

No. 18 May 4, 1981

# BEIJING REVIEW

北京周報

A CHINESE WEEKLY  
OF  
NEWS AND VIEWS

- Marriage and Divorce Today
- Zimbabwe's Progress
- Western Economic Stagnation:  
Reasons and Prognosis



*Getting Married*



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

### Marriage and Family Relations in China

Special Feature. How young people in one north China village today choose their own spouses instead of accepting parental arrangements as their forefathers did for many centuries. The question of divorce, as well as the thriving marriage introduction services, are also covered (pp. 20-28).

### China's Complete Sweep at Novi Sad

Chinese players capture all seven titles at the 36th World Table Tennis Championships held in Yugoslavia — an event without parallel in the W.T.T.C.'s 55-year history (pp. 29-30).

### Kim Il Sung on Non-Alignment Movement

The President of the D.P.R.K. elaborates on his views about

this and other questions put to him by a visiting Xinhua News Agency delegation. The proposed Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo and Sino-Korean relationships are among the questions discussed (pp. 9-10).

### Western Economy in the 1980s

Vice-President Huan Xiang of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences discusses the causes of prolonged stagnation in the West and factors affecting its economic development in the present decade (pp. 16-19).

### Zimbabwe, a Year After Independence

A review of the achievements made during the first year of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's government (pp. 12-14).

### South Asian Nations Join Hands

The Colombo meeting of the foreign secretaries of seven South Asian countries provides additional proof of the vitality of regional co-operation among third world countries (pp. 10-11).

### Cuba Faces Isolation

Analysis of how Cuba has increasingly alienated itself from other Latin American countries by following a policy of interference and subversion, with aid and abetment from the Soviet Union (p. 14).



At a group wedding party in the Cultural Palace of the Working People in Beijing.

Photo by Sun Yifu

## BEIJING REVIEW

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Published every Monday by  
BEIJING REVIEW  
24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing  
The People's Republic of China

Vol. 24, No. 18 May 4, 1981

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Published in English, French, Spanish, Japanese and German editions

Distributed by GUOJI SHUDIAN, (China Publications Centre), P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China

Subscription prices (1 year):

Australia.....A.\$12.50 U.S.A....US\$13.50  
New Zealand...NZ.\$14.50 U.K.....£6.80  
Canada.....Can.\$15.60



## Summing Up Historical Experience

**It's said that a document on historical questions is being worked out. What calls for such a document?**

The forthcoming Sixth Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party will discuss and approve a document on historical questions. The main purpose is to sum up the achievements and historical experiences gained on various fronts since the founding of New China over 31 years ago, and it will make an assessment of the historical position of the late Chairman Mao Zedong and Mao Zedong Thought.

After approval by the session,

the document will be made public at an appropriate time.

The gang of four was smashed in October 1976. In August the following year the 11th National Congress of the Communist Party of China was held; it proclaimed the end of the "cultural revolution."

The document on historical questions, which will sum up past experiences and draw lessons from the mistakes, will be of help in educating all Party members and the people of the whole country to look ahead and work with one mind for the realization of the four modernizations.

— Political Editor An Zhiguo

## Unity Against Vietnamese Aggression

**What's China's attitude towards the joining of the three forces in Kampuchea?**

We support this move by the Kampuchean people to fight against their common enemy — the Vietnamese invaders.

The Government of Democratic Kampuchea is the legal government of that country. Viet Nam has committed a hegemonist crime in dispatching its troops to invade and occupy an independent sovereign state.

Democratic Kampuchea is the main force fighting against Vietnamese aggression. Its leaders have rectified their past mistakes and have drawn up a programme for a patriotic, democratic and national united front in the joint struggle against the Vietnamese invaders. After

two dry seasons, the Government of Democratic Kampuchea and the armed forces under its leadership have stood their ground and are becoming stronger and stronger.

To strengthen the patriotic struggle against Viet Nam, Democratic Kampuchea has taken the initiative to unite all the forces in Kampuchea opposing Vietnamese aggression and welcome Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and Mr. Son Sann to lead the patriotic national united front and coalition government. The Chinese Government appreciates this stand and hopes that, with a common programme as their guidance, they will unite and form a coalition government to wage a joint struggle, thereby encouraging and drawing more and more Kam-

puchean people into their ranks and push the fighting against the Vietnamese invaders to new heights.

China supports the organization of non-Communist armed forces in Kampuchea. Fighting in co-ordination under the banner of resisting Vietnamese aggression, the various armed forces will deal heavier blows at the invaders.

It also supports the convocation of an international conference on the Kampuchean question. To solve this question, we hold that three basic principles should be upheld: (1) Viet Nam must unconditionally pull out its troops from Kampuchea in accordance with the U.N. resolution. (2) After the withdrawal of foreign troops, the Kampuchean people should be free to choose their own government without outside interference. (3) Kampuchea's position of independence, neutrality and non-alignment should be guaranteed.

The Chinese Government has declared that it is willing to join with all countries concerned, Viet Nam included, in pledging not to encroach on the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Kampuchea, not to interfere in its internal affairs and not to use Kampuchea as a stepping stone to launch aggression against other countries. China has no intention at all to make Kampuchea its "satellite."

To frustrate the plots of Vietnamese regional hegemonism and to safeguard peace and security in Southeast Asia, it is important for countries upholding justice to give Kampuchean resistance forces moral and material support.

— International Editor Guo Ji



# LETTERS

## Mao Zedong and Mao Zedong Thought

In issue No. 1, 1981, I read "The Trial Doesn't Involve Chairman Mao" in "Notes From the Editors." I generally am aware of recent Chinese views on Mao Zedong Thought. In the last part of that article is written, "The Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese people will always remember Mao Zedong as a founder of the Party and the state. One thing is certain: The Chinese people will never do to Chairman Mao as Khrushchov did to Stalin." I support the wise decision of the Chinese. One thing I want to ask: Why do the C.P.C. and Chinese people only want to remember Mao Zedong as a founder of the Party and the state? Don't they like to remember other contributions of Mao Zedong? Chairman Mao's contributions always occupy first place. How are his mistakes secondary? In comparison to his contributions if he did commit mistakes, they are negligible. We are unaware of Chairman Mao's mistakes. We want to know what are the mistakes of Mao Zedong? What are the problems of Mao Zedong Thought?

**Shrestha, S.S.**  
Kathmandu, Nepal

*Please read the article "How to Assess Chairman Mao and Mao Zedong Thought" in our issue No. 17. We hope to hear your opinions. — Ed.*

## El Salvador

I continue to enjoy year after year the courageous coverage of world events by your publication, especially as concerns the two superpowers. And I hope that you will continue to be fair and balanced in such coverage.

I should like to say that I hope to see fair and unbiased coverage of the present situation of El Salvador. The truth of the matter is that most of the violence that has taken place in that small Central American country has been initiated by the government security forces of that nation. There are, as has been reliably reported in the American press, even "death squads" therein which are responsible for the killings of

thousands of innocent people merely upon the suspicion of their having some connection with the various anti-government guerrilla groups operating within the country.

There are seven capitalist families which are presently ruling El Salvador through the present civilian-military junta, and these rich and powerful capitalist families are treating the rest of the populace as mere serfs. It is no wonder that resistance has risen on the part of the common people to the present repressive regime.

Even Catholic priests and nuns who have worked alongside of the poor people of El Salvador in truly trying to help them better themselves have urged that the Government of the United States not send any military aid to the present regime in power there. Unfortunately, it appears, as of the time of this writing, that the Government of the United States does not intend to heed the plea of these and other knowledgeable persons on the matter.

One argument for sending military aid to the present regime in El Salvador by the U.S. Government is that the Soviet Union is, through its proxy Cuba, sending aid to the rebel fighting forces. The fact of the matter is that the guerrilla groups fighting for the genuine independence of their land are using any arms they can themselves obtain, including captured American arms and ammunition. In the eyes of many of the poor and oppressed people of El Salvador, these anti-government guerrilla groups are fighting for the true independence of their land and people, much the same as did the American rebels during America's own War of Independence.

**Paul Nedwell**  
Poughkeepsie, N.Y., U.S.A.

## Use of Energy

I am not very clear about China's energy policies. As a raw material, the value of coal will continue to increase. Those countries where hydropower is unavailable are dependent on coal and petroleum. But in China where there are immense water resources, why are large numbers of thermal power stations built instead of hydropower stations? Is it because it is faster and cheaper to build thermal power stations? Or is it because poor access to

some coal mines impedes the transporting of coal to ports? Besides, coal is too valuable to be used for producing thermal power. I think it's all right for China to use nuclear energy, and I believe the danger involved will be controlled effectively.

**Peter Romen**  
Lochau, Austria

In following the reports concerning China's construction of nuclear power stations I would like to add my voice of concern to those already expressed by Richard A. Dannells and Teruo Minoura (issue No. 6, 1981), especially after reading that China has completed construction of a nuclear power plant (issue No. 8, 1981).

Not only are nuclear power plants inherently dangerous and expensive to build, but it also must be remembered that the fuel which runs a nuclear power plant, uranium, is in itself a limited natural resource. The time is fast approaching when the world's reserves of uranium will be exhausted, making nuclear power obsolete.

Two choices remain. Either develop plutonium breeder reactors, which are even more dangerous than conventional nuclear power plants, or develop alternative sources of energy from renewable sources.

Using methane conversion, China could develop co-generation of electricity from its agricultural system. Along with that, the use of the already proven sources of wind, solar, and hydropower could be expanded, while the use of coal could be restricted to powering industry. The livelihood of the peasants would be greatly enhanced and a balance would be struck between ecological concerns and the need for modernization. China would be setting an example in energy development and again prove the superiority of the socialist system.

**Larry Gross**  
Minnesota, U.S.A.

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*Your letters are welcome. Because of space limitations, we can only print a selection. Condensations are made for the sake of brevity or clarity. — Ed.*

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**POLITICAL****People's Congress Held  
In Shanghai**

The third session of the seventh municipal people's congress of Shanghai was held from April 10 to 16. It was attended by 1,100 people's deputies.

The session elected Hu Lijiao chairman of the standing committee of the congress and agreed to the nomination of



Wang Daohan, Shanghai's  
new mayor.

Wang Daohan as mayor of this metropolis of 10 million people.

Hu Lijiao, 67, former chairman of the standing committee of the Henan provincial people's congress, was transferred to Shanghai last January. Prior to this, he had served as Vice-Minister of Finance and acting president of the People's Bank of China.

Wang Daohan, 66, was formerly Vice-Minister of the First Ministry of Machine Building and Vice-Minister of Economic Relations With Foreign

Countries. In 1979 he was a part-time professor of Beijing University's department of economics.

The session discussed and approved the concrete tasks and measures for carrying out the Party's policies on further economic readjustment and political stability. It also approved three reports on the work of the Shanghai municipal government, the higher people's court and the people's procuratorate.

The third session of the fifth Shanghai municipal committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (a united front organization) was held at the same time. Delegates attending the two sessions made many good suggestions and frank criticisms concerning the work of the people's government. For instance, some said that there were too many procedures before the building of a construction project could be decided and the speed of building was too slow; they expressed the hope that housing projects would be speeded up. Others expressed dissatisfaction at the work of treating water pollution, saying that it should be given greater attention. Deputies from scientific and technological circles said that the government should give more active support to scientific research so as to obtain better economic results.

In short the sessions were lively and all spoke their minds. As one deputy put it: "We made an appropriate appraisal of the achievements, spoke frankly about the difficulties and considered the future tasks in a positive and practical way. All three reports confirmed to the actual situation in Shanghai and

reflected the wishes of the people."

**ECONOMIC****Diversified Rural Economy**

Fresh vegetables such as celery, spinach, cucumber and other greens were on sale on the market in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province, when it was just beginning to thaw. This was something rarely known in the past, and people attributed it to the growth of a diversified economy in the rural areas. Encouraged by the local authorities, the peasants have put up plastic tents on their private plots near and around their houses to grow vegetables for the market.

In the suburbs of Tianjin, the second largest city in north China, and in the surrounding counties under its jurisdiction, the breeding of domestic animals has thrived as a result of encouragement from the municipal authorities. Compared with 1979, the number of pigs raised last year rose by 8 per cent; sheep, 35 per cent; and rabbits, 100 per cent. This boosted the peasants' income by a big margin.

The importance and advantages of developing a diversified economy in the rural areas were reaffirmed in a recent circular issued jointly by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and the State Council. It stressed the necessity to develop a diversified economy in order to modernize China's agriculture.

**Two Characteristics.** (1) The amount of arable land per



capita in China is small but its natural resources are rich, and there are numerous mountains, rivers and lakes and large tracts of grassland. (2) Agricultural techniques and equipment are backward but the labour force is large. So only by carrying out intensive and careful cultivation, taking measures suited to local conditions, exploiting and utilizing the natural resources and developing a commodity economy can China's agriculture develop in a sound way.

Many agronomists and technical personnel have expressed the view that, to develop agriculture, attention should not be confined to the 100 million hectares of arable land but should be extended to the 9.6 million square kilometres of land and the vast expanses of territorial waters. They pointed out that efforts should be made to bring about an all-round development of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, sideline occupations and fisheries.

**Criticism of "Leftist" Deviations.** Large amounts of money and manpower have been channelled over the past 30 years to developing capital construction on the farmland. Agricultural production, grain production in particular, has grown apace, basically ensuring the needs of the country's 1,000 million people.

But for years "Leftist" thinking held the dominant position. Attention was concentrated mainly on the limited amount of arable land and undue emphasis was laid on grain production — all at the expense of a diversified rural economy and household sideline occupations. This resulted in a disproportionate development of the various branches of agricultural production.

**Grain Production.** The circular called for continued attention to grain production so as to ensure that food supply will keep pace with the growth of population and industrial production. At the same time, it urged that efforts be made to diversify the rural economy and establish a sound agricultural ecological system in order to achieve comprehensive development. This will in turn provide more jobs for the surplus labour force and help consolidate the collective economy.

**Two Initiatives.** Apart from the collective initiative, the circular urged that individual initiative should be brought into play. This means encouraging the peasants to engage, individually or in groups, in the service trades, the handicraft industry and transport, to raise more cattle, sheep and poultry, or to go in for fish breeding and the cultivation of vegetables, sugar- and oil-bearing crops. Private plots and land for growing forage crops will be extended in accordance with

local conditions to a maximum limit of about 15 per cent of the total farmland cultivated by each production team.

The circular stressed that technical personnel should play a bigger role and that all departments — agriculture, industry, commerce, supply and marketing and other sectors — should help in the task of developing a diversified economy in the rural areas.

## For Better Environmental Protection

The State Council recently adopted a decision calling for effective measures to protect the environment. It stipulated that all construction projects which waste natural resources or energy and which do not have effective anti-pollution devices must be stopped.

The environmental protection law requires that the anti-pollution equipment of all newly built, reconstructed or expanded factories should be designed, installed and put into operation simultaneously with the principal projects.

Other major points of the State Council decision are as follows:

— Industrial pollution must be effectively controlled in residential areas, water-source protection areas and scenic spots for tourists. Factories that have outdated technology and cause serious pollution should be closed, amalgamated or converted to other lines of production;

— Building of dikes to reclaim land from lakes or rivers without formal approval and excessive pumping of ground water are forbidden; and

— Existing natural preserves will be enlarged and new ones



While paying attention to grain production, collective sideline occupations are developed in a rural commune in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.





Medical workers of a Henan provincial clinic for preventing occupational diseases collecting data from an air sampler in a downtown area in Zhengzhou.

established to protect precious wildlife and plants and important sites of historical interest and famous scenic spots.

The State Council decision also makes specific demands for protecting the environment in Beijing and the scenic cities of Hangzhou, Suzhou and Guilin.

Over the past year, more than 970 boilers and over 40 industrial kilns in Beijing's urban areas have been reconstructed, thereby reducing the discharge of air-polluting sulphur dioxide by 900 tons. Now the discharge from 80 per cent of the boilers is kept within the limit allowed by the state.

In Beijing's eastern suburbs, the discharge from 79 factories seriously polluted the Tonghui

River. Last year departments concerned made concerted efforts to check the pollution of the river. To date 80 per cent of the toxic substances discharged have been initially brought under control. The Beijing No. 2 Pharmaceutical Plant, for instance, recovered 7,620 tons of useful material worth more than one million yuan, thanks to the 19 pollution control and multi-purpose utilization projects built by the plant last year.

In the scenic city of Guilin in south China, 50 factories undertook to build pollution control projects last year. By the end of the year, nine of these projects had been completed and put into operation and an additional five had been basically completed. These measures, coupled with efforts made by many other factories, have done much to purify the Lijiang River which flows through the city.

### Economic Briefs

- A new industrial city, Jinchang, has been built in the northern part of Gansu Province in northwest China. The largest nickel-producing centre in China, this city with a population of 50,000 has the second biggest deposits of nickelous sulphide in the world, the largest being in Canada. Jinchang began producing electrolytic nickel in 1964 and now has mining, smelting, power and construction industries and facilities for scientific research. In addition to nickel, it produces 20 other precious metals, including gold, silver, platinum, copper and cobalt.

- China's commercial departments built 146 cold storages in 1980, of which 16 are large ones

with a capacity of 5,000 tons each. The new facilities have a total storage capacity of 189,000 tons. Altogether China now has 948 cold storages with a total capacity of 1.316 million tons. Another batch will be added this year.

### SOCIAL

#### Easter Sunday in Beijing

Over 7,000 Chinese and foreign Catholics attended Easter Sunday High Mass on April 19 in the Church of the Immaculate Conception and the Church of St. Joseph in Beijing. The celebrants were Bishop Fu Tieshan and Bishop Tu Shihua.

Bishop Zong Huaide, chairman of the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association, and Bishop Yang Gaojian, vice-chairman of the National Administrative Commission of the Chinese Catholic Church, assisted at the masses.

The church held Holy Week ceremonies, such as the blessing of palms, holding a procession of the blessed sacrament, kissing the crucifix, following the stations of the cross and blessing the new fire and font.

This was the first time Easter Sunday was celebrated simultaneously in the two churches since the "cultural revolution" started in 1966. The Church of St. Joseph opened last year after being closed for 14 years.

Bishop Fu Tieshan said: "Our clergymen and congregation are happy that our freedom of religious belief is guaranteed according to the religious policies of the Party and government. We will continue to make con-



tributions to the country's modernization programme and its stability and unity."

Over 300 foreign Catholics and compatriots from Xianggang (Hongkong) and Aomen (Macao) attended the masses. They included diplomatic envoys, experts, students and members of visiting delegations.

Easter Sunday services were also held at two Protestant churches in Beijing.

## FOREIGN RELATIONS

### Samdech Sihanouk in Beijing

Vice-Chairman Li Xiannian, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Huang Hua met on separate occasions with Samdech Sihanouk who arrived in Beijing from Pyongyang on April 18.

At the press conference he gave in Beijing on April 21, Sihanouk said that he was trying to have direct negotiations with Prime Minister Khieu Samphan. He added he had proposed to Democratic Kampuchea that the two sides meet at a bilateral conference in Beijing in early May.

Sihanouk said that he also had contacts with Son Sann and his liberation front. He disclosed that as soon as an agreement is reached between the three major patriotic forces in Kampuchea, they will hold a tripartite conference in one of the ASEAN capitals.

### Delegation From Guyana

Unity and co-operation among third world countries is of exceptional importance without which the desire for peace has no reliable guarantee.

This remark was made by Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party Li Xiannian at the banquet he gave in honour of B. Ramsaroop, Chairman of the People's National Congress and Vice-President of Guyana, and the delegation led by him. Vice-Chairman Li also stressed the importance of exchanges and co-operation between the two countries and two Parties.

Premier Zhao Ziyang also met and had a friendly talk with the distinguished guests from Guyana.

Ji Pengfei, Head of the International Liaison Department of the C.P.C. Central Committee and Vice-Premier, held talks with Ramsaroop and discussed the world situation. Both sides said that they opposed interference by the superpowers or any other countries in the internal affairs of other countries and supported all oppressed peoples and nations in their struggle for liberation.

The leaders of the two Parties had their official contact for the first time. Ramsaroop extended an invitation to the Chinese Communist Party to send representatives to attend the Fourth Biennial Congress of his Party to be held in August. Ji Pengfei accepted the invitation on behalf of the C.P.C. Central Committee.

The Guyanese guests were on an official visit to China from April 23 to May 2.

### News in Brief

**Mme. Bourguiba's Visit.** Mme. Wassila Bourguiba, wife of Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, paid a friendly visit to China from April 20 to 30.

In Beijing, Premier Zhao Ziyang and Deng Yingchao, Vice-Chairman of the Standing

Committee of the National People's Congress, met her on separate occasions.

China and Tunisia have friendly relations and have co-operated in the political, economic, trade, cultural and other fields, and they share common views on a number of important international issues.

Mme. Bourguiba's visit has made positive contributions to the development of friendship and co-operation between the two countries.

**Chinese Premier Meets Niwa Mobutu.** Premier Zhao Ziyang on April 24 met with Niwa Mobutu, roving ambassador and special envoy of the President of Zaire.

At the meeting Niwa Mobutu delivered a letter from Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko and conveyed the President's regards to Zhao.

Premier Zhao Ziyang stressed that the strengthening of unity with third world countries is one of China's basic policies and he expressed appreciation of Zaire's efforts in safeguarding African unity. China, he added, hopes that stability and unity will be maintained in Africa.

**Chairman Hill Visits China.** E.F. Hill, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist), and Mrs. Hill paid a friendly visit to China from April 3 to 19. Li Xiannian, Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and Ji Pengfei, Member of the C.P.C. Central Committee and Head of the International Liaison Department of the C.P.C. Central Committee, met with them on separate occasions and had cordial talks with them. E.F. Hill and Mrs. Hill visited Chengdu, Chongqing, Yichang and Wuhan.



## President Kim Il Sung Answers Questions by Xinhua News Agency Delegation

*President Kim Il Sung gave written replies to three questions raised by the visiting Xinhua News Agency delegation on April 23. Excerpts are as follows. —Ed.*

### On the Establishment of the Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo

Our proposition to found the Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo is aimed at setting up a united national government on the basis of recognition and tolerance of each other's ideology and system and with both sides enjoying equal rights in it, so as to reunify the country into an independent, democratic, neutral and non-aligned country.

This proposition reflects the fundamental interests and desires of our nation. It was put forth after impartially considering the common interests of both regions, the north and the south.

The proposition also is in accord with the aspirations of all who cherish peace and oppose war.

The realization of grand national unity is the most important.

We don't think that the differences in ideology, conviction, social system and belief should in any way become an argument which obstructs the reunification of the country and the unity of the nation. Whoever regards the national destiny as the most important thing should not haggle over the past and the present

but choose to march hand-in-hand towards national salvation and reunification. For the realization of a grand national unity and the proposed Confederal Republic, it is imperative to effect social democratization in south Korea by abolishing the present fascist ruling regime which is based on a growing personal dictatorship and is trying to get rid of all political opposition under the pretext of preventing an alleged "threat of southward invasion" that simply does not exist at all.

In order to realize the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea, the tense situation in our country must be relaxed and the danger of war eliminated.

We have stated repeatedly that we have no intention at all to "invade southward," nor any wish for war.

However, the military fascist elements in south Korea, under the pretext of a so-called "threat of a southward invasion," which only showed up their hypocrisy to the people of the world, have introduced large quantities of arms and military equipment, stepping up war preparations and further aggravating tensions.

There is no way to bring about a genuine unity of the nation and a peaceful reunification of the country when there is the tension and the danger of war. Only by substituting the armistice agreements with a peace agreement can the tension be

relaxed and the danger of war eliminated in our country.

Those in power in the United States should sincerely accept our proposal for a peace agreement and withdraw all their troops in south Korea as early as possible.

In order to realize the proposition to found the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo, the United States should be prevented from pursuing a "two Koreas" policy which encourages south Korean fascists and attempts to split Korea, and from interfering in Korea's internal affairs.

We hold that to unfold the patriotic movement of the whole nation aiming at national reunification, it is very important for the people of all walks of life longing for reunification in the north, the south and overseas, to have contacts and dialogues with each other.

### On the Non-Aligned Movement

The non-aligned movement is a progressive movement against all forms of domination and enslavement and for independence. It is a powerful revolutionary force of our epoch which is standing up to imperialism.

However, the movement is now being put to the test in the face of conspiratorial activities of imperialism and all domination forces.

In order to split up and sow discord among the non-aligned countries and drag them into their own spheres of domination, imperialism and all domination forces are locked in fierce rivalries.

Disputes have repeatedly occurred between non-aligned countries and some of them



have tried to settle the problem by force of arms. Thus, disputes have now developed into wars rather than regional armed conflicts.

The situation has worsened since the imperialists and all the forces of domination are interfering in the disputes between the non-aligned countries.

In the movement itself, there has emerged a tendency to sidetrack the movement.

At present, the non-aligned countries are facing an urgent task, namely, to effectively overcome the difficulties within the movement itself and further expand and develop it.

In order to fulfil this task, it is of vital importance that all non-aligned countries should strictly abide by the fundamental principles of this movement.

All non-aligned countries should unswervingly adhere to the principle of independence and should not follow or be dragged into any bloc, nor should they split the movement or form new blocs.

They must stick to the principles of complete equality and non-interference in each other's internal affairs and must strengthen their unity and co-operation.

In particular, the non-aligned countries should not resort to force among themselves or escalate disputes into military conflicts.

They should not be taken in by the schemes of the imperialists and all domination forces to split up or sow discord among them or to make them hostile to or fight against each other. Instead, they should close their ranks.

They should not only closely unite politically but also co-

operate closely in economy and technology.

The non-aligned countries should actively struggle for the disbandment of all military blocs, the dismantling of all foreign military bases and the withdrawal of aggressive troops from other country's territories, and the establishment of nuclear-free zones and peace zones in all parts of the world.

The non-aligned countries should strive jointly to weed out the root cause of international exploitation—the unjust and unreasonable old economic order, and set up a new international economic order.

They should struggle for eliminating the imperialist powers' privileges and arbitrariness in international political relations.

When all the non-aligned countries do so, the non-aligned movement will expand and develop, become an invincible force and fulfil its own historic mission.

### **On Strengthening and Developing Sino-Korean Friendly Relations**

Korea and China are neighbours linked by the same river. For a long time, the Korean and Chinese peoples, whose destinies

are bound up with each other, have been close comrades-in-arms and class brothers, sharing weal and woe in the arduous struggle for national liberation and class emancipation, and in socialist revolution and construction.

Our two peoples have always shared their sorrow and joy, supported each other and co-operated closely.

No force on earth can break this great friendship between the Korean and Chinese peoples, which is cemented with blood in the flames of hard revolutionary struggle and has stood many historical tests.

In future, we shall make active efforts to develop the friendship in the political, economic and cultural fields between our two Parties and two peoples that are tied together by the fraternity of class and comradeship.

We shall hold aloft the banner of anti-imperialism, independence and proletarian internationalism, and fight shoulder to shoulder for ever and march forward together with the Chinese Communist Party and people in the struggle for the triumph of the common cause of socialism and communism.

## **South Asian Co-operation**

**T**HE foreign secretaries of seven South Asian countries, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, met in Colombo on April 21-23, and decided to set up five study groups to determine the potential and scope for regional co-operation in the fields of agriculture, rural development, telecommunications, meteorology and health and population. The study

groups are to prepare detailed proposals for the next meeting to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal, late this year.

This first meeting to discuss regional co-operation in South Asia is beneficial, desirable and necessary, said the communique issued at the end of the meeting. And it augurs well.

**Common Aspirations.** The Colombo meeting is a heartening



response to the South Asian aspirations for closer co-operation. These countries have all suffered years of colonialist and imperialist rule and historically, culturally and geographically they have a lot in common. Today, all seven are faced with the same task of safeguarding their independence and developing their economy after gaining independence.

But in more recent years, South Asia has become an object of hegemonist penetration and expansion. The Bangladesh journal, *Sunday Star*, has pointed out that practically every country in the region is prone to the political influence of the two superpowers. "The Soviet Union," it said, "is at present making threats of invasion to draw South and Southwest Asia into the maelstrom of its contention for world domination."

This is cause enough for countries in South Asia to close their ranks and make a collective effort to protect the region from foreign infiltration and expansion. It was obviously with this in mind that President Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh proposed a year ago a conference of the seven South Asian nations.

**A Beginning.** Senior officials of the seven countries for the first time have got together and discussed the possibility and desirability of regional co-operation, despite their country's different views on certain international issues and other differences. There is no denying that obstacles and difficulties do exist, which must be removed through more consultations and dialogue before mutual trust and understanding can be firmly established among them. All these, ap-

parently, were clearly taken into account and the conference charted a safe and reliable course towards the realization of this goal. Regional co-operation should be based on and should in turn contribute to "mutual trust, understanding and sympathetic appreciation of the national aspirations of the countries of the region," said the communique.

Regional co-operation among third world countries has immense vitality. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a good example. Apart from promoting economic collaboration among member states, it is becoming a vital political presence standing in the way of aggression and help-

ing to preserve peace in this part of the world.

Not long ago, the Foreign Ministers of six Gulf states met and formed the Council for Gulf Co-operation to take collective care of their economic development and political and security matters.

Now, South Asian countries, too, are reaching out for the same goal. The first step has been taken and is of far-reaching significance, as real, effective co-operation among the seven will go a long way towards furthering their own interests and contributing to stability and security in Asia as well.

— *Xinhua Correspondent*  
Huai Chengpo

## Renewed Hostilities in Lebanon

**S**INCE the beginning of April, armed conflict between Lebanese Christian forces and Syrian peace-keeping troops in Beirut and the strategic central Lebanese city of Zahle has grown into the worst outbreak of fighting since the 1975-76 civil war. Lebanese government leaders have repeatedly appealed to the parties concerned, but have failed to stabilize the situation despite many ceasefire agreements. Meanwhile, attacks by Israeli troops and Israel-backed Lebanese Haddad militiamen on Palestinian guerrilla bases in southern Lebanon have escalated sharply, increasing the tension and atmosphere of crisis in the area.

A number of solutions have been put forward since the fighting erupted, but contradictions between the groups in conflict run so deep that no agreement has yet been reached.

The Lebanese Front, an ally of the Christian factions, advocates internationalizing the problem. Backed by the United States, Israel, France and some other European countries, it has asked for a U.N. peace-keeping force to replace





the all-Syrian Arab Deterrent Force now in Lebanon. France has also come up with its own proposal for a European-Arab peace-keeping force, and has suggested that a special envoy of the U.N. Secretary-General be sent to negotiate with the parties concerned.

These proposals for "internationalization" have been strongly rejected by Syria, Lebanese Muslim groups and other Arab countries. Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has repeatedly stated that "no internationalization attempt should be made without the approval of the Lebanese Government." Several other Middle East countries, represented by Kuwait, urge that Arab differences be settled by the Arab countries themselves. This attitude was reflected earlier in the 1976 resolution of the Riyadh summit conference to send an Arab Deterrent Force into Lebanon to supervise the ceasefire in the civil war. Syria's 22,000-man army is all that remains of this force in Lebanon today. Any formula for a settlement of the Lebanese conflict therefore depends on the co-operation of Syria.

During his visit to Beirut on April 6, Syrian Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam agreed to hold talks with the Phalangist Party, Lebanon's dominant Christian faction, which has on many occasions expressed willingness to meet with Syrian officials on an equal basis.

Meanwhile, the pro-Syrian Lebanese Muslim National Movement declared that Lebanon's problems cannot be settled through a dialogue between Syria and the Phalangist Party, but only through a reconciliation among the Lebanese

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## P.N.C. Conference

**T**HE 15th Session of the Palestinian National Council held in Damascus from April 11-19 elected a new P.L.O. Executive Committee and issued a communique stressing that "the only option for solving the Palestinian issue is the Palestinian option." The communique has expressed the just demand of the Palestinian people and reflected the common aspiration of the Arab people.

No fair and overall solution has been reached on the Palestinian issue all these years, because the superpowers have chosen to ignore the basic rights of the Palestinian people and taken advantage of the complicated situation to fight between themselves for control of the Middle East. Under these circumstances, Israel has availed itself of the opportunity to make hay and has grown increasingly unreasonable and arrogant. The current situation in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf makes an overall and fair solution of the Palestinian issue even more urgent.

The Middle East problem hinges on the Palestinian issue. The sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people is the Palestine Liberation Organization. Therefore, the P.L.O. must be represented in any discussions on solving this issue. It is wrong to exclude the P.L.O. The solution must be based on the own choice of the Palestinian people.

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themselves; Syria should only deal with a united Lebanese Government. The statement also listed the withdrawal of Phalangist military forces from Zahle and a change of its "separatist" stand as preconditions for national reconciliation.

For many years, religious and political factions in Lebanon have been at odds on a number of regional as well as local issues. Of central importance in these conflicts are the Arab-Israeli dispute and the current questions of how to relate to the Palestinian guerrillas, their Syrian allies and Israel. War

and time have deepened the bitterness and complexity of this situation. What is clear is that Lebanon's internal strife and resulting instability inevitably afford outside elements the opportunity to advance their own interest, as Israel's frequent attacks and incursions in southern Lebanon have demonstrated. The significance of superpower contention in the region, particularly the expansionistic manoeuvres of the Soviet Union, cannot be underestimated in appraising the situation in Lebanon.

— Ren Wenhui

## Zimbabwe

### A Year of Independence and Progress

**I**N the one year of Zimbabwean independence, the government led by Prime Minister Robert Mugabe has weathered a series of severe tests and come through smiling. Threats, provocations and subversive operations against it

by the white racists in South Africa, white immigrant antagonism, internal contradictions within the Patriotic Front and untidy problems left behind by the long war did not daunt the government or the people of Zimbabwe.



In April 1980, when Zimbabwe won independence, some Western observers pessimistically predicted the newborn republic would soon be plunged into civil war or racked by political instability. There were plenty of difficulties ahead for Zimbabwe. Wiser heads, however, saw that if the new government pursued realistic domestic and foreign policies, it would not only survive, but would also set the country along a road of progress and prosperity. Zimbabwe's economy was fairly sound and had broad prospects for development and the political situation there could be stabilized.

The past year has proved that the latter view conformed with Zimbabwean realities. The situation today is encouraging, the internal contradictions have been mitigated and the economy has moved forward. The efforts of the Mugabe government and the people are paying off.

### Improving Living Standards

The Zimbabwean people became their own masters and have been healing the wounds of war and building up their country. The government resettled more than 1.2 million refugees who had returned from neighbouring countries where they had fled during the war. It was a relatively costly project but it was carried through. The government spent more on culture, education, medical and health facilities. It introduced a free health service for those earning less than 150 Zimbabwean dollars per month. Free primary education for children increased enrolment to 1.3 million from 800,000 on independence. Those who have paid 30

years' rent for government housing will soon become house-owners. Higher employment, improved living standards and higher purchasing power have come in the wake of restoring the economy and improving production.

### Building a National Army

The Mugabe government has moved steadily to resolve contradictions between the former National Liberation Army under the African National Union and the People's Revolutionary Army of the African People's Union. The forces are being gradually reorganized and integrated into a national army, already an army of 21 battalions, fairly disciplined and quite reliable. It helped to put down the recent armed riots and is helping the government to set down the foundations for strong government.

### Policy Towards the Whites

When independence arrived a year ago, the minority white immigrants who played a relatively large role in the economy were very uneasy. Many were suspicious of the new government. Racist propaganda persuaded many white farmers, businessmen and managers to leave the country. Those who remained adopted a passive wait-and-see attitude. The new government calmly persisted in pursuing its sensible, prudent and resolute policy towards the white minority. The government cracked down on those who were actively trying to create chaos. But in general, it adopted a policy of unity and conciliation with the whites as proclaimed in the Lancaster House agreement signed in London and written into the

Constitution. It stood firmly against pressure from irresponsible radicals. For instance, it appointed and promoted a large number of Africans to important posts in the government while retaining many whites at their posts. The government did not invert the racial discrimination practised by the colonialists. Before forming the new National Army, for example, commanders of the old armed forces were kept at their posts and not summarily dismissed. Such measures have helped bring about a degree of racial conciliation and have encouraged white co-operation in running the state.

Economically, the Mugabe government's declared policy of respecting private property, recognizing the existing economic foundation, not nationalizing industrial and commercial enterprises, paying for land expropriated and so on have allayed white immigrant fears and suspicion. Whites are joining the blacks in rehabilitating and developing the economy.

### Foreign Policy

In foreign affairs, the Zimbabwean Government has pursued a policy of peace, neutrality and non-alignment, while resolutely opposing imperialism, old and neo-colonialism and racism. It has dealt decisively with subversive activities engineered by the racist regime in South Africa, and frustrated plots hatched by hegemonists to move into southern Africa. Zimbabwe in the past year has played an important role in promoting economic co-operation and development among countries in southern Africa and reducing their reliance on racist South Africa.



What has emerged from its one year of independence is a picture of Zimbabwe pursuing its own road of development in harmony with its history and specific conditions. The Zimbabwean Government is pursuing a fairly realistic and wise policy at home with fair

success and its foreign policy is winning friends and respect. Zimbabwe's neighbours and the rest of the world watch with great interest future developments as the country enters its second year of independence.

— Xu Dewen

## Latin America

### An Island Adrift in the Caribbean

CUBA is not winning friends but losing them. The island country has few friends in the world and fewer in Latin America. Its relations with neighbouring Latin American countries are crumbling. Colombia, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Peru and Jamaica have one after the other either severed connections or lowered their levels of cooperation.

Colombia's suspension of diplomatic relations with Cuba as of March 23 is seen by some as the prelude to a new Latin American move to snub the Castro regime. Ecuador and Venezuela recalled their ambassadors and Ecuador said on March 29 that it would lower diplomatic relations with Cuba to the level of charge d'affaires. Panama has called for a regional meeting to reconsider overall relations with Cuba. One Ecuadoran newspaper described the Castro regime today as being abandoned by its uneasy neighbours to drift alone in the Caribbean.

Cuba has no one to blame for its present isolation. It is completely of its own doing. In the 1970s, Castro said again and again that Cuba wanted to live amicably with its neighbours, that Cuba would not export revolution, and he pledged not to meddle in others' internal affairs. But his words were not matched by deeds. The

opposite happened. Probably in response to Soviet demands, but definitely with Soviet help, Cuba in 1975 dispatched



mercenaries to fight in Africa. It meddled more and more in the internal affairs of certain Latin American countries under the pretext of "supporting a national revolution."

Colombia is one victim of unwanted Cuban interference. A number of persons who took part in kidnapping diplomatic envoys in Colombia are said to

have been trained and armed by Cuba and then sent back to Colombia. This has been confirmed by those taken alive by the Colombian Government. They admitted to having undergone training in Cuba and said that Cuba made use of a third country to supply arms and transit personnel to the rebels of some Latin American countries, which Cuba has categorically denied.

Similar subversive Cuban-inspired and supported activities were found in Venezuela.

The general opinion in Latin America is that Cuba has the

backing of the Soviet Union. Some flatly see the Castro regime as a Russian tool for infiltrating Latin America. And what Cuba has been engaged in does not lessen the suspicions of its neighbours, which is why it finds itself becoming very isolated and relations with its Latin American neighbours cool to cold.

— Gong Ping

### The Battle for Resources

THE Reagan administration's five-year armament programme testifies to U.S. determination to answer the Soviet military challenge. President Reagan has ordered 100 million dollars' worth of strategic materials, including 62 kinds of

minerals, metals and other raw materials. U.S. officials estimate that \$2,500 million will be spent building up stockpiles over the next five years.

The Soviet Union in an unusual move bought 4,000 tons of tungsten ore and 1,000 tons of



tin, which people believe are destined for military purposes.

### Arms Buildup

The United States has plenty of natural resources but it needs such enormous quantities of strategic raw materials that it must import over half the amount of 23 kinds of minerals among 36 needed in industry and over 90 per cent of its manganese, cobalt, chromium and platinum. Recent orders for stockpiling strategic resources reflect the U.S. drive to build up its military and political might vis-a-vis the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union, for its part, has stopped exporting and begun importing certain metals and ores. After 1976 it cut exports of three strategic metals, chromium, platinum, and manganese, and in 1979, it slashed its exports of lead, zinc, palladium, cobalt, nickel and rubber, and stopped exporting titanium altogether. Now, it has begun buying in quantity certain raw materials in the world market.

This trend observed in the last 10 years points to intensified efforts by the Soviet Union to build up its armaments and is making the Soviet Union compete with the United States for strategic minerals. The slumping world metal market has subsequently picked up perceptibly.

### Quarrying the Third World

Most of the world's industrial raw materials and strategic resources are found in quantity in third world countries, especially in the Middle East and southern Africa. NATO Secretary-General Joseph Luns points out that

the mineral resources in southern Africa are of equally vital importance to the European economy as Gulf oil. It is easy to see why the third world countries, especially the Middle East and southern Africa, are fast becoming areas of contention between the two superpowers.

Brezhnev has declared that the Soviet goal is to control the two treasuries which the West relies on: the oil-rich Persian Gulf and mineral-rich central and southern Africa. Moscow's strategy is to seize control of the strategic resources and passages leading to Europe. Once the Soviet strategy succeeds, the West will be in a dangerous position.

Washington and its allies in the West are, of course, not sitting on their hands. U.S. Secretary of State Haig has warned that if Moscow comes to dominate southern Africa, it will mean that the Soviet Union will have control of 90 per cent of the major minerals the West requires. To ensure access to resources, the United States is building up a "Rapid Deployment Force" and strengthening its military presence in the Middle East and Africa. The West is also co-ordinating action to strengthen their navies in the Indian Ocean.

### The Soviet Squeeze

Knowing these sensitive points of the United States and the West European countries, especially resource poor Western Europe and Japan, Moscow has dangled lures alternated with pressure to destabilize relations among these countries.

One. Moscow offers Western Europe access to its energy resources and raw materials on "a long-term and stable basis." This, of course, is designed to make Western Europe dependent on the Soviets for their supplies of energy and other resources and prise these countries, separately or collectively, away from the United States.

Two. The Soviet Union tries to manipulate prices of strategic minerals to grab superprofits. Moscow bought large quantities of cobalt in 1978 and later sent surrogate troops into the Shaba Province of Zaire to bring the cobalt production there to a standstill. Since a third of the world's cobalt is produced in Zaire, the price of the ore shot up to six times its normal price. Then Moscow released on the market its store of cobalt at a high price. The West had to pay through the nose, but what could it do?

Three. The Soviet Union has tried to make resources a political lever on the West. When West Germany in 1979 agreed to deploy Pershing-II launchers on its territory, the Soviet Union immediately cut off its titanium export to West Germany and later stopped supplies to France. This precipitated a "titanium crisis" in the European Economic Community.

These Soviet actions should serve as a warning to the West. Predictably, the fight for strategic resources between the Soviet Union and the United States will sharpen the confrontation between them and further destabilize the international situation.

— Ma Weimin



## World Economy Symposium

## Western Economy in the 1980s

by Huan Xiang

*This is the second part of a speech delivered at the International Symposium on World Economy by Huan Xiang, Vice-President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The first part appeared in our last issue. — Ed.*

## Causes for Prolonged Stagnation

THE new phenomena and new circumstances that emerged in the economic development of the West during the 70s indicate that capitalist economy has entered a stage of "prolonged stagnation," the stage of capitalist economic expansion that started after the war has come to an end. In studying the causes for the prolonged stagnation of the Western economies, I hold that the following factors deserve special consideration:

1) **Slowed down increase in productive investment and obsolescence of machinery.** This phenomenon shows itself most clearly in the United States and the various countries in Western Europe, especially in the traditional industrial sectors. To a large extent the labour productivity has been prevented from rising due to the untimely depreciation of aging machinery. Besides, certain equipment that consumes too much energy and raw materials also urgently need renovation and replacement, yet their low profit rate has prohibited their replacement, thus resulting in high production costs, with production capacity unable to expand, employment unable to increase, the competitiveness of products significantly reduced and in the end the economic growth rate of the whole country slowed down.

2) **Rise in energy and raw material prices.** The first oil shock that started in 1973 trebled the oil price overnight, while the second oil shock of 1979 all of a sudden doubled it once again. The rises in oil prices in turn acted as a catalyst for price rises of other raw materials and manufactures, increasing the costs of

products, altering labour capital ratio, raising the organic constituent of capital, reducing the profit rate and aggravating inflation and price rises generally.

3) **Price rises immediately followed by wage rises of like proportions.** During the 70s, in contradistinction to the 30s, trade unions increased their strength and workers intensified their struggle. As a result, the trade unions were still able to maintain an increase in real wages and the rate of increase of monetary wages approximately kept pace with that of price rises. This was so, even though the number of unemployed increased, the unemployment rate rose and labour-capital relations were uneasy. This shows that the capitalists are no longer able to maintain and increase the profit of their enterprises by means of intensifying the exploitation of labour and reducing real wages, methods which they wilfully resorted to in the past. Neither have the other means used by the capitalists as a substitute for labour raised their profit rate.

4) **Great changes in the structure and mode of international trade.** This is mainly reflected in the following three aspects: a) The transnational companies' (T.N.C.'s) control over international trade is increasingly strengthened; in particular, the share of West German and Japanese T.N.C.s in the total volume of international trade is increasing very rapidly. b) The export-oriented industrialization strategy followed by certain developing countries has achieved further advances. Their manufactures are exported to the West in great quantities. By virtue of the cheap labour in these countries, their costs are low, their goods highly competitive, and consequently, they are posing a great threat to the developed industrial countries. c) The competitiveness of British, American and some other countries' commodities has drastically declined. All these factors have led to intensified rivalry for markets, raw materials and energy, and to increased tension in interna-



tional trade relations, which can be seen most clearly in the rapid rise of protectionism.

5) **Crisis in the International monetary system.** The 70s witnessed the disintegration of the system of fixed exchange rates and the further fall of the U.S. dollar on the one hand, and the emergence of the Euro-currency system on the other. What people feel uneasy about is that after the adoption of the floating rate system, the international monetary and financial markets have remained in a state of fluctuation. The main cause for this is that although the U.S. dollar has ceased to function as the central currency, it continues to be the principal means of payment in international accounting and the main reserve currency in many countries. A slight fluctuation of the dollar will affect the



The port of Le Havre is filled with imported Japanese cars. The French Minister of Industry said that for every 5-10 cars which are imported one French worker would lose his job.

stability of the international monetary and financial markets. In 1977 and 1978, the plummeting of the price of the U.S. dollar against the Deutsche mark, Swiss franc and Japanese yen and the soaring of gold prices threw the international monetary and financial markets into great turmoil. During the latter part of 1979 and the beginning of 1980, another hectic run on gold rocketed its price up to over 800 U.S. dollars an ounce. In fact some people feel that the floating rate system is an important factor behind the inflation rampage on an international scale, and therefore have proposed that the gold standard be restored. Due to the weak position of the dollar, many people hold that reserve currency should be diversified, the dollar should not be used as the main reserve

currency and scope for the use of SDRs be enlarged. At present, an urgent problem is how to recycle the great volume of petro-dollars. In 1980, the current account surplus of the oil exporting countries reached 120 billion dollars. At the time of the first oil shock, the Western countries were quite successful in their efforts to recycle large sums of petro-dollars but now they are finding it very difficult to do so. If the one hundred billion or so petro-dollars cannot be recycled smoothly to the developed capitalist countries and a significant number of developing countries, then the international monetary and financial markets will definitely undergo shocks and the development of the world economy and international trade will be seriously undermined.

All in all, the prolonged stagnation of the Western economies which has developed since the 70s is inseparable from the effects of the aforesaid factors.

### **Factors Affecting Economic Development In the 1980s**

With regards to the question of the direction in which the Western economies are heading in the 80s, there exist widely different views internationally; some are optimistic, some pessimistic, and others take a wait-and-see attitude. I hold that the trends and tendencies of the Western economies in the 80s, besides being affected by the aforesaid factors, will also depend on the economic policies the various Western countries adopt and the changes in the world's political situation.

**First of all, we shall have to see how the relationship between oil prices and wage increases changes in the 80s.** Since 1979, the price of oil has again been rising by a big margin. This has pushed up the oil price by 40 per cent on the U.S. energy market and by an even bigger proportion on the Japanese energy market. As stated above, oil price rises greatly aggravated inflation and price rises generally in the seven major capitalist countries of the West. This can be seen in two stages. In the first stage, the price rises were not accompanied by similar increases in wages. In 1979, workers' real wages in the United States and some other countries were all somewhat reduced. As a result of the relatively high profits obtained by businesses, certain countries witnessed a moderate increase in investment that year. In the second stage, from 1980 on, wage increases have gathered momentum, and



have begun to catch up with the percentage of price rises and have resulted in a reduction in the rate of profit. In North America and Western Europe, recessions and crises have occurred, with widespread reduction in capital accumulation and a big proportion of production capacity lying idle. At present some Western countries are trying to change the past index criteria of wages in order to freeze workers' income, or temporarily stop following the index criteria of wages. If trade unions consent to this kind of measure, then, with prices rising, the real wages of the workers will be reduced, the business profit rate raised and the capitalist economy likely to witness a temporary and partial recovery.

**Secondly, one will have to see whether or not the economic policies prescribed by the monetarists and supply-side economists can yield positive results.** Since the 70s, with the deepening of Western economic difficulties and the worsening of "stagflation," there have been increasing doubts about Keynesianism. It is against the background of its inability to solve the prevailing Western economic difficulties that monetarism and supply-side economics have developed. Criticizing the traditional Keynesian theory, proponents of these schools of economics hold that "stagflation" in the Western economies is caused by the adoption of the Keynesian prescription of increased government interference in the economy. They emphasize that the only way to overcome "stagflation" lies in the reduction of government interference in the economy and bringing into full play the regulating role of the market. That is to let wages, prices, interest rates and so on be determined by the interplay of demand and supply of the market and to leave the volume of money supply to the automatic regulation of the level of economic activity and its objective development.

In Britain, the economic prescription of the monetarists has already been experimented with by Mrs. Thatcher for nearly two years, with extremely unsuccessful results. After coming to power, Mr. Reagan put before Congress a plan to revitalize the American economy, in which he clearly stated that the supply-side economic theory was to be taken as the main guideline for the economic policies of the new administration. The core of both President Reagan's and Mrs. Thatcher's economic policies lies in reducing state interference in the economy through drastic government spending cuts, and so on, in restoring the vitality of free competi-

tion by means of reducing taxation so as to stimulate personal saving and private business investment, and in curbing inflation by way of controlling the money supply.

After Reagan's plan was announced, business circles applauded it while trade unions and some black leaders voiced their opposition. Reactions from members of both houses of Congress also differed, with many Democratic Congressmen criticizing it as being favourable to the rich and unfavourable to the poor. Quite a few economists have also expressed their doubts about the efficacy of supply-side economic policies, holding that not only will these policies not be able to curb inflation, but they may tend to aggravate it. They are also worried that the drastic reduction in certain kinds of social welfare expenditures may arouse strong opposition from the social strata concerned, thus undermining social stability.

Though there are many doubts about the possibility of the Reagan administration implementing its plan in toto and about its chances of success, the channelling of vast resources from consumption into production advocated by Reagan is nonetheless not without positive significance. If productive investment



Last Christmas, when business was sluggish in London, this man was hired to advertise liquor as a gimmick to attract more customers.



can be increased markedly in the next few years, it is not impossible for the growth rate of the U.S. economy to take on a bit more speed. The rise and the winning of acceptance of monetarism and supply-side economics show that Western economic theory and policies are undergoing a crucial change. Since the United States is economically the most powerful country in the capitalist world, the state of its economy has a significant impact on the other capitalist countries. Therefore, it is not surprising that the Reagan economic experiment has aroused close attention from all sides.

With regard to the question of state interference in economic life, I hold that it is possible, within a limited scope, by adopting different economic policies to make adjustments and choices among the methods by which the state intervenes in the economy, but it is quite impossible to completely avoid government interference in the modern capitalist economy. To start with, the modern capitalist socialized mass production objectively requires the state to regulate and intervene in the economy and especially under the circumstances of the increasing scale of internationalized production, the activities of T.N.C.s also call for a certain amount of government interference. Besides, faced with the growing strength of trade unions, monopoly capital will need government intervention in finding solutions to the problems arising from labour-capital negotiations.

**Thirdly, one will have to see how the world-wide political situation develops.** The analysis and forecast of the possible developments of the world economy and Western economies in the 80s cannot be detached from the study of the world political situation. The present world political situation, like the economic situation, is in a state of great turbulence. Its development in the 80s may turn towards any one of many possibilities. To a large extent, it will depend on how the United States and the other major Western countries react to the military expansionist policies of the Soviet Union.

In the 70s the U.S.S.R. went full steam ahead with its armaments expansion; its military industry grew rapidly and the total amount of its military expenditure greatly exceeded that of the United States. Since 1970, the U.S.S.R. has spent \$300 billion more than the United States has on military expenditure. At the moment, while the U.S. defence expenditure is about 5 per cent of its GNP, the defence spending of the U.S.S.R. is as high as 11-13 per cent of its GNP. In its arms race with the

U.S., the U.S.S.R. has gradually obtained the upper hand, whereas the United States is more and more on the defensive politically and militarily.

In order to change this state of imbalance and to regain military and strategic superiority over the Soviet Union, President Reagan has asked Congress for its approval of an increase in military spending of \$1.3 billion in 1981, \$7.2 billion in 1982, and an increase of \$20 to \$63 billion between 1983 and 1986. If this request can be materialized, then the percentage of U.S. military spending in its total budget will increase from 24.1 per cent in 1981 to 32.4 per cent in 1984. This will stimulate the U.S. economy somewhat. Meantime, once the U.S. arms expansion programme is implemented, Europe and Japan may also follow suit. Although certain major Western countries have still not decided to respond to the American request to spend 3 per cent of their GNP on expanding their armaments, the tendency to increase military expenditure has shown itself clearly. To a certain extent this will also act as a stimulant to their economic development. Therefore, the view suggesting that the downward trend of the U.S. economy and that of the other major Western countries will continue in the 80s may not necessarily prove correct. On the contrary, if the international situation becomes more tense and the arms race intensifies, the development of the Western economies may experience a certain upward movement even though it may not be very fast due to the constraint of inflation.

To sum up, the development of the Western economies in the 80s will be a function of a series of economic and political factors, of the adjustments in the economic policies of various Western countries and a function of whether or not there will be another oil price hike in the international oil market. It appears that during the first few years of the 80s the Western economy as a whole will continue to witness a trend towards constriction; economic growth rate will be relatively low; the rate of price rises may decline moderately; yet the unemployment rate may remain very high. The question as to whether or not the adjustments in the economic policies of the United States and some other Western countries will yield the expected results does not allow for much optimism. All in all, for the Western countries, the 1980s will continue to be a period fraught with economic instability and hardships.

*(Subheads are ours.)*



# Marriage and Family Relations

by Our Correspondent Kong Yong



*Our publication of the new marriage law in issue No. 11 elicited a number of letters asking about marriage and family relations in contemporary China. In order to answer such questions, we sent one of our correspondents to some villages in Hebei Province and places around Beijing to gather information on this subject. — Ed.*

## Changes in the Marriage Conventions

### — The practice in Zhuge Village

**D**RASTIC changes have been wrought in China's system of marriage over the past three decades. They are particularly evident in the countryside where over 80 per cent of the people live.

Early this spring I travelled to Hengshui County's Zhuge Production Brigade 250 kilometres south of Beijing to see what specific changes had occurred there since liberation. Located on the north China plain, the village has a population of 814 people belonging to 204 households.

Liu Jiuhua, my hostess who heads the women's association of the brigade, told me that before liberation young people got married "on the order of parents and at the suggestion of match-makers." Freedom of marriage was out of the question. Wanting to find out more, I decided to ask some older peasants and cadres about what had happened in Zhuge. Here is what I learnt.

#### Marriage by Choice Rather Than Fiat

Prior to 1952 all marriages had been arbitrarily arranged

by parents. Between 1953 and 1966, there were 39 marriages. One had been arbitrarily decided by the parents, 35 had been arranged by the parents with the consent of the parties concerned and three had been through free choice. Between 1967 and 1978, there were 71 marriages, 60 being decided by the parties themselves through a go-between, six by free choice and five on a reciprocal basis (see p. 22). Of the 16 marriages which took place in 1979 and 1980, 12 were decided by the parties themselves through a go-between and four were by free choice.

Anyone with some knowledge



Liu Jiuhua.

of New China can see that these modifications in the marriage conventions were closely connected with changes in political institutions and in the mode of production.

The first marriage law of the People's Republic was promulgated in 1950, one year after its founding. It abolished the feudal practice of arbitrary, compulsory arranged marriages which were based on the superiority of man over woman and a lack of regard for young people's interests. It introduced a new-democratic marriage system based on the free choice of partners, monogamy, equal rights for both sexes and the protection of the lawful interests of women and children while prohibiting bigamy and concubinage.

With the completion of the land reform in 1952, which swept away the feudal land ownership, women along with men received a portion of land. As the movement of agricultural co-operation developed in depth, women folk began walking out of their homes to take part in farmwork and gain an income of their own, many taking up responsible jobs in the mutual-aid teams and co-operatives. This provided a favourable political and economic situation for uprooting the feudal marriage system.

Widespread efforts were made in 1953 to publicize and implement the marriage law. Since then, mercenary and arranged marriages were made illegal and young people began to enjoy the right to choose their own spouses.



"But customs that have existed for centuries can be very persistent," Liu Jiuhua pointed out. Some people continued to interfere in their children's marriage. In Zhuge Village, a girl named Zhang Sanni committed suicide because her parents forbade her to see the man she loved; another woman was coerced by her mother into marrying a man she did not love. Though most parents started to consult their children when they arranged their marriages, the final decision was still in the hands of the parents.

The collectivization of agriculture was a still heavier blow to the feudal patriarchal system. By 1958, the young people were not only free to decide whom they were going to marry, but also could date each other after the engagement. Some young people actually fell in love when working together in a collective; a few marriages of free choice appeared. It was so with the present secretary of the brigade's Party branch, Zhang Hongkun, and his wife Peng Guichen. When I interviewed Zhang and Peng, they still talked very fondly of their courtship 20 years ago.

### Five Principles for Marriage and Family Relations In China

1. The principle of freedom of marriage;
2. The principle of monogamy;
3. The principle of equal rights for the sexes;
4. The principle of protecting the legitimate rights and interests of women, children and the elderly; and
5. The principle of family planning.

The changes in marriage conventions did not stop here. In fact, they have been quite pronounced since 1967. The parties concerned now take things into their own hands instead of allowing the parents to make the decision. Arbitrary and compulsory marriages, which have more or less persisted in some of the remote, impoverished villages, no longer are tolerated in Zhuge Village.

Generally, there are two ways in which people find spouses. One is for a relative or a friend to act as a go-between and then the two meet a few times and decide if they want to marry; the other is for young person to freely choose his or her own spouse. One of the leaders of the national women's federation told me that the in-

roduction system is rather commonplace in the Chinese countryside, while the practice of finding someone on your own is still quite rare. Over the past two years, of Zhuge's 16 newlyweds, only four couples chose their partners themselves, that is, a mere 25 per cent.

Why? Wen Genhai, leader of the Zhuge Production Brigade, had this explanation: "It probably has something to do with the current mode of production in the countryside, the economic conditions and the attitudes and cultural level of the peasants." In most cases, the productive units in the Chinese countryside are the original villages. Many of the inhabitants are of the same family and bear the same surname. Young people do not have many contacts with other places and there are very few social activities. Consequently, there are not very many chances for a man and a woman to become friends, fall in love and decide to get married. Moreover, the old concept that "no one should marry without a match-maker" is still strong. There was a couple in Zhuge who met while working together and fell in love. But they kept their relationship a secret out of fear of the gossip and finally arranged for a go-between, all the while publicly denying that they had already fallen in love. Of course, there are always young people disdainful of the old ways. When



Zhu Jize riding home with his bride on their wedding day.



## SPECIAL FEATURE/MARRIAGE

I went to the marriage registration office in the commune town, I met a couple who just did not care. "We have fallen in love without anyone acting as a go-between," they said. A commune cadre admitted that with the encouragement and support of the government, more and more people in the countryside now decide on their own spouses, and quite a few parents are also agreeing to this new practice.

While the trend is definitely positive, it does need to be stated that some setbacks have also occurred. A case in point is the so-called marriages based on a reciprocal basis, marriages in which two families married their daughters to each other's sons. The head of the women's association explained that they are a backlash which developed during the 10 years of turmoil when undue emphasis was laid on class struggle. Children of landlords, rich peasants and parents who had been branded counter-revolutionaries found it difficult to find a spouse. The parents, to help solve their children's marital problem, felt that they had no other alternative.

### The Marriage Age Is Rising

Early marriages were quite commonplace in old China; mothers as young as 13 or 14 could be found everywhere. After 1949, the harmful effects of early marriage were publicized, and age requirement was set in the 1950 marriage law. The stipulation read: "A marriage can be contracted only after the man has reached 20 years of age and the woman 18 years of age." This provision has done much to put an end to early marriages. In Zhuge, the age for getting married has been going up over the past 30 years.

When People in Zhuge Get Married

Years	Average Age for Marriage		The Youngest Age	
	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
before 1952	18.3	18.4	13	12
1953-66	21.7	19.9	15	16
1967-80	24.6	22.5	18	18

Two years ago, in a drive for family planning, the local authorities here decreed that marriage licenses would only be given to men who had reached the age of 25 and women who had turned 23. Some peasants in Zhuge were upset, feeling the age requirement was too high. Now the new marriage law has set the age for getting married at 22 for men and 20 for women. Asked what the peasants thought of this, the head of the local women's association said that when the law was made known last September, people were much happier.

### Few Changes in Wedding Ceremony

I had an opportunity to attend several wedding ceremonies in the commune where Zhuge is located. My general impression was that compared to the days before liberation, some minor changes in the wedding ceremony had occurred, but many marital rites had remained the same.

The changes: Whereas in the past the bride came in a sedan-chair, she now rides a bicycle or a horse-drawn carriage instead. The red carpet that used to be put down for her to walk on when she stepped out of her sedan-chair is gone. The bride no longer wears a veil as well. While in the past the bride and the bridegroom had to kneel down and kowtow to their relatives, today most of them bow instead. . . .

The conventional rites which still remain in force include: the bridegroom's family sending the bride's family a letter of proposal; setting the wedding date on a supposedly auspicious day; some brides still using a cloth to cover up their heads; some couples still kneeling down to kowtow; the newlyweds eating *jiaozi* (meat dumpling) once inside the bridal chamber; inviting friends and relatives to a wedding feast. . . .

I wanted to find out why the wedding ceremony had not changed along with the changes in the manner of choosing a spouse. Some older peasants said: "A wedding is a big event in a person's life. We countryside folk want young people to begin their married lives in a grand style." But the young people told me: "Those old rites are a bore. We couldn't care less about them. But now that we can choose our own mates, we are willing to placate our parents and go through the ceremony." In the opinion of a commune cadre, the main reason was that these rites were not very harmful and were in harmony with the rural economy, cultural level and attitudes. Some of the rites were abolished for a while during the "cultural revolution," but they came back before long. In recent years, however, some young people, breaking away from the old rites, have actually taken honeymoons or simplified their marital rites.



## Small Families on the Rise

— A second account about  
Zhuge Village

IT was once quite common to have three, four or even five generations living under one roof in the Chinese countryside. Now things have changed. Families consisting of three generations are few in number, and those with four generations living together are even rarer. Most of the families consist of just a husband and wife and their unmarried children. This represents a marked change in the family structure in rural China over the last 30 years.

### Why the Change?

The disintegration of big families and the increase in the number of small families are quite evident in Zhuge. Before 1952 this village had only four households which had divided into smaller units; between 1953 and 1966, 27 large families sub-

village, there are only three households with four generations living together (in these cases, there is only one male in each generation), accounting for only 1.5 per cent of the total; 31 households (15.2 per cent) have three generations living together (here too there is only one male in each generation with the exception of one household which has two sons); the remaining 83.3 per cent are smaller families with at most two generations living together.

Why this change? In the opinion of Wen Yuzhang, a member of the brigade's administrative committee, it is mainly because people want to be economically independent. This has been made possible by the elimination of the private ownership of the means of production, the distributions of work-points\* for work done, and the participation of women folk in farmwork. As a result, it is difficult for a feudal big family to carry on.

Peasants in Zhuge believe that a smaller family has many advantages. First of all, it serves to arouse the enthusiasm of everyone in the family for production. For instance, there was a peasant named Wang Shouchen living together with his two married sons. Because the two daughters-in-law shirked their day-to-day farmwork responsibilities, their combined earnings merely totalled 1,900 work-points in a year. After the family split into three nuclear families, one of these daughters-in-law earned more than 6,000 work-points and the other 5,400. Another advantage is that problems are much

less common when a large family splits into small, economically independent units. A large family is always fraught with problems of personal relations. Frequently the mother-in-law, the daughters-in-law and the sisters-in-law quarrel over economic matters and household work. Such a break-down also makes it easier for the sons in a family to find wives. For young women are reluctant to marry someone living together with many brothers. The common practice now is for a newly married couple to set up their own house about a year after their marriage. In the end, the youngest son is left at home with the parents.

### Old People Still Respected

Does this dissolution of the large family mean that the aging parents are not properly cared for? It is a long-honoured tradition in China to tend to and respect the elderly. In my visit to Zhuge I found this fine tradition was still being observed. "The mushrooming of smaller families," noted Zhang Hongkun, the brigade's Party branch secretary, "does not necessarily lead to a disregard of old people. The main thing is to preserve and carry forward the moral principle of respecting the aged. In all these years, no one in our village has ever maltreated their old folks or refused to support them."

\* A work-point is a unit adopted in a production team to calculate the amount of work done by its members and the remuneration due them. Generally, there are 10 work-points for a work day; if and when the day's work is over-fulfilled, more work-points may be added to one's credit. The remuneration paid to a commune member is calculated on the basis of multiplying the work-points he or she has earned by the value of each work-point.



Registering a marriage  
in a people's commune.

divided; and since 1967 another 45 households have split into smaller units.

The brigade office calculates that of the 204 households in the





Wen Baichuan and his wife, Ai Guiten, planting a tree in front of their house. They first met and then fell in love while working together.

I decided to talk to a number of old people myself. Wen Congshan at 82 was quite spry though he no longer took part in labour. He told me: "My sons and grandsons help me out quite a bit. They pay me a visit almost every day. When there's something extra special to eat, they bring it to me first." Next I talked to Zhang Guochang, 66, and his wife, 61. The youngest of their six sons was living with them. Zhang proudly related that he could still earn over 3,000 work-points a year. In addition, his daughter-in-law earned several thousand work-points a year while his youngest son worked in a nearby city. Life seemed quite good for them. The other five sons each gave the father 500 work-points every year and always shared some good food with the old couple; they also provided them with some pocket money on festive occasions. His wife was now "in charge" of a "kindergarten." When her sons and daughters-

in-law worked in the fields during the day, they brought their children to grannies'. As a result, a very close relationship developed between the grandchildren and the grandparents.

I had a chance to meet the old couple's six daughters-in-law. Although they now live separately, they all get along very well and are always ready to help each other should the need arise. They all show great respect for their father-in-law and mother-in-law. On March 8 of this year, the Zhang family was commended as one of the "families excelling in the five goods." The five goods consist of respecting the aged and cherishing the young people in the family; maintaining harmony in the home; practising planned parenthood and bring up children properly; running the household frugally and industriously and working hard to become well-off. . . .

What is to be done when someone does not respect his or her elderly parents or even maltreats them? Zhang Hongkun, the Party secretary, explained that such people meet a great deal of public disapproval. If they still refuse to support their parents, the production team will dock their pay (work-points) and turn the sum over to the parents. In cases of maltreatment or desertion, the offender is prosecuted by law.

What about old people without children? There are three such people in Zhuge. Two are a couple whose son was a martyr. They live in an old age home run by the county government. The third one, Wen Dianchang, became disabled the year before last. The brigade pays someone to take care of him; all his expenses, food, clothing etc., are paid out of the public welfare fund.

When I went to see him, the old man was sound asleep with a new quilt wrapped around him.

### Equality Between Husband And Wife

From the experiences in Zhuge, I can see that the biggest change in family relations which has occurred in China over the last 30 years is in the relationship between husbands and wives.

Liu Jiuhua, the head of the local women's association, was able to immediately list eight big changes. In the past, the wife did not have her own name. She was referred to as the woman of so-and-so family who had married into so-and-so family, or she was so-and-so's wife, or so-and-so's mother. Now, every woman has a name of her own. In the past, the wife rarely had the freedom to work outside her house, to take part in studies or social activities, but now she has much the same rights as her husband. Before, a married woman had to listen to her husband, or to her son when her husband died and she did not have an independent personality in the household. Now the wife can be the head of a family. In the past, children could use their father's surname only, but now they can use either their father's or mother's surname. Formerly it was the husband who held the family's purse, but now in most cases it is the wife who runs the house. Another change is that women now can inherit property. In the past, the husband usually did not do any household chores like laundry, cooking and taking care of children, for, if he did, he would be ridiculed; now both husband and wife split the household work and no man is ridiculed for it. It was once a common practice for husbands to severe-



ly upbraid or even beat their wives, and they usually got away with it, but now there is much more domestic harmony and any man who bullies or beats his wife is subject to tremendous social condemnation.

In short, the feudal ethics that a woman should subordinate herself to her husband upon marriage has been destroyed. In a family, the husband no

longer has the final say and the wife has an equal right to speak up and make decisions.

One of my impressions of Zhuge is that male chauvinism there is dying out. Equality between husband and wife has become the basis on which a peaceful, happy family is founded, a basis which was only possible after a number of reforms in the old political and economic institutions had been completed.



Peng Guiqin (front centre) and her five sisters-in-law.

## Divorce

### — A talk with a judge

**W**HAT'S the divorce rate in China? What effect will the new marriage law have on this situation? What are the legal grounds for granting divorces? I recently called on Li Cheng, the deputy chief of the Civil Tribunal of Beijing Municipal Higher People's Court, to find out the answers to these questions.

Relatively speaking, not very many people want a divorce in China, Li told me. Compared with other countries, Li Cheng continued, we have a rather low divorce rate. Take Beijing for

instance. In 1980, there were over 148,000 marriages and 3,900 divorces, or 2.66 per cent. The divorce rate in the countryside where 80 per cent of the nation's population live is even lower.

Li explained that the reasons for the low divorce rate are many. The Chinese have always been very prudent about marriage. Marriage is seen as "a big event in one's whole life." To most people, once married they want to grow old together. Thus, divorces are only sought as a last resort. Of

course, there were many divorces right after the first marriage law was implemented in 1950. These marriages had been arbitrarily contracted in the old society by a third party or were mercenary marriages. But then the overwhelming majority of people married of their own choice in the spirit of the new marriage law and they have stayed married.

Other factors contributing to the low divorce rate are that people have relatively steady jobs and there are not many economic fluctuations in a family. To ask for a divorce without serious consideration is to invite public condemnation. In addition, since the late 1950s, the courts had tended to be rather strict in granting divorces, some cases in which divorces should have been granted were rejected.

**Will the rate of divorce increase after the new marriage law takes effect?** The answer from Comrade Li was no. "I don't think we should worry about this. There might be an increase for a brief period but there won't be a steady rise."

But why might there be an increase in the divorce rate for a short while? As a result of the "cultural revolution," feudal and bourgeois ideas raised their heads, leading to an increase in mercenary marriages and people getting married without serious consideration. Another



Comrade Li Cheng.



## SPECIAL FEATURE/MARRIAGE

factor was the failure to publicize the marriage law for many years so that middle-aged people practically forgot about its existence and the young people simply were ignorant. We now intend to hold more educational programmes on the marriage law. When people learn about its content, particularly those whose marriages were not contracted on a proper basis, they will probably sue a divorce. Still another factor affecting the divorce rate in the short run will be those who are refiled for a divorce, having been unsuccessful in the past.

Some people may think that now it is easier to get a divorce. Some couples who still love each other may possibly sue for divorce on impulse because of a small family quarrel. Others who wish to jilt his or her spouse may deliberately create family trouble and sue for a divorce on the grounds that a "complete alienation of mutual affection" has occurred.

Actually, there has already been an increase in the divorce rate. In Beijing, for instance, the law courts handled 62.9 per cent more divorce cases this January than the same month last year. It is estimated that such a trend will probably continue for some time.

But the divorce rate will not show a steady rise. Divorce will not become a serious social problem in our country, for the simple reason that all the basic factors contributing to a low rate of divorce will continue to play a positive role, except that the law courts from now on will not be overly rigid in granting divorces. According to Comrade Li's estimates, these factors will

remain more or less unchanged for a fairly long time to come.

China, while pushing ahead with the four modernizations, is placing great emphasis on the development of a socialist spiritual civilization. Today, one of the goals for building up a spiritual civilization in some places is for people "to be nice to one's family members and set up a happy home." Activities are being organized for encouraging the establishment of a "five goods home." These activities, which stress the improvement of relations in the family, should be bolstered by the implementation of the new marriage law and a further elevation of the socialist moral standard in society as a whole, for they will help foster better marriages.

Deputy tribunal chief Li who has been working in the judiciary for 30 years, was able to support his argument that in the long run the divorce rate will not continue to climb by citing past examples. In 1949, the year New China was born, 737 couples in Beijing got a divorce. After the promulgation of the marriage law in 1950, the number of divorces went up steadily for four years, reaching a peak of 8,900 in 1953. Then the figure gradually went down. Even in 1958 when the Beijing Municipality had its administrative area expanded, resulting in a population increase from over 4 million to more than 6 million, the yearly cases of divorces were below 7,000.

### Grounds for granting a divorce.

Li Cheng quoted a provision of the new marriage law which states: "In dealing with a divorce case, the people's court should try to bring about a reconciliation between the parties. In cases of complete alienation of mutual affection, and when

mediation has failed, divorce should be granted." In other words, the basis for granting a divorce is whether or not a complete alienation of mutual affection has occurred.

"But how can this be determined?" I asked. Comrade Li admitted that this is quite a headache. He explained: "If we over-simplify things, we may make a wrong decision. In order to reach a correct decision, we usually make inquiries into such things as the original basis of the couple's marriage, their feelings towards each other after marriage, the present status of their marital relations, and the true motive behind the desire for a divorce."

Li cited examples of couples that married of their own choice and loved one another until the status of one of them had changed. For instance, one becomes a cadre or a college student, or falls in love with someone else. In that case, one of the partners decides to desert the other. But in such a case, the court will not rule that a complete alienation of mutual affection has occurred. The following cases may be considered a "complete alienation of mutual affection." A young couple or one of the partners is pushed into marriage by their parents and never develop any affection for one another; one partner is maltreated and no longer wishes to live with his or her spouse, who shows no wish for reconciliation.

Li Cheng added that an analysis must also be made of a divorce case involving a third party. In some cases, the third party comes into their lives only after the husband and wife have lost affection for each other; in other cases, it is the very pressure of the third party which causes the loss of affec-



tion between the husband and wife. Generally speaking, in the case of the former, a divorce will be granted although the party who had found someone else before the divorce will be criticized and educated.

In the case of the latter, great efforts will be made to bring about a reconciliation and no divorce will be granted without considerate deliberation. Usually we will educate the plaintiff and defendant and the third party involved, and help the errant side mend his or her ways so that the wronged side may forgive and forget the affair and the husband and wife can be reconciled on the basis of their former good marital relations. The third party in question is expected not to get involved any more in observance of the moral code of social conduct and to promise not to do anything bringing harm to the family concerned.

But what if the errant partner refuses to change and insists on having a divorce? Li Cheng explained that in such cases, more time would be required for further examination. If a reconciliation is absolutely impossible, failure to grant a divorce will not be beneficial to both husband and wife. Li added that the Chinese judicial authorities do not think that they should refuse to grant a divorce under all circumstances in order to punish an errant party.

The court which grants a divorce to such people will nevertheless, in giving the judgment, take into account the spiritual and material losses suffered by the wronged side. For instance, the errant parties might be required to pay the costs of the support and education for the minor children and economically compensate their spouses for the emotional injury caused.

"Our principle, in short," explained Li Cheng, "is to grant a divorce only when there is a complete alienation of mutual affection on both sides. We

ensure the freedom of divorce, oppose ill-considered divorces and denounce any immoral conduct on the question of divorce."

## Booming Marriage Introduction Services

OVER the last six months, services for introducing young people to potential spouses have appeared in many Chinese cities. Beijing alone has five.

### Young People's "Match-Makers"

The Chaoyang District Marriage Service which has its office in Ritan Park in eastern Beijing is the first of its kind in the city. Since it began functioning last October, 6,500 men and women have registered in the hope of finding a spouse.

The service is staffed by people from the two sponsoring organizations, the Communist Youth League and Women's Association of the district. Liu Guolian, a leading member of the service, said: "Ours is a non-profit organization aimed at showing concern about youngsters' practical interests and helping those who have previously had difficulty in finding a spouse."

The factors that make it difficult for some young people to find a life partner are many. Some, for instance, come from families who were politically persecuted during the 10 years of turmoil, or perhaps they themselves came under political attack. Although they or their parents have now been politically rehabilitated, they are no longer young. There are those who devoted most of their younger years to study and

work without giving this matter serious consideration. Now when they come to think of it, they just cannot find the right person right away. Still others, due to the peculiarities of their occupation, their working conditions or lack of social activities, do not have many chances to meet the opposite sex. For instance, very few men work in the textile industry and equally few women work in maritime transport or geological teams. There are also some people who were too particular when they were young and now they are getting on in life and need help.

When describing the functions of his office, Comrade Liu pointed to a tablet hanging on his wall. Written in four large Chinese characters was the phrase, "The bridge for young people." "Look at this tablet, it describes the function of my office—to build a temporary bridge for young people looking for someone to make friends with, fall in love with and get married." To date, nearly 1,000 couples have been brought together by the help of this service. Many are getting along well and have written letters of gratitude to Liu's office. At least a dozen have married.

### Special Features

Although the "match-making" services vary throughout the country, they generally have the following features:

- Run by mass organizations,



mostly by the Communist Youth League committee in a municipality, a county, a district and a commune or in an enterprise, such as in a bureau of textile industry, bureau of maritime transport, or a factory. Some are jointly run by a Youth League committee in collaboration with a women's association or a trade union council. A few are under the joint sponsorship of a local Youth League committee and the civil affairs department. They all have the support of the local government.

- Run on a non-profit basis and observe the principle of serving the young people. Some offer their services free of charge while most set a fee of one or two yuan to cover their expenses. (One yuan at the current exchange rate is equivalent to about 65 U.S. cents.)

- Enjoy a good reputation. Those applying to the services do not have to worry about being cheated. A marriage service usually has their clients present identity cards or work cards and fill out a form about age, occupation, educational level, income, physical condition

and previous experiences. It also makes clear that those who already have a "steady" or those who have broken the law and not reformed are not permitted to register at the marriage service. It also demands that "the parties concerned in their future contacts do nothing against the interest of the other side or in violation of public morality."

The service may, at the request of its client, make further inquiries into the other party through organizational procedures. If and when the above rules are violated, it may "cease to act as a go-between and, when necessary, hold the party concerned responsible and report the case to the unit where he or she works." These measures and provisions have won the trust of the clients, especially young women clients.

- Organize various activities. Most marriage services help their clients find the right man or woman, provide a venue for these people to meet each other and organize certain social activities like a party or a dance. A few also undertake to arrange wedding ceremonies, help buy furniture for those en-

gaged to be married or make arrangements for honeymooners.

- A trial basis. Marriage services are new in this country and are still at an initial stage. The sponsoring units differ in various places, as do the services offered and the fees.

Will they become permanent? Liu responded without hesitation, "I think so. When these establishments become more experienced and are in a position to offer better services, they will thrive."

### Much Welcome

The first marriage introduction service, the Friends of Young People, was founded by the Youth League committee of the Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Light Industry last August. It was immediately hailed in the press for its eagerness in serving the young, and other parts of the country quickly followed suit. Today, 24 of the 29 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in the country (not including Taiwan Province) have set up these services and they seem to be very popular.

Comrade Liu picked up a huge bunch of letters containing people's opinions of the service. One said: the service "has done a very good thing" and "shared the mental burdens of the parents of many young people." A scientist in his 30s wrote: "This service has really come into being at the right time, making it possible for people like me who do not have much time to attend to personal affairs like marriage find an ideal life partner." The parents of one of the clients wrote: "Your eagerness to help people solve this problem and find happiness has lifted a great burden from our shoulders. We hope that you will come and share our happiness when the wedding takes place." □



A tea-party arranged by a marriage service to introduce some young people to one another.



SPORTS

# China Wins All Seven Titles At World Table Tennis Championships



The Chinese team — winner of the Swaythling Cup.

• In the women's singles, China's Tong Ling and Cao Yanhua, both 18 years old, emerged the victor and runner-up respectively. Both had taken part in the 35th World Championships, and Tong Ling was a semi-finalist after defeating Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Pak Yung Sun, the former world champion, with a score of 3:2.

• In the men's doubles, China's Li Zhenshi/Cai Zhenhua captured the title, with Guo Yuehua/Xie Saike finishing second. Xie Saike, 19, took part in the World Championships for the first time. In the team event, he had won three points for the Chinese team.

• In the women's doubles, Zhang Deying/Cao Yanhua won the laurels. Second place went to Tong Ling/Bu Qijuan, also from China. Zhang Deying

Following their victories in the men's and women's team events (see our last issue), the Chinese players captured the titles of all five individual events at the 36th World Table Tennis Championships which closed on April 26 in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia. This was unprecedented in the W.T.T.C's 55-year history. The 36th World Championships saw the greatest number of participants and competition was exceptionally keen.

• In the men's singles, China's Guo Yuehua won the title, while his compatriot Cai Zhenhua was the runner-up. Guo, 25, qualified for the finals after defeating Yugoslavia's Surbek and Cai entered the finals by beating Sweden's Bengtsson. Cai Zhenhua, 19, took part in the World Championships for the first time.

## Winners of Team Events Since 1961

Championships	Year	Men's	Women's
26th	1961	China	Japan
27th	1963	China	Japan
28th	1965	China	China
29th	1967	Japan	Japan
30th	1969	Japan	the Soviet Union
31st	1971	China	Japan
32nd	1973	Sweden	south Korea
33rd	1975	China	China
34th	1977	China	China
35th	1979	Hungary	China
36th	1981	China	China

Note: China did not take part in the 29th and 30th World Championships.





Tong Ling, women's singles champion.

was a veteran who had taken part in the 34th and the 35th World Championships. She co-operated well with Cao Yanhua and succeeded in defeating a south Korean pair 2:0 in the women's team event finals.

- In the mixed doubles, China's Xie Saike/Huang Junqun won the title. Another Chinese pair finished second.

China has kept a leading position in world table tennis in the last 20 years. This is because, first and foremost, Chinese players have set themselves lofty goals, said Rong Gaotang, Vice-Minister in Charge of the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission. In addition, he added, they put stress on basic training and study various styles of play in the world, learning from the others' strong points to overcome their shortcomings and develop a unique style of their own. Table tennis is very popular in China and promising young players continuously emerge under the guidance of experienced players.

## CULTURAL EXCHANGE

### Shakespeare Comes To Beijing

The Beijing People's Art Theatre presented the premiere of China's first version of

Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* on April 2. The production, China's first joint effort with British dramatists and part of an on-going cultural exchange programme with Britain, is directed by Toby Robertson of Britain's Old Vic Company, with Barrett as stage designer. Noted Chinese actor Ying Ruocheng translated the play and

is assistant director.

To play the leading role of the Duke of Vienna, Mr. Robertson chose one of China's top theatre actors, Yu Shizhi. Yu has starred in many well-known dramas by leading Chinese playwrights Guo Moruo, Lao She and Cao Yu, and is very popular among Chinese audiences. The other three leading roles are played by Li Rong, Ren Baoxian and Zhu Xu. Mr. Robertson commented that Yu Shizhi and all the members of the company show tremendous imagination and energy in their work and have come up with some creative new interpretations of their characters.

Toby Robertson has directed or acted in 28 of the 36 plays by Shakespeare since the age of 18, though this is his first time to direct *Measure for Measure*. During the last two months of rehearsals, the 53-year-old director has taken pains to help the Chinese actors and actresses understand the complex social fabric of 17-century London, as well as the spirit of Shakespeare's characters and how to interpret them. For the more than 20 Chinese directors observing the production, his directing has been very inspiring and instructive. Mr. Robertson said that both he and Mr. Barrett are very excited to be working with the Beijing

People's Art Theatre on *Measure for Measure* and hope that the co-operative effort is fruitful.

## SOIL STUDY

### National Survey

A nationwide soil survey, part of a comprehensive investigation of China's agricultural resources, is being conducted, with emphasis put on an intensive study of the soil qualities and advantages of each region. The results will be increasingly used to plan agriculture scientifically so that the maximum output is obtained.

The survey was started two years ago and embraces all of China's cultivated land, forests and grasslands. Work is already under way or concluded in almost 900 of China's more than 2,100 counties, and will be completed in 1985 for the entire country. This is the second such survey in China since the founding of the People's Republic; in the first, conducted in 1958, only cultivated land was surveyed.

Six major soil-analysis and test centres and nearly 500 well-equipped laboratories have been set up for the project. Soil content, properties and fertility are being studied in each county by scientists and soil experts. In addition, various types of regional soil maps will be drawn up to demonstrate the best way to transform and utilize each area.

Results have already been applied in an estimated 10 million hectares of cultivated land, where agricultural production has been increased because of scientific planning and crop selection. Authorities of Zunhua County in Hebei Province, for example, have revised their crop plans, reduced winter wheat areas and expanded rice



and maize areas according to their regional soil map. The county's output of grain last year was 32,000 tons more than in 1979.

### **Fertilizing With Trace Elements**

An intensive study of soil trace elements in the vast Sichuan basin, one of China's granaries, has yielded valuable information on how to substantially increase crop production.

Since 1977, the Chengdu Institute of Geography under the Chinese Academy of Sciences has collected 1,045 soil samples from more than 100 counties in the basin. Based on their analyses of these samples, scientists have prepared charts showing which localities are lacking in certain important chemical elements. The charts have already been used on an experimental basis to guide the proper application of trace element fertilizers, the institute said.

By adding boron to the soil of experimental rape and cotton plots and zinc to maize fields and rice paddies, local farmers have increased yields by as much as 16 per cent per hectare. Now 2,600 hectares of rape and 3,400 hectares of maize are under similar experimentation.

## **HOBBIES**

### **Philatelic Exhibition**

Like other countries, China has tens of thousands of stamp collectors of all ages and walks of life. For a number of years, this pastime was labelled as "bourgeois," and philatelists had

to pursue their hobby in secret to prevent their collections from being confiscated. Since the fall of the gang of four, however, this groundless attitude has changed and stamp collectors are once again bringing out their samples for exhibitions, private showings and general public enjoyment.

One recent exhibition, held in February in south China's city of Guangzhou, featured over 30,000 stamps collected by 126 philatelists from all over the country. Among the oldest samples on display was a set of the first stamps ever issued in China, printed in 1878 with bold dragon designs symbolizing the feudal emperor. There were stamps celebrating the 60th birthday of the Qing Dynasty's Empress Dowager, and commemorating the coronation of Emperor Xuan Tong, as well as various stamps issued by Britain, France, Russia, Germany, Italy and Japan during their invasion of China.

Stamps printed and issued by the liberated areas during the revolutionary war years proved a great attraction at the exhibition. The earliest, released in 1929 by the Hunan-Jiangxi liberated area in central China, pictures a five-point star and the sickle and hammer. Stamps issued since the founding of New China also drew considerable interest. With skilful and artistic designs, they commemorate the great achievements made in China's cultural and literary fields since 1949, as well as in science, technology and agriculture.

A number of collectors also brought unusual foreign stamps to the exhibition. Among those on display were a "Penny Black," one of the world's earliest stamps, stamps issued

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10:35	10:30	dep. <b>BEIJING</b> arr.	21:35	20:55
12:15	12:10	arr. <b>SHANGHAI</b> dep.	19:50	19:10
13:45	13:45	dep. <b>SHANGHAI</b> arr.	Fri. 18:30	Sun. 18:00
10:00	10:00	arr. <b>SAN FRANCISCO</b> dep.	14:30	14:00
	11:45	dep. <b>SAN FRANCISCO</b> arr.	13:00	
	19:30	arr. <b>NEW YORK</b> dep.	10:30	

### GUILIN AIRPORT RESUMES OPERATION

The enlargement of the Guilin Airport has been completed. All CAAC flights to Guilin resume operations as of May 1, 1981.

For reservations and bookings, please contact

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