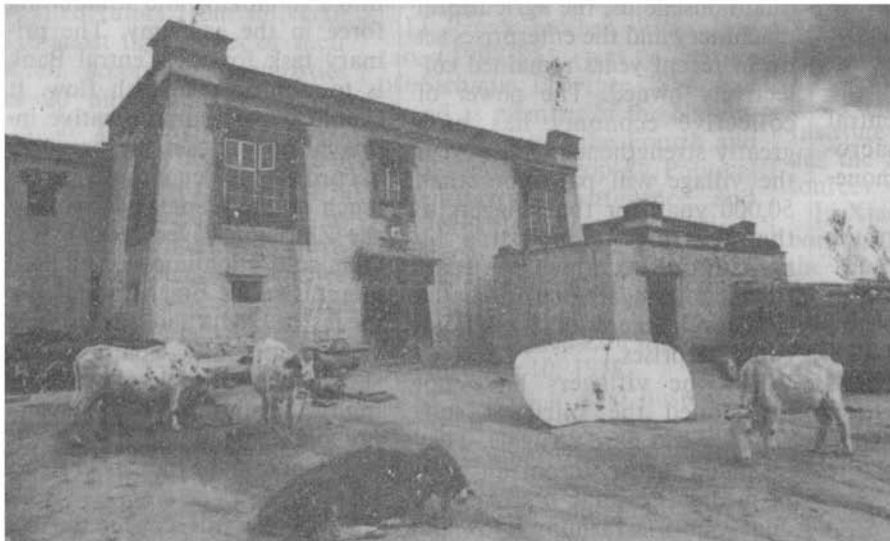
There are five poor families in the village, and the county government called on the Commun-

ist Party members and cadres to take the lead to help them get rid of poverty. In response, each of the five Communist Party members in the village chose a family to help. Lhaba Logyal, who is also secretary of the Party branch, chose the Qoizin family, the poorest of the five. When Qoizin's husband, an ironsmith (considered a "black bone" under serfdom) died, she was left with five children. Lhaba Logyal not only provided her with technical guidance but also with improved seeds. He and his wife helped her till the land. At the end of last November, the grain had already been threshed and Qoizin and her children were selecting seeds when we visited her. Qoizin was very grateful for the help she received, saying "Lhaba Logyal is a good man. I'm lucky to have his help." Last year, the total output of her family's 1.7 hectares of land reached 6,250 kg.

The Danzin family is another poor household in the village. The parents died and none of the six children is good at house keeping. Danzin is a shepherd and knows almost nothing about farming. Benba Norje, a new

Party member and also the deputy village head, accountant and agrotechnician, decided to help them. Finding that the family was energetic but lacked technical skill, he taught them how to plough and sow seeds, mix the seeds with farm chemicals, spread manure and other field management techniques. With Benba's help, the Danzin family gathered an autumn grain harvest last year that exceeded the contracted target by 500 kg. ■

Photos by CHEN ZONGLIE



## Main Tasks for 8th Five-Year Plan

XIN WEN BAO  
(News Journal)

**G**ao Shangquan, vice-minister of the State Commission for Restructuring the Economic System, recently pointed out the main tasks for reform in the Eighth Five-Year Plan period (1991-95). They are as follows:

—Deepen reform in enterprises and strengthen the risk-bearing mechanism of enterprise management, creating optional conditions for the implementation of certain measures which prove to be effective but lack required preconditions.

—Accelerate the pace of price reform, solve the problem of “double-track pricing system (the co-existence of state fixed price and the market price),” enlarge the concept of commodities and set up markets such as real estate, technology, financial and stock markets.

—Perfect the macro-economic control system by changing the present system of being responsible for the finance, and gradually transferring it to a system of tax distribution; co-ordinate the relations between the central and local governments and combine the current system of being responsible for the finance with the system. Strengthen the Central Bank's function of macro-economic control and the monetary and loan management.

—Accelerate the reform of the social insurance system and housing system. Build up a system of social insurance whose expenditures will be shared by the government, enterprises as well as individuals. The housing reform will centre on the partial commercialization of real estate which, presently is considered strictly social welfare.

Apart from the tasks men-

tioned above, reforms on the process of overall economic planning and the structure of the financial system will also get underway.

(November 3, 1990)

## Today's Dazhai

NONGCUN GONGZUO TONGXUN  
(Rural Work News Report)

**D**azhai is a small village in Xiyang County, Shanxi Province. However the recent years' reform in rural China also brought great changes to the village, both in ideological thinking and means of production, which greatly raised the level of people's standard of living.

In production management, Dazhai discarded the old leftist practices and implemented the policy of combining collectively owned enterprises with household-run enterprises resulting in maximum overall development. In 1989, the net income per capita in the village reached 700 yuan, four times that of 1978. The collective economy is also strengthened. In 1990 the fixed asset of the village totalled 3 million yuan and its 1989 cash income reached 0.4 million yuan, a 3 times increase over that of 1978. Although the land and cattle had been distributed to individual households, the agricultural machinery and the enterprises set up in recent years remained collectively owned. The power of collective economy has been greatly strengthened. Every year the village will pay more than 50,000 yuan for the villagers to the government including an agricultural tax which has benefited the villagers and promoted the development of household-run enterprises.

But the villagers have not abandoned the spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle. They attached great importance to farm land capital construction and scientific farming. Now the irrigated land has been increased

from its original 20 hectares to 40 hectares. They also cultivated and introduced new varieties of crops and improve the quality of soil. As a result the average per-mu yield has been maintained above 500 kilograms for several years.

The villagers said, “To get prosperous you need both a good policy and the spirit of hard struggle.”

(No. 10, 1990)

## Expanding Market Regulations

CAIMAO JINGJI  
(Financial and Trade Economy)

**C**hinese economist Liao Jili suggested that after the remarkable achievements of economic readjustment have been made, the regulatory role of the market should be brought into full play by strengthening macro-economic control. This should be accomplished through the following four aspects:

(1) Further revamping the macro-economic control system so as to balance the gross supply and gross demand of essential products.

(2) Strengthening the management of banks to turn currency into a stabilizing and stimulating force in the economy. The primary task for the Central Bank is to stabilize the cash flow. It should bypass administrative intervention and set up branches according to economic zones (such as the Yangtze River and the Zhujiang River deltas), free from restriction imposed by local administrative organizations. By means of credit and interest rate adjustments, the Central Bank should play the role of readjusting the relationship between supply and demand and remedy the imbalance of the industrial structure.

(3) Giving full scope to the role of the socialist market. A social-

ist market differs from a capitalist market in that it is planned, well-organized and under state guidance. In China, some people tend to regard the market as a source of chaos. In fact, however, the chaos in socialist economies stems from a lack of macro-economic control. Adequate macro-economic control will surely keep the market in order, ensuring it will not go out of control. We should further develop the socialist commodity economy by combining our effort of opening up to the outside world with these economic reforms.

(4) Fuelling the enthusiasm for enterprise self-management and straightening out the relationship between enterprises and the state. Government officials have made increasingly more demands on Chinese enterprises, dampening their enthusiasm for development under unified regulation. This situation should be rectified.

(No. 8, 1990)

## Individual Households Desire Tutors

XINMIN WANBAO  
(Xinmin Evening News)

Since 1990, some 1,000 individual households have invited tutors from universities to assist themselves or their children, according to statistics from 20 universities including Shanghai Jiaotong University, Fudan University and Shanghai Teachers' University, which is a new trend in Shanghai.

An individual household owner, engaged in repairing bicycles on Pingliang Road in Yangpu District, asked Shanghai Jiaotong University to locate a tutor for his child. Knowing, from the newspaper, that this university's tutor recommendation service offered 3-5 yuan per session, this particular man offered to pay up to ten yuan per session. "I've made money these years and my

life desire is to see my child educated and become a useful person," the owner told the new tutor, a student from the university, when they first met.

Another individual household, establishing a relationship with Shanghai Jiaotong University, went in for advisory service. Through his introduction, approximately 200 individual households, within several months, found tutors at the university.

Why do so many individual households invite tutors? As one of them said, "We cannot receive a good education when we go into private business. Therefore, we put our hope in our children, seeing to it that they are nurtured and well educated."

(November 13, 1990)

## Li Peng and His Family

ZIJING  
(Bauhinia)

Li Peng was born in Shanghai in October 1928.

Li's father, Li Shuoxun (1903-31), was one of the earliest members of the Chinese Communist Party and a renowned revolutionary activist. On September 16, 1931, Li Shuoxun was killed by the Kuomintang reactionaries at the young age of 28.

Li Peng's mother, Zhao Juntao (1902-85), was a native of Sichuan Province. She had served as member of the National Committee of the Fourth and Fifth Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and vice-president of the Beijing Chemical Institute. She died of illness in Beijing on December 14, 1985.

Li Peng married Zhu Lin in Beijing on June 10, 1958.

"Li Peng is a good husband," said Zhu Lin, "No matter who he is—ordinary cadre, minister or premier, he often helps me with the household duties whenever he has time."

"Old Li is a tidy man who

appreciates neatness. He always keeps his room clean and tidy. Everytime I am going on a business trip he helps me with the luggage. He is premier in the government but at home he is a model husband," Zhu continued.

Zhu Lin was born into a worker's family in Shanghai and suffered a lot during her childhood. After the liberation in 1949, she took part in the land reform movement in Sichuan Province. In 1951 she entered the Harbin Foreign Languages Institute to learn Russian. When she graduated from the institute in 1955 she was dispatched to work as a translator in a chemical plant in Jilin City, Jilin Province. Later she worked in the fields of electric power and foreign affairs in northeast China and Beijing.

In May 1984 she was transferred to the Daya Bay Nuclear Power Station from the North China Electric Power Bureau. At present she is a director of the Guangdong Nuclear Power Joint Venture Corp. Ltd. and director of its Beijing office. At the same time she also serves as a council member of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries and council member of the Chinese Women's Development Fund.

Li Peng and Zhu Lin have two sons and one daughter.

Li Xiaopeng, their eldest son, was born in 1959. He graduated from the North China Electric Power Institute in 1982 and now is an engineer at the Research Institute of Electric Power under the Ministry of Energy Resources.

Li Xiaolin, their daughter, was born in 1961. She graduated from the Electrical Engineering Department of Qinghua University with a master's degree in 1989. Now she is an engineer at the Beijing Bureau of Electricity Supply.

Li Xiaoyong, their second son, was born in 1963, and is now serving as a Major in the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

(No. 2, 1990)

## China's New Trade System

China's plan for further reform and improvement of foreign trade system has been recently approved by the State Council. Liu Xiangdong, spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, said at the news briefing held in January 23 that the purpose of the reform is, on the basis of the regulation of Renminbi exchange rate twice, to build foreign trade enterprises' mechanism of full financial responsibility so as to enable their trade to enter an orbit of the unified policy, equal competitions, independent operation and financial independence, and practise an agent system.

Liu said that since China carried out the pilot system of financial independence in 1988, it has achieved successful experiences in such undertakings as light industry, handicrafts and garments. This year China plans to implement the system of financial independence in foreign trade enterprises in an all-round way.

At the meeting, he said for the first time that China's export products, in particular agricultural and sideline products, are in the midst of unreasonable prices, the gap between official Renminbi exchange rate and market exchange rate as well as of incomplete refund of duty exist. To enable these products to be competitive with foreign products under the same conditions and gain foreign exchange to import the necessary technology, equipment and other materials, China must provide a small amount of economic aid to some export-oriented enterprises for a certain period. Some 4 percent of the total export value in 1987 was for aid, with 90 percent of this figure used for primary products. However, since foreign trade en-

terprises implemented contract management in 1988, allowances of this kind basically have been frozen. This year, however, China will, according to international practice, cancel the allowances for export products and carry out the system of financial independence.

Liu added that China plans to change the proportion of the retention of foreign exchange earnings carried out in accordance with localities, while implement the system of the unified retention of the foreign exchange earnings according to different commodities. Some 20 percent of foreign exchange from ordinary goods including machinery and electronic products should be turned over to the state, 10 percent to localities, 10 percent to production enterprises and the remainder to those specializing in imports and exports. Thus, the volume of retention of foreign exchange earned by foreign trade enterprises will increase greatly, creating favourable conditions for enterprise's management. In order to stimulate foreign exchange regulation, when all the provinces, municipalities, autonomous regions, foreign and industrial trade special import and export companies as well as other foreign trade enterprises fulfill their foreign exchange and purchase quotas, they are allowed to enter the market or join with other provinces in regulating their remaining foreign exchange.

In addition, management and operational measures of import commodities will be unchanged. To support domestic production and strengthen the comprehensive operational capacity of foreign trade enterprises, China will moderate import scope and improve the mix of import goods.

Liu stressed that the reform is a major turn in China's foreign trade system. It reflects the principle of planned economy and

market regulation and expands the scope of market regulation. This enables China's trade system to further suit international trade standard and helps participate in international exchange and specialization. Liu hopes that member countries of the General Trade Tariff Agreement (GTTA) to objectively appraise China's reform and restore its seat in GTTA contracting parties as soon as possible. **by Yao Jianguo**

## Investment in China To Heat Up

An economist noted that a decade of reform and opening to the outside world has brought about an improved investment environment and more favourable conditions for attracting international investment. China is expected to be a hot spot for international investment in the 1990s.

International investment has increased in China. For example, over the past three years China has attracted international investment of nearly US\$10 billion, exceeding the total for the eight previous years. For this reason, he believes that in the 1990s international investment in China will double that of the 1980s.

The economist said that China's current economic readjustment would not reduce attraction of the international investment. Since the second half of 1988, China's investment focus has shifted to such fields as agriculture, energy, transport and communication, rolled steel, fertilizer and chemicals and raw materials. The shift has yielded dramatic returns. The rate of inflation dropped from 18 percent in 1988 to 2.8 percent and the strained supply of power, coal, oil, steel products, cement and other basic

raw materials has been greatly eased. In addition, the supply of power and raw materials has been improved and the costs of production decreased.

However, some investors have their doubts about China's investment conditions and complained of Chinese banks—lack of guarantees for their investment. This, the economist said, is a temporary situation resulting from readjustment and rectification. China is a developing country. In order to maintain a proper scale and speed of construction, it plans to alternatively use tight and loose regulatory measures. From the long-term point of view, however, China is bound to expand channels to accommodate funds so as to attract more money for construction. At present, China has already expanded the business scope of foreign financial circles in the special economic zones and economic development zones.

Investment forms have also increased. Chinese law allows foreign investors not only to use currencies, materials and intellectual property as an investment for the establishment of foreign-funded enterprises but also to purchase stocks and bonds, lease or run small state-owned enterprises, buy land-use rights and develop or manage real estates. Most of the above investment forms have been stipulated in the country's law and some laws are being worked out.

Speaking of the flow of the international capital export, the economist added that the proportion of capital exported by developed countries to developing countries will increase slightly. In Asia for example, investment from Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan and Hong Kong will expand in the 1990s. However, China will also be a target of capital investment from the above countries and regions so long as it further opens its doors to the outside world. ■

## Drop in US Textile Import Quota

Liu Xiangdong, spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, pointed out at a press conference on January 23 that the United States' unilateral reduction of its textile import quota was unfair and of great concern to China.

Liu said that in mid-1990, the US side first popped the question of US imports of China's textile products from a third country. The two sides then conducted many talks on the problem. China has since paid much attention to this question, seriously investigating the charge put forward by the United States and then informed them of the result of our investigation. At the same time, the ministry took measures to further strengthen in-house management.

It is understood, Liu said, that the US side has unilaterally began to reduce its quota of textile imports from China. As both sides had not fully agreed to this step, Liu noted that the United States took action entirely on its own. This is unfair and is not in conformity with the "multi-fibre arrangement" and related stipulations of the Sino-US bilateral textile products agreement.

In conclusion, Liu Xiangdong pointed out that textile products are China's major export commodity to the United States and so the recent act by the United States will certainly adversely affect normal growth in Sino-US trade. China, therefore, reserves the right to adopt appropriate measures. At the same time, China hopes that the United States will not adopt any rash actions which could hinder Sino-US foreign economic relations and trade.

by Yao Jianguo

## Minister on Chemical Export

In a recent talk about chemical exports during the Eighth Five-Year Plan period, Chemistry Minister Gu Xiulian stressed the following goals:

- Improve the mix of export products so as to realize a change in exports from elementary products to processed goods and from primarily processed products to intensively processed goods.

- Set up export bases specializing in inorganic salts, tyres, bicycle tyres, rubber shoes, coatings, dyestuffs and fine chemicals.

- Expand export of chemical technology; export not only single-item characteristic technology but complete sets of technology.

- Expand the export market for chemical machinery and equipment.

- Make full use of China's advantage in chemical designs, construction and installations, enter international bidding for projects and organize project contracts and labour service export.

During the Seventh Five-Year Plan period (1986-90), import and export of China's chemicals amounted to more than US\$33 billion, most of which were imports. ■

## Co-operation Sought for 14 Projects

Chinese Premier Li Peng, in meeting with French friends on January 23, said that during the Eighth Five-Year Plan period (1991-95), China will renovate or build 14 petrochemical projects with a combined annual output of 2 million tons of ethylene. For-

eign businessmen are welcome to compete and co-operate in the ventures.

Kuang Yongtai, director of Production and Management Department of the China Petrochemical Corp. (SINOPEC) noted that the 14 projects are located in Guangdong, Jilin, Tianjin, Beijing, Hebei, Henan, Zhejiang, Xinjiang, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Hunan, Liaoning, Gansu and Shanghai. The SINOPEC will undertake to build three sets of large ethylene, chemical fibre and chemical fertilizer projects.

Kuang said the three sets of projects, each with an annual production of 300,000 tons of ethylene, will be set up in Shanghai, Maoming in Guangdong Province and Nanjing in Jiangsu Province. At present, the pre-construction project appraisal has been completed and proposals for projects in Nanjing and Shanghai have been submitted to the higher authorities. The three large chemical fibre projects each with an annual output of 200,000-250,000 tons of polyester are under preliminary appraisal. In addition, the three chemical fertilizer projects, each with an annual output of 300,000 tons of synthetic ammonia and 520,000 tons of urea, will be built in Jiujiang in Jiangxi Province, Yueyang in Hunan Province and Lanzhou in Gansu Province.

In addition to the above nine large projects, there are projects using funds collected by localities such as a 115,000-ton ethylene project in Guangzhou.

During the Eighth Five-Year Plan, China will continue to follow the economic retrenchment policy. In addition to some loans granted by the state, funds needed for new petrochemical projects will be raised in the form of international loans, direct foreign investment, locally raised funds and joint operation.

SINOPEC has established trade contact with nearly 100

banks from a dozen or so countries, and every year receives foreign commercial loans to the tune of several hundred million US dollars. A short time ago, some banks including the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan provided SINOPEC with US\$80 million in loans for the expansion of the Qilu Petrochemical Co.'s ethylene production.

The petrochemical industry is a new industry in China and, although China's annual ethylene production capacity has increased from 480,000 tons in 1980 to 2 million tons, China still has to import US\$4 billion worth of petrochemicals, especially processed chemicals.

by Han Guojian

## **Stainless Steelware for Export**

In 1990, the Shanghai Yue Jin Stainless Steelware Factory exported products worth a total of US\$4.0682 million. In the first quarter of this year, it has signed export agreements worth US\$4 million and obtained US\$2.01 million in new orders.

Attached to the state-owned land-reclamation agricultural, industrial and commercial system, the factory is the largest stainless steelware producer in China and specializes in the production of stainless steel kitchen utensils, tableware and other daily appliances. Since it was completed and put into operation in 1980, the factory has developed more than 160 varieties of export products with over 500 specifications and has sold them to North America and Europe.

The factory has established formal trade relations with 87 clients in 25 countries and regions. With new designs, high quality, competitive price and timely delivery, the factory's products have been popular with

clients.

To meet international market requirements, the factory each year provides its clients with new products. The factory's whistling tea kettles, for example, were popular with foreign businessmen at the China Guangzhou Export Commodities Fair held last autumn and, as a result, a dozen or so clients from six countries placed orders. A United States Special Market Co. placed orders worth US\$150,000 and indicated its wish to act as a sales agent.

With strict quality control, 96 percent of the factory's products are of first class standards. For instance, the United States Kinna Co. purchased 210,000 stainless steel kettles in three varieties last year. Through a DI05 test by the United States navy, all products proved to be up to standards.

The factory's director Tang Xingjie said that his factory plans to offer more than 30 new products at the Guangzhou Export Commodities Fair to be held this spring. Efforts will be made to further increase export. To this end, the factory will set up an office in the United States. In addition, the factory and a Shanghai business will establish a co-operative company in Melbourne, Australia, which is expected to begin business this year.

by Han Baoheng

## **News in Brief**

The Representative Office of Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (ROKTPC) formally opened for business at the China World Trade Centre on January 30. Ron Jae Won is the office representative.

On October 20 last year the China International Chamber of Commerce signed an agreement with the ROKTPC in Beijing for the mutual establishment of representative offices. At present, preparations to establish a representative office of China International Chamber of Commerce in Seoul are under way. ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Understanding Religions in China

*Religion in China—100 Questions and Answers*

First Edition 1990, 137 pages

Published by New Star Publishers

Reviewed by K. H. Ting, President of China Christian Council

It gave me great pleasure to read and now to recommend *Religion in China—100 Questions and Answers*, recently published in Chinese, English and French, a publication which gives a bird's eye view of the various religions of China.

It is often acknowledged that there is religious freedom in China and the book goes far in support of this assertion. It tells readers how religious groups enjoy their freedom and thrive and how they are solving all sorts of problems.

This is not an argumentative but a factual book. Its presentation of facts goes a long way to show that, while the leading political Party in China is Marxist and atheistic in its philosophical assumption, atheism is not being thrust upon the people. The Party believes strongly in the principle of a united front in which people of all shades of culture, tradition and faith can feel at home and are given the freedom to play their roles working for the prosperity of the motherland. It implies due respect for minority characteristics, including religious beliefs. The experiences of the last 40 years have fully shown that, wherever and whenever this principle is adhered to, the people are more united and have a higher enthusiasm for the country's modernization programme.

It is gratifying to see that religion is a moral force beneficial to the cause of China's construction.

I am glad to be able to say that there is good, cordial relationship among the various religious bodies these years and I hope the book will be widely received because it can contribute to a better understanding of the religious situation in China.

## Cultural Relics in Beijing

The Beijing Yanshan Publishing House has edited and published the beautiful pictorial *Beijing Relics*, due to be distributed in China and abroad. The book examines the extensive culture and long history of the ancient capital city. The book's clear description of archaeological relics gives both Chinese and foreigners a

good introduction to the city's achievements in this field since 1949.

Chen Xitong, mayor of Beijing, has described cultural relics in this way, "The cultural relics are like magnificent and gorgeous pearls, shining in the city of Beijing." The pictorial is a collection of the most representative relics of Beijing and includes unearthed artifacts, ancient buildings and the various exquisite museum-pieces in Beijing.

The collection of 250 colour photographs is edited chronically into 13 parts based on China's dynastic changes. The pictures are certain to enthral the reader. Purchase of this 184-page, bilingual pictorial for 116 yuan (approximately US\$23) provides readers with an opportunity to learn more about Beijing's cultural relics.

## Korean War Reaccounted

Edited by the Military History Department under the PLA Academy of Military Sciences, the book *War to Resist US Aggression and Aid Korea* (in Chinese edition), one of the *China Today* series, has been recently published by the China Social Sciences Publishing House and is due to be distributed both domestically and abroad.

The Korean War was a significant international event of the early 1950s and more than 2,320 kinds of publications have been compiled on the subject. China, as one of the main participants of the war, however, had not published a book of her own before this current publication of 480,000 Chinese characters came off the press.

The book fully recounts the activities of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC), the Chinese government and its leaders during the war. It includes an analysis on the international situation in the Far East at the time by the CPC and the forecast and preparations for the war and the dispatch of Chinese People's Volunteers' participation in the war to resist US aggression and aid Korea and defend the country. Chinese leaders such as Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai and Peng Dehuai, who commanded Chinese forces in the war, their strategies and tactics are also discussed in the book. It also covers the frontline of diplomatic effort and the war mobilization of the Chinese people.

Rich in background material and pictures, it is not only a reference book of high value for Korean War experts but also a popular reader for those interested in military history.

by Xie Guojun

## Ancient Civilizations in the Liaohe River Area

After a series of excavations and research on ancient cultural findings in northeast China, Chinese archaeologists have confirmed that the Liaohe River area is one of the birthplaces of Chinese civilization.

*Wonders of the Liaohe River—Ancient Civilization in the Liaohe River Area*, published by the Tianjin People's Publishing House, is the first specialized work devoted to the introduction and study of this ancient culture, dating back 5,000-6,000 years ago. Describing a large number of historical and archaeological materials, the author gives a detailed account of the origin, content, and characteristics of the ancient cultures in the Liaohe River area.

The Liaohe River has its source in the Yanshan Mountains and flows through the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region and Liaoning Province, totaling 1,400 kilometres in length. In 1906, archaeologists, for the first time, discovered cultural relics of the New Stone Age in Chifeng on the western reaches of the Liaohe River. After more than eight decades of excavations and investigations, especially after the work done in the recent ten years, archaeologists have acquired a basic knowledge of the past cultures in that area.

The Hongshan Culture, also belonging to the New Stone Age, was discovered at the Hongshan Mountain near Chifeng, Liaoning Province in 1935. It was a typical agro-economic culture in its advanced stage. In the 1970s, a number of jade sculptures and jade burial objects were unearthed here. After careful study of these jade objects, archaeologists have come to the conclusion that the Liaohe River area was the source of Chinese

jade sculpture. They also suggest that there was a "Jade Age" between the New Stone Age and the Bronze Age (about 4,000 years ago).

In Xinglongwa and Zhaobaogou, both in the Aohan Banner (county) of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, two cultural sites of the New Stone Age, believed to be earlier than the Hongshan Culture, were discovered. Pottery whose designs were different to those found in the New Stone Age remains of the Yellow River area, was found. Archaeologists also excavated the remains of a very unusual house whose door opened through the roof. Also unearthed were a stone engraving of a goddess (8,000 years old) and a pottery figure of a female head (7,000 years old).

The remains of an ancient

Chinese fortress city were discovered in Xiaojiadian, Chifeng. Walls of earth and stone had been built to defend the city against external attacks. In the Aohan Banner area alone, 2,000 such remains of ancient fortress cities have been found. The fortress city is the oldest one to combine city walls and moats to form an intricate defence system and it provides important material for the study of the development of ancient Chinese cities.

In the past 30 years, large numbers of bronze wares also have been unearthed in the Liaohe River area. The collection includes large bronze ritual vessels of the 14th century BC and other bronze wares such as swords, ritual and decorative objects used by horseback riding tribes. These finds provide some insight into the ancient bronze civilization in the Liaohe River area.

by Hong Lanxing

## Violinist Bridges West and East

Chinese violinist Liu Yuxi, now an associate professor at the Central Conservatory of Music, has devoted much of his time and energy to the comparative study of Western music and traditional Chinese music. Recently, Liu gave a special concert, treating his audience to his latest works of French and Chinese musics.

At the concert Liu first played three French musical pieces: the tender, melodious *Swan* by Saint Saens; the elegant and mild *Moonlight* by Debussy in which the Chinese audience found similarity between western impressionism and Chinese musics; and the *Après un Reve* by Gabriel-Urbain Faure which is refined and restrained.

Then Liu presented three popular Chinese classics. *Tender*

*Night* is a solo composed by Liu Tianhua, the father of modern Chinese music, in 1927. This Chinese has a flowing, emotional melody. On this occasion, Liu changed the piece from one which was usually played on the *erhu*, a traditional Chinese string instrument, to a violin solo. The second piece, *How Could I Forget Her?* has been popular among Chinese young people for several generations. The words are taken from a poem written by Liu Bannong, one of the pioneers of the Chinese New Culture Movement in the early 20th century. Liu Bannong was influenced by Romantic European poets, and the poem is rather emotional and touching. The music was composed by Zhao Yuanren, a great Chinese linguist and composer who was a



close friend of the poet. Zhao was the first Chinese composer to borrow Western concepts and techniques, and although he used many Western musical forms in this piece Zhao retained the traditional Chinese flavour. Liu Yuxi adapted the musics for the violin. *Lantern Festival* is Liu Yuxi's own composition based on a traditional *banhu* (an instrument similar to an erhu) piece. It depicts the merry and exciting scene of the lantern festival in northern China's rural areas. In his performance, Lu Yuxi smoothly combined the playing skills of both the *banhu* and the violin to produce a harmonious musical union.

Liu Yuxi was born to a family of musical tradition. In 1951. At

the age of 12, he entered the Central Conservatory of Music. After graduation, he became a teacher in the school. In 1983, he went to France and studied for about two years. He had performed on many occasions in France and was well received by the music elite. He also recorded two albums while in France — Beethoven's Violin and Piano Sonata and Chinese Violin Special. His French tutor, Gerard Poulet, praised him as being "among the most promising violinists in the world."

Liu owes much of his success to his family background. Liu Bannong, the poet, and Liu Tianhua were his uncles, and his father, Liu Beimao, was also a renowned Chinese composer and

erhu player. His father and two uncles had been acclaimed as "The Three Outstanding Lius." During the Chinese New Culture Movement, all three distinguished themselves in literature, phonetics, history, national musical education and English literature. They were all patriotic Chinese intellectuals. During their lifetime they made a great contribution to the development of Chinese national culture. In May 1990, a memorial hall dedicated to the Liu brothers was completed in their hometown — Jiangyin City in eastern China.

Liu Yuxi, with the spirit of his father's generation, is determined to carry on the family tradition and make his contribution to Chinese culture.

by Wang Jian

## Liuqin Opera in a Mountain Village

**L**iuqin Opera *Drum and Gong of A Mountain Village* entertained audiences at the Second China Drama and Opera Festival held recently in Beijing. The opera was jointly performed by the Liuqin Opera Performing Troupe of Zaozhuang City and the Liuqin Opera Performing Troupe of Tengzhou City, Shandong Province.

The opera tells of the story of the villagers in a mountain village in southern Shandong Province who, with their life becoming more prosperous, begin to seek more leisure-time diversions. Young farmer Ren Tianxi organizes his friends to set up an amateur opera troupe. The founding of the opera troupe leads to many happening in the village. Some people would rather open a restaurant than set

up an opera troupe; one man feels upset that his girlfriend, who becomes an actress in the troupe, would betray him. Through these people and events, the opera depicts many as-

pects of the life of the farmers in the late 1980s.

The *Liuqin* Opera, established in the early 19th century, is one of the local opera styles in China. It owes its name to one of its main musical accompaniment instruments called *Liuqin*.

by Hong Lanxing

XU XIANGJUN

A scene from *Drum and Gong of a Mountain Village*.



## A Wonderful Ride Down the Shennong Stream

Not many people are brave enough to face the rapids and dangerous shoals in the Yangtze River. There is no danger, however, in a ride down the Yangtze River tributary of Shennong which winds through the mountains and valleys. On a ride down the Shennong, one enjoys the beautiful scenery without having to undergo a hair-raising experience.

The Shennong river originates in the southern slope of the highest peak of the famous Shennongjia natural reserve located in Badong County, western Hubei Province. According to a legend, Shennong (Emperor Yandi), one of the ancestors of the Chinese nationality, was the first person to drift down the 60-km rivulet. The story said that after Shennong took the time to gather medicinal herbs in Shennongjia, he continued his ride down to the Yangtze River. Thus, the river was named Shennong after him.

Today, there is increasing tourist interest in the lazy 20-km river. Precipitous cliffs stand on both banks, the highest being 800 metres. In the most narrow section, the river becomes a stream only seven metres in width. Two Tujia nationality villages divide the 20-km gorge into three areas of Mianzhu, Yingwu and Longchangdong.

It is a unique trip down the river in a pea-shaped boat. Thirteen metres in length and 1.8 metres in width, the "pea-shaped boat" is made of hardwood. The boat bottom is flat and so seems to move over land when it glides over the high rocks and through low waters. Usually, five or six boatmen are needed to control the boat with the helmsmen or other boatmen jumping into the water to pull and push it through rough sections.

From Badong Port, it is a 36-km drive to the gate of the gorge and a two-km walk along the embankment to the starting point of Mian-

zhu Gorge. A quiet and limpid world, the multi-coloured stones and pebbles seem asleep along the riverbed while the river's movement provides an endless whispering sound. The rhythmic sound of the sculls, clear and melodious, now and again startles the many birds found in the area. As the boat moves along, the boatmen's *haozi* (a work song sung in synchronization with the movement of the boat) blends in with the harmonious cacophony of wild goats and monkeys.

On the precipices above the river, there are many bizarre stalactites and karsts of varied shapes and sizes. In front of the karsts, there are walls of stone and earth visible and along the face of the cliffs one can see plank roads, signs of battles from long ago. It is there, also, high above the river, that the ancient people placed their dead. Within the Yanziqian cave, 80 metres in height and 30 metres in width, a visitor discovers that numerous swallows have made their home on the roof.

Along the river, one often sees monkeys climbing and running about, wild ducks following their boat and rock hawks hovering over the gorge. Sometimes, people are lucky enough to see large one-metre-high owls standing by the bank. River deers and goats are common. There are also golden and silver soft-shelled turtles, precious red salamander and black salamander. Bamboo stands high above the luxuriant grasses and bushes lining the shores.

The zigzagging stream, studded with shoals, is also marked with steep drops. The shoals hamper the drifting and add an atmosphere of excitement to the ride. The average depth of some 20 shoals is no more than 0.5 metre while 30 other shoals have an average drop of 1.7 metres, the highest being three metres. At times, the boat along the river reminds one of an arrow flying through the

sky. As one reaches the Changpiao of the Yingwu Gorge, however, the river slightly widens, the rapids slow and the water becomes still enough to reflect the blue sky. Visitors then have a chance to relax and get a glimpse of the clear waters which ooze from the Three Colors Spring and create long coloured streamers on the river.

The two villages of the hospitable Tujia nationality have less than 200 households whose earth-and-tile houses are surrounded by bamboos and banana trees. Visitors to the villages can drink a liquor made with maize by the villagers, tour their water mill with the stone grinder and examine the primitive tools they use for extracting oil. Tourists may also enjoy a performance of Tujia dance and drama and buy precious Chinese medicinal herbs, locally grown orange and mushrooms, as well as hand-made weaved goods.

The National Tourism Administration is planning to develop the Shennong River as a new scenic site of the Yangtze Three Gorges. In recent years, many Chinese and foreign experts have highly praised the area for its natural beauty. John V. Delp, an American business agent in Japan, said after touring the river, "I have visited China 49 times, but this was the best trip of all."

On April 2 this year, the Shennong River will formally open for visitors. Tian Yuan, deputy director of Badong Tourism Bureau, said that main tour of the area will be a trip along the river. He added that the "pea-shaped" boat will be used along with modern rubber rafts. Already, a restaurant with Tujia flavour has been built. The restaurant provides dance and musical performances by Tujia youth and is planning to build a nearby swimming site.

by Lou Linwei

## Engravings by Yang Yilei

Yang Yilei, born in Zhejiang Province in 1948, is now an art teacher in the Nantong Municipal Children's Palace in Jiangsu Province. His richly composed engravings are created with bold lines and a vivid decorative technique.



My Father.



A Girl and Her Toys.



Warrior.



Birthday Party.



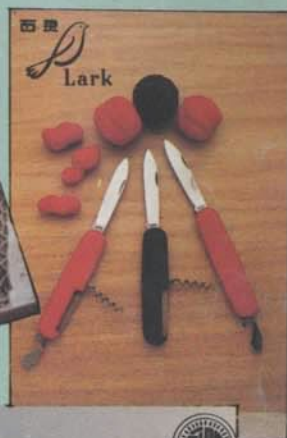
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