

PEKING REVIEW

33

August 15, 1975

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**Study Some History of Social
Development**

Friendship Is the Keynote

— Peking International Swimming and Diving Friendship
Invitational Meet

**Soviet Social-Imperialists Covet
Southeast Asia**

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Capital Construction at an Accelerated Pace

Work on China's capital construction has been going on at a faster speed than before thanks to the implementation of the principle of "concentrating a superior force to fight a campaign of annihilation," that is, giving priority to key projects. With a number of large and medium-sized projects and those added to existing enterprises completed and put into operation in the first half of this year, total investment on capital construction in this period increased 32 per cent over that of the same period last year, reaching an all-time high for the past few years.

By the end of June, 22 pairs of coal shafts had gone into operation, and the production capacity thus increased was more than three times that for the corresponding period of last year. In the petroleum industry, more than twice as many oil wells were drilled as in the first six months of last year; in addition, a number of oil-refining installations were constructed and long-distance oil and gas pipelines laid. On June 23, the oil pipeline from Chinhuangtao to Peking was completed and commissioned. In the power industry, several big generating sets have begun supplying electricity.

Construction in the light industry was carried out on a larger scale than in the first half of 1974. A number of paper-making, synthetic fibre and sugar-refining projects were completed and began production. Four big and medium-sized sugar refineries were built and put into operation in Kwangtung Province and the Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region.

The construction of trunk railways and highways and of harbours was also stepped up. Total investment in the construction of ten coastal harbours in the six-month period accounted for over 60 per cent of the amount under annual plan, and

more than twice as much work was done as in the corresponding 1974 period. The amount of work done in inland waterway and highway construction was 57 per cent bigger than in the same period last year. Railway construction also fulfilled the plan. The electrification of the 676-kilometre-long railway running from Paoki in Shensi Province to Chengtu in Szechuan Province was completed and opened to traffic.

New houses, hospitals, schools, water and gas supply systems and other public works were placed at the service of the working people in cities and towns in the first half of this year.

The percentage of planned investment on capital construction in 27 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions fulfilled in the first six months was higher than in the same period of 1974. In Kwangtung Province the percentage was 52.6 and in Tientsin 51.5.

Burmese Foreign Minister Visits China

Foreign Minister U Hla Phone of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma arrived in Peking on August 8 for a friendly visit.

Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping on August 11 met the Foreign Minister and his party.

Foreign Minister Chiao Kuan-hua held talks with his Burmese counterpart and exchanged views on further development of the good neighbourly relations between the two countries and other questions of common interest.

In his toast at the farewell banquet on August 11, the visiting Foreign Minister said that the exchange of views was conducive to a better mutual understanding and strengthening the traditional ties of friendship between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Chiao Kuan-hua said that Foreign Minister U Hla

Phone's visit had achieved complete success and the talks held between the two sides had promoted mutual understanding and friendship. He said he was convinced that China and Burma would further promote friendly exchanges and interflow, and the friendly relations between the two countries would be constantly consolidated and developed on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Our two peoples would remain friendly to each other for generations to come, he added.

Linked by mountains and rivers, China and Burma have been friendly neighbours since ancient times. There exists a profound kinsman-like traditional friendship between the two peoples. Since the founding of the new China relations between them have witnessed a good development. The visit of President U Ne Win to China in 1971 further strengthened mutual understanding and friendship between both countries. In international affairs, they have also worked in co-operation.

Seychelles People's United Party Delegation

Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping on August 10 met and had a cordial and friendly conversation with the visiting delegation of the Seychelles People's United Party. The delegation was led by F.A. Rene, President of the Party and Minister of Works and Land Development of the Seychelles Coalition Government.

U.S. Congressional Delegation

Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping on August 6 met with the U.S. Congressional Delegation with Republican Senators Charles H. Percy and Jacob K. Javits as co-leaders and Democratic Senator Claiborne Pell as deputy leader. Foreign Minister Chiao Kuan-hua was present on the occasion.

The visiting delegation arrived in Peking on August 4.

Study Some History of Social Development

by Tung Sung

THE Communist Party of China has always regarded the study of the history of social development as an important aspect in educating the cadres and the masses in Marxism. In the current movement of studying the theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat, it is necessary also to study some history of social development.

Grasping the Objective Law of Social Development

What, after all, should be our attitude towards the history of human society? Over a long period of time, there has been a fierce struggle between historical idealism and historical materialism. To safeguard their rule, the reactionary and decadent exploiting classes and their spokesmen invariably propagate the idealist conception of history to cover up and distort history as it is. It was only after the birth of Marxism that the miasma spread by the idealist conception of history has been thoroughly dispelled and the development of human society has been given a truly scientific explanation. The Marxist materialist conception of history scientifically explains that as a result of its own movement of opposites human society has developed from a lower to a higher stage according to its law. It began with primitive society, followed by slave society, feudal society and capitalist society, and it finally moves inevitably into socialist and communist society. This is an objective law independent of man's will. Dealing with the historical process of social development, the history of social development helps us deepen our understanding of the necessity of the dictatorship of the proletariat and its historical mission, thus enabling us to better persevere in continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat.

By studying the history of social development, we can understand that the dictatorship of the proletariat is not something concocted by some revolutionary out of his imagination but is an indispensable stage in the entire process of development of human history, and that it is determined by the law governing the development of class struggle. In his letter to J. Weydemeyer (March 5, 1852), Marx said that "the existence of classes is only bound up with particular historical phases in the

development of production." Socialist society is still within these "particular historical phases." In this society there exist not only the threat of aggression and subversion by imperialism and the danger of restoration by the overthrown landlord and capitalist classes but also the soil and conditions for engendering new bourgeois elements. The dictatorship of the proletariat "only constitutes the transition to the abolition of all classes and to a classless society." The proletariat which has seized political power can neither maintain its own rule nor fight for the abolition of all classes unless it persists in exercising dictatorship over the bourgeoisie.

The history of social development tells us: As in the case of classes, there were no states at the early stage of human history, nor will they exist eternally. The state is a product of the irreconcilability of class contradictions. Ever since human society was divided into classes, the ruling classes have always used the state machinery to suppress the resistance of antagonistic classes in order to uphold their own rule. To preserve their own rule, the slave-owners are bound to crack down on the slaves, the feudal landlord class is bound to suppress the peasants and the bourgeoisie has to impose its dictatorship over the working class. Likewise, the proletariat must exercise dictatorship over the bourgeoisie so as to uphold its own rule. This revolutionary dictatorship is something learnt from the counter-revolutionary dictatorship. "Such learning is very important. If the revolutionary people do not master this method of ruling over the counter-revolutionary classes, they will not be able to maintain their state power, domestic and foreign reaction will overthrow that power and restore its own rule over China, and disaster will befall the revolutionary people." (Mao Tsetung: *On the People's Democratic Dictatorship*.)

The history of social development tells us: Every new social formation in history has emerged on the basis of the old society; it is a negation of the old society and differs from it in essence while at the same time it inevitably retains certain birth marks of the old society. After the emergence of class society, the replacement of an old social system by a new one invariably involves a long and complex struggle between

restoration and counter-restoration. The soil and conditions necessary for the existence of restorationist forces are the very birth marks carried over from the old society to the new. After overthrowing bourgeois rule by means of violent revolution, the proletariat establishes a socialist state of the dictatorship of the proletariat; this marks a great leap in the history of development of human society and is a step of decisive significance in the transition from class society to classless society.

The socialist system is vastly superior to the capitalist system. In socialist society, the proletariat has turned from an oppressed and exploited class into a ruling class, the labouring people have become masters of the state and socialist public ownership of the means of production has replaced private ownership; nationalization of industry and collectivization of agriculture have opened broad vistas for the development of social productive forces; ideological education in Marxism is gradually freeing hundreds of millions of labouring people from the ideological influence of the old society and guiding them to advance along the socialist road. Notwithstanding all this, since socialist society emerges from capitalist society, it is thus in every respect, economically, morally and intellectually, still stamped with the birth marks of the old society from whose womb it emerges.

Chairman Mao pointed out recently: "In a word, China is a socialist country. Before liberation she was much the same as a capitalist country. Even now she practises an eight-grade wage system, distribution according to work and exchange through money, and in all this differs very little from the old society. What is different is that the system of ownership has been changed." "Our country at present practises a commodity system, the wage system is unequal, too, as in the eight-grade wage scale, and so forth. Under the dictatorship of the proletariat such things can only be restricted." Those things that differ very little from the old society, as pointed out by Chairman Mao, all have the "defects" of bourgeois right which still exists in socialist society. Studying the history of social development will bring home to us the fact that these "defects" are inevitable in the historical period of socialism and that they can gradually be overcome and finally eliminated only through persistent efforts over a long period of time in continuing the revolution in both the economic base and the superstructure and in developing socialist construction.

The history of social development tells us: The development of commodity-money relations did play a historical role in disintegrating the public ownership in primitive society. This promoted the development of society at that time. The capitalist system also has grown from the commodity economy of feudal society and is the highest stage in the development of commodity economy. This helps us understand that since there still are the commodity system and exchange through money in the present stage of

socialism, they are bound to engender capitalism and the bourgeoisie. Though commodity production and exchange through money will still develop under the guidance of the state plan, bourgeois right in these two respects must be restricted and under no circumstances should they be allowed to undermine the socialist public ownership.

Struggle of Basic Social Contradictions Pushes Society Forward

The Marxist history of social development not only reveals the objective law of the development of human society from a lower to a higher stage, but also explains that the fundamental cause of the development of human society lies in the struggle of basic social contradictions, i.e., the contradictions and struggle between the relations of production and the productive forces and between the superstructure and the economic base. In class society, these basic contradictions manifest themselves as class struggle. The history of human society after the disintegration of primitive society is a history of class struggle. A good grasp of this point will enable us to come to a deeper understanding of the basic contradictions in socialist society and know how to continue the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat well. Chairman Mao has pointed out: "The basic contradictions in socialist society are still those between the relations of production and the productive forces and between the superstructure and the economic base." (*On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People.*) These basic contradictions are bound to find concentrated expression in class contradictions and class struggle. To carry the socialist revolution through to the end, the proletariat and other labouring people will continuously and systematically transform those parts of the relations of production and the superstructure which are incongruous with the productive forces and the economic base, so as to constantly consolidate and perfect the socialist relations of production and superstructure. On the other hand, the landlord and capitalist classes and their agents in the Party invariably do all they can to obstruct and sabotage this transformation in an attempt to prevent the socialist revolution from going forward and restore the old relations of production and superstructure. Such being the case, the basic contradictions in socialist society manifest themselves in the struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie and between the socialist and capitalist roads. To propel the continuous advance of socialist society, we must persevere in the dictatorship of the proletariat, uphold the Party's basic line, do a good job of the socialist revolution in the relations of production and the superstructure, keep on attacking the bourgeoisie and capitalism, suppress the resistance of the overthrown landlord and capitalist classes and reduce and dig out the soil giving birth to new bourgeois elements. Only thus can we gradually abolish classes and eliminate all birth marks left over from the old society and finally realize communism.

Socialism is bound to triumph over capitalism and the dictatorship of the proletariat is bound to replace the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie. This is an objective law of the development of history. Liu Shao-chi, Lin Piao and other swindlers like them frantically opposed the dictatorship of the proletariat, trumpeting the theory of the "dying out of class struggle" to sap the fighting will of the revolutionary people, vilifying the dictatorship of the proletariat as a "meat grinder," regarding the system and conception of private ownership which exist only in particular phases of social development as the common "law" of all societies, and opposing and undermining the socialist public ownership. They did all these in a vain attempt to prevent the working class from displaying the communist spirit and use the ideology of bourgeois right to incite some

people to oppose the socialist revolution. Their criminal aim was to protect the interests of the landlord and capitalist classes, preserve the birth marks left over from the old society and restore capitalism. These swindlers were doomed to failure because they moved against the trend of history, went against the law of social development and ran counter to the fundamental interests of the people. Nothing on earth can stem the onrushing historical tide of social development. Capitalism will surely be defeated by socialism which is bound to advance towards communism. We should clearly understand this inevitable trend of historical development, be firm in our revolutionary confidence, criticize revisionism and the bourgeoisie, go in for socialism in a big way and keep advancing towards communism.

For Your Reference

Productive Forces and Relations of Production

by Shih Ta

THE productive forces consist of the following three elements: 1) labourers who possess certain production experience and labour skill; 2) means of labour, the first being instruments of production; 3) objects of labour. Of the three, labourers are the primary as well as the decisive factor. This is because only the labouring masses can create, improve and use the instruments of production. As Lenin pointed out at the First All-Russia Congress on Adult Education: "The primary productive force of human society as a whole, is the workers, the working people."

The relations of production refer to the relations established among people in the process of social production of material goods. They have three aspects: 1) The form of ownership of the means of production; 2) positions of different social groups in production and their mutual relations determined by the form of ownership of the means of production; 3) the form of distribution of products which depends entirely on the above two. Of the three, ownership of the means of production is decisive and is the base of the relations of production. Ownership of the means of production determines mutual relations between people and the form of distribution. For example: In capitalist society, the capitalists own the means of production while the workers have nothing but their labour power for sale. In production, the capitalists hold a dominating, exploiting and controlling position while the workers are in an enslaved, exploited and oppressed position. Because the capitalists have the means of production in

their hands and the workers are in a powerless state, the products of labour inevitably go to the capitalists. The workers can only get wages to maintain a bare existence.

Although ownership of the means of production plays a decisive role in the relations of production, mutual relations between people and the form of distribution also react upon the system of ownership and play the decisive role under certain conditions.

The productive forces and the relations of production are the two aspects of one dialectical unity. The former cannot exist in the absence of the relations of production; at the same time it is the basis on which certain relations of production exist and develop. The productive forces generally play the principal and decisive role because they are the most revolutionary and active factor. In the wake of the development and changes of the productive forces, the relations of production are sure to develop and change sooner or later. But the relations of production do not merely correspond to the demands of the development of the productive forces in a passive way. They react upon the productive forces, promote or hinder their development and play the decisive role under certain conditions. When the relations of production obstruct and shackle the development of productive forces, this will give rise to changes in the relations of production and to violent revolution which will overthrow the old social system and establish new relations of production conforming to the further development of the productive forces. The emergence of new relations of production, on the other hand, promotes the development of productive forces.

Till today, human society has seen five kinds of relations of production, namely, those of primitive communal system, slave system, feudal system, capitalist system and socialist system.

In China, socialist relations of production have been established and are in harmony with the growth of the

productive forces which progress at a much quicker pace than that in the old society. But these relations of production are still far from perfect, and this imperfection is in contradiction to the growth of the productive forces. In our country, bourgeois right, which has not yet been entirely abolished in the system of ownership, is still prevalent to a serious extent in relations between people and holds a dominant position in distribution. All this influences the development of the productive forces. Therefore, we must pay attention to solving problems in the relations of production, limit bourgeois right, accelerate the growth of productive forces, make further efforts to consolidate and perfect socialist ownership, and create conditions in which it will be impossible for the bourgeoisie to exist, or for a new bourgeoisie to arise.

Economic Base and Superstructure

by Hung Ou

THE economic base refers to the economic system at a certain stage of social development, that is, the sum total of the relations of production. The superstructure embraces social views on politics, law, philosophy, art, religion, etc., and the political and legislative and judicial bodies and systems corresponding to these views.

The contradiction between the superstructure and the economic base is one of the basic contradictions in a society. It promotes the development and change of society. The relationship between the superstructure and the economic base is one of dialectical unity. The economic base generally plays the principal and decisive role. The superstructure is founded on the economic base and its character decided by that of the latter. For instance, the economic base in capitalist society is the capitalist relations of production, and the superstructure built on this base is the state system of the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie and bourgeois ideology. The decisive role of the economic base can also be seen in the fact that "with the change of the economic foundation the entire immense superstructure is more or less rapidly transformed." (Karl Marx: *Preface to "A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy."*)

But the superstructure does not merely conform to the economic base passively. It is relatively independent and has an immense reaction on the economic base. An advanced superstructure is established to meet the needs of the growth of an advanced economic base. It promotes the formation and consolidation of its own base, destroys the old economic base and becomes the progressive forces propelling the growth of productive

forces. A decadent superstructure protects the old economic base and hampers the birth and growth of the new economic base. Following the transformation of the old economic base, the old superstructure, especially old ideology, does not change immediately and will exist for quite a long period of time. It will play the reactionary role of undermining the new economic base and restoring the old one and become the reactionary forces that impede the growth of productive forces. The fact that the superstructure exercises the decisive influence on the economic base under certain conditions is clearly seen during the period of socialist revolution. This is because the socialist economic base cannot grow spontaneously out of the old society and can only be formed and grow after the proletariat has seized political power.

In China, socialist transformation has in the main been completed with respect to the system of ownership and socialist relations of production have been established. But the economic base is not yet solid and bourgeois right, which has not yet been entirely abolished in the system of ownership, is still prevalent to a serious extent in relations between people and holds a dominant position in distribution. Therefore, socialist revolution must be continued with regard to the economic base.

In socialist society, the contradiction between the superstructure and the economic base is still one of the basic social contradictions. There is harmony as well as contradiction between the superstructure and the economic base. Consisting of the state system and laws of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the socialist ideology guided by Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, China's superstructure "plays a positive role in facilitating the victory of socialist transformation and the establishment of the socialist organization of labour; it is suited to the socialist economic base, that is, to socialist relations of production." (Mao Tsetung: *On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People.*) But because of survivals of the old ideology, the existence of the conception of bourgeois right and defects in certain links in our state institutions, some aspects in the various spheres of the superstructure are in fact still controlled by the bourgeoisie which is predominant there; some are being transformed but the results are not yet consolidated, and old ideas and the old force of habit are trying obstinately to hold back the growth of socialist new things. All this stands in contradiction to the socialist economic base.

During the entire historical period of socialism, the struggle in the various spheres of the superstructure by Marxism to defeat revisionism and by the proletariat to triumph over the bourgeoisie is protracted and tortuous and even very acute at times. Therefore, the proletariat must exercise all-round dictatorship over the bourgeoisie in the superstructure, including all spheres of culture, carry out socialist revolution well in the realm of the superstructure and develop socialist new-born things and consolidate the socialist economic base.

Carry the Communist Spirit Forward

by the theoretical group of a naval shipyard

SHORTLY after the victory of the October Socialist Revolution, the Moscow-Kazan Railway workers in 1919 initiated and organized the "communist subbotniks" (voluntary work on Saturdays without pay) in response to the call of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) to "work in a revolutionary way." Speaking highly of this revolutionary drive displayed by the worker masses, Lenin regarded it as "the actual beginning of Communism." He pointed out: "It is the beginning of a revolution that is more difficult, more material, more radical and more decisive than the overthrow of the bourgeoisie, for it is a victory over our own conservatism, indiscipline, petty-bourgeois egoism, a victory over the habits that accursed capitalism left as a heritage to the worker and peasant." (*A Great Beginning*.) This illuminating remark by Lenin has enabled us to understand profoundly that to defeat the bourgeoisie thoroughly and consolidate the dictatorship of the proletariat, it is necessary to bring into full play the revolutionary initiative and creativeness of the masses of the people, carry forward the communist spirit and wage a long and arduous struggle against the "birth marks" left over from the old society.

Under the leadership of Chairman Mao and the Communist Party, the Chinese people, after prolonged and hard struggles, got rid of the three big mountains — imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism — that lay like a dead weight on them and founded New China, a state of the dictatorship of the proletariat. Standing on their own feet, the Chinese people have actively plunged into socialist revolution and construction with enormous enthusiasm and shown their great wisdom and ability. In a short period of time, we have successfully accomplished a series of important tasks in both revolution and construction and gradually changed the poor and backward features of old China. Particularly since the start of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution we have smashed the bourgeois headquarters of Liu Shao-chi and of Lin Biao and deepened the socialist revolution in the superstructure including all spheres of culture, thereby further shattering the mental shackles imposed on the proletariat and other labouring people by the exploiting classes. As a result, the revolutionary initiative of the masses of the people has soared as never before and the communist spirit has been brought into fuller play.

"Revolutions are the locomotives of history."
(Marx: *The Class Struggles in France, 1848 to 1850*.) Now

it can be seen clearly that our revolutionary cause has been advancing continuously in the struggle against the "birth marks" left over from the old society and the revolutionary initiative and communist spirit of the people has been increasing steadily in the struggle to constantly eradicate the old society's "birth marks." Ever since the founding of New China in 1949, Chairman Mao has led the masses of the people in carrying out ever deeper socialist revolution on the economic front as well as on the political and ideological fronts and in unfolding a series of political movements and ideological education movements. Each revolutionary mass movement is concurrently a major onslaught against and a general sweep-up of the old society's "birth marks," and also a fierce struggle against the overthrown exploiting classes dreaming of restoring the old social system and against the chieftains of the revisionist line who have tried with might and main to preserve and extend the "birth marks" of the old society. It is in the course of waging these struggles that the proletariat and other labouring people make constant efforts to rid themselves of dirt and enhance their consciousness of class struggle, the two-line struggle and continuing the revolution. Hence a fuller display of revolutionary initiative and communist spirit.

Our shipyard's history clearly demonstrates this. In its early days, interference and sabotage by the revisionist line and bourgeois right left over from the old society as regards mutual relations among people seriously hampered bringing into play their initiative, so much so that a slipway could not be completed even after more than three years' work. During the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, we criticized the revisionist line in running enterprises and put an end to all sorts of interference and sabotage. Workers have taken part in designing and management and cadres and technicians have made it a rule to participate in productive labour. As a result, their revolutionary initiative and creativeness soar to a new high. To build a mechanized slipway bigger and better than the unfinished one, a blacksmith turned deputy director of the shipyard led a group of more than 20 workers as the backbone force and mobilized all the other workers and staff members to do most of the designing and all the construction by themselves. The slipway was completed in a year and construction costs cut by half. It has been used to repair many warships and the quality has proved good.

Socialist society covers the period in which declining capitalism and rising communism are locked in struggle. Our task is to restrict, gradually weaken and finally eliminate what is capitalist in the course of struggle, while energetically developing what is communist and enabling communism to triumph over capitalism step by step.

Fundamentally speaking, by revolutionary initiative we mean initiative in struggling for the victory of communism over capitalism. As representatives of the reactionary and decadent bourgeoisie, the chieftains of the revisionist line like Liu Shao-chi and Lin Piao were always addicted to the "birth marks" and "defects" left from the old society and clung to them like grim death. Conversely, they hated to the marrow of their bones the new emerging things, which are diametrically opposed to those "birth marks" and "defects," and the initiative and communist spirit displayed by the people in socialist revolution and construction. Flaunting the banner of socialism, they did all they could to preserve and extend what is capitalist. They fanatically sang the praises of "material incentives," prattling that "material incentives are necessary somehow or other," "whether people's treatment (salary, position) . . . is handled well or not determines how well they give play to their initiative," and "the principle of distribution to each according to his work and that of material interests" are the "decisive motive force" for developing production. What they wanted was initiative stimulated by "material incentives" and not socialist revolutionary initiative at all. In other words, they wanted the capitalist initiative of working exclusively for profit.

Lenin said: **"One good turn deserves another — such are the ethics of the capitalist world."** (*Report at a Joint Session of the All-Russia Central Executive Committee, the Moscow Soviet, Factory Committees and Trade Unions.*) By advertising "material incentives," Liu Shao-chi and Lin Piao aimed at extending bourgeois right, whose existence in socialist society is inevitable, and that part of inequality it entails and using the old traditional ideas and force of habit and capitalist practice to corrupt the proletariat and other labouring people, stir up people's selfish yearning for material gains and keep their views within the extremely narrow confines of personal material interests. What they vainly attempted was to fundamentally smother the masses' revolutionary initiative so as to attain their criminal aim of overthrowing the dictatorship of the proletariat and restoring capitalism. Wasn't this the way the Soviet revisionist renegade clique brought about an all-round restoration of capitalism in the world's first socialist country?

Lenin once pointed out: The feudal organization of social labour rested on the discipline of the bludgeon, the capitalist organization of social labour rested on the discipline of hunger, and **"the communist organization of social labour, the first step towards which is Socialism, rests, and will do so more and more as time goes on, on the free and conscious discipline of the**

toilers themselves who have thrown off the yoke both of the landlords and capitalists." (*A Great Beginning.*) The "communist subbotniks" gave expression to such a conscious discipline, as does the selfless work by hundreds of millions of the Chinese labouring people for the cause of socialist revolution and construction. In the movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius, many workers in our shipyard defied hardships and fatigue to meet production plans. They have tried their best to do more work in their field, learn to do work they are not familiar with and take up work not assigned to them. Here "material incentives" as mouthed by Lin Piao are nowhere to be seen, let alone the decisive role they are supposed to play. Such a high degree of revolutionary initiative among the masses is the very result of the criticism of revisionist junk like "material incentives" and "money is all-powerful."

One veteran worker in our shipyard in charge of the slipways has an educational level equivalent only to a primary school graduate. After going through the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and the movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius, he came to realize that there are two futures for a socialist society: one is advancing towards communism, the other is sliding back to capitalism. It was brought home to him that as a veteran worker he shoulders an important responsibility in the struggle by the proletariat to completely defeat the bourgeoisie. To quicken warship overhauls, he was determined to improve the equipment of slipways. He spent many a sleepless night pondering over the innovation and had it in mind even when he was not on the job. Unable to do complicated calculations, he drew a huge plane figure section by section on the ground. When the first draft design failed, he drew another. In this way, he joined efforts with other comrades to successfully design new slipway equipment which halved the time needed to move a warship on to the slipway for repairs, thus contributing to the revolution. It is not hard to see that if this veteran worker had forgotten about the working class' important historical mission, regarded his labour and himself as commodities and thought of "money" and "reward" alone, he would not have been able to do his work selflessly and bring his revolutionary initiative and creativeness into full play.

The revolutionary initiative and creativeness of the working class is based on its ever-rising communist consciousness. Only by conscientiously studying works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and by Chairman Mao and getting a clear understanding of the Marxist theory on the dictatorship of the proletariat by integrating theory with practice can we distinguish what is communist from what is capitalist and what the buds of socialist new things are from what the "birth marks" of the old society are. Only in this way can we remain sober-minded, correctly observe and deal with all the things in socialist society, strive to carry forward the communist spirit and constantly do away with the "birth marks" of the old society and fight for the victory of communism over capitalism step by step.

Friendship Is the Keynote

— Peking International Swimming and Diving
Friendship Invitational Meet



THE Peking International Swimming and Diving Friendship Invitational Meet drew to a triumphant close on August 10, having lasted for eight days.



Sight-seeing at the Great Wall.

More than 300 swimmers and divers from over 20 countries plus one region in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe took part in this friendship invitational meet, an event which helps promote friendship and unity and presents opportunities for the participants from developing countries to learn from one another, swap experience and raise their skills together.

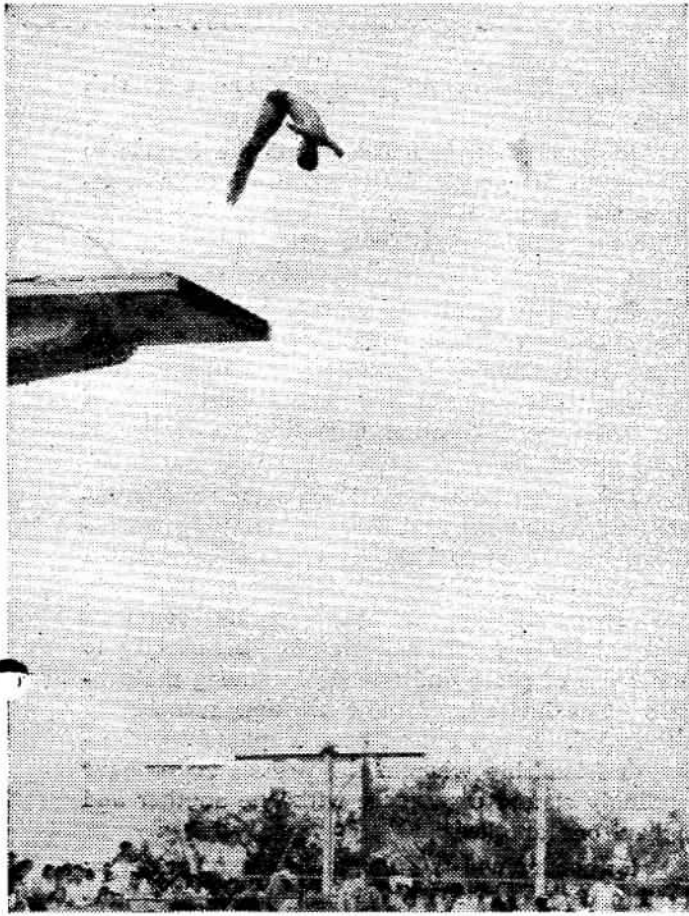
Popular Support

This invitational swimming meet reflects the strong determination of the sports circles in developing countries to fight pressure and obstruction in their

way and unite in the struggle against hegemonism. A handful of leading figures in the Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur (FINA) have set up barriers to prevent and undermine the invitational meet but their attempt has been frustrated. Leader of the Albanian Swimming Delegation Dod Doda said: "No matter how hard the FINA may try to oppose and penalize us, even thousands of times, the Albanian people stand firm in defending their friendship with the 800 million Chinese people." Leader of the Singapore Swimming and Diving Delegation Woon Sui Kut said: "Small though our country is, we Singaporeans fear no pressure. No one can stop us from making friends." Leader of the Mexican Sports Federation Swimming Delegation Rodolfo Aznar Romero said: "We're proud to be in China for the friendship invitational meet, for the swimmers and divers taking part are all from developing countries. We should strengthen our solidarity and friendship." Representative of the



Talking shop in the swimming pool.



Platform diving.

Tanzanian Swimming Association Masudi Juma Shukuru said: "It is only a short time since swimming activities were promoted in our country. Our National Swimming Association is only two months old, and so we are unable to send swimmers and divers here this time. But we pledge our firm support to the current international friendship invitational meet."

Friends from various countries said with one voice: "We have come here for friendship, which is more precious than (FINA) membership."

"That a few FINA leaders prevent its members from coming to Peking to take part in the friendship invitational meet runs counter to the duty of an international organization!"

"We are independent countries, our own affairs should be decided by ourselves!"

Speaking at a welcoming banquet, President of the All-China Sports Federation Chao Cheng-hung said: "We esteem and admire our friends for their determination to come to Peking for the invitational meet in defiance of all the intimidation and obstruction. It shows that the national dignity and state sov-

eighty of the developing countries brooks no interference." He pointed out: "At present, a few leaders in the FINA are resorting to 'punishment' at every opportunity to deal with those swimmers who have visited China, as if a country had no right even to choose its own partners of sports exchange but must subordinate itself to the decision by these overlords. This hegemonic behaviour cannot but meet with condemnation from swimming circles of various countries." "After arriving in Peking, quite a few friends time and again urged the FINA to expel the Chiang clique and restore to China its legitimate seat. This is an immense support to the Chinese people and athletes, for which we express our heartfelt gratitude," he said.

Friendship Promotes Competition

Learn from each other and make progress together — this has become the common aim of the athletes at the invitational meet. While the electric timer kept flashing results and the loudspeaker came over with the names of the competitors and their places in the events, all were in good spirits, including those who didn't do too well. The spectators not only warmly applauded those in the lead but also rooted for those who were trying to catch up. Samuel O. Sarmiento of the Philippines, who headed his country's swimming delegation, noted: My observation is that the cameramen not just shoot at the winners. They take an even greater interest in scenes like swimmers greeting each other or engaged in cordial conversation.

Those from countries where swimming became a popular sport only recently regarded this invitational meet as an opportunity to promote friendship and learn from swimmers of other lands. After their arrival in Peking, they went for their workouts vigorously and before long they had made many friends and improved their skill. Quite a few of them remarked with great satisfaction: This kind of friendship invitational meet suits the need of athletes of the developing countries well.



Congratulating each other after the event.

Peking Banquet

THE Peking Municipal Revolutionary Committee gave a grand banquet in the Great Hall of the People on August 11 to mark the fruitful closing of the Peking International Swimming and Diving Friendship Invitational Meet.

Present were Chinese leaders Teng Hsiao-ping, Chen Hsi-lien and Wu Teh. Prior to the banquet, the Chinese leaders met with more than 300 foreign friends who participated in the invitational meet, and were photographed together.

Speaking at the banquet on behalf of the Peking Municipal Revolutionary Committee, Wu Teh extended warm congratulations to the friends from various countries as well as a region who took part in the meet.

Wu Teh said: "The participants in this invitational meet are all from developing countries. We had the same experience in the past, and are confronted with common fighting tasks today. In our struggle to oppose foreign aggression and intervention, to defend state sovereignty, uphold national independence and develop national economy and culture, we have always supported and helped each other, thereby forging ties of profound friendship. The success of this friendship invitational meet will not only help the advancement of swimming in the developing countries, but, what is more, it constitutes a positive contribution to the consolidation and strengthening of the friendship and unity among the peoples and athletes of these countries."

He pointed out: "China is a developing socialist country. The Chinese people and athletes highly treasure their friendship with their counterparts in other developing countries. The amicable feelings expressed by our friends, and the fine sportsmanship they displayed during the invitational meet, have deeply impressed the Chinese people. In the future, we shall strive to make further contributions to the continuous enhancement of friendship and unity among us, so that the seeds of friendship sown here in Peking may

eventually blossom out gloriously and bear rich fruit."

In conclusion, Wu Teh asked the friends to convey to the people and athletes of their countries the cordial regards and best wishes of the Chinese people and athletes when they returned home.

On behalf of all the friends participating in the invitational meet, Dod Doda, leader of the Albanian Swimming Delegation, and Mustafa Abu Shahla, leader of the Swimming Delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization, spoke at the banquet.

Delegation leader Dod Doda said: "The International Swimming and Diving Friendship Invitational Meet held in Peking just now, once again demonstrates the international solidarity between the swimmers of the participating countries and those of China. It is beneficial to the cause of peace and friendship among the peoples. The invitational meet has now successfully concluded. It has indeed been a splendid gathering of friendship wherein the various teams have willingly shared experience with one another and helped one another."

He condemned the reactionary stand taken by certain persons in FINA on the question of restoring to the People's Republic of China its legitimate rights in FINA. He condemned them for exerting pressure on various countries in an effort to forbid their participation in the invitational meet organized in the People's Republic of China.

Delegation leader Mustafa Abu Shahla said: "We have come together here after breaking through all sorts of imperialist barriers which cut off the exchanges among the peoples of developing countries, first and foremost in the field of sports." This shows the common aspirations of the peoples for unity in struggle. This magnificent sport meet and the spirit of friendship it has displayed testify to the growing unity of the people of the third world countries." He condemned the stubborn stand taken by certain bureau members of the FINA.

"In international sports, we mean to demonstrate our collective strength!" Such is the goal the athletes of the developing countries set for themselves. When the Pakistan swimmers arrived in Peking, they took the initiative to see what they could learn from the other delegations. A coach of the Albanian delegation showed good sportsmanship by passing on experience to appreciative Pakistan friends.

China's swimmers and coaches took this golden opportunity to learn from friends overseas, from their

friends' determined action to withstand the pressures coming from a few leaders of the FINA and from their militant spirit of daring to fight and daring to win. China's athletes availed themselves of the swimming meet to learn from friends abroad their good sportsmanship and superb skills.

Painstaking training and earnest help from each other created the conditions for the swimmers and

(Continued on p. 21.)

All the Nationalities Have the Freedom to Use Their Own Spoken and Written Languages

CHINA'S new Constitution stipulates that "all the nationalities have the freedom to use their own spoken and written languages." This provision is one of the fundamental principles for solving the national question in China and has been put forward by the Chinese Communist Party on the basis of the fundamental Marxist theory on the national question and the concrete conditions in the country. It fully reflects the common aspiration of the people of all nationalities in our country.

Upholding Equality of Languages

The great teacher Lenin pointed out: "Whoever does not recognize and champion the equality of nations and languages, and does not fight against all national oppression or inequality, is not a Marxist; he is not even a democrat." (*Critical Remarks on the National Question.*) Here Lenin stressed the great significance of recognizing and upholding the equality of nations and languages and considered it an important principle which Marxists have to follow. The stipulation that "all the nationalities have the freedom to use their own spoken and written languages" confirms in the form of law that the spoken and written language of every nationality in China should be respected and that each nationality, irrespective of its size, enjoys the right to use its own spoken and written language. This embodies the Marxist principle of upholding the equality of nations and languages.

Our great leader Chairman Mao, in the course of leading the Chinese revolution over the years, has consistently advocated the equality of nations and languages. In the early days of the War of Resistance Against Japan, Chairman Mao clearly pointed out that the cultures, religions and customs of the various national minorities should be respected and that they should not be compelled to learn the Han spoken and written language, but should be given support to develop their cultures and education by using their own spoken and written languages. In *On Coalition Government* which was written in 1945, Chairman Mao reiterated that "their

spoken and written languages, their manners and customs and their religious beliefs must be respected." Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, many important Party and government documents have laid down in explicit terms that the freedom of all nationalities to use their own spoken and written languages should be guaranteed. This was also written in the general principles of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China adopted by the First National People's Congress in 1954. The related stipulation in the new Constitution carries forward and develops the provision in the 1954 Constitution. All these convincingly prove that the Party and Chairman Mao have consistently paid attention to the freedom of national minorities to use their own spoken and written languages.

Upholding the equality of languages is a necessary condition for realizing national equality and strengthening unity among nationalities. Marxism holds that the essence of the national question is the question of class struggle and of eliminating national oppression and inequality; since language is a feature of a nationality, the question of languages of the various nationalities is a component part of the national question as a whole. Under a system which practises national oppression, the reactionary ruling classes not only oppress and exploit the minority peoples politically and economically, but restrict and discriminate against the languages they use. Restricting and discriminating against the languages of the minority nationalities thus becomes part of national oppression. In the struggle to abolish national oppression and realize national equality, therefore, the proletariat must do away with the phenomenon of inequality of languages and regard the realization of equality of languages as an indispensable task for solving the national question. Failing to do so, the proletariat will not be able to realize genuine national equality, nor can it bring about national unity and consolidate the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Equality of Languages Can Be Realized Only After Abolition of National Oppression

China is a unitary multi-national socialist state. Besides the Hans, there are 54 national minorities. There

This article is written by the research section of national minority languages at the Central Institute for Nationalities.

are many kinds of spoken languages of the national minorities, and the use of their written languages also differs widely. The question of spoken and written language has long been closely connected with the question of class struggle. Because of the policy of national oppression carried out by the reactionary ruling classes before liberation, the spoken and written languages of the national minorities were seriously discriminated against and trampled upon. The Kuomintang reactionaries whose ringleader was Chiang Kai-shek venomously described the languages of the minority peoples as the "languages of wild animals and birds," and even adopted such methods as imposing fines and detention to restrict and prohibit the national minorities from using their own spoken languages. In the century before liberation, imperialism intruded into our country and continuously made use of the question of spoken and written languages to carry out cultural aggression, create national discord and sabotage national unity. By restricting and discriminating against the minority peoples' languages, the reactionaries at home and abroad deepened the estrangement between the various nationalities and seriously impaired their unity and hampered their development.

With the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the system of national oppression was uprooted and a new era of national equality and national unity ushered in. Under the guidance of the Party's national policy, all the nationalities in China fully enjoy the freedom of using their own spoken and written languages which are respected to the letter. The Party and government not only ensure the equality of languages through enacting laws, but adopt various measures to create conditions for the various nationalities to use their own spoken and written languages. These languages are now widely used in broadcasting, films, dramas, literature and art, publications and school education. In Peking and in many areas inhabited by national minorities, there are broadcasting stations and publishing houses using the spoken and written languages of the national minorities, and large numbers of books, newspapers and periodicals in these languages have been published and distributed. In accordance with the aspirations of the various national minorities and their concrete conditions, the Party and government have helped some of them create and reform their written languages. Lectures in the schools for national minorities are given in the languages of the minority students for their benefit. All this fully shows the meticulous care of the Party and Chairman Mao for the people of various nationalities.

Adherence to Equality of Languages Helps Consolidate the Dictatorship of the Proletariat

Adherence to equality of languages is a necessary condition for ensuring the people of various nationalities to carry out socialist revolution and construction. Language is a means of intercourse and communication of

ideas between people; it is also an instrument for carrying out class struggle and the struggle for production. The language of any nationality is created by the people of that nationality during a long period of historical evolution, in the course of which it takes shape and develops. Most of China's national minorities have their own languages. People of various nationalities in our country have for a long time used their languages in social intercourse and in developing their national politics, economies and cultures, and thus contributed their shares to the common effort of building our great motherland.

Since liberation the languages of the various nationalities have become important instruments in the hands of the people for carrying out the three great revolutionary movements of class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment. By means of their own spoken and written languages, people of all nationalities study Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, the Party's principles and policies, and scientific and general knowledge; they also use their own languages to take part in all kinds of social activities. Since the start of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and the movement to criticize Lin Biao and Confucius, the spoken and written languages of the national minorities have played a bigger role than ever in their political and cultural life. As a result of the concern shown by Chairman Mao and the Party Central Committee, various departments under the government have paid special attention to translating and publishing works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Chairman Mao's works in the languages of the minority peoples to meet the needs of workers, peasants, and soldiers of the national minorities. By means of their own languages they have earnestly studied Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought and steadily raised their consciousness of class struggle and the two-line struggle and of continuing the revolution.

Although spoken and written languages themselves do not have a class character, every class uses them to serve its own interests. In the historical period of the dictatorship of the proletariat, the spoken and written languages of the national minorities are also weapons used by the proletariat in waging struggles against the bourgeoisie. Since liberation these languages have played an important role in the struggle to strengthen national unity and consolidate the dictatorship of the proletariat. It has been proved by practice that adherence to equality of languages is conducive to enabling the people of all nationalities to use their own spoken and written languages to take part in socialist revolution and construction in a still better way and to consolidate the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Owing to the prolonged existence of class struggle and the national question in the period of socialism, it takes a long time to solve the question of spoken and written languages of minority peoples. Not reconciled to their defeat, imperialism, social-imperialism and domestic reactionaries always try to find loopholes on this question so as to undermine national unity and

disrupt the unification of the country, in a vain attempt to restore national oppression and discrimination against languages of the minority nationalities and then achieve their criminal aim of enslaving once again the people of all nationalities in China. Our struggle against the class enemies over this question is protracted and complicated. Our new Constitution lays down that all the nationalities have the freedom to use their own spoken and written languages. This is a powerful blow to the class enemies at home and abroad who try to undermine our national unity and disrupt China's unification by exploiting this question. The stipulation is of great significance in strengthening national unity and consolidating the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Encouraging All Nationalities to Learn Each Other's Language

While advocating that all nationalities have the freedom to use their own spoken and written languages, we also encourage them to learn each other's language so as to enrich and develop their own spoken and written languages. During the protracted revolutionary struggle in the past, the people of various nationalities in China, fighting together and sharing weal and woe, have forged a flesh-and-blood relationship of class brothers, and there is a tradition among them to learn from each other's language. Since liberation their revolutionary unity has been steadily strengthened and socialist revolution and construction have continuously developed in a deep-going way. This makes them realize the increasing importance of learning each other's language. This mutual learning is an inevitable trend of historical development in China and reflects the common interests of all nationalities.

The Han spoken and written language is used by the largest number of people in China. The Han written language records China's long history and culture created jointly by the various nationalities and their rich experience in revolutionary struggle. From their personal experience, the cadres and masses of the national minorities profoundly understand that to better master Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought and more effectively take part in socialist revolution and construction they need to learn the Han spoken and written language in addition to mastering their own. Learning the Han language has thus become the urgent desire of the cadres and masses of the national minorities.

The cadres and the masses of Han nationality working in areas inhabited by the national minorities as well as school graduates who have gone to settle there have also come to the deep understanding from their practical experience that it is necessary for them to learn and

master the spoken and written languages of the minority peoples, because this helps them consolidate and develop the great unity among the various nationalities, learn from the minority peoples' experience of revolutionary struggle, and integrate with the revolutionary cadres and masses of the national minorities.

Since the start of the Great Cultural Revolution, there have been many good examples in different places about how the various nationalities learn each other's spoken and written language and these have been praised by the people. This is of great significance in strengthening cultural exchanges between the various nationalities, learning from each other's experience in socialist revolution and construction and promoting national unity.

On the question of upholding the equality of languages or not there has always been the struggle between the two classes and the two lines over the past 20 years or so. In their attempt to restore capitalism in China Liu Shao-chi, Lin Biao and their gangs who represented the interests of the landlord and capitalist classes continuously changed their tactics to wildly oppose the Party's policy on the spoken and written languages of the various nationalities. They did their utmost to obstruct and sabotage the efforts of the people of all nationalities to study works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Chairman Mao's works through their own spoken and written languages. They also opposed the principle that spoken and written languages must serve proletarian politics. They spared no expense to publishing large numbers of bad books spreading feudal, bourgeois and revisionist poison, the doctrines of Confucius and Mencius and superstitions, and they vainly tried to turn the languages of the minority peoples into instruments for spreading counter-revolutionary fallacies and rumours. Sometimes they appeared as big-nationality chauvinists, spreading the fallacy that "the languages of the minority peoples are useless" and restricting the free use of their spoken and written languages by the national minorities. At other times they appeared as local-nationality chauvinists and sabotaged the learning of the Han language by the national minorities. The criminal aim of such counter-revolutionary activities by the class enemies is to undermine the unity of all nationalities in China and disrupt the unification of our country.

Under the leadership of Chairman Mao and the Party Central Committee, however, we have adhered to the Party's basic line, persevered in exercising all-round dictatorship over the bourgeoisie and upheld the Marxist principle of equality of nations and languages. This makes it impossible for the class enemies to realize their criminal aims.



Socialist Agriculture

Self-Sufficient in Grain Despite Little Land and Big Population

by Chi Ching

SPURRED on by the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and the movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius, the poor and lower-middle peasants and other commune members in suburban Shanghai again increased grain, cotton and oil-bearing crop production in 1974 following 12 successive years of rich harvests. Their 365,000 hectares of farmland have presented a scene full of vitality.

Here are some figures illustrating the progress made in the past quarter-century:

	1974 Output	Increase Over 1949
Grain	10,822 kg. per hectare	3.3 times
Cotton	892.5 kg. per hectare	6.3 times
Rapeseed	2,130 kg. per hectare	4.4 times
Vegetables	94,500 kg. per hectare	5.7 times
Pigs	5.5 head per household	7.8 times

In terms of average per-hectare grain yield, three counties and 71 communes topped 12 tons while 70 production brigades and 969 production teams went over 15 tons. Total 1974 output of grain, cotton and oil-bearing

crops on the outskirts of Shanghai all doubled their 1962 figures.

Including the city proper and ten suburban counties engaged mainly in farm production, Shanghai is a big city with more than 10 million people. With an average of less than 0.1 hectare of farmland per capita, the peasants in the outlying areas have managed to produce and supply the whole population of Shanghai with edible oil and vegetables and meet the needs of the urban people's production and daily life for many other farm and sideline products. The peasants have also achieved self-sufficiency in grain, and a surplus at that, and provided the state with more and more marketable grain.

Fundamental Changes

Pre-liberation Shanghai was an important port for imperialist aggression against China and a major stronghold from which feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism at home ganged up with imperialist forces to oppress and fleece the labouring people. As Chairman Mao pointed out: "Under the two-fold oppression of imperialism and feudalism, ... the Chinese people, and particularly the peasants, have become more and more impoverished and have even been pauperized in large numbers." (*The Chinese Revolution and the Chinese Communist Party.*) This was the case with old suburban Shanghai.

On the strength of the unequal treaties concluded with the Chinese reactionary government, the imperialists marked off large tracts in Shanghai as their "concessions" and proceeded from these bases to expand their occupied areas to the villages on the outskirts. Statistics show that foreign imperialist elements seized as much as 2,000 hectares of land in suburban Shanghai on the pretext of building roads alone. One year when a certain imperialist country's consulate wanted to build a golf course, the consul sent



Transplanting rice seedlings.

for the head of what then was Hsichiao Village to force a local peasant named Yin Yu-ching to "sell" his land which was within the confines of the 26-hectare project. When the peasant stood firm and refused to sell the land he lived off even in the face of coercion and threats, the consul had him arrested by the Kuomintang reactionary ruling organ and forcibly grabbed the land. Such instances are too numerous to list.

Using China's comprador-bourgeoisie, the imperialists also made great efforts to dump large quantities of goods which not only glutted markets in the cities but also made inroads into big and small towns and villages. Under Kuomintang rule in 1946, domestic-grown cotton could hardly find any market even at fairly low prices, whereas imports of U.S. cotton were 16 per cent above the amount used by all the spinning mills in the country. On the eve of liberation, 60 per cent of the cotton used by Shanghai's mills and all the wheat processed by the city's flour mills were from the United States. Such a colonial economy dealt farm production a fatal blow.

The peasants also were subjected to savage exploitation by feudal landlords. An investigation of a village in the Wusung District shows that in the old days 96 per cent of the villagers rented land from landlords, some of whom even collected land rents from tenants one to five years in advance.

Imperialist plunder plus feudal landlord and bureaucrat-capitalist exploitation resulted in the low farm production level in Shanghai's rural areas and consequently a constant and serious grain shortage.

Thanks to the overthrow of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism after the founding of New China, Shanghai's peasants have embarked on the road of socialist collectivization and rapidly developed production under the leadership of the Communist Party.



In an experimental plot.

Over the last 25 years, grain production has increased 3.5 times over that of 1949, even though the rural population rose 53 per cent and cultivated acreage only about 7 per cent.

More than a century ago, Malthus declared the impossibility for the growth of production ever to catch up with that of the population. He asserted that even with "the best directed efforts of human industry," China could hardly "double the produce . . . in any number of years." Nowadays, the superpower claiming to be the "natural ally of the developing countries" also spreads fallacies such as "rapid population growth is a millstone around the neck of the developing countries" and "food shortage is the result of overpopulation." It even has prattled that the "introduction of labour-saving technology" and "introduction of new medical know-how" are the "cause of unemployment and poverty" in the developing countries. According to this logic, the developing countries have no need to raise their technical level and lower the mortality rate. This is nothing but a refurbished version of Malthus' reactionary theory.

The fact is that in the 25 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, her population has increased by 60 per cent, while her products have risen manyfold and grain output 2.4 times. The drivel of the old and new Malthusians was not only completely repudiated theoretically by Marxists long ago, but also refuted by the living reality of the Chinese people. The high-speed development of farm production in heavily populated suburban Shanghai is convincing criticism of the Malthusians.

Decisive Factor

Suburban Shanghai has little farmland and a big population, and natural conditions such as water conservancy and soil are poor too. How then did it bring about a big increase in production?

The answer given by the poor and lower-middle peasants is: First and foremost it is necessary to keep to the socialist road and next comes bringing into full play the initiative of millions of peasants, pooling their wisdom and efforts and working hard. The former is the premise for the latter.

The reason for this is quite evident. Taking the capitalist road of "going it alone" inevitably would result in a few people getting rich by amassing fortunes through exploiting others and the majority becoming impoverished, going bankrupt or trying hard to eke out a living. Such being the case, how can they get organized to battle against nature and step up production?

Only by waging a sustained struggle against the handful of class enemies vainly attempting to restore capitalism and against the revisionist line and making constant efforts to carry out socialist education and criticize the spontaneous capitalist tendency among the peasants can the socialist collective economy of the people's communes be consolidated and developed and farm production promoted. This is exactly what has been done in suburban Shanghai.

The Yaochia Production Brigade in Fenghsien County, one of the ten suburban counties, is an advanced brigade which has distinguished itself by its high grain yields. However, a production team under it always lagged behind in grain production. Investigations showed that some team members individually went in for side-line occupations to the neglect of collective production. The cause having been found, the masses were then set into motion criticizing such a spontaneous capitalist tendency, with the result that the team harvested 17 tons of grain per hectare in 1973.

Typical of areas with little land and a big population is the Yutang Production Brigade in Shanghai County where on the average as many as 60 people farm only one hectare of land sown to grain crops. Since the brigade is located near metropolitan Shanghai, some people do not set their minds on farm work, but always "have an eye on the tall chimney stacks while holding hoes in hand." Such a state of affairs brought failure in doing a good job of farm production and heavy dependency on the state for food grain, which gave the brigade a reputation far and wide as a poor village. Since the start of the Great Cultural Revolution, the brigade Party branch has led the peasants in criticizing Liu Shao-chi's revisionist line and in fostering the idea of farming for the revolution. This fired them with great determination to work hard with one mind and develop the collective economy, thus bringing a fundamental change to production in only three years. With an average per-hectare grain yield of over 18 tons in 1974, the brigade has become one of the advanced units in suburban Shanghai.

Instances of transforming nature in areas around Shanghai can be seen everywhere. There were low-lying, waterlogged areas where "boats were a must for getting around and reaching the fields" and tomb-strewn wasteland where hares and other animals roamed. What was left over from the old society were broken-down waterways, silted rivers and unrepaired sea walls. A rapid change in production conditions was possible only by relying on the collective strength of the people's communes.

Waterlogging was a frequent occurrence in the Hsinyu Commune in Sungchiang County whose 1,000 hectares of farmland are below the lowest water level

of the Whangpoo River flowing past it. And the high ground water level there made it impossible to grow wheat and adversely affected the growth of paddy-rice. Since the Great Cultural Revolution began, commune cadres and members worked out plans to transform their low-lying land once and for all instead of tackling the job bit by bit as in the past. Doing the designing and construction work themselves, they spent four successive winter-spring periods working hard in the teeth of freezing cold, rain or shine. Altogether, they dug 23 new waterways, filled in 228 old stream beds and built a complete water conservancy project to lower the ground water level by half a metre.

In today's Hsinyu Commune, there is a straight waterway every 400 metres and an irrigation channel every 200 metres with sluice gates at every confluence of the waterways to ensure drainage and irrigation for every plot of farmland. These facilities have helped the local peasants to switch from one crop to three crops a year, thus doubling the 1965 per-hectare grain yield. The commune's per-hectare cotton output from land unsuitable for growing cotton in the past exceeds 750 kg.

A good typical example touches off in its wake emulation by others. The other communes in suburban Shanghai all made it a point to learn from Hsinyu's experience and went in for farmland capital construction in a big way. They have basically transformed more than 90 per cent of their arable land into fields giving good yields despite drought or too much rain, with last year's triple-crop acreage 2.8 times that of 1965.

Combining revolutionary drive with a scientific approach, local peasants have carried out mass scientific experiments centring around the Eight-Point Charter for Agriculture (namely, deep ploughing and soil improvement, fertilizer, water conservancy, seed selection, close planting, plant protection, field management and improvement of tools) so as to study the laws of increasing yields and boost farm production. The Paerh Production Brigade in Chinshan County which used to be a stretch of alkaline land is a case in point. Following long years of efforts to improve irrigation facilities and soil and make scientific experiments, it has mastered the law of growing three crops a year and achieved stable and high grain yields for 16 years in a row.

After setting aside a sufficient amount of food grain, seeds and fodder grain, each peasant household on the outskirts of Shanghai in 1974 sold and delivered to the state on the average 550 kg. of grain, 75 kg. of ginned cotton, 25 kg. of edible oil, 90 kg. of pork and 900 kg. of vegetables. The suburban peasants also provided the state with large quantities of other farm and side-line products worth more than 370 million yuan.

Needless to say, by fully recognizing and bringing into play the role of people as the decisive factor in the social productive forces, we do not mean calling for unlimited population growth. As a socialist country, China sees to it that all undertakings in socialist construction are developed in a planned and proportionate way. To promote the complete emancipation of women, protect women and children, bring up and educate the coming generations well, improve the people's health and increase national prosperity, it is also necessary to effect a planned growth of population. While energetically developing production, raising the people's living standard and promoting medical and health work to lower the mortality rate, the state adjusts the birth rate according to plan. Thus, recent years have seen a marked drop in Shanghai's natural population growth rate.

Mechanization and Employment

That suburban Shanghai has little land for so many people does not rule out the need to mechanize farming. On the contrary, there has been an increasing labour force shortage especially since the introduction of the triple-crop system which requires rapid work according to the farming season and meticulous cultivation. This has caused the local peasants to come to a deeper understanding of Chairman Mao's directive that "the fundamental way out for agriculture lies in mechanization."

They began innovating farm implements and setting up a network for making and repairing farm machinery after the establishment of people's communes. And local industry has developed rapidly since the start of the Great Cultural Revolution in particular. Such networks which have been set up at the county, commune and brigade levels have greatly speeded up the rate of farm mechanization.

Ploughing, drainage and irrigation, plant protection, threshing and farm and side-line product processing have now been mechanized or semi-mechanized throughout the rural areas of Shanghai. By 1974, communes there had 82.8 per cent of the cultivated land tractor-ploughed, a 4.75-fold increase over 1965, and 97.4 per cent of the land power-drained and -irrigated, 18 per cent higher than in 1965; they owned 4,101 large tractors and 20,072 walking-tractors which respectively were 5.4 and 30.6 times the 1965 figures.

Will the development of mechanization in areas with little land and a

big population give rise to a surplus labour force and unemployment? Chairman Mao has pointed out: "The masses have boundless creative power. They can organize themselves and concentrate on places and branches of work where they can give full play to their energy; they can concentrate on production in breadth and depth and create more and more undertakings for their own well-being." (Introductory note to "Surplus Labour Has Found a Way Out," *The Socialist Upsurge in China's Countryside*.) Practice in suburban Shanghai has fully borne out the correctness of Chairman Mao's brilliant thesis. Statistics show that the 5,653 factories run by the counties, communes and brigades have taken in a total of 410,000 workers and staff members. In addition, 57 collective side-line occupations were listed in 1974, including poultry raising, livestock breeding, fruit tree and medicinal herb cultivation, aquatic production, hunting and basketry. The number of professional and amateur workers in agricultural scientific experimentation has grown to well over 100,000.

The afore-mentioned figures serve to hit another nail into the coffin of the old and new Malthusian "surplus-population" theory. Marx pointed out: "Capitalistic accumulation itself . . . constantly produces . . . a relatively redundant population of labourers, i.e., a population of greater extent than suffices for the average needs of the self-expansion of capital, and therefore a surplus-population." (*Capital*.) Surplus-population is a product specifically of the capitalist mode of production. In socialist China, all who are able to work are given a job which is within the reach of their ability. The phenomenon of unemployment has become a thing of the past in this part of the world.



Commune members listening to a revolutionary story during their work-break.

Soviet Social-Imperialists Covet Southeast Asia

— "Asian collective security system" is a pretext for expansion

Moscow has been working overtime to tout its "Asian collective security system" in Southeast Asia. Now that the United States has readjusted its strategy in Asia following its defeat in and withdrawal from Indochina, the Soviet Union is making a fresh attempt to step into the shoes of the United States and establish hegemony in Southeast Asia.

SOVIET envoys in Southeast Asian countries have been particularly profuse these days in talking about the benefit of having an "Asian collective security system." No less enthusiastic are Soviet newspapers and Radio Moscow. This so-called "security system," which has long been rejected by the Southeast Asian countries, would, according to Soviet propaganda, turn Southeast Asia into "a region of lasting peace." A TASS commentary on July 21 had the effrontery to describe "the European security conference" as an "example for other parts of the world, including Asia." It made known Moscow's intention to cash in on the Helsinki conference to peddle so-called "collective security on the Asian continent." Particularly noteworthy is the fact that Moscow has linked the "Asian collective security system" with the proposal for the neutralization of Southeast Asia put forward by the five member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (A.S.E.A.N.). The attempt is to confuse fish eyes with pearls. The commentary alleged that the two "have many points in common with regard to the objective of safeguarding the security of Asia" and are even "consonant with" each other. After the Indochina war, it asserted, acceptance of the "Asian collective security system" is "particularly realistic" and "urgent."

What "common points" and "consonance" are there between the Soviet "Asian collective security system" and the proposal for the neutralization of Southeast Asia? A cursory comparison and analysis of the two will show up Moscow's sinister designs on Southeast Asia.

As is well known, the proposal for the neutralization of Southeast Asia was formally tabled at the A.S.E.A.N. Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Kuala Lumpur in 1971. The Kuala Lumpur Declaration signed then by the Foreign Ministers of Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia clearly states that the five countries are determined to make Southeast Asia "a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality, free from any form or manner of interference by outside powers." This has been reaffirmed time and again

by leaders of the five countries who went on record to make the whole of Southeast Asia "a region free from the contention and conflicts of all big powers," to put "an end to foreign interference in our internal affairs" and to "establish regional co-operation and build a new Southeast Asia free from foreign domination and influence." Over the years the five A.S.E.A.N. countries, intent on speeding up the neutralization of Southeast Asia, have forged closer relations among themselves, strengthened their economic co-operation, actively developed relations of friendship and co-operation with other third world countries. Together with them, they pressed forward their just struggle to oppose superpower hegemonism and power politics and safeguard their national independence, sovereignty and economic rights and interests. This shows that the proposal for a zone of neutrality in Southeast Asia reflects the desire of countries and people in the region to rid themselves of superpower interference and control and thus has won the sympathy and support of many third world countries.

The "Asian collective security system" dished up by the Soviet social-imperialists under the signboard of "peace" and "security" is designed to serve nothing but the Kremlin's policies of aggression and expansion. It is contrived for the purpose of contending with the United States for hegemony in Asia, dividing the Asian countries, and bringing small and medium-sized Asian countries into their sphere of influence. Lenin said: "We judge a person not by what he says or thinks of himself but by his actions." (*Materialism and Empirio-Criticism.*) Now let us see some of these Soviet actions, see how the Soviet Union has threatened and undermined the independence and sovereignty of countries in Southeast Asia.

For years the Soviet social-imperialists have been scheming to secure military bases in Southeast Asia. Motivated by their quest for sea supremacy, they have sent large numbers of warships to sail between the Pacific and the Indian Ocean in a show of force which threatens the peace and security of the Southeast Asian countries. Back in 1969, Malaysia and Indonesia declared a 12-nautical-mile territorial water limit to ensure their sovereignty over the Strait of Malacca. In 1971, the Governments of Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore together issued a statement declaring joint control of the Malacca and Singapore Straits. However, ignoring the strait countries' sovereignty, the Soviet Union obstinately insisted on the right of "free passage" for its warships through the Strait of Malacca.

And on many occasions Soviet vessels did sail through the Strait of Malacca without prior permission, thus turning the territorial waters of the strait countries into the high seas. This lays bare Moscow's hegemonic stand toward these countries.

To achieve its objective of expansion and penetration, the Soviet Union has been stepping up its espionage activities in the Southeast Asian countries too. Here it collected political, economic and military information, groomed pro-Soviet forces and interfered in the internal affairs of these countries. Official Thai sources disclosed that the number of Soviet spies in Thailand has more than trebled since the U.S. defeat in Indochina. Soviet spy ships in various guise make a point of intruding into the territorial waters of Southeast Asian countries to gather intelligence. In the first half of this year alone, there were three illegal Soviet intrusions into Indonesian territorial waters. The military commander of the Nusatenggara Region was compelled to bar all Soviet crews from going ashore and to take measures against their illegal activities.

Moscow has all along tried to sabotage the proposal for the neutralization of Southeast Asia. In 1971, shortly after it was signed by the five A.S.E.A.N. Foreign Ministers, the Kuala Lumpur Declaration was slandered and attacked by the Soviet Union which asserted that the proposal "provides no answer to the problem of security of that continent," and that turning this area into a zone of peace and neutrality "cannot be implemented without a reliable system of guarantees." *The China Press*, a Malaysian paper, pointed out penetratingly that the Soviet Union's derisive interpretation of the proposal as "a battle on paper" "shows that in the mind of the Soviet Union, there is no place for any proposal from other nation or group of nations except 'Brezhnevism.'"

But now Moscow has changed its tune, chanting that the neutralization proposal is "consonant" with its "Asian collective security system." This is really ridiculous.

(Continued from p. 12.)

divers to set up good records. There were 29 events, contested by athletes from 18 countries and one region; 14 countries and one region qualified for the first eight places. Swimmers of 11 countries — Albania, Algeria, Burma, Iraq, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Syria, Thailand and China — improved on 68 records of their own countries.

Another striking fact is the performance of the youngsters from many countries at this invitational meet. This speaks for the rapid progress and great promise of the swimmers of the developing countries.

Junie Sng Poh Leng, an 11-year-old girl from Singapore, started swimming at seven and kept up a rigorous workout of over three hours every day, rain or shine. She and her elder sister Elaine Sng Poh Chuan came to Peking, bringing with them the profound friendship

August 15, 1975

The proposal for the neutralization of Southeast Asia and the "Asian collective security system" are two diametrically opposed ideas. There are no "common points" or "consonance" between them. The Soviet Union's design is, in its own words, to have the neutralization proposal "included in the framework of the idea of an Asian collective security system." In fact, it is trying to bring Southeast Asian countries into the orbit of the Soviet "Asian collective security system."

Today, the growing awakening of the Southeast Asian peoples has enabled them to see more clearly than ever that the bitter rivalry between the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, especially the intensifying Soviet expansion and penetration in Southeast Asia, is the source of turbulence in the region. In a recent issue the Thai weekly *Mahanakon* wrote editorially: "The fact that Thailand demands a U.S. pull-out does not mean that she will open her door to the Soviet security system." The Brezhnev clique "has really underrated the wisdom of the Asian people when it tried to use its 'Asian collective security system' as bait to lure Asian countries into the Soviet trap." A Philippine paper, *The Orient News*, said: "The Kremlin's sinister designs cannot be covered up for good. Public opinion in Asia has seen through ever more clearly the essence of the 'Asian collective security system.'"

A Malaysian paper, *Kuang Hua Yit Pao*, said editorially that the Soviet Union's real aim in trying to set up an "Asian collective security system" is "to achieve its design of contending with the other superpower for hegemony in Asia."

Countries in Southeast Asia have long discerned Soviet social-imperialism's machinations to supplant U.S. imperialism and establish hegemony in Southeast Asia. They are keeping their vigilance sharp. They are determined to prevent a situation in which the tiger is let in through the back door while the wolf is repulsed at the front gate.

(A commentary by Hsinhua Correspondent)

of the Singaporean people for the people of other lands. In the women's 400 metres freestyle which took place in a shower, Junie Sng Poh Leng won the event, breaking the record of the 7th Asian Games and bettering the national record of her own country. Fourteen-year-old Afane Zaza from Algeria is the daughter of a printing worker. All her brothers and sisters are swimming aficionados. In the past few years she has been improving her record through friendly contacts with swimmers of other countries. This year, at the swimming meet of three North African countries held in Tunis, she broke Algeria's record of the women's 100 metres freestyle. At the Peking friendship invitational meet, she again improved on her own record. One Algerian friend said with feeling: "The young swimmers stand for hope and represent our tomorrow." True, our hopes are pinned on the younger generation. They will create new records, scale new heights and make new friends.

European Press on "European Security Conference"

THE "European security conference," instead of helping promote security and co-operation in Europe, will only bring a false sense of security to the West European people. This is the keynote which runs through articles and commentaries in many European papers on the Helsinki summit.

Attempt to Split Western Europe

Some papers exposed the Soviet revisionist leading clique's attempt to use the summit meeting to lull the European people and split Western Europe and NATO so as to achieve domination in Europe under the smokescreen of "detente."

The Austrian paper *Neue Kronen Zeitung* (July 29) said: "Brezhnev has gone to Helsinki with the purpose of doping the West, lulling it into sleep under a false sense of security." Another Austrian paper *Arbeiter Zeitung* (July 27) said: "The Soviet Union is making further efforts in quest of hegemony over the entire Europe under the smokescreen of detente."

An article in the British weekly, *The Listener* (July 31), observed: "Gradually, over the next 10 to 15 years, using the conference documents as a framework, the (Russian) design is to disarm the West, not just militarily, but politically and psychologically as well." This Soviet design, it added, is to use the Helsinki conference to create "such a climate of apparent military relaxation that the drive towards West European political and economic unity will be halted; the Common Market weakened; defence budgets cut because a tranquillized public opinion will no longer support them; NATO divided; the contradictions . . . in the Atlantic alliance heightened; and individual Western countries gradually prised apart."

The Swiss paper *Neue Züricher Zeitung* pointed out: "Under the guise of 'peace, security and co-operation,' the Soviet Union is everywhere pursuing a long-term, new-type policy of hegemony. In this respect, the Soviet rulers are following in the footsteps of their tsarist predecessors."

The Dutch paper *De Telegraaf* commented that there was nothing new in the Helsinki conference and the Soviet Union would continue to expand its influence in Western Europe. "For this reason, we must maintain vigilance against possible Soviet actions in Western Europe henceforth. The Soviet Union will never lose an opportunity to divide the West European

countries, and Western Europe must continue to strengthen its unity. . . ."

A Mere Scrap of Paper

A number of papers noted that the "Final Act" of the conference was just "big talk," without any real value.

An article in the German paper *Bonner Rundschau* of the Federal Republic dated July 31 said: "This pile of documents is not a treaty, first of all not a peace treaty, and in the view of the West, not even a substitute peace treaty. It binds no one."

The London *Daily Telegraph* (August 2) said: "All the thousands of words spoken" at the Helsinki conference on European security "will melt away and be forgotten almost before the distinguished delegates have returned to their home capitals." "Likewise the words of the 'Final Act' with 30,000 words they signed. "The two years of work at Geneva to produce the document, like the final conference ceremonies, have been one of the emptiest non-events in the history of diplomacy." The British weekly *New Statesman* (July 25) said that these documents "may not be worth the thousands of bits of paper they are written on."

The Spanish journal *Arriba* wrote that in the "Final Act" "there are words of 'peace,' 'security' and 'co-operation,' but this will only 'console' the 'naive' . . . Today, nobody believes there is a new 'golden age' in the relations between Eastern and Western Europe."

The British weekly *The Observer* (July 27) said editorially that the document signed in Helsinki "will not in itself mean the immediate withdrawal of a single one of the 18,000 Soviet tanks in Eastern Europe (or any of the 6,000 American tactical nuclear weapons in the West)." It added, "The whole thing is worthless, even dangerous, a fraud." Another British paper, *Daily Mail*, (July 29), stressed that "our 'security' resides, not in flabby after-banquet speeches about detente, but in our ability to protect ourselves militarily and, in particular, in the determination of the countries of the European Economic Community to forge a common foreign policy and to look to their own defences."

Contradictory Interpretations

Some papers further pointed out that at the Helsinki conference the two superpowers have their own axe to grind and sing their own

Albanian Paper "Bashkimi" Refutes Brezhnev's Statement

THE Albanian paper *Bashkimi* published an article on August 2 excoriating Brezhnev's absurd statement at the "European security conference."

Brezhnev was quoted to have brazenly declared that "the main conclusion which is reflected in the Final Act is this: no one should try . . . to dictate to other peoples how they should manage their internal affairs." *Bashkimi* asked: Who has dictated to other peoples? Who has attempted to play the tyrant not only in Europe but also in the world as a whole? Who has menaced the freedom, peace and security of other peoples? There can only be one answer, the Albanian paper observed. It is Brezhnev and his cohorts, who, as representatives of the new Russian bourgeoisie in power today, have dipped into the archives and brought out old tsars' plans for world domination to contend with U.S. imperialism by means of blackmail and intimidation for a bigger share of spoils.

After exposing Brezhnev's hypocritical assertion that humanism is the basis of Soviet policy, the article said: It is precisely in the Soviet Union where "fascist violence and terrorism have become the order of the day." "The Soviet people and the people of East European provinces of the Russian empire are being savagely oppressed and trampled underfoot."

Brezhnev, the article pointed out, also asserted that "the conference has adopted a number of important agreements supplementing political relaxation with military relaxation. This is also

a qualitatively new stage in building up confidence among states."

But, the article asked, at a time when the world is, more than ever, threatened with the danger of a new war planned by the Russian social-imperialists in their permanent contention for hegemony with U.S. imperialism, how is it possible to speak of a political relaxation in the tense situation? At a time when life in the Soviet Union is more militarized than before, its military expenditures have reached a new high, over 60 per cent of its factories are working for war purposes and the number of its militarymen on active service has exceeded 4.2 million (not to mention the U.S. military expenditures which amount to over 100,000 million dollars), how is it possible to speak of a military relaxation in the tense situation?

Brezhnev asserted that understandings reached in Helsinki covering principles on peace, security and co-operation in various fields conform to the interests of European countries, the article continued. But facts are to the contrary, it pointed out. The aggressive and predatory policy of the Brezhnev clique has told the European people that they should never believe in empty talk. The European people long for genuine peace and security in Europe. But they do not expect the "peace" worked out by the U.S. imperialists and the Soviet social-imperialists at a round table in Helsinki.

The peoples have learnt from past experience that there is only one way to defend their freedom and independence, that is, the way of waging a resolute struggle, the article said in conclusion.

tunes, each having its own interpretation of the conference's documents. The German paper *Bonner Rundschau* said on July 31 that "comprehension over the texts of the documents is different between the East and the West. Detente, as comprehended by the West, is different from that comprehended by the East [meaning the Soviet Union]."

An article in *France-Soir* (July 29) noted that "the texts to be signed in fact admit of all kinds of contradictory interpretations."

The British paper *Guardian* (August 2) said in a commentary that at the Helsinki conference, Brezhnev and Ford talked a lot about "detente" and "non-interference in the domestic affairs of other countries." But "does all this mean what it says? Yes, said Mr.

Brezhnev on Thursday, though will they believe him in Prague? Yes, said Mr. Ford yesterday, though will they believe him in Chile?"

The British *Sunday Telegraph* said in an article on August 3 that despite great efforts for drafting and signing the act of the conference, it not only can neither ease the relations between the East and the West, nor ensure against another 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. The paper held that all the pledges the act contained about the inviolability of Europe's frontiers, non-interference in internal affairs and so on would never ensure against another Czechoslovakia of 1968, once the Kremlin had convinced itself that its hold over Eastern Europe was again threatened from within. Therefore, "the Soviet Union must be judged after Helsinki by its deeds and not by its words."

Latin American Countries Develop Small and Medium-Sized Industries

IN the past few years, many Latin American countries have begun to turn their attention to developing small and medium-sized industries. Some are now reaping the first fruits of their new efforts.

The Latin American countries have come to realize that their national economic development is essential to their fight to shake off foreign control and achieve full independence. To those developing countries which have long been under colonial rule and are not strong economically, it is necessary to attach greater importance to increasing the production of small and medium-sized industries in their national industrial development.

This common aspiration of Latin American and other third world countries is reflected in the Declaration and Plan of Action of Lima on Industrial Development and Co-operation adopted at the Second Conference of the U.N. Industrial Development Organization held in the capital of Peru last March. The document points out that developing countries must establish all industrial sectors and encourage and support the development of small and medium-sized industries as well as agro-industry, so as to meet the needs of the domestic and foreign markets.

Concrete Measures

A number of organizations have been formed in Latin America to promote the development of small and medium-sized industries. One of such organizations — The Latin American and Caribbean Confederation of Small and Medium-Sized Industry — was called into existence at a conference for development of small and medium-sized industry held in Bogota, capital of Colombia, in February 1974, with the participation of representatives from 34 Latin American and other countries. Organizations have also been established in Guyana, Venezuela and Argentina to help small and medium-sized industries solve problems of capital, raw materials and marketing. Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador have also decided recently to form the Central American Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Associations of Small Industries and Handicraft to accelerate the advance of small and medium-sized industries by exploiting the natural resources in the region.

Many Latin American countries are taking measures to speed up development of small and medium-

sized industries. Venezuela plans this year to allocate from the income of oil 540 million bolivars (about 125.58 million U.S. dollars) as loans for small and medium-sized industries to purchase raw materials and build factories. Peru advocates comparative decentralization of industry. Small and medium-sized plants for electricity, cement, timber and fish product processing have been established in the country's forest areas. St. Kitts, a small island country of 352 square kilometres in the Eastern Caribbean, could only produce farm products during the time of colonial rule. After independence, however, it has begun building quite a number of small plants for making bricks, shoes, nails and plastic goods.

Superiority

In the process of developing national industry, many Latin American countries are awake to the superiority of small and medium-sized industries. Compared with big enterprises, they need smaller investment, simpler installation and less time to build. All this is in accord with the economic and technical conditions of developing countries. Take Guyana for example. A country without machine-building industry before independence, it is now producing rice-threshers, rice-driers, cassava-crushers, portable steam-boilers, solar collectors and water treatment equipment as a result of giving priority to small and medium-sized industries. To meet the daily needs of the people, the government has also set up in various places a number of factories producing such articles as garment, batteries, nails, plastic goods, bricks and food. Last February, a corporation for developing small industries was set up by the government to support those industries using local raw materials to produce goods to replace imports. The corporation has issued loans totalling 500,000 Guyana dollars (about 250,000 U.S. dollars), mainly for small industries in upcountry and rural areas. Ptolemy Reid, Guyana's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture, has pointed out that in Guyana small processing plants are important instruments for boosting agricultural products and that they can produce what Guyana needs.

Small and medium-sized industries can better tap potentials and develop a diversified economy by making use of scattered natural resources. Take the paper-making industry as an example. There was paper shortage in most of the Latin American countries. But

the situation has changed for the better in recent years with the development of the paper-making industry. Mexico has built 63 paper-making and cellulose enterprises using raw materials from the country's forest resources, wheat stalks and cane and cotton waste. The 567,000 tons of paper it produced last year were sufficient to meet over 80 per cent of the country's consumption. Peru is building a paper mill near Lima, and plans to attain self-sufficiency when the plant goes into operation.

Small and medium-sized industries also help increase exports and accumulate capital. Ecuador's exports now include canned fish, canned fruits and garments. Many local industrial products are good substitutes

for imports. Peru exported 130 kinds of non-traditional products to over 60 countries in 1973, including cotton textiles, medicine, bismuth products, alloy zinc and cement.

Small and medium-sized industries form a certain percentage in Latin American countries. According to the Mexican magazine *Vision*, about 20 per cent of the output value of Latin America's manufacturing industry which totalled 21,000 million U.S. dollars last year were produced by small and medium-sized industries mainly owned by local capital. Of a total of 9 million in the manufacturing industry, 7.5 million workers are employed in small and medium-sized factories.

Soviet Union — Superpower and Super-Exploiter

LIKE the other superpower, Soviet social-imperialism is a super-exploiter of the third world. One of its stock-in-trade methods of extra-economic exploitation is loan-sharking, which goes by the name of economic "aid." Loans give it the leverage to export commodities and push sales of high-priced manufactured goods. Through exchange of unequal values it plunders the raw materials of the "aid"-recipient nations. In international trade, it stops at nothing in squeezing the third world countries.

The Soviet revisionists, who style themselves as the "natural ally" of the developing countries, are actually loan sharks, the most merciless exploiters. The Brezhnev clique, which often approaches the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan hat in hand for credits, extols its own loans to third world countries as "disinterested assistance" and "an effective way to strengthen the national independence of the 'third world' countries" (*Pravda*, April 3, 1974). But Soviet loan-making is merely a means of exploitation, plunder and extortion. Western press reports say Soviet social-imperialist loans to third world countries, nominally low-interest and special "preferential development funds," are accompanied by harsh conditions. In fact, they are a variant of usury, fetters on the debtor nations.

Pushing Commodity Sales and Plundering Raw Materials

In granting a loan, the Soviet revisionists usually stipulate that it must be used by the debtor nation to

buy Soviet machinery and equipment. In other words, the loans are made in the form of Soviet machines, which are known for their poor quality and exorbitant prices — in some cases 20 to 30 per cent above the world market prices. Moscow's "trade credits," stripped of their frills, are nothing but sharp practices to sell commodities at higher-than-world-market prices, and thus all the more predatory in nature.

Moreover, the Soviet revisionists are old hands in the game of extending loans to grab raw materials. For one of the strings attached to their loans is that the debtor nation must repay its debts with "traditional" commodities which are usually tagged 10 to 15 and sometimes even 30 per cent below the world market prices. The gap between the prices of manufactured goods and raw materials stems from imperialist monopoly. It has nothing whatsoever to do with the exchange of equal values. To one exchange of unequal values now is added another by the Soviet revisionists. In this way they plunder at low prices a colossal amount of goods from developing countries, ranging from dressed non-ferrous ores, petroleum, natural gas, long-staple cotton, natural rubber, leather, oil to clothing, furniture, rice, coffee and tropical fruits. The Soviet Union often takes advantage of its position as a creditor nation to force debtor nations to go into "orientated production." By this it requires them to assign certain factories to turn out products it prescribes and sell them at prices lower than those on the world market as repayment for the Soviet loans.

The Soviet revisionists are not above extortion even when the debt is stipulated to be repaid in cash.

Under the pretext of currency devaluation, they would for instance raise the amount to be repaid or demand repayment in foreign exchange. Thus, "revenue in foreign exchange from loans repaid by the developing countries has increased year by year, which makes an important contribution to the Soviet Union's balance of international payments." (From an article by S.A. Skachkov, Chairman of the Soviet State Committee for External Economic Relations, carried in *Pravda* on March 29, 1973.)

Another important objective in such loan-making is economic infiltration, interference and control of other countries. The Soviet revisionists claim that their "credits for development plans" for developing countries are extended to help the recipients develop their economy. But in fact they are used to manipulate these countries and make them dependent on the Soviet Union. Almost all enterprises built with Soviet loans, from designing, construction, production to management, are controlled by the Soviet experts working on the "aid" projects. They behave like bosses of the enterprises, draw high salaries, live in swanky villas, get special allowances and free travelling and medical services, and enjoy many other privileges. In addition, when they and their families go home on furlough the recipient countries have to foot the bills for their travelling expenses. It is indeed a heavy burden for these countries to feed and look after these bosses. Statistics show that such expenses alone often eat up 20 per cent of the Soviet loans. In other words, whatever the results of the Soviet-"aid" projects, one-fifth of the Soviet loans finds its way back in no time to the Kremlin's coffers.

Political Intervention

Nor is this all. The Soviet Union usually capitalizes on others' difficulties to carry out political intervention and gain control. It will demand prompt repayment for debts when it meets with resistance. For example, during the 1973 Middle East war, to force Egypt to accept a ceasefire, the Soviet Union held up the delivery of arms and demanded payment of 80 million U.S. dollars of interest on the Soviet loans. When Bangladesh was hit by serious floods in 1974, it demanded repayment of the 200,000 tons of wheat on loan. The *Financial Express* of India reported on March 17, 1975 that in violation of an agreement reached with India, the Soviet Union asked it for revaluation, by about 4,000 million rupees, in repayment of its outstanding credit and interests on the plea that the rupee had been devalued.

Fleeced by the two big creditors, the Soviet Union and the United States, many developing countries are

caught in vicious spiralling debts. Repayment of loans and interest has become a crushing burden. To pay off debts, the developing countries have to divert 10 per cent, in some cases even 30 per cent, of their most precious foreign exchange to the creditor countries. Some have to borrow new debts to repay old ones. Sometimes, the new loans acquired are not enough to cover the old debts. Statistics of the Indian Ministry of Finance show that in the 1973-74 fiscal year Soviet "aid" to India totalled 139 million rupees, whereas the accumulated principal and interest that India paid Moscow that year amounted to 567 million rupees. India had to make up the deficiency with money obtained elsewhere or with materials.

Foreign Debts Impede Development

From long and bitter experience, the developing countries have become increasingly aware that foreign loans cannot help them stave off foreign economic exploitation and control. They know too that their economic development and progress would be impeded by the debts incurred. Today, they focus their attention on how to break out of the fetters of foreign debts and have begun exposing and denouncing usury exploitation in many ways. The worst victims of Soviet revisionist loan-sharking are in the van of fighting pressure for debt repayment and blackmail. The Egyptian people have won broad sympathy and support throughout the world in their denunciation of the shameful acts by the Soviet revisionists in pressing for debt repayment.

The Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted by the 6th Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly strongly calls for appropriate urgent measures to "mitigate adverse consequences for the current and future development of developing countries arising from the burden of external debt contracted on hard terms." This reflects the universal demand of the third world countries.

Meanwhile, the developing countries are actively engaged in mutual aid in order to overcome the shortage of funds. With a view to reducing borrowing from abroad, they attach particular importance to accumulating capital for expanded reproduction and raising funds for development through self-reliance by tapping new resources and economizing on expenses. This correct approach, which is being accepted by more and more developing countries, opens up broad and bright prospects for the developing countries in freeing themselves from exploitation by foreign loan sharks and in developing their national economies independently.

(A commentary by Hsinhua Correspondent)

ROUND THE WORLD

LAOS

Fruits of Struggle

New organs of political power have been set up by the people of Laos in almost all the provinces and districts formerly controlled by the Vientiane side, following a struggle lasting for more than two months.

With the old regime overthrown, provincial governors, deputy governors, district heads and deputy heads are today replaced by appointees of the patriotic forces. People who stand for peace and national concord are included in the new administrations which have abolished the old set-up and worked out effective measures to strengthen the people's political power, promote production, suppress counter-revolutionaries and ensure the democratic freedoms of the people.

Many provinces run study classes for military and civil personnel of the former Vientiane side to help them better understand the new situation in Laos and the heinous crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists and ultra-Rightist reactionaries.

The new administration in Savannakhet Province has set up a cultural commission to examine old films and educate the young people poisoned by decadent U.S. culture. Sedone Province, apart from adopting measures to maintain public order and security, has decided to confiscate the property of ultra-Rightists who have fled the country.

INDIA

Land of Famine

Famine is stalking India as food becomes increasingly short all the time and in many places.

The government has declared that total grain output in the crop year 1974-75 (July to June of the following year) remains at last year's level, about 104 million tons or 4.1 per cent

less than in 1970-71. However, the population in recent years has increased by nearly 10 per cent. It follows that the Indian official figure for grain ration per capita in 1974-75 comes to 10.9 per cent less than in 1970-71.

Food grain production in India has been unstable. In recent years, the per-hectare yield has been decreasing. Official quarters admitted that grain output per hectare in 1974-75 was 4 per cent less than in 1970-71.

Forty per cent of India's population are struggling on the starvation line and 80 per cent of the children are in a state of malnutrition.

In recent years about half of the states in India were hit by grave food shortage. In famine-stricken areas, peasants subsist on bark and grass roots. Large numbers of peasants were forced to leave their home villages, some becoming beggars, others abandoning their children, and still others starving on the road.

In cities and towns where there are "fair price shops," a person is nominally entitled to a quota of less than 7 kilogrammes of grain for each month. But even this small quota is often cut owing to shortages. In some places, people have to queue up days ahead for their quota. This drives many to buy high-priced grain on the black market. According to Indian official statistics, the wholesale price of grain in December of 1974 went up 33 per cent as compared with the corresponding period of 1973. The wholesale price of rice increased 35 per cent, and that of grain 17 per cent late in May as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The retail price of grain rose more rapidly. In the open markets in New Delhi, the shops bumped flour price 150 per cent, and that of rice 100 per cent in the past two years.

The climate in 1970-71 happened to be favourable and total grain harvest reached 108 million tons,

with a per capita grain output of only 196 kilogrammes. New Delhi boasted at the time that India was so rich in food grain that storage was a problem and that there was no need henceforth to import an ounce of grain from abroad.

But this was followed immediately by heavy food grain imports. In the year 1972-73, grain import was 3.6 million tons, in 1973-74, it was 4.8 million tons and in 1974-75, 5.5 million tons, which cost more than 20 per cent of the country's foreign exchange earnings of that year.

India has very good natural conditions for grain production. But because of the government's economic policy, which relies on food imports at the expense of agricultural development, India has become known as a "nation of famine" in the world. Food shortage exacerbates resentment among the Indian people. It constitutes one of the important causes of the turbulent political situation in India.

MOZAMBIQUE

Eliminating Colonial Vestiges

The Council of Ministers of Mozambique held its first session from July 9 to 25 under the chairmanship of President Samora Machel.

After reviewing the domestic situation, the meeting worked out tasks and policies on eliminating the vestiges of colonialism and imperialism in the country. It also adopted a resolution.

Referring to foreign policy, the resolution says, "the government will follow the political line laid down by the Mozambique Liberation Front of developing relations with peoples of various countries of the world and strengthening unity against imperialism," "rendering support to the struggle of the oppressed peoples" and "defending the principle of national independence and sovereignty, equality among states, non-interference in the internal affairs and mutual benefit in mutual relations."

On the development of agriculture, the resolution points out that "the

Council of Ministers has decided to give priority to the development of rural areas among all the activities of the state, particularly to those areas seriously affected by the war."

On the question of national defence, it says that "according to the experience of the liberation war, the tasks of national defence should be linked closely with the work of national reconstruction." and "the army should participate directly in production and keep in close contact with the masses." The Mozambican People's Liberation Forces will continue to make concrete contributions to the rehabilitation of the national economy. The resolution also calls on the citizens "to receive political and military training, periodically take part in the productive activities of the Mozambican People's Liberation Forces and receive professional and technical training, thus making it possible for them to make beneficial contributions to the development of the country."

On economy and finance, the resolution stresses, "the colonial government has landed the country in a state of bankruptcy which can only be overcome by putting the national economy into an orbit of serving the interests of the country and people." "Concerning capital investment it is imperative to give priority to the major sectors of national reconstruction — education, health, agriculture and national defence, to pursue a firm policy of frugality and cutting down public expenditures and foreign exchange spendings and regulating credits, so as to make the most of available assets," the resolution says. "In the domains of industry and commerce," it adds, "the Council of Ministers stresses the need to promote a planned development of industry of Mozambique to rid under-development left over by colonialism and enter into a new stage of economic and social progress."

The resolution published by the Mozambican newspaper *Noticias* stresses that the People's Republic of Mozambique "should be used as an instrument for destroying all vestiges of colonialism and imperialism" and that "revolutionization of state

organs is one of the fundamental tasks of the government."

O.A.S.

San Jose Meeting

The special meeting of the Organization of American States (O.A.S.) held recently in San Jose, capital of Costa Rica, took up the question of revising the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty in order to lift the collective "sanctions" against Cuba.

After two weeks of consultations, the member states adopted on July 29 a resolution to lift the "sanctions" against Cuba by a vote of 16 to 3 with two abstentions.

The meeting adopted a Mexican draft resolution which reiterates the principle of non-intervention and stipulates that O.A.S. member states are free to normalize or conduct their relations with Cuba in accordance with "their policies and national interests."

Most Latin American countries have urged in recent years abrogation of the diplomatic and economic "sanctions" imposed on Cuba in 1964 by the O.A.S. under U.S. manipulation.

By an overwhelming majority vote of 20 to 1, the Latin American countries adopted a resolution at its July 23 meeting to incorporate the concept of "economic security" into the Inter-American Treaty. The United States was in the minority of one. Apart from accentuating the increasing isolation of the United States in inter-American organizations, the vote shows once again that the Latin American countries are united as one in their struggle against superpower economic plunder.

The delegate from Peru who tabled the resolution said that to safeguard peace and security in the Western Hemisphere it is not only essential to protect O.A.S. members from military aggression, but also to guarantee their economic security. Panama's delegate pointed out that Latin America has long been suffering from

"economic infringement" in spite of the principle of economic co-operation provided in the O.A.S. Charter. Latin American countries, he added, should form a united front against intervention by foreign companies. "Now is the time to make decisions ourselves." Other delegates to the meeting spoke in support of Peru's proposal.

PANAMA CITY CONFERENCE

Setting Up Latin American Economic System

Panama City was the venue of a ministerial conference of 25 Latin American countries from July 31 to August 2. The participating states discussed the question of establishing an economic system in Latin America and reached formal agreement on the system to be set up. They decided to meet again in October to give the final touches to this proposed organization.

The resolution issued by the conference says that the aim of SELA (Economic System of Latin America) is to support the process of Latin American integration, promote regional economic co-operation, and act as a regional consultation and co-ordination mechanism for adopting a common strategic position towards third countries, groups and economic organizations. The resolution calls for the formation and strengthening of Latin American multinational enterprises as a form to promote regional co-operation so as to better utilize the resources of the region. It also calls for the development of production of basic commodities, food products in particular, and development of transport, especially that within the region. The resolution says that SELA should recommend processing in the region of the raw materials produced by its member states, strive to safeguard prices of these raw materials and guarantee stable export markets for raw materials and manufactured goods of these countries, and encourage technical creations and exchanges in the region.

The 25 countries which attended the conference were Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia,

Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela and Uruguay.

CAPITALIST WORLD

Rampant Unemployment

In some Western capitalist countries hit by the current economic crisis, the most serious in postwar years, unemployment has reached peak levels as monopoly capital shifts the crisis on to the labouring people.

Latest figures released by the International Labour Office, a special agency of the United Nations, show that the unemployed in the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia and some West European countries has totalled 15 million, and that another five to six million are underemployed. The combined total of the unemployed and underemployed has reached the postwar record of about 20 million, which is nearly twice the figure two years ago.

The United States is seriously hit with unemployment standing at 8.6 million last June, a record since 1941. The U.S. unemployment rate runs to some 9 per cent. Moreover, the 1.2 million unemployed who had given up hope of finding a job as a result of an extended period of joblessness are not included in the official unemployment figures. "Unemployment," *U.S. News and World Report* says, "has cut a swath across American workplaces, affecting the skilled and unskilled, the middle class and the poor, the old and the young." "The biggest of all worries is the spectre of continued high unemployment." It adds that no sign of improvement is in sight in the near future. *The Los Angeles Times* predicts that even if all goes as well as the optimists expect, the jobless rate "will not drop below 7 per cent for another couple years."

Unemployment is also rife in other Western countries. According to the latest statistics published by the Organization for Economic Co-

operation and Development, the jobless in the European Economic Community numbers 4.5 million.

In Britain, according to official figures released on July 24, the jobless in July has already exceeded 1.08 million, a record high since 1940. Michael Foot, British Secretary of State for Employment, predicted a further rise in the weeks and months ahead. He described the situation as "tragic and grave."

In the Federal Republic of Germany, more than one million were out of work and 920,000 more underemployed in June. Last year unemployment ran at 583,000 on an average, 309,000 more than the 1973 average. But in the first half of the year, the number of jobless workers was never below one million, something which had never happened before in the past two decades.

French unemployment registered by the end of May stood at 835,000. The official unemployment figure of 534,000 announced in September last year was already a postwar record. Since then it has been climbing at the rate of 100,000 per quarter. Underemployment in the country is now estimated at ten times as many as a year ago.

Unemployment in Japan reached 1.12 million in May, an increase of 49 per cent as compared with the same month of last year.

The rate in Canada has exceeded 7 per cent.

UNITED STATES

Detroit Blacks Fight Violence

Blacks in Detroit recently put up a two-day resistance against police violence.

On July 29, a white boss shot dead an 18-year-old black youth. This incident aroused great anger among the local Afro-American population. Many black youths immediately gathered to protest. The authorities called out "riot-equipped police" to disperse the protesting crowd with tear gas. The protest marchers counter-attacked with rocks and bricks. In the scuffle

lasting two nights, the police arrested 78 people.

AP reported that "joblessness was a prime cause of the disturbance." The killing of the black youth only served to touch off the present struggle. U.S. authorities admitted that Detroit's unemployment rate reached 23 per cent high. Many of those who fought the police were without work. They would not put up with long periods of unemployment and grinding poverty.

NORWAY

Soviet Choppers Over Spitsbergen

Hardly had the ink dried on the signed and sealed "Final Act" of the European security conference when Soviet helicopters began making unauthorized flights over Spitsbergen in violation of Norway's sovereignty.

The Norwegian governor on Spitsbergen registered a complaint and warned the Soviet Union about the overflight.

Facing the major Soviet naval base at Murmansk, the Spitsbergen archipelago in the Barents Sea holds a position of great strategic importance.

By virtue of an international treaty signed in 1920 by 42 countries, Norway is vested with the sovereignty over the archipelago while the other signatories including the Soviet Union have the right to develop its natural resources. At present, only the Soviet Union is mining there. The number of Soviets working in the mines is double that of the local Norwegians. A Norwegian evening paper described the level of Soviet activity there as completely out of proportion to the realities of mining and prospecting.

Moscow has long been casting its covetous eyes on Spitsbergen. During the visit of an official Norwegian delegation to the Soviet Union last year, the Soviets tried to insert into a communique a passage referring to what they called the two countries' "joint responsibilities" on Spitsbergen. But the Norwegians balked at the idea.

ON THE HOME FRONT

Books for School Graduates in Countryside

THE *Self-Education Series for Youth*, published by the Shanghai People's Publishing House, comprises reading materials for educated young people in the countryside. More than 20 volumes have come out on different subjects including practical technology and basic knowledge of philosophy, social sciences and natural sciences. These books have been welcomed with enthusiasm.

Nearly ten million school graduates from the cities are now settled in the rural areas, many of them in frontier regions or out-of-the-way mountainous districts. Party organizations, rural people's communes, educational departments and publishing houses are all concerned about their development and have been publishing one batch of books after another for them.

The common aim of these books is to raise the political consciousness and scientific and cultural level of the young readers to help them play their part more effectively in building up the socialist countryside and to become worthy successors to the proletarian revolutionary cause.

The *Self-Education Series for Youth*, drawn up under the guidance of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, provides rich spiritual nourishment for the young people in the villages.

Political and theoretical books in the series, such as *Basic Knowledge of Political Economy*, *History of the Development of Society* and *Basic Knowledge of the Party*, explain from different angles the theory of the proletarian dictatorship, the laws governing the development of society and the historical tasks of the proletariat. They help educated young people to see more clearly how significant their settling down in the countryside is for narrowing the differences between workers and peasants, between city and countryside and between mental

and manual labour, and for consolidating the dictatorship of the proletariat. This enhances their determination to struggle for the ideals of communism.

Integrating theory with the practice of the three great revolutionary movements of class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment in the countryside is a prominent feature of the series. *Basic Knowledge of Physics* explains the concepts of power and leverage by analysing the energy spent in spade-work. Several hundred folk adages and nearly one hundred lively examples often seen in the countryside have been compiled in *Knowledge of Meteorology* to explain laws governing changes in the weather. While elucidating the laws of human society and nature, the writers also pay attention to criticizing metaphysics and idealism to help readers use the world outlook of dialectical materialism to analyse and solve problems. *A Concise Geography of China* provides a vivid description of the country which inspires the young people's love for their motherland.

The People's Publishing House and the People's Educational Publishing House in Peking have also issued many books for the school graduates since the second half of 1973. Editors often went to the countryside to canvass the opinions of the school graduates about which subjects of books should be published. Many workers, peasants, soldiers, scientists and college teachers contributed their writings, while literary and art works by educated young people themselves have also been published.

Man Beats Hailstorms

ALTOGETHER 24 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in China use home-made guns, rockets and anti-aircraft guns to help in the prevention of hailstorms in the countryside, according to data issued by the Central Meteorological Bureau.

Prevention of this type of natural disaster involves a struggle between man and nature. In the past, it was considered that hailstorms were unavoidable and nothing could be done about them. However, practice has proved that the people, armed with Mao Tsetung Thought, can surely overcome them.

Hailstorms occur frequently in China, with almost the whole country subject to them. In the firm belief that man can conquer nature, cadres and commune members in the rural areas have been making every effort to find the laws governing the cause, development and prevention of hailstorms, and are carrying out mass movements with this end in view.

Ten provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions are taking large-scale measures. Kansu and Shensi Provinces each have more than 50 counties with over 30,000 people engaged in the work of prevention. Quite a number of areas started with only a production team; gradually several teams, communes and counties joined in. Before the Great Cultural Revolution there was only one county on the outskirts of Peking that had several hailstorm-prevention stations. Now 11 of the capital's counties and districts have between them 376 stations. This type of network on a mass scale plays a supporting, and sometimes crucial, role in ensuring bumper harvests in agriculture.

Hsiyang County, Shansi Province, used to be hit by an average of about 20 hailstorms annually, affecting approximately 8,000 hectares of land. Since 1969 measures taken to control them have been basically successful. During the last six years there have hardly been any hailstorms in Tachai Commune, where preventive work has been carried out. In Mienning County, Szechuan Province, the number of disasters has dropped every year as a result of preventive work over a period of 18 years.

Many areas received support from the state, and relying on the collective strength of the people's com-

mune, raised funds, searched for materials and themselves manufactured guns and rockets in order to fight hailstorms. They organized a well-co-ordinated network for concentrating all their firing-power to disperse gathering stormclouds so that hailstones could not form. This effectively controlled the local weather. In Minhsien County, Kansu Province, each commune and production brigade has a workshop producing gunpowder or shells. In the Huchu Tu Autonomous County, Chinghai Province, 17 out of its 22 communes can produce home-made rockets. Guns manufactured locally in Chuangho County, Liaoning Province, can fire shells up to a height of 1,500 metres. Home-made rockets manufactured in Yung-teng County, Kansu Province, can fire as high as 2,400 metres. In some regions where conditions permit, the people have effectively combined the use of advanced equipment like anti-aircraft guns and radar with home-made guns and rockets, achieving even better results.

One of the features of China's hailstorm-prevention is that specialized personnel work together with the masses. In recent years, meteorological and some other scientific research departments at various levels from central to local have made hailstorm surveys, analyses and studies. Those departments in Kansu, Chinghai, Shensi, Inner Mongolia and Peking have set up research bases in regions seriously hit. They send out mobile meteorological stations to conduct on-the-spot investigations and to sum up experiences with the masses so that weather and hailstorm prognostications are available in good time.

Changing Couplets

YANG Chih-lei, the forestry team leader of the Hsinhua Production Brigade in Yicheng County, Kiangsu Province, put up a new house of a few rooms at the end of 1974. To celebrate his house-warm-

ing according to folk custom, he pasted some scrolls written on red paper at the front door. A couplet, which he put up on each side, read: "It is always spring in a working family; Diligent and frugal, we prosper daily." Horizontally above the door he put up the sentiment: "Work hard and mind my own business." He was pleased, as there was mention of hard work, diligence and frugality.

During the movement for studying the theory of the proletarian dictatorship this year, Yang Chih-lei joined other peasants in studying Marx's *Critique of the Gotha Programme* at the political night school. At one of the sessions the scrolls on his door became the focus of their discussion. Yang said: "Before this study movement I considered that so long as one worked diligently one would be better off. Take my new house for example; it was built with what I earned by working. The couplet I put up reflects this. Then why did Marx criticize Lassalle's fallacy that labour is the source of all wealth and all culture?"

Try to explain, Hsiao Li, an assistant instructor, asked: "Old Yang, please think back a bit—did you do productive labour before liberation? How about your life then?"

"In the old society," Yang recalled, "our family, ten members in all, rented a patch of poor soil from a landlord for farming. My parents toiled the year round. During the spring sowing I had to lend a hand too—I was harnessed to the ploughing as a child. Yet the more we worked, the poorer we got! Our three-room thatched hut just kept getting more tumble down. All of us, old and young, were always on the verge of starvation. . . ."

"How about now?"

"Now my family, four generations in all, with 20 members, has 16 rooms. We don't need to worry about food or clothing."

"Why is there such a great difference?"

Thinking it over awhile, Yang replied: "Because we didn't own any land then."

"That's quite right," said Hsiao Li, "Marx tells us that 'the man who possesses no other property than his labour power must, in all conditions of society and culture, be the slave of other men who have made themselves the owners of the objective conditions of labour.' (*Critique of the Gotha Programme*.) The poor and lower-middle peasants owned little or no land, or other means of production, in the old days. They had no way out but to be exploited and oppressed by the landlord class. Private ownership of the means of production was changed after liberation, so that now the land is owned collectively by the labouring people. We are working for the revolution. As a result our life is getting better and better."

"Lassalle talked in empty phrases about labour being the source of all wealth and all culture," Hsiao Li went on, "but how about ownership of the means of production? This, he avoided making any mention of. Actually all his deceitful talk was aimed at bolstering up the interests of the landlord and capitalist classes."

As the study went on, Old Yang finally got his thinking straight. "My views on labour were mistaken," he said, "and I was even more mistaken to paste the line 'work hard and mind my own business' over the door. Following advice like that would lead us to think only of labour and to forget continuing the revolution for the great goal of communism!"

In view of his new understanding, the peasant-students thought of a new couplet and pasted it on Yang's door after class. The right-hand sentence read: "The socialist system is really fine"; the left-hand, "Never forget the dictatorship of the proletariat"; the horizontal scroll above, "Making revolution for ever."

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