

PEKING

March 17, 1959

11

REVIEW

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報

Safeguard the Geneva Agreements! Defend Peace in Indo-China!

A *Renmin Ribao* editorial on the U.S. menace to peace
in Indo-China (p. 5).

Tense Situation in Laos

News reports and commentaries (p. 7).

Fisheries Net Highest Hauls

The achievements of China's fishing industry (p. 12).

Hai River Transformed

March 8th Echoes

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PEKING REVIEW

北京周报

(BEIJING ZHOUBAO)

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE
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March 17, 1959 Vol. II No. 11

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Latin America in Ferment

THE rapid-fire developments south of the Rio Grande indicate that all are in uproar in the backyard of the United States.

Latin America, a continent two and a half times the size of Europe with a population of 180 million hard-working but long-suffering people, is in the throes of a resolute fight for national independence and democracy. The collapse of the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in Cuba gave the national liberation movements in the Latin American countries a shot in the arm. The heroic struggles for freedom and democracy are directed against the U.S. Following the mammoth demonstration in Havana against U.S. interference, the people of Bolivia voiced their violent protest against U.S. insults to their national dignity and honour. Opposition to U.S. economic exploitation and political domination is mounting among the peoples of Latin America.

Reviewing the course of events in Latin America, U.S. newspapers note with alarm "the traditional resentments against Yankee imperialism and the colossus of the north," and "hostility toward the Washington administration and its policies." For the Yankee jingoes, this series of anti-U.S. flare-ups is the writing on the wall.

This "legacy of anti-Yankeeism" has its deep-rooted causes. Latin America, one of the world's richest regions, presents a shocking economic picture. The people of Latin America know who is to blame for their poverty and suffering although their countries are endowed with fabulously rich resources.

The United States has long treated the Latin American countries as one of its essential sources of supply of cheap raw materials and a handy market for U.S. capital and manufactured goods. U.S. newspapers admit that Uncle Shylock's record in Latin America has been one of dollar diplomacy, financial meddling, political domination and the use of U.S. Marines. U.S. investments in Latin America are estimated at 9,000 million dollars, accounting for 30 to 40 per cent of all U.S. overseas investments. In the three-year period, 1954-56, the U.S. invested 764 million dollars and took out 2,174 million. That is to say, for every dollar invested, nearly three dollars were taken out.

U.S. News and World Report gave a typical, vivid picture of U.S. domination in the Latin American countries when it discussed the new situation in Cuba. The magazine wailed:

"The fast-paced developments in Cuba had much importance and meaning for the United States. In Cuba is the huge U.S. naval base at Guantanamo. There, too, are American public and private investments that reach close to a billion dollars. The U.S. Government owns a nickel mine at Nicaro. American businessmen have substantial investment in sugar companies, oil refineries, mining companies, public utilities and hotels . . ."

In view of this heavy vested economic interest and the geographical location of Latin America, Washington views the ever-growing national liberation movements in the Latin American countries with panic.

The Chinese people follow with profound sympathy and admiration the ever-expanding national independence movements in Latin America. History teaches that imperialism and colonialism must go. Although the Latin American peoples still have a long, stony road to travel before they win final victory, no force on earth can turn back the wheel of history.

ROUND THE WEEK

N.P.C. Will Meet on April 17

The First Session of the Second National People's Congress and the First Session of the Third National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference are scheduled to convene simultaneously in Peking on April 17.

This was announced jointly by the Standing Committee of the N.P.C., China's supreme organ of state power, and the National Committee of the C.P.P.C.C., the organization of the people's democratic united front in China.

The main agenda of the forthcoming N.P.C. session is:

- a) Report on the work of the government.
- b) Decision on the national economic plan for 1959.
- c) Examination and approval of the final accounts for 1958 and the state budget for 1959.
- d) Election of the leading personnel of the state.

The joint notification also stated that the N.P.C. deputies and C.P.P.C.C. members should make tours of inspection, wherever possible, before the convocation of the N.P.C. and C.P.P.C.C. sessions and report for the meetings before April 16. There are 1,222 deputies elected from all over the country to the Second N.P.C.

Discussing Production Targets

When one of the rolling mills in the steel city of Anshan discussed the current production targets a short while ago, the workers vied with one another in finding ways and means to bring the mill's potentiality into full play. Not just to ensure the realization of these state targets, which were set higher than last year's, but to make a greater contribution to the national battle for steel. The discussions developed into a mass campaign, drawing in the offices as well as the workshops, and brought forth many technical reforms. In the end the workers, engineers and administrative staff together set themselves an ambitious goal—to double the mill's production in April.

Many enterprises in the country have initiated mass discussions of their production targets. The workers discuss and examine the types and amounts of work they are going to do, and search for the best ways. They scrutinize the targets to see if they are practical or forward-looking enough. The discussion

of production targets by the workers gives the enterprises an opportunity to take stock and draw upon new sources of strength. Take the Yangpu Textile Mill in Shanghai, for example.

Not until the current discussion of its production targets, which included an analysis and comparison with other mills, did the workers of the Yangpu Textile Mill realize that they were lagging behind some of the best mills in Shanghai, and in quite a number of ways. The discussion opened their eyes to something else too—that they could catch up with their colleagues. They sent their comrades to learn from those who could teach them. They introduced technical reforms. They reorganized their manpower, etc. They now calculate that they can catch up with Shanghai's leading textile mills and overfulfil the production targets set by the state by 35 per cent in total output value and increase labour productivity by 22 per cent, without having to call for additional manpower and equipment

A Commune Debates

Many people's communes are now drawing up their production plans for the year, too, an important prelude to the spring sowing. Members of communes debate and post *dazibao* (opinions and criticisms written out in bold Chinese characters on large sheets of paper and posted freely for everybody to see) to express their views on how the targets should be set and what measures should be taken. The Sanyang People's Commune in Pingchiang County, Hunan Province, of old revolutionary fame, is a good example of the way mass discussion of production targets is developing in the countryside.

The members, guided by the commune's Communist Party committee, first looked into the favourable conditions that existed for another leap this year. For one thing, the commune has a much larger fund at its disposal and can organize its manpower on a much larger scale. The commune has the experience of last year's big leap forward to draw upon. And finally, the spade work done for the spring sowing and the material conditions are much better than last year.

Then they debated two questions primarily. First, the question of the best use of manpower. Three main points emerged: the strong reinforcement of the labour force, now that the housewives were no longer tied to the kitchen. Second, quite a few of the members

had to take leave last year to tend their small family plots or to fell firewood. Now their needs in these respects were looked after by the commune. Third, the advantages of improved tools. After the debate the members reached agreement that the question of labour shortage this year could be solved.

The next question was whether they could double output this year. Analysing the situation of last year, the members found that success was due to the importance attached to irrigation, close planting and adequate application of fertilizer, three of the eight measures of the Charter of Agriculture considered essential for high yields. If all the eight measures of the Charter of Agriculture were carried out this year, they estimated, they could achieve much more. So as the discussions proceeded they finally settled on a twofold increase in agricultural output as their target for the year.

"Second Youth"

On March 9 *Beijing Ribao* (Peking Daily) featured an article by Liang Ssu-cheng, the famous architect, entitled "My Second Youth Will Not Be Wasted." He traced the course of his political development, from his aloofness at the time of liberation to a growing admiration of the Communist Party and all the things it was doing for the country, and from admiration finally to aspiration to join its ranks. He said that with his admission into the Communist Party—which is both an honour and a responsibility in China—he has begun his "second youth." He pledged to give his all to the Party's cause.

The occasion was the announcement in the national press of new members admitted into the Communist Party in Peking and in the central government offices. Prominent new members from academic circles, in addition to the architect Liang Ssu-cheng, include: Chen Yuan, the historian and President of the Peking Teachers' University; Chou Pei-yuan, the physicist and Vice-President of Peking University; Chang Tse-kao, a septuagenarian, Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering of Tsinghua University.

Chen Yuan wrote in *Renmin Ribao* (March 12) on his admission into the Party. He said he is an old man of nearly 80 and regretted that he had come to embrace communism rather late in life. He had yearned for light in the 60 or 70 years in the old society, he said, but everywhere darkness prevailed. The record of the past ten years had convinced him that the Communist Party is the force that has brought light to China.

Safeguard the Geneva Agreements! Defend Peace in Indo-China!

Following is the full text of the "Renmin Ribao" (People's Daily) editorial of March 11, 1959. — Ed.

THE frenzied plans of aggression of U.S. imperialism which are now being stepped up, seriously threaten peace in Indo-China. Using Thailand and south Viet-nam as its bases, the U.S. is trying to put Laos completely under its control, to subvert the Royal Government of Cambodia and encircle the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam in order to seize the whole of the Indo-China peninsula, threaten the peaceful and neutral countries in Southeast Asia and menace the southern borders of China. The aggressive acts of U.S. imperialism in flagrantly sabotaging the Geneva agreements, aggravating tension in Indo-China and threatening peace and security in Southeast Asia, are becoming a more and more serious problem.

The U.S. has long hoped to seize and control the Indo-China peninsula. As far back as 1950, the U.S. tried to get its finger into the pie by taking advantage of the difficult situation in which France found itself in suppressing the national independence movements in Indo-China. This U.S. scheme, however, was frustrated by the heroic struggle of the peoples of Indo-China and the Geneva agreements concluded in July 1954. Those agreements restored peace to Indo-China. The signatories undertook the obligation of ensuring respect for the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet-nam, Laos and Cambodia and non-interference in their internal affairs. At the same time, the signing of the Geneva agreements played a positive role in enlarging the peace area in Asia and easing tension in the Far East. It was a tremendous victory for the peoples of Indo-China and Asia and a grave defeat for the Western colonial and imperialist forces. The Geneva agreements won the firm support of all socialist and other peace-loving countries and peoples. The Governments of India, Indonesia, Burma, Ceylon and Pakistan issued statements in support of these agreements pointing out that they were an outstanding contribution to the consolidation of peace in Southeast Asia. Despite the declaration of the U.S. at the Geneva Conference that it would not resort to threats or armed force to hamper implementation of the Geneva agreements, in September of the same year it scraped together the aggressive "Southeast Asia Treaty Organization" and arbitrarily put Viet-nam, Laos and Cambodia on the list of its so-called "protected areas." Since then, the U.S. ambition to lay its hands on Indo-China has become clearer day by day.

In the past four years or more, the U.S. imperialists have concentrated on trying to head the various countries in Indo-China away from national independence and

peaceful neutrality. Not for one single day have they halted their sabotage plots against the Geneva agreements and their aggression and interference in the countries of Indo-China. First the U.S. stepped up its aggressive activities in south Viet-nam; it fostered the Ngo Dinh Diem clique as a tool for obstructing the national unification of Viet-nam and extending U.S. control in Indo-China. Politically, the Ngo Dinh Diem clique, backed and directed by the U.S., has not only unwarrantably refused to hold consultations between north and south Viet-nam and nationwide general elections for realizing the common desire of the 25 million Viet-namese people to unify their country, but has frantically persecuted former resistance fighters and patriots from all strata of the population. The Phu Loi incident, in which more than a thousand political prisoners were murdered with poison, came to light not long ago; this added another example to the series of heinous crimes planned jointly by the U.S. imperialists and the Ngo Dinh Diem clique. Militarily, the U.S. has been intensifying its interference and control in south Viet-nam. It has established military bases in south Viet-nam and there are nearly two thousand U.S. military advisers among Ngo Dinh Diem's troops. Between December 3 and 24, 1958 alone, the U.S. introduced 3,900 tons and over one thousand crates of war materials into south Viet-nam. Large numbers of U.S. and south Viet-nam armed military personnel have intruded again and again into the demilitarized zone to carry out provocations against the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam and create tension. Moreover, the U.S. has ordered the puppet south Viet-nam regime to send so-called "observers" to the meetings of the Manila treaty bloc and its military exercises. All this violates the provisions of the Geneva agreements.

THREE years after Laos signed the Geneva agreements, political agreement was reached between the Pathet Lao fighting units and the Royal Laotian Government and the Geneva agreements were being carried out. But the U.S. instigated the pro-American reactionary forces in Laos to bring pressure to bear on the Laotian Government and to demand that it tear up the Geneva agreements and renounce its neutral policy. Since Sananikone took power in Laos in August last year, he has followed a policy of subservience to U.S. imperialism and open betrayal of the Geneva agreements. He has stepped up persecution of the patriotic democratic forces, undermined the political agreement for internal peace and unity and placed Laos further under the military, political and

economic control of the U.S. The U.S. has increased its military aid to Laos, sent large quantities of new weapons and U.S. air force personnel of Philippine nationality to that country, built strategic highways and airfields and established U.S. military bases there. For some time now, Laos has been stepping up its military provocations against the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam, created border incidents and, using these incidents as pretexts, vociferously spread slanders about the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam carrying out "aggression." On the other hand, it has repeatedly rejected the proposals of the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam that the two sides negotiate a settlement of the border disputes. This is obviously in co-ordination with U.S. aggressive activities throughout Indo-China. Early in January this year when Laos raised a clamour about "intrusions" into its border areas by the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam, the U.S. propaganda machine smugly declared that "any fighting in the area might lead to action by the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization." The Laotian army chief of staff Rattikul then issued a statement to U.S. pressmen asking SEATO to send an observer to Laos. On January 18, the Laotian ambassador to Thailand, Chao Kampan, declared that he would ask for SEATO aid. On February 11, the Laotian Prime Minister Sananikone himself came out to state that Laos was no longer bound by the Geneva agreements. The U.S. State Department immediately expressed support for him on the following day and declared that from now on the U.S. was free to set up a military mission in Laos. Recently, the Royal Laotian Government was openly ordered to send "observers" to attend the military exercises of the aggressive SEATO bloc. All this has clearly exposed to the world the U.S. plot of using the reactionary Laotian authorities to create tension in Indo-China, tear up the Geneva agreements and drag Laos further into the SEATO military bloc.

THE Royal Cambodian Government has consistently observed the Geneva agreements, unswervingly followed a policy of peace and neutrality and made important contributions to safeguarding peace in Indo-China. But this has greatly incensed U.S. imperialism which is trying hard to seize all Indo-China. Since 1958 the south Viet-nam forces have encroached upon Cambodia's borders on scores of occasions. Repeated provocations against Cambodia also have come from Thailand. The Cambodian traitor Son Ngoc Thanh organized the so-called "Free Khmer" armed clique, and sought a chance to seize the border provinces and set up a "free government." In January this year, the Cambodian Government unearthed a traitorous clique headed by Sam Sary. Late in February, it unearthed another case of treason committed by Chhuon Mochulpich, military commander of Siemreap province. The connections between U.S. imperialism and all these aggressive provocations and subversive activities are known to everybody. The Cambodian Government and people have successively smashed conspiratorial schemes hatched both inside and outside of the country, and safeguarded the independence and sovereignty of Cambodia. However, U.S. imperialism is still trying by every means to obstruct implementation of the Geneva agreements in Cambodia and sabotage the policy of peace and neutrality pursued by the Royal Cambodian Government.

The Geneva agreements are the foundation of peace in Indo-China and the safeguard of the independence and sovereignty of the Indo-China states. They are a vital link in the peaceful coexistence among the Asian nations. Since the Geneva agreements first came into force, a stiff struggle has been waged between the forces of peace and the forces of imperialism. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam, the Royal Cambodian Government and the Laotian patriotic democratic forces have made consistent and tireless efforts to carry out and uphold the agreements. They have the support of the peoples in the Indo-China states and the peace-loving peoples of Asia and throughout the world. The international commissions concerned have made corresponding efforts to this end. On the other hand, the U.S. has all along taken a hostile stand in opposing and undermining the Geneva agreements. It uses the Ngo Dinh Diem clique in south Viet-nam and influential circles in Thailand as its pawns, colludes with the pro-U.S. quarters in Laos headed by Sananikone to control the political situation there and threatens and intimidates the Royal Government of Cambodia, in an attempt to push the whole of Indo-China on to the dangerous path of war. It must be pointed out that the present intensified activities of U.S. imperialism to interfere in and control the Indo-China states are closely connected and co-ordinated with its intensified activities in pursuing a policy of aggression and war throughout Asia. At the same time as the U.S. announced its signing of bilateral military agreements with Pakistan, Iran and Turkey and further harnessed these countries to the U.S. war machine, large-scale military exercises directed by the U.S. were held in Thailand in an attempt to intimidate the Indo-China and Southeast Asian countries. Instigated by the U.S., the Ngo Dinh Diem clique carried out harassing activities on China's Hsisha Islands. The remnant armed units of the Chiang Kai-shek clique, which are active in Laos, have also stepped up their harassing activities and sabotage on the borders of China's Yunnan Province. It is therefore clear that the U.S. schemes of interference and aggression now being carried out in Indo-China, especially in Laos, are an important component part of the overall U.S. plot to create tension in Asia. It is very clear that upholding the Geneva agreements and stopping the aggressive activities of U.S. imperialism aimed at seizing the whole of Indo-China is a matter of direct concern for peace and security not only of the peoples in Indo-China but of Southeast Asia and throughout the Asian region.

CHINA is a participant in the Geneva agreements. It has consistently devoted its efforts to upholding those agreements. The aggressive U.S. plan to seize the whole of Indo-China peninsula directly menaces the security of China. The Chinese people, therefore, cannot but express justified concern over the grave situation that has now emerged in the Indo-China peninsula, particularly in Laos. The Chinese Government has issued a statement on this question and addressed a letter to the co-chairmen of the Geneva Conference, calling for a stop to U.S. and Laotian actions undermining the Geneva agreements and urging the international commission in Laos to continue its functions of supervision and control. The Chinese people fully support the struggles of the peoples of the

Indo-China states to safeguard their independence and sovereignty and oppose foreign interference. They certainly will not allow the U.S. imperialists to carry through their plots to control the whole of Indo-China and further threaten the security of neighbouring countries. The Geneva agreements must be upheld. Peace in Indo-China

must be safeguarded. This is the unanimous demand of the peoples of all countries in Indo-China and the inescapable responsibility of all countries participating in the Geneva Conference. It is also the most urgent common task of all countries and peoples in Southeast Asia who cherish peace and independence.

TENSE SITUATION IN LAOS

Chinese public opinion continues to voice concern over the serious situation that has emerged in Indo-China and particularly in Laos. On March 13 and 14, "Renmin Ribao" carried two commentaries by its Commentator on the Laotian situation. Following is an abridged translation of the commentaries as well as the related news reports. — Ed.

Laos Helps Remnant Chiang Kai-shek Troops

FOR six months past remnant Chiang Kai-shek troops operating in Phong Saly and Houi-sai Provinces in Laos have been continually invading China's border areas in Yunnan Province. Available evidence proves that these troops in their operations have been getting active support and material aid from the Laotian authorities.

The Laotian authorities have allowed these Chiang troops to establish secret bases on the northern Laotian borders and to muster, train and expand their forces there. They have provided the Chiang troops with food and ammunition, connived at their activities and instigated them to invade Chinese villages on the Yunnan border on many occasions, creating disturbances and engaging in pillage and espionage. Last September, when the remnant Chiang Kai-shek troops who had been harassing Burmese territory, invaded China's border areas in Yunnan Province along several routes, the Laotian authorities allowed them to pass through Laotian territory. The commander of the Laotian troops stationed in Muong Xin also offered the Chiang troops the use of a special ferry on the Mekong River and invited the chief of that contingent of the Chiang troops to plan military operations jointly. The Laotian authorities also handed over to the Chiang troops large quantities of ammunition which had been air-dropped by U.S.-Chiang Kai-shek planes on to Laotian territory in the first half of last year. Last December, the Laotian military authorities reached a secret agreement with the remnant Chiang troops permitting them to use Laos as a base for receiving supplies air-dropped for them by the United States and for harassing China's border areas in Yunnan Province.

Laotian military aircraft have also actively cooperated with these remnant Chiang troops by intruding into China's territorial air on many occasions, to carry out low-altitude reconnaissance and create disturbances. An incomplete count shows that nine groups of Laotian military aircraft have intruded into China's territorial air since last September. On October 21, 1958 alone, three aircraft intruded into the Yiwu, Mengman and Kiangcheng areas of China. On January 16 and 23 of this year,

Laotian military planes again intruded into the Mengla area in China, carrying out low-altitude reconnaissance and creating disturbances.

The Laotian authorities have also been colluding with the secret agents' organizations of the Chiang Kai-shek clique, permitting them to use the Muong Xin area in Laos to carry out espionage and sabotage activities against China. On many occasions, they have taken advantage of trade contacts across the border to send special agents to China's border areas in Yunnan Province to collect information, spread rumours and instigate riots.

These above-mentioned provocations by the Laotian authorities in collusion with the remnant Chiang troops along the borders of Yunnan are supported and engineered by the U.S. imperialists. Members of the U.S. military advisory group and economic inspection mission have been active in the region of Muong Xin and Nam Tha in Laos near the border of Yunnan in the past six months. U.S. secret agents have established permanent organizations in that region under the guise of performing medical services.

The United States is plotting for the remnant Chiang Kai-shek troops and the pro-U.S. forces in Laos to provoke conflicts on the Sino-Laotian border with the aim of creating a pretext for gradually bringing about armed intervention by the United States and the aggressive SEATO bloc and for dragging Laos step by step into that bloc in open or secret form.

(Hsinhua News Agency, March 13)

Whither the Laotian Government?

Commenting on the hostile activities of the Laotian authorities reported above, the "Renmin Ribao" Commentator wrote on March 14:

THE recent hostile actions of the Royal Laotian Government against the Chinese people further points up the gravity of the current situation in Laos and Indo-China as a whole.

These extremely unfriendly acts towards the Chinese people by the Royal Laotian Government violate the five principles of peaceful coexistence and the resolutions and spirit of the Bandung Conference. They also violate the

joint statement signed by Chinese Premier Chou En-lai and the then premier of the Kingdom of Laos, Prince Souvanna Phouma, on August 25, 1956.

It must be pointed out that the actions of the Royal Laotian Government, which undermine friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries and run counter to the interests of the Laotian people, are by no means fortuitous. They are closely related to the new scheme of the U.S. imperialists to bring the whole of Indo-China under their control.

Recently, the U.S. imperialists have intensified their aggressive activities against the Indo-China states and aggravated tension in this area. They are attempting to scrap the Geneva agreements completely, drag south Vietnam and Laos one way or another into the Manila military bloc, and actively conduct subversive activities in Cambodia, so as to achieve their aggressive aim of controlling the whole of Indo-China and menacing the peaceful and neutral countries in Southeast Asia.

Meanwhile, they are actively instigating the Laotian authorities and using the remnant troops of the Chiang Kai-shek army to provoke conflicts on the borders of China and the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam as a pretext for further military intervention by the United States and the Southeast Asian aggressive bloc.

Laos occupies a very important place in the U.S. plan for aggression against Indo-China. Having subjected Thailand and south Viet-nam to its control, the United States is actively trying to turn Laos into another military base with a view to isolating and then subverting the Royal Cambodian Government, threatening the Viet-nam Democratic Republic and engaging in provocations against China. If the U.S. scheme succeeds, the area of peace in Indo-China, created by the Geneva agreements and the efforts of peaceable and neutral nations in Southeast Asia, will be completely disrupted and Asia will be enveloped in new tensions. All nations and peoples interested in peace in Indo-China and Asia as a whole must face up to this present grave situation.

The Chinese people have all along advocated peaceful coexistence and friendly relations with neighbouring countries. Peaceful coexistence between the two neighbouring countries, China and Laos, development of their friendly relations and their combined efforts to consolidate peace in Indo-China fully conform to the interests of both peoples. The Geneva Conference in 1954, the Bandung Conference in 1955 and the joint statement of the Governments of China and Laos in 1956 fully testify to this. The Chinese people resolutely oppose any activity aimed at undermining the friendship between the Chinese and Laotian peoples and endangering peace in this area. Such activity is also detrimental to the interests of the Laotian people. In his statement of February 18, China's Foreign Minister Chen Yi expressed the just attitude of the Chinese Government and people on the Royal Laotian Government's overt attempt to tear up the Geneva agreements.

The recent activities of the Royal Laotian Government in conniving at and colluding with the remnant forces of the Chiang Kai-shek clique in conducting military provocations and violating China's border areas arouse the grave concern of the Chinese people. They cannot but remind the Royal Laotian Government that it must immediately cease these violations of the joint statement

of the Governments of China and Laos. Continuance of this situation and the resultant consequences will bring no good to the Kingdom of Laos.

To fulfil the Geneva agreements and march along the road of peace and neutrality? Or to continue to connive at and collude with the remnant Chiang Kai-shek troops against the interests of the Laotian people and the principles of peaceful coexistence and accept the grave consequences of this? The Royal Laotian Government should be able to show wisdom in making its choice.

Prince Souphanouvong's Letter

THE Laotian newspaper *Lao Hacsat* recently published a letter by Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Laotian Patriotic Party, addressed to the Chairman of the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Laos, Lieutenant General Tara Singh Bal of India. In it, he pointed out that developments threatening peace and tranquillity in Laos have appeared since the *sine die* adjournment of the International Commission.

The letter says that the present Laotian Government formed by Phoui Sananikone no longer has the character of a coalition government. It has abandoned the policy of active neutrality and is bent on establishing an apparatus of suppression and carrying out discrimination and reprisals against members of the former Pathet Lao fighting units and of the Laotian Patriotic Party.

When the present government was being formed, the letter states, an organization called the "Laotian Committee for the Defence of the National Interests" was set up. Its principal task is to help and press the government to carry through energetically a policy of reprisals and suppression against former Pathet Lao fighters and Laotian Patriotic Party members.

The letter refers to the wanton slaughter and arrests of such patriots by the Laotian Government in the provinces of Attopeu, Savannakhet, Cammon, Luang Prabang, Phong Saly and Sam Neua. It points out that some were arrested or murdered only because they had participated in the election campaigns of the Laotian Patriotic Party or read the Party newspaper.

As for implementing the articles of the agreement regarding the merger of the government troops of the Kingdom of Laos and the former Pathet Lao fighting units, the letter adds, some pending tasks related to the merger, such as the appointment of senior and junior officers and the stabilization of the composition of those battalions merged almost a year ago, have been totally shelved by the present government. On the contrary, the government has taken steps in violation of the standing agreement. It has removed from their official posts some members of the former Pathet Lao fighting units, especially those in the Sam Neua and Phong Saly Provinces, for instance, the Governor of Phong Saly, the Deputy Governor of Sam Neua and four county magistrates.

Prince Souphanouvong stressed that since the present government came into power, it has encouraged and assisted the activities of certain foreigners in Laos. These activities are aimed at barefacedly wrecking the Geneva agreements, creating tension and carrying out reprisals so as to threaten peace and tranquillity in Laos, poisoning

the harmonious atmosphere in the country and threatening peace in Indo-China.

Most active among these foreigners are the Americans, especially those working in the U.S. organizations for military assistance, anti-communist propaganda and psychological warfare. Many U.S. agencies sprang up in the country soon after the establishment of the present government. U.S. land-purchasing and construction companies have been set up in various provinces. With special permission from the Laotian Government, these agencies have even set up radio transmitting and receiving stations in many places. In August and September 1958, U.S. military organizations brought thousands of carbines, heavy machine-guns, mortars and a large amount of ammunitions into Laos.

The military bases and the Seno air force base, which were handed over by the former French authorities to the present Laotian Government, are now actually controlled by U.S. organizations, and are being turned into important military bases of SEATO, the letter says. Now the U.S. Civil Air Transport, commissioned by the U.S. Department of Defence, is carrying arms and food supplies to the approximately 5,000 troops of the Chiang Kai-shek clique encircled on the Sino-Burmese and Laotian-Thai borders. The letter points out that the U.S. maintains these troops because it wants to carry out intervention, provocations and disruption against the People's Republic of China. Moreover, the present Laotian Government has accepted diplomatic representatives of the Chiang Kai-shek clique and rented a house for them in Vientiane.

Aided and encouraged by the present Laotian Government, propaganda and espionage agencies of south Viet-nam are carrying out provocative activities on the northern borders of Laos, the letter says.

The letter cites many facts to show that simultaneously with its deliberate violation of the agreement signed between the Royal Government and the former Pathet Lao fighting units and its systematic sabotage of the Geneva agreements, the Laotian Government has been continuously trampling upon the people's basic rights of democracy and freedom, so as to pave the way for an anti-democratic, anti-popular dictatorship.

The Prince concluded that the Laotian Patriotic Party and he himself firmly hold that only legitimate, comprehensive and prompt action by the International Commission can change the present situation in Laos, so as to safeguard peace and security in accordance with the Geneva agreements, and in particular frustrate the foreign plot and pressure to create dictatorship and chaos in Laos.

(Hsinhua News Agency, March 12)

Stop the Sabotage of Geneva Agreements!

Commenting on the way the United States and the Royal Laotian Government are wrecking the Geneva agreements as Prince Souphanouvong has revealed in his letter, Commentator wrote in "Renmin Ribao" on March 13:

PRINCE Souphanouvong's letter to the Chairman of the International Commission in Laos has exposed the criminal activities of the United States and the Royal Laotian Government which undermine the Geneva agreements,

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and particularly their acts of reprisal and persecution against former Pathet Lao fighters and members of the Laotian Patriotic Party. This state of affairs is bound to rouse the indignation of all peace-loving and fair-minded people.

Item 9 of the Final Declaration of the Geneva Conference provides categorically against "any individual or collective reprisals against persons who have collaborated in any way with one of the parties during the war, or against members of such persons' families." Article 15 of the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities in Laos signed at Geneva declares: "Each party undertakes to refrain from any reprisals or discrimination against persons or organizations for their activities during the hostilities and also undertakes to guarantee their democratic freedoms." In its Declaration on the Geneva Conference, the Kingdom of Laos also "declares itself resolved to take the necessary measures to integrate all citizens, without discrimination, into the national community and to guarantee them the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms for which the constitution of the Kingdom provides."

In actual fact, however, since the pro-U.S. reactionary forces represented by Sananikone assumed office in August 1958, the Royal Laotian Government has been intensifying discrimination and reprisals against former Pathet Lao fighters and against other patriotic democrats.

Instead of continuing to carry out the obligations it assumed under the Geneva agreements in merging the army of the Kingdom of Laos with the Pathet Lao fighting units, the Sananikone government has removed former Pathet Lao personnel who were already appointed or selected as its public functionaries. This has completely wrecked the relevant agreements. As a result, the political settlement provided for in Article 14 of the Geneva agreement has not been realized even at this late date.

In addition, the United States has given a large amount of military aid to Laos and built up U.S. military bases. It is anxious to drag Laos into the Southeast Asia military bloc. This not only violates the Final Declaration of the Geneva Conference (Items 4 & 5) which provides explicitly that the government of Laos shall not accept foreign military aid, provide military bases for foreign countries or join any military alliance. It also contradicts the Declaration of the Royal Laotian Government on the Geneva Conference, which pledged that it "will never pursue a policy of aggression."

The deceitful public claims of the Royal Laotian Government that it has "completely carried out the Geneva agreements" are obviously meant only to screen its real aim. This aim is to obstruct the continued activities of the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Laos so as to further persecute Laotian Patriotic Party members and the former Pathet Lao fighters and to clear the way for going over completely to the U.S. imperialists and joining the Southeast Asia military bloc. All these things constitute serious violations of the Geneva agreements.

In their letter of January 31, 1959 to the Indian Government, the two co-chairmen of the Geneva Conference have pointed out clearly that the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Laos, though it decided to cease its activities indefinitely, may resume its meetings according to ordinary procedure. The two co-chairmen also expressed the opinion that the decision of the Commission on July 19, 1958 concerning the indefinite

suspension of its activities was of procedural nature, having nothing to do with the question of its dissolution. They consider that it does not in the least involve abrogation of any provisions of the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities in Laos concerning the International Commission, Article 39 in particular.

We hold that the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Laos must immediately resume

its activities without delay. This is necessary to bring a timely halt to the acts of reprisal and discrimination against the former Pathet Lao fighters, the Laotian Patriotic Party members and all other patriots. This is also necessary to preserve the independence and freedom of Laos, prevent the United States from turning Laos into a base for aggression, and to stop the wrecking of peace in the Indo-China peninsula.

China Greets the Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party

A four-member delegation of the Chinese Communist Party headed by Chu Teh, Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee, attended the Third Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party in Warsaw. On March 11, Chu Teh delivered a speech at the congress and read a message of greetings from the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. Following are texts of the speech and the message. — Ed.

Chu Teh's Speech

Dear Comrades:

We, the delegation of the Chinese Communist Party, have been entrusted by the Central Committee of our Party to bring warm greetings on behalf of the entire Chinese people and all Chinese Communists to the Third Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party and through it pay heartfelt tribute to the Polish people and the Polish United Workers' Party.

It is fifteen years since the Polish people won their liberation. This period in the history of Poland was an era of tremendous change. Under the leadership of the political party of the Polish working class, the Polish people established a people's democracy, completed democratic reforms and embarked on the bright road of building socialism. Present-day Poland long ago changed its look of economic backwardness and poverty; it has become a socialist country with an advanced industry and has made a big step forward in catching up with the levels of the most economically developed capitalist countries of Europe. During this period, People's Poland has also made important contributions in the struggle to defend European security and world peace.

In the past few years, under the leadership of its Central Committee headed by Comrade W. Gomulka, the Polish United Workers' Party carried out a series of difficult and complex tasks. It has dealt counter-blows to the hostile activities of the reactionary forces within the country attempting to undermine socialist Poland; it has overcome doctrinaire deviations in past work; opposed revisionism, the chief danger threatening the socialist cause of Poland; adopted appropriate measures to surmount certain difficulties in economic construction, thus speeding up industrial development, raising agricultural output and overcoming the serious disproportion which had accumulated in the past in the country's planned economy. Through this work, the Polish United Workers' Party has strengthened

unity in its ranks and its contacts with the masses and consolidated the leading position of the Party in the state.

Your congress opens at a time when the Polish people are on the crest of a new wave of political enthusiasm in building socialism. The congress will discuss and adopt a directive on national economic development from 1959 to 1965 and mark out the magnificent prospects of Poland's economic development. The directive shows that by 1965, industry will have grown by about 80 per cent and agriculture by 30 per cent compared to 1958 and the people's livelihood will have further improved on the basis of this expansion in production. The series of policies laid down at this congress on pressing ahead with the socialist transformation of agriculture and strengthening ideological education in Marxism-Leninism among the broad masses will greatly advance the cause of building socialism in Poland. At the same time, this congress is certain to make new and important contributions in opposing the imperialists' policies of aggression and war and in defending the cause of world peace. China's Communists warmly wish your congress success.

Comrades, we are in a great age in which the enemy rots with every passing day, while for us things are daily getting better. The recent 21st Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union has further greatly accelerated this great change. The Soviet Seven-Year Plan shows not only that the Soviet Union has entered into a new historical stage of the all-round building of communist society, but that the competition between socialism and capitalism has also entered a new stage. The fulfilment of the great Soviet Seven-Year Plan will further strengthen the might of the Soviet Union and the socialist camp as a whole, change the world balance of forces and provide even more favourable conditions for the struggle of the peoples of the world for lasting peace and the progress of mankind.

The Chinese people, inspired by the general line for socialist construction proposed by the Chinese Communist

Party to go all out, aim high and achieve greater, quicker, better and more economical results in building socialism, have brought about a great leap forward in every sphere of industrial and agricultural production and an upsurge in the people's commune movement in the countryside. The total value of China's industrial and agricultural output in 1958 was about 70 per cent greater than in 1957. Outputs of steel, coal, grain and cotton more than doubled, compared with the preceding year. The Sixth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party proposed that 18 million tons of steel, 380 million tons of coal, 525 million tons of grain and 5 million tons of cotton be produced in 1959. Now the people of the whole nation are striving to carry out this plan for a new big leap forward. The Chinese people are fully resolved to build their country into a socialist state with a modern industry, agriculture, science and culture as quickly as possible. The great leap forward in the Soviet Union, with that of China, Poland and the other countries of the entire socialist camp, is an irresistible historical trend. It shows that the socialist world system will certainly win the laurels in its peaceful competition with the capitalist world system.

U.S. imperialism, in order to save itself from its doom, still persists obstinately in its policy of arms expansion and war preparations and is still going to endless lengths to plan and engage in aggressive activities. In Europe, the United States is vigorously fostering the militarist and revanchist forces of West Germany. In order to safeguard European security and world peace, the Soviet Union recently put forward proposals for ending the remnants of the occupation system in Berlin and transforming West Berlin into a free, demilitarized city, and for the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany. Poland has put forward a plan for the establishment of an atom-free zone in Europe and general disarmament in this area. All these are highly constructive and important proposals. The Chinese people have expressed warm support for them. At the same time, these proposals have also received warm support from peoples throughout the world. The evil doings of the United States in Europe, as in other parts of the world, have met and will continue to meet resolute opposition from the peoples of all lands. The United States will inevitably place itself in a completely bankrupt position in the eyes of the peoples of the world.

U.S. imperialism tries by every means to undermine the unity of the socialist camp. In this respect, the Yugoslav revisionist group renders great service to the United States. But contrary to their wishes our unity, built on the basis of Marxist-Leninist ideology, is rock-firm and cannot be undermined by anyone. The peoples of the world rejoice at the growth of the friendship between Poland and the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. Let the enemies of socialism lament! We socialist countries will unite like a big harmonious family, advance shoulder to shoulder and work for a common entry into communist society.

Comrades, the Chinese and Polish peoples, both of whom are in the camp of socialism, share a profound friendship and are solidly united. In the future, this profound friendship between the peoples of our two countries will certainly be constantly deepened and strengthened while mutual assistance and co-operation between our two countries in the political, economic and cultural fields will also be steadily expanded and developed.

March 17, 1959

Now, permit me to read to your congress the message of greetings from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China:

Message of Greetings

To the Third Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party.

Dear Comrade Delegates:

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, on behalf of all the Chinese people and all members of the Communist Party of China, extends fraternal congratulations to the Third Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party.

In the past 15 years, the Polish people under the leadership of the Polish United Workers' Party have scored great victories in building socialism. People's Poland has made important contributions in the maintenance of European security and the cause of world peace.

In recent years, the Polish United Workers' Party has made important achievements in leading the Polish people in waging the struggle against the reactionary forces inside their country and in defending the fruits of socialist construction, in struggling against the main danger—revisionism—along with overcoming doctrinairism, in strengthening the Party's links with the masses and in consolidating Party unity. The Polish United Workers' Party has also made its contributions in consolidating the unity of the socialist camp and the international communist movement and in the struggle to oppose modern revisionism and defend the purity of Marxism-Leninism.

The Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese people rejoice at the great successes achieved by the fraternal Polish United Workers' Party and the fraternal Polish people in building socialism and the great efforts they have made in the struggle to defend world peace.

Now, the Chinese people, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, are going all out, aiming high and achieving greater, quicker, better and more economical results in building socialism. The Chinese people have learnt from their own experience that one of the requisites for their successful advance in the building of socialism is reliance on the close unity of the countries of the socialist camp, their mutual assistance, co-operation and learning from each other, and especially the fraternal assistance of the Soviet Union and learning the advanced experience of the Soviet Union. The attempts of the imperialist reactionaries and the modern revisionists to split and undermine the great solidarity and friendly co-operation of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union have met with defeat and will continue to meet with defeat in the future.

May new victories crown the struggle waged by the Polish United Workers' Party in leading the Polish people in building socialism and in safeguarding European security and world peace!

We wish every success to the Third Congress of the fraternal Polish United Workers' Party!

**The Central Committee of the
Communist Party of China**

March 9, 1959

Fishermen's Record Hauls

by CHANG YU-TIEN

CHINA'S fishing industry is putting more food on the nation's tables and providing bigger funds for socialist construction. Peasants as well as fishermen are busy increasing the output of aquatic products by making fuller use of the country's rich water resources.

The industry has been making rapid progress ever since the liberation. By 1952, its fisheries were yielding 1,660,000 tons of aquatic products, nearly four times as much as in 1949. In 1957, the last year of the First Five-Year Plan, output had reached 3,120,000 tons, more than double the pre-war peak of 1,500,000 tons. **The average annual increase, during the First Five-Year Plan, was 290,000 tons, with an average annual rate of increase of 13.3 per cent. But in 1958, start of the Second Five-Year Plan and the year of the big leap forward, output soared to 6,020,000 tons—nearly twice that of 1957.**

Rich Resources

China's waters, both coastal and inland, teem with fish. Every spring, yellow croakers, cuttlefish, hair-tails

and prawns move to the coastal waters and the adjoining seas to spawn. In the autumn, the schools of fish turn southward to winter in the warmer seas. These migrations provide China with many rich and extensive fisheries. These include the Pohai Gulf, Tasha (in the Yellow Sea), Choushan (in the East China Sea), waters off east and west Kwangtung and in the Paipu Gulf (the Gulf of Tonkin in the South China Sea).

The country also has innumerable rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs. The Yangtse, one of the world's longest rivers, abounds with fish of the carp family; the Hsiang and Pearl Rivers, the Tai and Tungting Lakes, to mention only a few, are all well stocked. Today, thanks to the rapid development of water conservancy works in the country, many more canals and reservoirs are available for fish breeding. The wet rice fields (paddyfields) all over the country are also ideal for rearing fish.

The Guiding Principle

In China, areas of water are scattered all over the country, so it is imperative that peasants as well as fishermen should be organized to tap the country's riches in fish, water plants and other under-water treasures. In this connection, the emphasis was formerly on the development of the fishing and farming co-ops. Now the emphasis is on the rural people's communes into which the fishing and farm co-ops have amalgamated and which have a diversified economy of farming, forestry, animal husbandry, side-occupations and fisheries. At the same time fishery enterprises owned by the state are being actively promoted.

As a result, the peasants as well as the fishermen, inland as well as along the coast, have all contributed their efforts. Last year, peasants and fishermen of Luanhsien County, Hopei, built a big fish pond with an area of 50,000 *mu* on a formerly deserted stretch of seashore. In Hotung District, within the municipal limits of Tientsin, a fish pond with a surface of over 30,000 *mu* was constructed by the local people in only one month. In the hinterland, a mass movement is still underway to stock streams and rivers, ponds and lakes.

The working principle is to emphasize fish rearing in enclosed or controlled waters. This does not demand big investments but brings quick returns. At the same time energetic steps are being taken to increase fishing in the open rivers and seas. China extends over the temperate and sub-tropical zones, so that fish and other forms of aquatic life propagate and grow fast. At the present time China has around 100 million *mu* of fresh waters suitable for fish rearing; last year, however, of these only 33 million *mu* or so were used. Out of 15 million *mu* of sea waters suitable for fish rearing only 1.5 million *mu* were actually utilized. So there are big latent possibilities



Fishing with cormorants

Woodcut in colour by Mo Tse

still to be tapped. Exploitation of these can raise China's annual output of aquatic products to 30 or 40 million tons. Another big asset is that fish rearing in China has a history of thousands of years; her people have a wealth of experience particularly in raising fresh water fish. The emphasis on fish rearing therefore well accords with the actual conditions in China. It has been quick in giving results.

In 1958, the 33,500,000 *mu* of freshwaters used for fish rearing was nearly double the area used in 1957—and output increased by 138 per cent. The area of salt water fish rearing was expanded to 1.5 million *mu*, and the output increased by 400 per cent compared with 1957. Breeding was extended to many areas where fish were caught, but never bred, in the past. In 1957, fish rearing contributed some 22 per cent (680,000 tons) of the national output of 3,120,000 tons of aquatic products. In 1958, breeding and rearing in both fresh and sea water provided 2,570,000 tons of aquatic products, or 42.6 per cent of the total output of 6,020,000 tons.

Some Latest Achievements

Last year China's fishing industry also had many new technical achievements to its credit. Space here allows mention only of a few.

Vessels and methods, in sea fisheries, have been improved and a beginning has been made on mechanization and the use of radio-communication to co-ordinate fishing activities.

Laminaria, a species of edible sea-weed which is also a source of iodine and many other industrial raw materials, was formerly imported by China. After liberation, its cultivation was begun in Lushun-Talien (Port Arthur-Dairen) and Tsingtao. As *laminaria* was supposed to be a cold water plant, it was then believed that it could only be raised along the coast north of the Yangtse. In 1958, however, it was successfully transplanted to the waters off Fukien, Chekiang and Kiangsu Provinces, and even in sub-tropical Kwangtung.

In fish rearing, it has always been a hard problem to increase the supply of fry. Last year, the South Sea Aquatic Products Research Institute in Kwangtung and a similar institute in Chekiang conducted successful experiments in the artificial propagation of the fry of both silver and big-head carp. The parent fish were made to release milt and eggs by artificial means. Fertilization of the spawn too was effected artificially. Some 30,000 fry were produced in a single hatch. This success promises that China's fresh water fish rearing will no longer be limited by a tight supply of fry. The present scientific and technical level of China's fishery industry is still rather low but with large-scale support from the government, steady progress is being made in raising it. There are now twelve institutes in the country devoted to aquatic and marine research, besides three laboratories under the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Last year, more than a hundred fishery schools and training classes were set up to create a larger force of technicians. Fish-rearing studies are being concentrated on how to speed up the rate of growth of cultivated aquatic products, the propagation of new species, etc. To increase the catch, experiments

are being conducted in the application of the sciences of sound, light and electricity in fishing.

Fishermen's Progress

The rapid advances in the industry have brought immediate benefits to the fishermen.

*Taxes are high,
Fish hard to catch,
We fisher-folk year after year
Know only days of sorrow.*

This old fisherman's song is a bitter reflection of their past life when the bulk of their catch was seized by feudal gangleaders, usurers and tax collectors. Liberation, for them, meant an end of feudal exploitation. Since organizing themselves into co-operatives, which took place on a mass scale in 1956, their livelihood has steadily improved. In 1958, they joined people's communes. Since then they have enjoyed "meals without paying" along with other commune members. The prospect before them is of a constantly improving and richer life. Many unable to afford a home on land used to live on their boats. Now they live in new houses built for them ashore. The life of the fishermen of the Mayitao People's Commune shows the pattern of present-day trends in living.

Mayitao is one of the islets of the Choushan Archipelago off Chekiang Province. In March 1958 its 2,700-odd inhabitants merged their five co-operatives—fishing, agricultural, handicraft, supply-and-marketing and credit—into a single commune. Within six months, the commune set up 35 factories and built 12 new motor-ships. It now has nurseries, homes for the aged, a house of culture, a library, assembly hall, hospital and maternity home of its own. All school-age children and more than 300 young people and adults are studying in primary, middle and spare-time schools set up on the island. By November last, the commune, comprising 586 households, had already landed 27,360,000 *jin* of fish, an increase of 177 per cent over that of 1957, and its income was three times what it was in 1957.

With such achievements it is no wonder the fishermen are all set for fresh efforts to step up output this year. In 1959, it is expected that the rural people's communes will be able to do more in the field of fish rearing as their economies become more diversified. They will have a great deal more water spaces available as a result of new water conservancy construction, and far larger supplies of fry. China's fisheries promise fair to make a still bigger leap forward this year.

CHINESE WEIGHTS and MEASURES at a GLANCE

1 *mu* = 0.06 hectare or 0.1647 acre

1 *dan* (picul) = 0.05 ton or 0.984 hundredweight

1 *jin* = 0.5 kilogramme or 1.1023 pounds

MARCH 8TH ECHOES

Women have been in the spotlight during the International Women's Day celebrations. Here are some highlights and sidelights garnered from the Chinese press.

Mu Kwei-ying. On the evening of March 8th, women in the capital joined with their foreign friends in a gay party which was attended by 4,000 people. The evening of dancing, music and merriment was highlighted by a Peking opera performance, *Mu Kwei-ying*, a timely and meaningful choice.

The name Mu Kwei-ying has come up often since the big leap. There are Mu Kwei-ying brigades, Mu Kwei-ying blast furnaces, and Mu Kwei-ying stores. . . . For any unusual achievement by a woman, people say: "She is certainly a Mu Kwei-ying!" But who is she?

The excellent performance of Mei Lan-fang, leading Peking opera artist, showed why this young amazon-general of the 11th century has been called throughout the centuries "Mu Kwei-ying the Ever Victorious," and why her name is used to symbolize the triumphant spirit of the Chinese women of our times!

Szechuan's "White-Haired Girl." Countless women have come to the fore on the agricultural front where they play an important part. But the story of the living "white-haired girl" (heroine of a modern Chinese opera) is among the most striking. She is Lo Chang-hsiu, a peasant woman in Yipin, Szechuan. When still in her teens, she fled to desolate mountains about 20 years ago to avoid the persecution of a local despot. She passed 12 lonely, miserable years there. The people of her village sought her out after the liberation and brought her back home. Her hair had turned completely white and she was virtually a physical wreck.

It took years for Chang-hsiu to comprehend her new surroundings and the opportunities that had opened for a new life. Always suspicious, with her deep-rooted fear of being hunted, she ran back to her hideout several times. But the Communist Party branch was determined to restore her to normal life. In 1956, she joined the local co-op farm, and later married Wen Shu-ying, her production brigade leader.

Her name was in the national papers in April last year. That was when Vice-Premier Chen Yi received her and her husband in Tzekung, Szechuan.

A few weeks ago, her name was in the news again. She had earned the title of "foremost farmer" for her good work in her commune.

More Women Workers. In 1958, the number of women workers and office workers in all fields exceeded 7.5 million as compared with something over 3 million in 1957.

Housewives, too, have become producers of social wealth. Some 4,000 small indigenous plants run mainly by house-

wives in Tientsin produced goods to the value of 20 million yuan in the latter half of 1958. Preliminary statistics from 22 big cities show: approximately 530,000 housewives set up 40,000 small plants and workshops last year. Their products range from ball-bearings, insecticides, and native-style chemical fertilizers to raw materials for the chemical industry, textiles and foods.

A Problem Solved. The "March 8" Restaurant in Harbin is staffed entirely by women. Although most of its workers are former housewives newly drawn into the work, everything ran smoothly except for one problem—how to satisfy the demand of the clients for quicker services.

They tackled the problem earnestly. In search of time- and labour-saving devices, they used their free time to visit restaurants and see exhibitions. They applied themselves to innovations.

Luan Kwei-hua, whose work is boiling noodles, described her invention this way: "Many customers ordered noodles. The quickest way was to boil 10 kilogrammes at a time. But that created the problem of pulling the noodles out of the water. I wasn't half way through when the remainder was already too over-cooked to be served. An idea suddenly came to me. Why not sink a sieve-like apparatus in the cauldron? In the end, we did succeed in working out a crane-like thing complete with a cauldron-shaped sieve and pulleys. Now just one lift is enough. It's easy like that."

The restaurant now has more than 30 kinds of new "machines"—including one for making dumplings. People say: "Want quick service? Go to the 'March 8' Restaurant. Their cooking is wonderful, too."

Restaurants in other cities are sending cooks to Harbin to learn their mechanized ways—a contribution of working women to the improvement of social services.

Not a Single Mistake in 50 Months. That's the record of the young girl Lo Shu-chen, three times elected outstanding post-woman in Peking since 1954, a delegate to the national conference of active young builders of socialism in 1958, and newly elected deputy to the National People's Congress. Here is just one of the many well-known stories about her work. A soldier guarding the coast had a friend in Peking whose address he had lost some years ago. He vaguely remembered that his friend had lived in the eastern part of the city, outside Chaoyangmen Gate. He sent a letter to Lo Shu-chen asking her to help him locate his friend. This she did, and with success! But it took her nearly one year, in her free time, to check the census book and also to pay attention to all the names on the envelopes that passed through her hands.

Ask a child these days how he wants to serve the people, and you will frequently get the answer: "Like Auntie Lo!" To mark Women's Day, stories about her

found their way even into the children's programme on the radio.

* * *

A Heroine. Her name is Hsiang Hsiu-li, known to every Chinese youth today. When she died she was only 25. Newspapers and magazines in China paid tribute to her.

It happened on December 13 last year in a pharmaceutical plant in Canton. Somebody knocked over a huge bottle of alcohol in the workshop where Hsiu-li and two colleagues were working. The room, full of explosive chemicals, caught fire. In a flash Hsiu-li rushed to cover four cans of metallic sodium with her body. Rescuers came. The plant was saved. Many lives were saved. But Hsiu-li got a terrible burn.

The entire staff of the hospital went into action to save Hsiu-li. Hundreds of people came to offer their blood for transfusions. Hsiu-li herself struggled valiantly in her sick bed. But all to no avail. Hsiu-li, a candidate member of the Communist Party, had given her life to save her fellow workers.

* * *

Technical Competence. On the eve of March 8, a tug boat was launched in Shanghai. It was designed and made by women. A documentary film showing the whole process of work, produced by 14 women from scenario writing to recording, started showing on Women's Day in Shanghai.

The tug boat is 30 metres from stem to stern, 8 metres wide, equipped with a 900-h.p. engine. All the work was done by more than 100 women workers of a Shanghai ship-building plant.

This is only one instance of the interest of Chinese women in industrial techniques. Shanghai's women in the textile industry, no less keen, introduced 2,400 innovations in the latter half of 1958. In Shantung Province, more than 7,000 have made outstanding contributions along these lines. And there are many more.

* * *

A Specialist of the Tai Nationality. Scientists, leading technicians, and specialists attended a lecture sponsored by the Kunming branch of the Chinese Medical Society last year in Yunnan Province. The speaker: a 64-year-old Tai woman, with no schooling whatsoever. The subject: The Life Cycle of Rats.

While she was talking, she sensed an unexpressed question in the audience: "Is it all believable?" Lecturing wasn't her medium anyway. So she said: Let's go to the fields and see. At a glance, she could tell which was a rat hole, a hole still in use or abandoned, with a large population or just a few rats, the directions of the different entrances. . . . The subsequent diggings all proved the absolute correctness of her predictions. But they weren't predictions. She was pursuing a scientific method derived from long years of observation, study, and combating the rats.

In less than a year, she has become well known throughout the country. She has come to Peking to attend many meetings for the promotion of the health movement.

Unusual distinction for rat-killing? But just stop to think. In the Kuomintang days, plague was rampant in the home village of this poor peasant woman. Who would expect the Kuomintang to organize the people to fight against the plague rats, Tsao Yi-hsiu says. And after the



Woodcut by Chou Shui-ken

liberation she threw herself into the national health movement heart and soul.

* * *

More Party Members. Many women became members of the Chinese Communist Party during last year's big leap. In the coastal province of Chekiang, 10,500 women were admitted to the Party. In Tientsin, north China, more than 5,800 were accepted since March 8, 1958.

They come from all walks of life. All have distinguished themselves in their own fields of work and many are model workers.

* * *

Call to March Forward. Rallies and parties were held throughout the country to observe Women's Day. In the capital, a big meeting was held in the Peking Gymnasium attended by 7,000 Chinese women activists and 1,000 foreign guests. The slogans around the stadium were a call to the women in these days of China's forward march to take their place in the national campaign for more steel, coal, grain and cotton output, to do their best to consolidate and develop the people's commune. The slogans also hailed the solidarity and unity of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union, and pledged support for the national liberation struggles in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, and for world peace.

Amid the cheers and applause of the rally we heard the loud and free voice of China's women who are confidently marching forward.

Hai River Transformed

by LI CHIANG

The battle to transform the Hai River, waged by the people of Tientsin during the last six months of 1958, has been won. An adequate supply of fresh water has been ensured for industry, agriculture and household use and navigation has benefited too.

PRACTICALLY all of the major rivers in Hopei Province converge to the southeast of Peking not far from one of the nation's major industrial and commercial centres, Tientsin. The confluence of five rivers forms the Hai River, a major waterway of north China, which flows some 60 kilometres eastward and empties into Pohai Bay. Some of these rivers originate in provinces bordering Hopei and the catchment basin of the Hai extends over a fairly wide area. It covers 250,000 square kilometres and embraces about 62 million inhabitants.

More than half of the annual rainfall in the valley is concentrated in July and August and very little can be expected in the spring. This has caused recurrent floods and drought in Hopei. The records of the past few hundred years indicate that, on the average, drought occurred twice every three years and floods once in five years. When Tientsin was flooded in 1939, the people had to navigate the downtown streets in boats.

Following the liberation, the People's Government tackled the problem of flood by digging a canal above the main course of the Hai and dredging another one, both leading the water to the sea. These two additional outlets and the reservoirs built on the Hai's tributaries have greatly lessened the threat of flood and helped the fight against drought.

The Trouble with the Hai

But, as far as Tientsin was concerned, the Hai still gave it certain troubles up to the first half of 1958. Twice a day sea tides would go up the river and mingle with the fresh water in the channel. This necessitated large volumes of fresh water to dilute the salt content. When

the low-water season came, a considerable amount of the river water became unfit for use.

This situation was further aggravated by the drainage of waste water from factories and households into the Hai—a result of the faulty sewerage system Tientsin inherited from old China.

Despite these unfavourable factors the city depends on the Hai for most of its water needs. The water works in Tientsin, serving 3 million people, gets its supply chiefly from the river. A number of important factories and plants, including power plants, cotton mills and chemical works depend on the river's water. And suburban farmers irrigate their land with waters from the Hai.

The fairly low water level of the river handicapped navigation. Although Tientsin is a major seaport in north China, visited by many ocean-going vessels, only the smaller ships could go up the river to the heart of the city. To pass the estuary they had to wait for the daily tides.

Tientsin's rapid industrial and agricultural growth in recent years made it feel the demands for an adequate supply of fresh water and better navigation channels more urgently than ever. With the enormous growth in demand for water for industry, there was also a great increase in the amount of industrial waste water. During the spring the amount of waste water emptying into the Hai nearly equalled the incoming fresh water. This had an adverse effect on production and irrigation.

Last year the Tientsin Municipal People's Government decided to solve this knotty problem once and for all. The most suitable of nine project plans was adopted. It consisted of two parts—damming the river at its estuary and re-laying the city's sewerage pipes.

The dam and its sluice-gates are not very far from the place where eight imperialist powers landed their armies to invade China in 1900. It separates the sea water from the river and makes the entire river a reservoir of abundant fresh water. Even if the river gets no water at all from its tributaries, the Hai now has enough reserves to meet all the needs of Tientsin for 20 days. About 1,550 million cubic metres of fresh water used annually in the past to dilute waste and sea water can now be used for other purposes, for example, to water 3.1 million *mu* of paddy-fields.

A higher water level is maintained in the



Celebrating completion of the Hai River Dam

Sketch by Sun Shih-tao

SIDELIGHTS

Hai so that ships which could navigate it in the past only half loaded can now ply the river with full cargoes. Moreover, all ships no longer have to wait for the tides to pass the estuary. Irrigation also benefits from the new water level—the constant operation of the pumps is now ensured.

Some 160 kilometres of sewerage pipelines were newly laid, equalling 85 per cent of the total length laid in the 80 or 90 years before liberation. The sewers now carry the waste water to suburban districts. After proper treatment, the waste water is used for irrigation and its precipitates serve as a source of fertilizer.

The project as a whole included the work to dam the river at its estuary and the reconstruction of the sewerage system. Among other things, the builders on the job moved 8.5 million cubic metres of earth and used about 1 million tons of building materials. Three-fourths of the 12 million labour days were contributed by volunteers from all walks of life—workers, peasants, officers and men of the People's Liberation Army, government office workers, students, shop clerks, etc. Some worked there for several months, but many went for shorter periods so that others could participate too.

Large numbers of people in Tientsin helped the project in indirect ways. Inhabitants living close to the building sites organized themselves to provide living quarters, laundry and mending services, and a regular supply of hot water for the workers. Many professional and spare-time cultural groups—drama and opera companies, musicians and singers, film projecting teams—gave their best performances to entertain the builders. The performing artists also contributed volunteer labour to the project. Many took part in moving earth while the actresses helped with laundering and mending clothes.

The project to transform the Hai received materials and technical personnel from 11 provinces, ranging from Heilungkiang in the north to Kwangtung in the south. As soon as it studied the letter from Tientsin requesting technical help, the Water Conservancy Department of Kiangsu Province decided to send an experienced engineer and 14 veteran dam builders to the port city. This is but one example of the communist co-operation prevailing throughout China today.

Along Changan Boulevard. At 23:30 hours, on March 9, Peking sent the last street car plying the inner city into the depot after 35 years of service. Buses and trolley-buses have taken their place. The street car is not the only thing that is on its way out. Along Changan Boulevard, Peking's main east-west thoroughfare, low and homely dwellings, half a century old, have been pulled down and new, tall buildings to take their places are on their way up. At the western end of the boulevard, construction work on the huge Nationalities Palace is going on night and day. Near the Memorial to Revolutionary Martyrs more trees, shrubs and flowers will be planted this spring. And at its eastern end, work is going on to rebuild a 1,200-metre section to a width of 50 metres, the first stage of a plan to widen the whole length of the road. Over 30 pipes and cables including gas, heat, sewage and telegraph, are being installed at the same time. Changan Boulevard is typical of how the face of old Peking is rapidly changing.

Dramatic Relic. Five actors wearing bright red or yellow robes and high hats stand on the stage—one meditating, another in a dance—they seem ready to come to life any second. It is a miniature stage 60 cm. wide, 80 cm. high and 20 cm. deep recently discovered in Shansi Province, north China. It is part of the decorative structure of a mausoleum, which has been identified as having been built in the second year of the Taan reign of the Chin dynasty (1210 A.D.). The relic sheds interesting light on the development of ancient Chinese drama.

Shanghai Street Scene. At six a.m. on the dot, Shanghai traffic policeman Hsu Wen-tsai came on duty. He thought he saw a figure slip something on his stand. When he came round to picking it up, he found a paper bag of hot doughnuts and pancakes. He looked towards the tall building across the street, made a gesture of thanks, then turned back to the traffic. The anonymous gift came from an old lady who lived in one of the flats there. The same old lady who'd brought him raincoat and galoshes when it rained, cooled tea in summer and even given him a box of mooncakes on Mid-Autumn Festival's night. She was no relation of his; she didn't even know him before he was assigned to this post two years ago. Through her window as she sat

sewing, the old lady had observed many things during these last two years. Once she saw how Hsu Wen-tsai jumped in front of a truck to save an old woman from being run over. She saw how he was always ready to help the old and the weak across the street, and the way he admonished, seriously yet kindly, those who broke traffic rules. Once she herself was sick. She didn't pass by his stand to go to the market for two days. Hsu made enquiries and came after work to see her and brought her some preserved tangerines which she liked. The old lady had seen policemen come and go for years before the same window—KMT ones, the Japanese—uniformed brutes. She had her reasons for treating Hsu Wen-tsai like a son.

Rural Maternity Homes. China's rural areas now have over 100,000 maternity homes. The majority were set up by the people's communes since last August to supplement the mother and child care centres established by the government since liberation. Only a dozen years ago poverty in the villages, ignorance of hygiene and superstitious practices killed more babies than were delivered safely and many mothers as well. Since the liberation, superstitious malpractices have gradually been eradicated, and the old midwives have received modern training. Now, with the network of rural maternity homes, expectant mothers can receive regular pre-natal check-ups and sound and scientific care during and after confinement. Many communes provide mothers-to-be with especially nourishing foods.

Veterinary Courses for Commune Members. Since last winter, a veterinarian centre of People's Liberation Army units stationed near Peking has been giving members of nearby people's communes short courses on animal care and diet. The success has led to more classes being opened to give commune members a comprehensive elementary course in veterinary science. The courses are taught by medical workers of the centre in their spare time.

Flying Squirrel. A new attraction at the park in Tsunyi, Kweichow Province, is a flying squirrel caught by lumberjacks in northern Kweichow. Its head resembles a panda's. It has grey ears, silver-grey eyes, long whiskers, and a long bushy tail. Its four black legs are similar to an ape's and its claws are covered with a thin membrane which opens when it flies. A nocturnal animal, its habits are gentle. It feeds on fruits. Its favourite exercise is to climb up a tree and jump down from the height, or glide in the open spaces, covering at most 40 metres.

LITERATURE

"Song of Youth"

1958 was a rich year for the Chinese novel. *Keep the Red Flag Flying* by Liang Pin, *Tracks in the Snowy Forest* by Chu Po, *Tempered Steel* by Ai Wu, *Upheaval in a Mountain Village* by Chou Li-po and *Red Sun* by Wu Chiang were warmly received by large numbers of readers. *Song of Youth*, a first novel by Yang Mo, was one of the top best-sellers of last year.

The novel is set in the thirties and centres round the patriotic student movements which came to the fore between the large-scale Japanese military invasion of China's northeastern provinces on September 18, 1931, and the great Communist-led demonstration of Peking students on December 9, 1935, demanding that the reactionary Kuomintang government abandon its policy of non-resistance to Japanese aggression. It depicts the paths taken by young revolutionary intellectuals and vividly portrays the changes in their ideas and feelings. Lin Tao-ching, the heroine of the novel, is one of many progressive intellectuals of that time who became staunch revolutionary fighters for communism, educated by the Communist Party in the course of revolutionary struggle.

Lin Tao-ching is a beautiful, innocent and enthusiastic young girl with a strong sense of justice. She is the daughter of a rich landlord who had taken a peasant girl by force as his concubine and had later thrown her—Tao-ching's mother—out of his household. As a child Tao-ching suffers insult and maltreatment and in her youth is both headstrong and given to illusions. She runs away from home when her father's plotting wife arranges to marry her off to some wealthy man. She thinks of earning a living by herself. But her first contact with society opens her eyes to a life of national humiliation, the distress and poverty of the people and the wantonness of the ruling class. When a rural landlord plots to give her away as a concubine to some official she runs to the sea to drown herself. But a young university student, Yu Yung-tse, saves her life, wins her heart by his consideration and they get married.

The time is one of deepening national crisis. The patriotic student movement is gathering momentum. Lin Tao-ching comes into contact with the revolution. Influenced by Lu Chia-chuan, a Communist, she begins to participate in rev-

olutionary activities. This brings her into ideological conflict with her husband who believes in "saving the country by book-learning," and finally their relationship breaks apart.

From individual struggle and blind resistance to the old society, Lin Tao-ching grows into a revolutionary. But she is still immature and naive. She tells Tai Yu, a renegade, about her secret distribution of leaflets. As a result she is put under house arrest by the Kuomintang special agents. With the help of a Communist and her friends, she manages to get away. She goes to teach in a rural school and devotes herself to spreading the patriotic idea among her students of resisting the Japanese invaders.

The renegade Tai Yu, disguised as an ultra "leftist," shows up again. He deliberately involves her in a campaign against the principal of the rural school and in this way foils her fruitful patriotic activities there. The Kuomintang is out to get her. She runs back to Peking where she is arrested.

In jail, Tao-ching undergoes the test of fire. Here she meets Lin Hung, a woman member of the Communist Party. She learns a great deal from the heroic struggles of the Communists and their dedication to the people. She is set free when so-called "self-government" is instituted in north China and the Kuomintang special agents withdraw from Peking, as a result of further Japanese penetration. She joins the Communist Party, and is assigned to leading work in the student movement at Peking University. She is attacked from all sides by Trotskyites and Kuomintang elements. In the course of bitter struggles she finally exposes the treacherous face of the Trotskyites. The students and professors

seethe with patriotic indignation and respond to the call of the Party. The epoch-making December 9th Student Movement breaks out and sweeps the whole country.

Through the story of Tao-ching—from her profound depression, wandering, and individual resistance to her gradual awakening and maturing—the novel illuminates various aspects of the social life of the period. It brings to life the revolutionaries in the student movement, evokes unforgettable images of the Communist characters in the novel Lu Chia-chuan and Lin Hung. The reign of white terror and the ruthless Kuomintang officials are depicted sharply. And in the struggle between these forces the characters of a variety of people emerge distinctly. There is the renegade and Trotskyite Tai Yu who betrays the revolution and becomes a professional informer and saboteur for the Kuomintang. There is the self-seeking Yu Yung-tse who, behind the facade of "saving the country by book-learning," becomes a willing tool of the ruling class. There is wavering Pai Li-ping who descends to a loose life in her pursuit of personal comforts. There is Hsu Ning who vacillated at one time and finally emerges a firmer revolutionary after severe trials in jail. And there is the middle-of-the-roader Professor Wang who, influenced by his time and Marxism-Leninism, joins his students in the end in their patriotic activities. Through these people, their lives and fates, their joys and sufferings, the author presents a true picture of intellectual society at that time. She writes with a warm feeling for her characters, a lucid style and the narrative is neat and clear.

Since its appearance in January of last year, the novel won the acclaim of readers and reviewers. It sold over a million copies in less than a year's time, second only to *Tracks in the Snowy Forest*. Stage versions of the novel have been performed in modern drama, Peking opera, pingju opera and other theatrical forms. A film version is planned.

In a critical analysis, Mao Tun, a leading contemporary novelist, lauded the novel as an educational and enlightening one. He thinks that the character Lin Tao-ching is true to life. It is typical. She has things in her from which we can learn and also things we should guard against. Her search for truth before she joins the Party, her determination in remoulding herself and her fearless spirit in the face of intimidation and threats belong to the former; her frequent, inadvertent expressions of illusions and softness belong to the latter. At



Cover design of "Song of Youth"
By Wang Yung-hsien

places, the novel's criticism of petty-bourgeois thought and feelings is not emphatic enough. But, Mao Tun added, this has something to do with the writer's ideological level and artistic level.

Yang Mo, a member of the Chinese delegation to the Asian-African Writers' Conference held in Tashkent last autumn, is a rather new name on the Chinese literary horizon. *Song of Youth* is her first book. From her article "What Made Me Write *Song of Youth*," we learn that in the early thirties she made the acquaintance of a number of Communists. At that time she could not attend school and lived in a small boarding house near the Peking University campus. She was familiar with the life of the university and the progressive student movement. After the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese war in 1937, she went to the liberated areas. There she came to know the mettle of Communists even better. She said: "For a long period of time, these heroic people and their moving stories gave me the urge to write. I wanted to show to the happy young people of today the difficult course through which their revolutionary predecessors had fought their way."

—CHANG PING-YEN

CINEMA

A Model Woman Farmer

By the *March 8th Canal*, a Chiangnan Film Studio (Shanghai) production, is one of the more successful recent films dealing with the part Chinese women are playing in building socialism. Based on the real life story of a model woman farmer in Anhwei, the scenarist, Lu yenchou, and director, Huang Tsu-mu, have succeeded in giving a moving picture in miniature of the growth of China's co-operative farming from the mutual-aid team to the people's commune. The theme is a popular one these days and the plot is not a great deal out of the ordinary, but some original touches and good acting raise it well out of the common run. A women's delegation comes to visit the March 8th People's Commune—it has 120,000 members now—and asks Chen Shu-chen, its woman director, to tell them how the commune was formed and how she became a national model farmer. But she is too modest to reply direct. She asks the actress Chang Jui-fang, who has come with the delegation, to play her part and

tell her story for her. From that point on until the final scene where the delegation waves a warm farewell, Chang Jui-fang takes over and acts out the tale.

It is the story both of the peasants near the March 8th Canal and also the gradual maturing of Chen Shu-chen herself as she battles, with the Communist Party guiding and sustaining her, to keep the co-op going ahead. When the local peasants organize mutual-aid teams to till the land they have received, a number of women and older people are left out. The teams are reluctant to take them in because it seems that they can't give a fair exchange in exchanging labour. Herself a poor peasant, Chen Shu-chen's ready sympathy is roused at the way they have been left out in the cold. She drops out from her own mutual-aid team to help organize them into a separate team. How the team and Chen Shu-chen herself come through various vicissitudes holds one's interest to the triumphant end because these people really come alive for us.

Actress Chang Jui-fang repeats her earlier success she scored in *Song of the Phoenix*, in which she also played the role of a peasant girl. The various members of her team take on robust individuality in a series of episodes that vary from comedy to pathos and that are very much the stuff of peasant life. There is the erring member who is tempted to lend out the team's savings and make a bit "on the side"; the way he is reformed by criticism and kindness; the argument on how much grain to sell to the state. . . . The women who form most of the team often row over trifles. To stop themselves becoming the laughing-stock of the village, they agree finally not to quarrel in public but only in Chen Shu-chen's house with the doors shut. When sharp-tongued Chang Chih-lan falls out with another member in the fields, true to their pact, they stifle their rancour until, near bursting point, they can reach Chen's house and release their pent-up feelings in a flood of simultaneous words that finally end in an ordered meeting.

Behind the blithe humour lies the main motif of the film—the class struggle in the countryside, the struggle between socialist and capitalist ideas, between progressive and backward outlooks. This manifests itself at every stage.



Chen Shu-chen (played by Chang Jui-fang) chairs a meeting of her mutual-aid team

The screen Chen Shu-chen, as in real life, is sparing of words, but with a sharp sense of where the peasants' wider interests lie. The first scenes show the forthright qualities which later stand her in such good stead. At a meeting to elect a women's delegate for the village, when other peasants nominate a smooth-talking rich-peasant woman to be their delegate, she voices her feelings with a decisive "I object!" When asked why, unaccustomed to public debate as she is, she finds it difficult to explain although she knows in her heart of hearts that this rich-peasant woman cannot represent the interests of poor peasants like herself. One of the final episodes is another meeting. Rainfall has all but ruined the crops. Chou Hsia-lu, another co-op leader, is for throwing up the sponge and opening a little restaurant in the city instead. By this time Chen Shu-chen knows her own mind well and can express it. Backing the Party line, she routs his ideas in a heated debate about what to do in the crisis. She carries the peasants with her in a courageous attempt to replant the crops. The intervening action and Chang Jui-fang's unaffected acting of the part carry us completely with her.

Chou Hsia-lu is also a poor peasant and an old Party member; but as the co-operative movement rolls on, he slacks off and tails behind the rich peasants and backward farmers. Finally he even turns against the Party. There has been criticism of characters cut to pattern. The characterization of Chou Hsia-lu errs on this side and is undoubtedly one of the weak spots in this film. Tsui Chao-ming acts the part well, but the script never gives him a chance to develop his role. But all in all the pluses well outnumber the minuses; this film will assuredly be ranked as one of the good films of the year.

—HSIEH KO

CHINA AND THE WORLD

Visiting Japanese Socialists

A seven-member delegation of the Japanese Socialist Party headed by its General Secretary Inejiro Asanuma is currently visiting China.

On March 7, when the delegation arrived in Peking, it was welcomed at a dinner by its host in China, the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs. The Institute's president Chang Hsi-jo paid tribute to the Japanese Socialist Party for its efforts to promote friendly relations between the Chinese and Japanese peoples. The Chinese people, he said, supported the Japanese Socialist Party's stand on the annulment of the U.S.-Japan security system and for a peaceful and neutral Japan; they agreed to its proposal for a Far East zone free from nuclear weapons and welcomed its clearcut stand on the restoration of Sino-Japanese diplomatic relations and its opposition to the "two Chinas" scheme.

Chang Hsi-jo noted that the Kishi government, by following the United States in its hostility towards China, ran directly counter to the aspirations of the Japanese people and was facing ever stronger popular opposition. Under such conditions, he pointed out, "The Kishi government, hoping to relieve the pressure put on it from various sides and tide over the current political and economic crisis, has recently resumed its shop-worn talk of restoring Sino-Japanese relations under the so-called 'principle of separating politics from trade.'"

Reiterating China's position on this question, Chang Hsi-jo stressed that "the Chinese people have always held that economic intercourse and political relations between China and Japan can in no way be separated. So long as the Kishi government continues with its policy of hostility towards China, engages in the 'two Chinas' plot and obstructs normalization of Sino-Japanese relations, it is impossible to restore trade relations between China and Japan and break the present deadlock."

Chang Hsi-jo concluded with the assurance that the Chinese people would always be friendly with the Japanese people and be ready to work together

with the Japanese Socialist Party to improve Sino-Japanese relations.

The leader of the Japanese delegation, Inejiro Asanuma, in his reply recalled that since the first visit to China of a Japanese Socialist Mission two years ago, many Japanese delegations from people's organizations had visited China and several agreements had been signed; these interchanges were disrupted last year as a result of the unfriendly policy of the reactionary Kishi cabinet. Asanuma said that his party had struggled and would continue to struggle for the abolition of the U.S.-Japan security system and the restoration of diplomatic relations with China. He expressed the wish to improve relations between the two countries by a frank exchange of views during the delegation's visit.

On March 12, Inejiro Asanuma addressed a large public meeting in Peking on the invitation of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs. He dealt with the current international situation and spoke of the struggles his party was currently waging against Kishi's policies and its basic programmes to break the present deadlock in Sino-Japanese relations. The speaker was particularly warmly applauded when he stressed that U.S. imperialism was the common enemy of the Japanese and Chinese peoples and that the Kishi cabinet's policy of putting itself at the beck and call of the U.S. imperialists and relying on the strength of U.S. imperialism in dealing with Asian countries was the basic factor obstructing the normalization of Sino-Japanese relations.

"Renmin Ribao" Comments

Renmin Ribao (March 7) editorially welcomed the delegation's visit to China as "a good opportunity to promote mutual understanding and friendship between the Chinese and Japanese peoples and in the interests of their common cause to relax tension in the Far East and throughout the world."

The delegation, it noted, is visiting China at a time when the popular demand to solve the present deadlock in Sino-Japanese relations is rising daily in Japan and the struggle of the Japanese people is developing on an ever greater scale against the way Kishi follows the war policies of the United States.

Renmin Ribao emphasized that the U.S. occupation of Japan is the chief cause of the oppression and other hardships the Japanese people are now suffering and declared that "Japan can have democracy at home and follow a foreign policy of peace and neutrality only when it completely rids itself of

U.S. control and becomes a truly independent country. As a peaceful, neutral country, Japan will then be able to co-exist peacefully with all countries, particularly with the Asian countries, and establish economic relations with them on a basis of equality and mutual benefit, thus developing and prospering along with all these countries."

The paper pointed out that the United States supports Kishi in sabotaging Sino-Japanese relations because it is afraid that peaceful coexistence between the two countries will deprive it of its pretext for permanently occupying Japan and creating tension in the Far East.

Sino-Polish Friendship

The profound friendship and all-round co-operation between the Chinese and Polish peoples of which Vice-Chairman Chu Teh spoke in his address at the Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party (see page 10) is a reality attested to nowadays in many fields and not least in the technical assistance Poland is giving to construction in China. China's largest sugar refinery, part of her first enterprise for the comprehensive utilization of sugar-cane in which south China abounds and which recently went into production in Chiangmen, Kwangtung Province, was designed and built with the help of Polish experts and equipped with up-to-date Polish machinery.

Poland has helped China build two other sugar refineries and sink modern shafts at Kailuan Colliery in Hopei Province. She is now helping China build several other plants.

A goods exchange and payments agreement signed between China and Poland on March 6 envisages an increase in the volume of their trade this year compared with last. China will provide Poland with various non-ferrous metals, oil-bearing seeds and nuts, rice and raw materials for the textile and leather industries, rubber, tea, canned fruits, silk and other goods. Poland will supply China with complete sets of equipment, various machine tools, machinery, locomotives, diesel engines, excavators, rolled steel and other goods.

An exhibition now open in Shanghai shows the latest types of Polish-made power equipment, machine tools, electronic instruments, chemical and medicinal products, and radiation and ultrasonic detectors. Polish experts are on hand to give technical lectures.

A 1959 executive plan for scientific co-operation has been signed between the Chinese and Polish Academies of Sciences.

CHINESE PRESS OPINION

Iraqi People's Victory

Commenting on the Iraqi people's victory in rapidly putting down the Shawaf *putsch*, *Renmin Ribao's* Commentator (Mar. 12) writes that the heroic Iraqi people have once again scored a major victory in defence of the new-born Republic and in safeguarding their national independence. "This victory," he declares, "deserves warm congratulations from all those throughout the world who support the national independence movement, the five principles of peaceful coexistence and the Bandung spirit and who oppose imperialism and aggressive policies."

Reports from various quarters indicate that the Shawaf revolt was engineered by those foreign aggressive forces who seek to prevent the Iraqi Republic from marching along the road to independence and democracy. Commentator recalls that since the founding of the Republic of Iraq, the imperialist forces have not for one moment ceased their threats, intervention or subversive activities against Iraq.

Soon after the Iraqi people's revolution, the U.S. imperialists invaded Lebanon with their armed forces and planned military intervention in Iraq. They failed in this but they and their Middle East partners—the reactionaries of Turkey, Iran and Israel—have by no means given up their schemes. For the past six months and more now, these aggressive forces have kept up their vicious attacks and slanders against the Government of the Iraqi Republic. At his press conference on February 18, U.S. President Eisenhower even described the lawfully constituted Government of Iraq as a "dictatorial type of government" and designated certain agents of imperialism within Iraq as the forces of "freedom." He openly declared that the forces of "freedom" would "triumph over" those of a "dictatorial type of government" and that this "is the kind of development we (the United States) want to see come about."

Commentator points out that it was precisely this kind of conspiracy on the part of the foreign interventionists to subvert the Iraqi Republic which provided the background for the case of Abdel Salam Aref and the rebellion planned to take place on December 9 last.

Particular attention should be paid to the fact that Iraq's traitors started their armed rebellion at Mosul just when the U.S. had signed bilateral military agree-

ments with Turkey, Iran and Pakistan and the Iraqi people had held a mass rally at Mosul against these agreements. All this was, of course, not accidental, Commentator notes. It is well known that the main target of these bilateral agreements signed by the U.S. is those Asian countries which have embarked on the path of independence and one of its principal targets is the Republic of Iraq.

The Wall Street propaganda machine went into action on the very day of Shawaf's *putsch*, lauding the rebels as "new revolutionaries," and shouting that the rebel area was close to the Turkish border. All this, Commentator says, "is quite enough to show that Shawaf's *putsch* was inseparably linked with the U.S. conspiracy of making use of some Arab countries to oppose other Arab countries, so as to get Arabs to fight Arabs." This, he adds, "is a new development in the series of subversive activities directed by foreign aggressors since the founding of the Iraqi Republic."

Following the Shawaf conspiracy, various imperialist propagandists have taken the opportunity to launch a frantic campaign of attack and slander against the Iraqi people. Certain London newspapers loudly proclaimed that "even if the present revolt were suppressed, there would be no assurance of stability in

Iraq"; and the propagandists in Belgrade, following in the footsteps of the imperialists, are no exception. The Yugoslav paper *Borba* also clamoured that "an Iraqi crisis is unavoidable." This enables people to see still more clearly that Shawaf's *putsch* was the product of an organized international conspiracy.

Nevertheless, Commentator declares, it was in vain that the imperialists and foreign interventionists dreamed of snatching the fruits of the revolution from the hands of the heroic Iraqi people who have gained their freedom. Firm in their unity, the Iraqi people smashed this conspiracy of imperialism and its agents.

The failure of the Shawaf conspiracy has shown all foreign forces that have vainly attempted to prevent Iraq from marching towards democracy, freedom and national independence that the Government of the Republic of Iraq headed by Premier Kassim is supported by the entire Iraqi people; and its policy of safeguarding national independence, developing democracy within the country and persistently striving for peace and neutrality conforms to the interests of the Iraqi people. All conspiracies, aggressive schemes and threats against it will be smashed.

Together with the Iraqi people, Commentator concludes, the Chinese people who have consistently sympathized with and supported the national independence movement of the Arab countries, indignantly protest against the criminal inter-

THE PASSING SHOW

"Time, Gentlemen!"

Did the colonialists in Nyasaland read those words of wisdom in their London *Times* advising local European governments to pursue "fair and sensible policies towards the Africans in their midst (sic!)" because "this is not only a matter of moral principle. It is a question of survival. In a hundred years' time the Africans will still be in Africa. The question is, will the Europeans?"

Certainly not the European gentlemen who haven't noticed how time flies.

The Animal Lovers

The *New York Times* of February 24 is filled with concern about affairs African. The murder of Africans by the colonialists? Nothing so banal! The Zambezi River, backed up by the new Kariba Dam, is forming a lake. A four-column front-page story reports the attempts of ten South Rhodesian game wardens to rescue from the rising waters thousands of wild animals including apes, leopards and the "black mamba whose bite can kill a man in ten minutes."



vention of the imperialists and foreign aggressors against the Iraqi Republic and their threat to peace in West Asia. The Iraqi people's struggle against imperialism and to safeguard the independence and freedom of their sacred motherland will at all times have the warm sympathy and strong support of the Chinese people and all people who oppose aggression and cherish peace. "We are confident that even though the imperialists and foreign interventionists will certainly refuse to desist from their efforts following the defeat of the Shawaf rebellion, all imperialist onslaughts against Iraq will be smashed and the cause of independence and democracy of the Iraqi people will remain invincible, if they continue to sharpen their vigilance and strengthen their unity."

Indonesia-Viet-nam Communique

Renmin Ribao (March 10) editorially welcomes the joint communique issued after the talks between Presidents Ho Chi Minh and Sukarno during the former's visit to Indonesia. "This is a visit of peace, friendship and solidarity," it writes, and declares that the two Presidents' joint communique following their sincere talks will strengthen the relations of friendship and co-operation between the two countries and promote peace, friendship and solidarity in the Asian and African regions.

The joint communique, the editorial points out, follows and promotes the Bandung principles. It stresses that the two countries support the independence struggles of all colonial peoples. It records Democratic Viet-nam's firm support for the recovery of West Irian by the Indonesian people, and states explicitly that the question of Viet-nam's reunification should be settled by applying the provisions of the 1954 Geneva agreements.

The editorial states that the joint communique demonstrates the unanimity of views between the leaders of Viet-nam and Indonesia on important international questions, their mutual support in the common struggle against imperialism and colonialism and their common effort to strengthen their unity and co-operation and in promoting peaceful coexistence. This has set a great example to the peoples of all Asian and African countries.

The two countries have different social systems but this is no obstacle to friendly contacts and co-operation, the paper notes.

The Western imperialists, and those of the U.S. in particular, fear the strengthening of unity and closer relations among the Asian and African countries,

and they are doing all they can to sabotage it. U.S. propaganda organs tried their best to sow discord in connection with President Ho Chi Minh's visit to Indonesia. The UPI declared that no significance attached to it because the two countries "have nothing in common." The intention is obvious, the paper comments.

"The U.S. imperialists are now engaged in new aggressive activities in Southeast Asia," *Renmin Ribao* points out. "They are making every effort to tear up the Geneva agreements, organize aggression in Indo-China and sabotage peace in Southeast Asia." Only recently SEATO members' forces conducted provocative military exercises in Bangkok. "Under these circumstances," it continues, "the strengthening of solidarity among the Southeast Asian and Asian and African countries and their common struggle against imperialism and colonialism is of particular significance."

"The Chinese people," the paper concludes, "are delighted at the successful results of the meeting between the leaders of the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam and the Republic of Indonesia; we are confident that the Bandung principles will continue to flourish and relations of friendship and co-operation among the peoples in the various Asian and African countries will continue to be strengthened."

The Realistic Way to Solve the German Question

Commenting editorially on Comrade N. S. Khrushchov's visit to the German Democratic Republic, which ended on March 12, and the communique on his visit, *Renmin Ribao* says (March 14) that in the communique the Soviet Union and the G.D.R. reiterate their views on the German question and their wish for the peaceful settlement of the question.

The key to the peaceful settlement of the German question is the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany, the editorial states. That is because in the actual condition of two German states existing side by side, it is impossible, by any mechanical means, to bring about the unification of Germany first and then conclude a peace treaty with it. The only way out is to conclude a peace treaty with Germany first, in order to clear the way and create the conditions for the peaceful unification of Germany.

Summarizing the Soviet and G.D.R. stand on the questions of a peace treaty with Germany and of West Berlin, the editorial declares that their attitude "once again shows clearly that the Soviet Union and the G.D.R. have no

intention to act unilaterally but seek for a reasonable settlement through co-operation between all parties. This attitude has won the applause and support of the entire German people and the peace-loving peoples the world over."

But the influential bloc headed by U.S. imperialism is still trying to obstruct and delay the peaceful settlement of the German question by all means, *Renmin Ribao* points out. With U.S. backing, the West German government has assumed a still more obstinate attitude. This policy of the United States and West Germany has now become the main obstacle in the way of the peaceful settlement of the German question and could lead the German situation to dangerous consequences. That is why the Governments of the Soviet Union and the G.D.R. have firmly denounced this policy of the Western powers and the Adenauer government, and have declared solemnly that the Western countries and West Germany will have to be fully responsible for the consequences arising from this policy.

The editorial stresses that the attempt of the imperialist bloc headed by the United States to persist in the policy of splitting Germany and maintaining the state of occupation in West Berlin is thoroughly impractical. "After the thorough bankruptcy of the policy of strength," the editorial concludes, "the only way out for the Western countries is to sit down honestly and negotiate. The realistic way to settle the German question and all other outstanding international issues is through peaceful negotiation."

Tito Clique Exposes Itself

During Tito's recent visit to certain Asian and African countries the Yugoslav revisionists tried their best to portray themselves as knights "supporting national independence" and "preserving peace," says a Hsinhua commentary (March 8). But, it notes, one needs not only to hear what is said, but to see what is done; without delving into the past it is enough to take the recent Yugoslav comments on the agreement on the Cyprus question signed in London by the three NATO members: Britain, Greece and Turkey.

Hsinhua recalls that in a special commentary on February 24 *Borba*, organ of the Tito clique, characterized the London agreement in a detailed appraisal as a positive fact in the light of the current situation that opened up the prospect of a final settlement of the Cyprus question. *Borba* did all it could to convince the Cypriot people that the agreement will

give them peace and the possibility to improve their livelihood and decide their own destiny.

Furthermore, the joint communique issued by Tito and the Greek Premier Karamanlis on March 3 clearly stated that they had discussed the London agreement and held the belief that by this agreement "the people of Cyprus have gained independence." But what are the facts? Although the London agreement made Cyprus nominally an "independent republic," Britain retains the absolute right to keep its military bases there. The agreement further provides that Cyprus must conclude military alliances with both Greece and Turkey and allow them to station troops in Cyprus. Britain, Greece and Turkey reserve the right to inter-

fere in the internal affairs of Cyprus. These three countries even went so far as to dictate every important item in the future constitution of Cyprus. The London agreement is a form of collective colonialism forced upon the people of Cyprus by these three countries. Preserving Britain's domination which was on its last legs, it converts Cyprus into a joint colony and military base of these three NATO members. It also enables the U.S. to strengthen the southern flank of the aggressive NATO bloc.

The words of the Tito-Karamanlis joint statement and Borba's commentary on the London agreement have torn off the Tito clique's mask of "anti-colonialism" and shows what "self-determination of one's own fate" means as

interpreted by them. In urging the people of Cyprus to accept the London agreement "peacefully," Borba declared that the most direct expectation from this agreement was linked with a peace which would cover the whole of Cyprus with auspicious olive groves. Thus, the "peace" advocated by the Tito clique is the peaceful submission of an oppressed people to imperialist rule.

The haste shown by the Tito clique in speaking up for the London agreement and forgetting to don its mask is readily understandable. No sooner was the agreement signed than the U.S. State Department, backstage boss of the whole affair, welcomed it in a statement. Obviously when the master approved, how could the lackeys dare refuse to applaud!

WHAT'S ON IN PEKING

— Highlights of Current Entertainment, Exhibitions, etc. —

Programmes are subject to change. Where times are not listed, consult theatre or daily press.

PEKING OPERA

▲ **A TALE OF TWO FRIENDS** Shen Ching-ya, a high official in the Ming court, is unjustly sentenced and executed, but his eldest son, Hsiao-ya, is saved by Shen's old friend, Feng Tan-hsueh, and lives to avenge his father's death.

Mar. 17, 7:00 p.m. Renmin Theatre

▲ **ORPHAN OF THE CHAO FAMILY** Prime Minister Chao Tun of the ancient State of Tsin is killed by the ruthless minister Tu An-ku who orders the wholesale execution of all his kith and kin. Chao's two friends, Cheng Ying and Kungsun Shu-chiu, save Chao's infant grandson, sole heir of the Chao family, by a desperate plot in which Kungsun gives his own life and Cheng Ying lets his own son die in place of Chao's grandson.

Peking Workers' Club (watch for date)

(The above two operas, newly produced by the Peking Opera Company of Peking, star such well-known actors as Ma Lien-liang, Tan Fu-ying, Chang Chun-chiu, and Chiu Sheng-juang.)

SHAHSING OPERA

▲ **MENG LI-CHUN** A traditional opera. Meng Li-chun has been promised in marriage to the son of a traitor. To escape this fate she disguises herself as a man and runs away, eventually to become a high court official. Produced by the visiting Tientsin Shaohsing Opera Troupe.

Mar. 17-24, 7:00 p.m. Chang An Theatre

SZECHUAN OPERA

▲ **THE ORDEAL OF TAO FU-NU** Beautiful Tao Fu-nu is abducted by the Prefect of Hangchow who wants her as his concubine. He threatens the life of her betrothed, a young scholar. Golden Whiskers of Lake Tai, a Chinese Robin Hood, puts things to rights. Produced by the visiting Szechuan Opera Troupe.

Mar. 17, 7:00 p.m. Peking Workers' Club

CHINESE BALLET

▲ **PRECIOUS LOTUS LANTERN** A modern Chinese ballet based on an ancient Chinese fairy tale. The nymph of Mt. Huashan falls in love with a young scholar. Infuriated by her attachment to a mortal, her intolerant brother imprisons her. Fifteen years later her love-child, who had grown up to be a brave warrior, defeats his uncle in combat and sets his mother free. Produced by the Central Experimental Opera Theatre.

Mar. 20 & 21, 7:00 p.m. Tianqiao Theatre

MODERN OPERA

▲ **MADAME BUTTERFLY** — Puccini's famous opera in Chinese. Produced by the Central Experimental Opera Theatre.

Mar. 17-19, 22-24, 7:00 p.m. Tianqiao Theatre

THEATRE

▲ **SUNRISE** One of Tsao Yu's well-known plays. A story of the fate of women in a pre-liberation treaty port. A vivid picture of upper-class life there and also of its underworld. Lu Lu, its central character, is a good-time girl who is a victim of the old society. Produced by the Peking People's Art Theatre.

Mar. 17-21, 7:15 p.m. Shoudu Theatre

▲ **THE EGRET** Laid in Amoy on the eve of liberation, this play by Pai Jen tells the true story of a young girl named Liu Hsi-fen. Educated by the Communist Party, she became an underground revolutionary, faithful to the revolutionary cause to the end. She was killed by the enemy. After her death the people came to know her as "The Egret"—symbol of foresight. Produced by the China Youth Art Theatre.

Mar. 17-24, 7:00 p.m. China Youth Art Theatre

▲ **MY FAMILY**—adapted from the autobiography of Tao Cheng, a mother of a revolutionary family. Produced by the China Children's Theatre.

Mar. 17-23, Peking Theatre

FILMS

▲ **BY THE MARCH 5TH CANAL** A new production by the Chiangnan Film Studio, based on the true story of a group of women in Anhwei who step by step advanced to socialism via the mutual-aid team and co-op farm to a people's commune.

Mar. 17-19, Da Hua, Jiao Dao Kou
Mar. 20-23, Shoudu Cinema, Peking
Exhibition Centre Cinema, Guang An Men, Zhongyang

▲ **TWO PATROL MEN** The struggle against Kuomintang agents on the southern frontier. A feature film produced by the Chiangnan Film Studio.

Mar. 20-23, Da Hua, Jiao Dao Kou

▲ **SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE MIAO PEOPLE** Socialist construction among the Miao people in Kwangsi. A feature film produced by the Chiangnan Film Studio.

Mar. 18-22, Shoudu Cinema, Peking
Exhibition Centre Cinema, Xin Jie Kou

Mar. 22 & 23, Guang An Men, Peking
Workers' Club, Zhongyang

▲ **WHENCE AND WHERE TO** Must a man help his wife do the housework? Problems of a pair of newly weds. A Czech film dubbed in Chinese.

Mar. 20-23, Da Hua, Jiao Dao Kou

▲ **DON QUIXOTE** Soviet adaptation of Cervantes' famous novel, dubbed in Chinese.

Mar. 20-22, Xi Dan Theatre, Shengli
Mar. 21-25, Peking Theatre, Shoudu
Theatre

EXHIBITIONS

▲ **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION** In eleven halls, it shows New China's great achievements in agriculture. Open daily (except Mon.) 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. At San Li Tun, east suburb.

▲ **CHINESE PAINTINGS IN TRADITIONAL STYLE** by women artists of the Yuan, Ming and Ching dynasties. An exhibition in celebration of Women's Day.

At Palace Museum

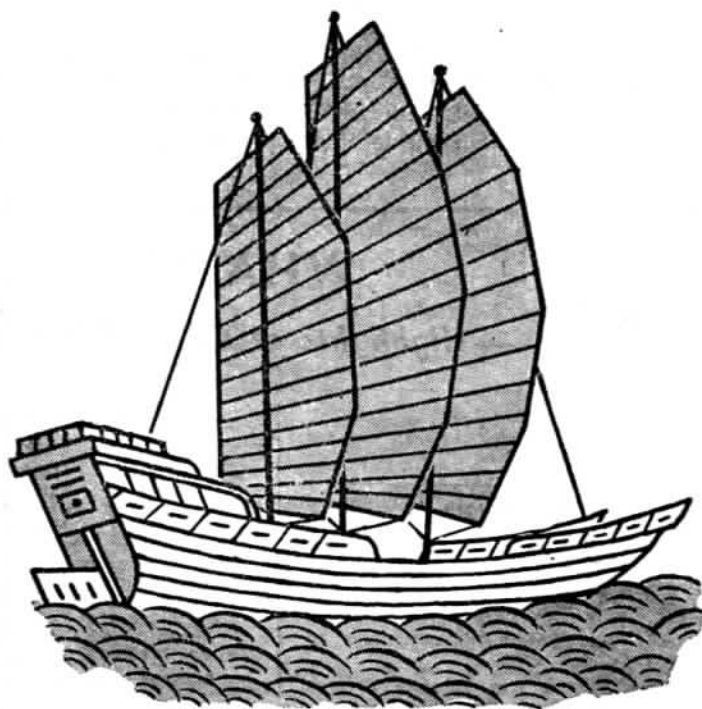
▲ **EXHIBITION OF CZECHOSLOVAK PUPPET FILMS** by J. Trnka. Open daily (except Mon.) 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

At Zhongshan Park

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