

Vol. 25, No. 24

June 14, 1982

# BEIJING REVIEW



A CHINESE WEEKLY OF  
NEWS AND VIEWS



Premier Zhao's Visit to Japan

China's Programme for Rural Development

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

### Premier Zhao Visits Japan

Sino-Japanese economic cooperation was a central theme of the talks between leaders of the two countries. At a Tokyo press conference, the Chinese Premier explained the result of the visit and addressed a number of other issues, including Sino-US relations, US-Soviet nuclear arms reduction and China's state chairman election (pp. 15-17).

### Israeli Atrocities Condemned

Wanton bombing of Beirut and intrusion into southern Lebanon have aroused world wide concern. A Chinese official statement calls for immediate pull-out of Israeli troops and condemns its aggression (p. 12).

### Arms Race Between the Two Superpowers

The intensified arms race between the US and USSR and their war preparations over-

shadow the second session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament. How do the two superpowers match their deeds with their words? What are the new features of the arms race? (p. 10)

### Advances in Zimbabwe's Countryside

Government measures to encourage rural growth are important to Zimbabwean economic development and to consolidating the country's independence. A signed article describes advances in Zimbabwe's countryside (p. 13).

### Programme for Agricultural Work

A "Summary of the National Conference on Rural Work," adopted by the Party Central Committee at the end of last year, was released recently. It is a programmatic summary of experiences in readjusting and

improving the rural economy (pp. 21-27).

### Sprucing Up Beijing

Environmental sanitation and beauty have become major concerns in drawing up plans for urban construction. Two recent Beijing municipal government documents outline how to make the capital more pleasant (p. 9).

### A Chinese Account of the Paris Commune

Review of a newly discovered rare book — an eye-witness account of the world's first proletarian revolution by a Chinese interpreter who worked for envoys sent to Paris by the Qing court (p. 29).



The bustling scene at a rural fair.

Woodcut by Hong Tao

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### UN Assistance

**Now you accept aid from the United Nations, which you never did in the past. Does it mean you have given up the policy of self-reliance?**

Our open-door policy is aimed at enhancing our ability to rely on our own efforts. That is to say, we will, through economic relations with foreign countries and making use of foreign funds and advanced techniques, develop our economy at a faster rate than before. Our open-door policy and self-reliance supplement each other and are not contradictory.

After China regained its legitimate seat in the UN in 1971, we did not accept UN aid. This was because the policy of self-reliance was seriously distorted during the "cultural revolution."

Towards the end of 1978, we adopted the open-door policy and, with self-reliance as the basis, have since carried out economic co-operation with other countries on a footing of equality and mutual benefit. We regard economic relations with the UN as yet another channel of economic co-operation with foreign countries.

As a member state of the UN, China has its duties as well as rights.

In the past few years, China's donations to the various UN organizations amounted to RMB 20 million yuan. We undertook more than 70 projects for the developing countries, including running training classes, conducting inspection tours, providing the necessary equipment and sending experts to those

countries. For this purpose China has set up seven training and research centres for acupuncture, fish breeding, biogas, the building of small hydro-power stations and other items, with encouraging results.

While making donations to the various UN organizations, China also receives aids from the UN, which are contributed by over 100 member states. According to the UN regulations, these donations are granted to economically backward coun-

tries. By the end of 1981, nearly 200 projects were granted to China by the UN organizations. They are mostly medium-sized and small undertakings in the fields of industry, agriculture, communications and transport, culture and education, public health and census. The 21 large computers bought with appropriations from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) will play a significant role in computing data for China's census slated for July 1 this year.

— *International Editor*  
Mu Youlin

### Religious Belief

**Citizens of the People's Republic of China enjoy freedom of religious belief. Does this also apply to members of the Chinese Communist Party?**

Freedom of religious belief is a basic and long-term policy followed by the Chinese Communist Party. The recently released Draft of the Revised Constitution (see *Beijing Review*, No. 19) stipulates: "Citizens of the People's Republic of China enjoy freedom of religious belief. No organs of state, public organizations or individuals shall compel citizens to believe in religion or disbelieve in religion." This shows that the Chinese Communist Party, which practises atheism, does not compel others to disbelieve in religion. It not only respects and protects citizens' freedom of religious belief but also opposes interference in such freedom.

Does this mean that Party members can also believe in religion? No, certainly not. The

policy of freedom of religious belief applies to Chinese citizens, but is not suitable for Party members. The Party supports citizens' right to believe in religion while simultaneously disagreeing with a religious interpretation of the world. As adherents of Marxism-Leninism, Party members cannot also be theists or believe in religion, because these represent contradictory beliefs. The Chinese Communist Party demands that anyone who applies for Party membership should first of all recognize the Party Constitution which stipulates that the Party upholds the world outlook of dialectical materialism and historical materialism and opposes the world outlook of idealism and metaphysics. Therefore, Party members should conscientiously abandon their idealist religious beliefs when they join the Party. If a Party member abandons the materialist world outlook, he has the right to withdraw from the Party and believe in religion.



# LETTERS

## Struggle to Consolidate Socialism in China

I find *Beijing Review* to be the best authority on events in China and I read it with great interest and try to study it deeply, as what happens to the continuing struggle to consolidate socialism in China has vital implications for world socialism in the next few decades.

It is therefore with great satisfaction that I have seen the struggle to eliminate such anti-Marxist positions as one-man leadership of the Party, the restriction of Party and mass democracy, the evils of anarchy and the destruction of correct socialist legality and justice which were committed at the time of the "cultural revolution." They were tantamount to a return to anarchy and had nothing in common with the established principles of democratic centralism, the mass line or collective leadership.

From reading and studying *Beijing Review*, particularly since the time of the so-called Tian An Men "riots," I have come to believe that the line of the Chinese Communist Party established by the 11th Party Congress is basically correct and is being correctly applied by its Central Committee in a way that will restore the faith of the masses in the Party and government. If this is true, and from what is pointed

The people of some minority nationalities in China believe in religions, such as Islamism and Lamaism. Religious and national questions are intermingled there. Some Party members among them earnestly endorse and implement the Party's line and policies and observe Party discipline, but they still cannot completely cast off the impact of their religious upbringing. The Party organizations do not simply discard these comrades. While bringing the political initiative of these Party members into full play, Party organizations do patient and painstaking ideological work and help them grad-

ually acquire the world outlook of dialectical materialism and historical materialism and break away from the yoke of religious belief.

In areas peopled by minority nationalities in China, traditional wedding ceremonies and other customs and mass activities, which were religious in origin, have actually become a component part of their national traditions. There, since Party members can maintain close ties with the masses by respecting and observing these customs, they should not refuse to participate in these activities.

— Political Editor  
An Zhiguo

out in *Beijing Review*, I believe so, then steps being taken to get a correct balance in China's economy and gradually but surely improve the life of the Chinese people will raise great mass enthusiasm and loyalty for the Party and its Central Committee's leadership. In turn it will ensure the outstanding success of the struggle for the four modernizations and the consolidation of socialist state power among one quarter of humanity.

The progressive people of the world are watching anxiously for the political and economic results of China's new policies led by the new collective in the Central Committee of the Party and Government of China since the downfall of the iniquitous gang of four and their criminal associates.

strength is combined with the insincerity of a huckster. Proposals made by the aggressors in Afghanistan and Kampuchea are rarely serious, but are "chess moves" to procure recognition of the acts of aggression.

A Marxist country must base its diplomacy on independence and scrupulous fairness and honesty. I feel that the best feature of Zhou Enlai's diplomacy was that all the people he dealt with knew that his words meant something. As evident over Taiwan, it is a step forward many regimes find hard to manage to simply say what they are going to do and then do it. A major factor in the two World Wars was the collapse of diplomatic standards, the treating of international obligations as "pieces of paper," the telling of lies about "final demands" so that finally an atmosphere of such great international distrust was developed that all dealings became impossible. It is the honesty and trustworthiness of Zhou Enlai's diplomacy that made it possible to seek areas of agreement and stress them, instead of, like all aggressors, playing games of bluff with balls of dynamite. Honesty is clearly a great contribution made by Zhou Enlai to world diplomacy.

Steve Hieatt  
Auckland, New Zealand

### "The Diplomacy of Zhou Enlai"

The article "The Diplomacy of Zhou Enlai" (issues No. 10 and 11) was, I thought extremely interesting, informative and significant. Central to all modern problems is the need for the independence of nations, and fair, equal and friendly relations between all countries. But imperialist, hegemonist and colonialist countries use bullying and deceitful methods in their diplomacy. Cynical exploitation of superior strength, or more often fancied superior

A.N. May  
Mexseyside, Britain

The article on Zhou Enlai . . . was a disappointment. The article turned out to be an advertisement, doing little more than listing, in a mechanical way, his many achievements. It must not be forgotten that Zhou Enlai was also a man who cared very much for his country and its people. Somehow, this humanism didn't come through. I hope that this might be improved in the future.

James Wong  
Seattle, WA., USA

### Broadcasting

On the whole, I'm satisfied with the special features. I found the article "Broadcasting Serves the People" carried in issue No. 8 this year particularly interesting. The article describes how the Central People's Broadcasting Station works and how it serves the people, particularly the rural labouring people. It offers them weather forecasts and hygienic knowledge and provides people living far away from the big cities with important information.

Jose A. Anido Lopez  
Carballo, Spain

FOREIGN  
RELATIONS

## Premier Zhao Visits Japan

**P**REMIER Zhao Ziyang paid an official visit to Japan from May 31 to June 5. This was his first visit to Japan since he became the Premier in 1980.

During his visit, Zhao Ziyang met with Emperor Hirohito and held talks with Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki. The two sides exchanged views on the current international situation and issues of common concern in a friendly atmosphere. They also conscientiously discussed the question of establishing long-standing and stable ties of economic co-operation in the spirit of peace, friendship, equality and mutual benefit.

Premier Zhao said that there are many favourable conditions for the development of economic relations between China and Japan. These may be summed up as "timeliness, topographical advantages and harmony between the peoples." Timeliness means the normalization of diplomatic relations, the conclusion of the treaty of peace and friendship and the smooth development of friendly relations between the two countries. International developments have also made it feasible and necessary to enhance such co-operation. Topographical advantages mean that China and Japan are close neighbours separated only by a strip of water. China is rich in minerals and other resources while Japan possesses advanced industrial technology. They can help supply each other's needs and make up each other's deficiencies. Harmony between the

peoples means the long-standing traditional friendship between the two countries and their peoples' strong desire to remain friends from generation to generation. Both governments have taken a positive attitude towards the promotion of bilateral relations.

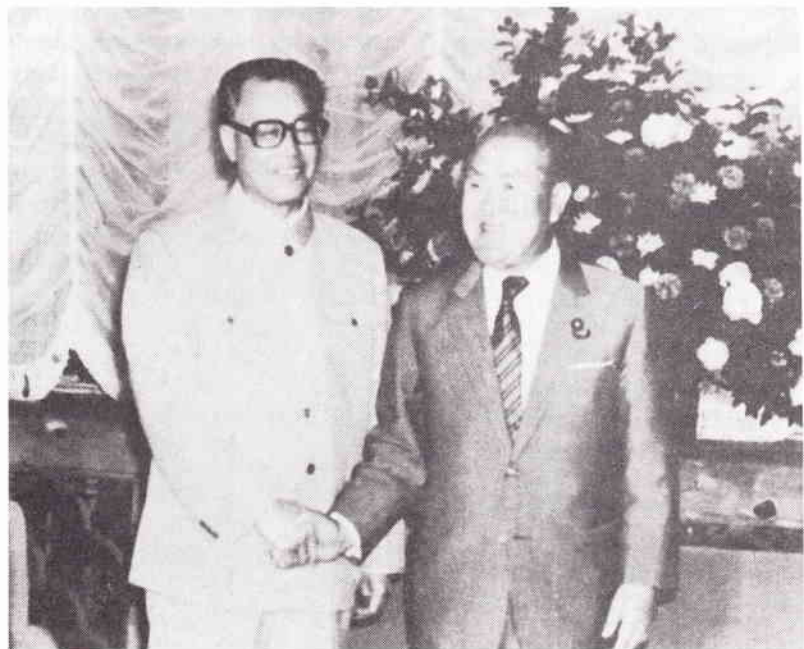
During the talks, Premier Zhao put forward three principles for the promotion of economic relations between China and Japan. (See box on the next page.) Prime Minister Suzuki expressed his agreement with Premier Zhao's basic ideas regarding the friendly and co-operative relations between the two countries in the decade to come.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction over the fact that

since the normalization of relations in 1972, the relations between China and Japan have grown steadily in the political, economic, cultural and other fields. They reaffirmed that it is the solemn responsibility and task of the Chinese and Japanese peoples to ensure the further blossoming of Sino-Japanese friendship so that the two countries will remain good neighbours for ever.

Premier Zhao explained to Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki China's principles and policies concerning its four modernizations and said that China will continue to carry out its open-door policy in economic development and strengthen its economic co-operation with Japan and other countries.

Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki indicated that Japan appreciated the present Chinese modernization policy and reaffirmed that Japan will continue to co-operate with China in its economic development.



Premier Zhao Ziyang with Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki.

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## Three Principles for Sino-Japanese Economic Relations

During his talks with Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki on June 1, Premier Zhao Ziyang put forward three principles for the promotion of economic relations between China and Japan. They are:

(1) The economic relations between China and Japan should be developed energetically on the basis of their present peaceful and friendly ties and in line with the 1972 Joint Statement of the Chinese and Japanese Governments and the 1978 Sino-Japanese Treaty of Peace and Friendship.

(2) The economic relations between China and Japan should steadily develop in scope and depth according to the principles of equality and mutual benefit and proceeding from each other's needs and possibilities so as to help supply each other's needs and make up for each other's deficiencies.

(3) The development of economic relations between the two countries, which conforms to the fundamental interests of the two peoples and their aspirations for friendship from generation to generation, should be lasting and stable and impervious to international storms.

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During his visit, Premier Zhao met also with former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, Takeo Miki, Takeo Fukuda, Speaker of the House of Representatives Hajime Fukuda, Speaker of the Senate Masatoshi Tokunaga and friends from various circles. They all praised the steady development of friendship and co-operation between the two countries.

Premier Zhao toured Tokyo, Kobe, Osaka, Nara and Kyoto and was warmly welcomed everywhere he went.

### Hu Yaobang on Relations Among Communist Parties

During his meeting with Chairman of the Communist Party of the Netherlands Henk Hoekstra on June 7, Chairman Hu Yaobang reiterated the principles of independence, full equality, mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. These four principles were put forward by the Chinese Communist Party.

Hu Yaobang said that the success of any nation's revolution

lies in the aspirations of the Party and people of that country and in the correctness of the Party's line and policies. It does not depend on any other Party's line and policies. Every Party has successful experiences, unsuccessful experiences, and even the experiences of failure. There is no Party in the world which is always correct. A country, a nation or a Party has its strong points as well as weak points. Party-to-Party relations, therefore, should be established on these four principles.

Henk Hoekstra expressed full agreement with these principles. He said that all Parties, big or small, in socialist or capitalist countries, should be equal. This is one of the foundations for solving crises in the international communist movement. Otherwise, dogmatism will prevail and it will aggravate crises.

Henk Hoekstra said that the Communist Party of the Netherlands firmly opposes any Party's interference in the internal affairs of another Party. Communist Parties are working under different conditions, he add-

ed, and they should strengthen inter-Party co-operation and contribute to the development of the international communist movement.

Referring to the relations between the Communist Parties of China and the Netherlands, Hu Yaobang said that the Chinese Communist Party is willing to further increase its relations with the Communist Party of the Netherlands.

Henk Hoekstra said that his China visit was of special importance to developing the relations between the two Parties, and stressed that his talks with the comrades of the Chinese Communist Party were fruitful.

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### Deng Xiaoping Meets Baker

Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping met with US Senate majority leader Howard H. Baker Jr. in Beijing on June 1.

They exchanged views on Sino-American relations. Deng Xiaoping said that China hopes to maintain its friendship with the United States. He pointed out that only when both sides deal with the problems confronting them in the spirit of safeguarding each state's interests and respecting the other's national interests can the two countries establish and develop good relations and not let their relations be impaired.

Deng Xiaoping reiterated China's principled position on the Taiwan issue. He expressed the hope that the Reagan administration would take a wise position for an early settlement of this issue.

Baker expressed that he would make further efforts to develop Sino-American friendly relations.

Senator Baker toured Shanghai, Suzhou and Xian after his sojourn in Beijing.



## US Teacher Ordered to Leave China

Xinhua learnt from the Chinese Foreign Ministry that on account of violating Chinese law by stealing China's secret information, American teacher Lisa Wichser was detained according to law by the Beijing municipal public security organs on May 28, 1982. Wichser admitted her offence and asked for leniency after she was detained. She was released on June 3 and ordered to leave China within 48 hours.

Wichser came to China in June 1980 and taught English first at the Beijing No. 2 Foreign Languages Institute and then at the branch school of the Beijing Foreign Languages Institute. She collected information and stole many of China's confidential documents. When Wichser was detained according to law, a number of such documents were found in her rooms. Wichser admitted her offence in her written confession and asked for leniency.

After Wichser was detained, the department of consular affairs of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, in strict observance of the relevant provisions of the Sino-US consular convention, notified the US Embassy within the stipulated time limit following Wichser's detention at 11:00 hours on May 29 and arranged for consular officials of the embassy to visit her on two occasions. The US Embassy, however, lodged a protest, one-sidedly interpreting the relevant provisions of the consular convention and unwarrantedly accusing the Chinese side of failing to notify the US side of the matter in time and to arrange for US consular officials to visit her as provided for by the con-

sular convention. The Chinese Foreign Ministry categorically rejected the protest and expressed regret at the US side's distortion of facts.

## POLITICAL

### Improve the Leadership's Work Style

In China, leading cadres are improving their work style and changing their old practices of sitting in their offices listening to reports to keep abreast of work progress and arranging work by making general appeals at meetings.

To carry out the Party Central Committee's decision on all-round reorganization of state enterprises, leading cadres in some regions and departments have led investigation groups to grass-roots units to help them improve their work. According to figures from 26 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, by the end of March, 2,396 such groups embracing 12,557 people had gone to 2,423

enterprises to help the reorganization work. A total of 747 leading cadres at the provincial and bureau levels, including the governors and deputy governors and Party committee secretaries of Liaoning, Hebei and Guizhou Provinces and the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, have participated in the work.

Three years ago, the director and deputy directors of the Mudanjiang city service bureau in Heilongjiang Province decided that they would join the early shift at the state-run restaurants every morning. They chose this method to investigate and solve problems in the breakfast service.

Several years' efforts have greatly improved the city's breakfast market. The number of the city's 56 state-run restaurants which serve breakfast has increased from 18 to 52. In addition, there are 67 fixed or mobile breakfast stalls, while breakfast choices have increased from the original 7-8 to between 30 and 40 dishes. The profits from breakfast sales in 1981 was 32.8 per cent more



Governor Li Dengying of Gansu Province selling vegetables at a grocery.

than in 1980, and this year's first quarter saw an increase of 23 per cent over the same period of last year. A system has been set up for the bureau's staff to participate in physical labour once a week.

## ECONOMIC

### Joint Initiatives for Developing Industry

To speed up industrial construction, measures to fully utilize the financial resources of both the central and local governments are being introduced.

A recent development is the decision made by some provincial, city and county governments to invest a total of more than 1,000 million yuan in building coal mines and power stations together with the Ministry of Coal Industry and the Ministry of Water Conservancy and Power.

**Coal.** The Guangdong, Zhejiang and Hubei provincial governments and the Changzhou city and Wuxi and Kunshan county governments in Jiangsu Province have signed agreements with the Ministry of Coal Industry to invest 500 million yuan in opening coal mines jointly with the ministry. With this form of co-operation, the local government will make investments to increase the production capacity of coal mines directly under the central authorities, while the investors will enjoy priority in getting the coal they need.

The Ministry of Coal Industry plans to use the 500 million yuan for the technical upgrading of 31 major coal mines and 17 ancillary projects, and also for revamping inland river ports and building coal-

carrying vessels together with the Ministry of Communications.

By 1989, coal mines with an annual production capacity of 5 million tons will have been built by making use of these investments.

**Hydropower.** The Shanghai municipal government and the Jiangsu, Hebei, Shandong and Heilongjiang provincial governments have decided to invest 875 million yuan in installing or expanding 14 generating sets together with the Ministry of Water Conservancy and Power.

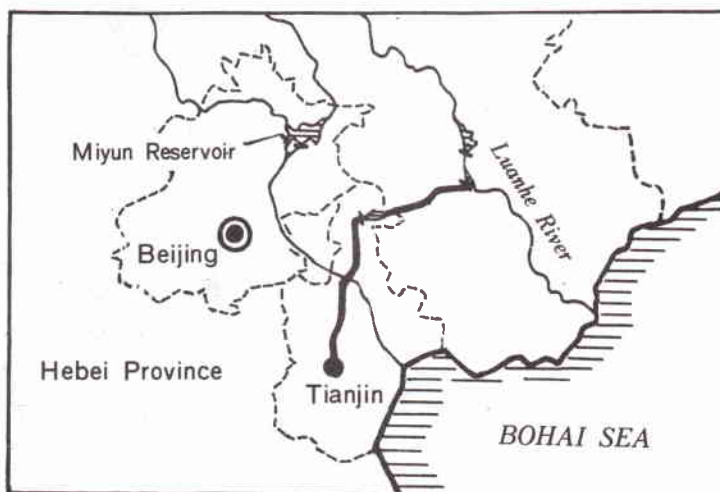
The 14 sets will have a total installed capacity of 3.2 million kw, about 16 per cent of the total capacity of the power stations now being built throughout the country.

Agreements have been signed for eight of the generating sets which have a combined installed capacity of 1.8 million kw, with the local governments investing 430 million yuan. Agreements will be reached soon for the other six generating sets with a total installed capacity of 1.4 million kw, and local governments and industrial enterprises will invest 445 million yuan in them.

### Water Supply Project For Tianjin

The construction of a mammoth project to divert water from the Luanhe River to the industrial city of Tianjin is now in full swing. The source of the river is in the northeastern part of Hebei Province in north China.

By the end of next year, the project is expected to supply 1,000 million tons of water to Tianjin annually. This will relieve the port city of the serious water shortage it has experienced following the expansion of industry and growth of population. At one time, part of Tianjin's water supply came from the Miyun Reservoir, northeast of Beijing. However, the reservoir's water storage was reduced due to drought over the last few years, and it now only has the capacity to supply water to Beijing. Last autumn, the government called a special meeting on the water supply problem in Beijing, Tianjin and other major industrial cities. A decision was made to divert the water of the Huanghe (Yellow) River to Tianjin as a temporary measure to meet its pressing needs.





A survey for the present 223-kilometre water diversion route began in June last year, and the construction of some sections started last November. Currently, more than 30,000 construction workers, including People's Liberation Army soldiers, are working along the planned diversion route. The project includes the building of a tunnel, five large pumping stations and more than 100 bridges, the excavation of a 130-kilometre-long channel and the dredging of two small rivers.

The most difficult part of the project is the excavation of the 11-kilometre tunnel through the Yanshan Mountain Range to allow passage of water at a rate of 60 cubic metres per second. The tunnel will be the longest of its kind in China.

The entire project will involve 23 million cubic metres of earthwork, 2.47 million cubic metres of stonework and 700,000 cubic metres of reinforced concrete.

Water from the Panjiakou and Daheiting reservoirs, now under construction on the Luanhe River, will be used to generate electric power.

announced by the Beijing municipal government.

The Provisional Regulations Concerning Urban Renewal in Beijing stipulates that no less than 25 per cent of the width of a newly built road in the capital should be provided for grassy strips and that landscaping space should account for 25-30 per cent of the total area of a construction project — whether it is a new factory or new residential quarters.

Beijing has at present 2,734 hectares of green land in the urban and suburban areas, which is 3.5 times the 1949 figure. Nevertheless, landscaped land per person in the capital is only 5.14 square metres (including water surface), ranking thirteenth among China's 35 major cities, and this is far behind many other capitals in the world.

The above document stipulates that tree-planting is each citizen's duty. If any unit fails to fulfil tree-planting quotas, its leadership will be held responsible and, if necessary, penalized. Citizens who fail to plant trees without a good reason will be ordered to finish the task

within a set time or they will be fined.

The work to improve the city landscape is led by a "green the land" committee under the municipal government.

According to the other document, the 15-clause Regulations Concerning Urban Appearance and Environmental Sanitation in Beijing which will come into force as of July 1, anyone caught spitting in the street will be fined half a yuan.

Dumping building materials, littering, graffiti and putting up stalls without permission in the streets — all these are prohibited. Cleaners will be assigned to the airports, railway stations, theatres, cinemas, public recreational centres, parking lots, scenic spots and commercial centres, and all the streets and residential quarters should all be cleaned up early in the morning.

A police hygiene force is being trained and its work will be assisted by sanitation supervisors all over the city.

It is expected that the two documents will help bring a new appearance to Beijing.

## SOCIAL

### For a More Beautiful Beijing

Keep the environment clean and beautiful and leave sufficient space for landscaping when drawing up plans for any urban projects are among the rules in two documents recently



A mini-garden along the Qianshanmen Boulevard in Beijing.

## Superpowers' Arms Race

THE intensified arms race and war preparations of the United States and the USSR provide an ominous background for the second session on disarmament of the UN General Assembly which opened June 7. An increasing number of nations view an immediate halt to the superpowers' military buildup, including an initial reduction of armaments, as the chief goal of this session.

In recent years, the two superpowers have been engaged in a new full-speed-ahead phase of the arms race. To deceive the public at home and abroad, they have paid lip service to disarmament, raising all sorts of disarmament proposals designed to weaken the other side's military power while strengthening one's own. Each has tried to shift the responsibility for the intensified arms race to the other, claiming it just wants a balance of power and criticizing the other for attempting to gain superiority. Thus, maintaining a balance of power has become the pretext for the two superpowers to step up arms production and reject demands for disarmament.

### The Balance of Power

The Soviet Union insists there is now a balance of power and opposes any US attempt to upset the balance. It advocates freezing the military status quo. The United States asserts that a freeze only means consolidating the superiority already obtained by the Soviet Union and that a true balance of power must be restored. Opinions differ on the military strengths but the following views merit attention:

Some analysts explain that the Soviet Union has gone all out with arms expansion over the past few years. While it formerly lagged behind the United States in strategic nuclear weapons, it has in recent years re-equipped most of its intercontinental missiles with MIRVs and can match the United States in the total number of warheads. The Soviet Union has deployed 300 SS-20 medium-range missiles in the past few years while the United States suspended its development of medium-range missiles. Thus the Soviet Union is also far ahead in medium-range missiles. It has also maintained its superiority in conventional land forces and greatly strengthened its air and sea power. In summary, this view maintains the Soviet Union has caught up with the United States and turned the balance of military strength in favour of itself.

Other analysts point out that even if the Soviets have not yet accomplished an all-round superiority over the United States in military might, they have their military strength deployed in more favourable positions for action. The massive Soviet ground forces pose a threat to the heartland of Western Europe. Soviet forces deployed on its Asian borders can launch speedy strikes against adjacent regions like that undertaken in Afghanistan. Its favourable position constitutes a strategic advantage and gives the Soviet Union an edge in pursuing its expansion.

In face of the Soviet military buildup, the United States has decided to spend as much as

1,600 billion US dollars in five years in an all-out effort to regain its dominance and military credibility. Not reconciled to losing its advantage, Moscow has declared its readiness to contend with the United States, hence the start of an intensified phase in the arms race.

### New Features in the Race

The intensity of rivalry will surpass that of all post World War II periods because the two superpowers are almost equal in military might.

The arms race affects vital interests of the two nations and has already reached a point of no return. Fearful of being outdone by the other, the United States and the Soviet Union are unswerving in resolve and quick in action. Military spending as projected in Reagan's 1983 budget jumped 10.5 per cent, compared with an average of 4 per cent rise in recent years. US military expenditure for 1983 will account for 6 per cent of the country's GNP. Soviet military expenditure remains undisclosed. According to some studies, the Russian figure stands at 10 per cent of its GNP with an annual growth rate of 4-5 per cent in actual spending.

The new phase of arms race is being carried out in many realms and is developing into a larger-scale, all-out rivalry. In addition to quantity, both are bent on improving the quality of their weapons. The Soviet Union is narrowing the gap in the technology of MIRVs and in accuracy of warheads. The nuclear arms race has now spread to medium-range theatre nuclear weapons. Along with nuclear arms race, conventional

weaponry is also a major field of contention. Each superpower is trying to get the upper hand in the conventional arms race; both are attaching greater importance to preparations for conventional warfare. More than three-fourths of both countries' military expenditures are appropriated for conventional units and weapons.

The superpowers' arms race is no longer confined to surpassing each other in the quantity and quality of weapons. Emphasis is on real combat readiness against the opponent's combat capabilities and characteristics. Their rivalry bears the stamp of confrontation. In developing nuclear weapons, each has in mind the destruction of the other's nuclear forces while preserving its own retaliation capability.

In the preparations for conventional war, the Soviet emphasis is to reinforce the swift-attack capability of its gigantic tank corps. The United States is determined to improve its anti-tank defence systems. While the Soviet Union is actively building ocean-going fleets for cutting the sea routes of the West, the United States plans to build more warships to control strategic sea areas with formations of 15 aircraft-carriers. The Soviet Union is increasing its capability of dispatching troops to carry out military intervention in other countries; the United States is expanding its rapid deployment forces to cope with all contingencies.

To summarize, the arms race between the two superpowers and their war preparations have developed to an acute and dangerous extent. The comprehensive arms race testifies that the United States and the Soviet Union are not just engaging in empty talk when they declare

their readiness to fight any type of war.

### **Results of the Struggle for Hegemony**

The arms race is the natural result of the struggle for global hegemony. The Soviet Union has been pushing its policy of expansion and enlarging its sphere of influence by flexing its military strength which is becoming predominant. The United States is determined to preserve its traditional spheres of influence by enhancing its

military might. This is the essence of the rivalry between the two superpowers. Their struggle for hegemony and their arms race constitute the root cause of international tension which threatens world peace and security, and aggravates the danger of a new war.

It is only reasonable that the people of the world consider the main objective in the struggle for disarmament is to halt the arms race and war preparations of the two superpowers.

— Lu Shipu

## **Latin America and the Conflict Over Malvinas**

**T**HE Latin American rift with the United States and the European Community caused by the confrontation over the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands will have long-term significance.

### **Uniting Latin America**

According to Western reports, the spirit of Latin American unity has been reborn since Britain sent its fleet to the South Atlantic. Although the political inclinations of Latin American states are divergent, the vast majority expressed support for Argentine sovereignty over Malvinas Islands at the meeting of the Organization of American States or in government statements. They have appealed to Argentina and Britain to solve their dispute through peaceful negotiations, thus avoiding military intervention in Latin America by any power bloc.

After Britain escalated the conflict by landing and launching attacks, Latin American countries consider the British threat to Argentina an affront to the national dignity of the whole of Latin America. The

Latin American Parliament in a statement declared Britain's military attacks on Argentine territory and troops "a manifestation of imperialist policies discarded by humanity and history." It reiterated its resolve to eliminate all forms of colonialism and oppose any act of imperialism in Latin America.

Young people of Argentina and 16 other Latin American countries held a rally in Buenos Aires on May 14 to support Argentina's claim to sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands. They called for unity among Latin American countries in their struggle against imperialism and colonialism. Peru stated that it would give Argentina military assistance if requested. To aid the Argentine people's struggle, Venezuela has volunteered to provide Argentina with 10,000 barrels of oil a day, deposit 1,000 million US dollars in Argentine banks and withdraw 5,000 million US dollars from British banks.

### **Condemning the United States**

The shift in US attitude from neutrality to pro-Britain has



evoked a strong reaction in Latin America. Many consider this a betrayal of the US commitment to the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance. The US action will have a long-term negative impact on its relations with Latin American countries. They have also pointed out that the US support for Britain further exacerbates the conflict and enlarges the danger in the Western hemisphere.

The US decision has caused numerous Latin American countries to think that the pan-American co-operation is ineffective. Some countries indignantly demanded the Headquarters of the Organization of American States be withdrawn from Washington DC and others suggested that a new organization be set up.

A Japanese report stated the United States has suffered a defeat in its diplomacy in Central and South America. US newspapers have also admitted that resentment against the United States in Latin America has increased. Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said that the US support for the United Kingdom has injured these countries' confidence in the US and damaged US diplomacy immeasurably.

### **Suspending Dialogue With EEC**

The Latin American countries have also condemned the European Economic Community because it imposed economic sanctions against Argentina in support of Britain. The Latin American Integration Association proclaimed that this not only harms a developing member country, but also violates

the norms of international economic relations. Peruvian Prime Minister Manuel Ulloa pointed out this sanction amounts to declaring an alliance of industrial countries to oppose a country of the Americas, a third world country. On May 27 Latin American countries decided to suspend the dialogue with

the European Economic Community (scheduled for this month) in protest against the sanction.

The conflict between Britain and Argentina has evoked unforeseen reactions and the consequences go far beyond these two countries.

— Guan Yanzhong

## **Israel's New Aggression**

**T**HE Begin authorities, using the attempted assassination of its ambassador to Britain as an excuse, sent large numbers of airplanes to wantonly bomb the residential quarters of Beirut and southern Lebanon on June 4, killing and wounding over 200 people and causing heavy damage. On June 6, more than 20,000 Israeli infantry troops with about 200 tanks and other military vehicles entered Lebanon and advanced northward after crossing the zone controlled by the UN interim forces.

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### **China Condemns Israel's Invasion of Lebanon**

**T**HE spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China issued a statement on June 8 condemning the Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

The statement reads:

Since June 4, the Israeli authorities have, in gross violation of the principles of international law and in open breach of the ceasefire agreement, carried out bombing raids on Beirut and other areas and mounted a large-scale invasion into southern Lebanon, causing great losses to the lives and property of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

Israel's brutal aggression constitutes a renewed flagrant provocation against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples as well as the entire Arab people. It has not only seriously encroached upon Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, but also gravely worsened the Middle East situation, thus endangering peace and security in the world.

The Chinese Government and people have always supported the Palestinian and other Arab peoples in their just cause to safeguard independence and sovereignty, regain their national rights and recover their lost territories. We strongly condemn the Israeli authorities for the above-mentioned acts of aggression and express our deep sympathy for the sufferings of the innocent Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. We maintain that the national rights of the Palestinian people must be protected and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon respected. Israel must implement the UN Security Council resolutions and withdraw its aggressor troops from Lebanese territory immediately and unconditionally.

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This act of aggression constitutes the third violation this year of the Palestine-Israel ceasefire agreement signed by Israel and a new debt in blood incurred to the Lebanese and Palestinian people.

Israeli authorities dare to defy the international community and public opinion and to manufacture pretexts to launch provocations and aggressions because they are sure they have the support of the United States.

The Israeli actions have aroused worldwide indignation. A resolution adopted unanimously by the UN Security Council on June 5 calls upon all the parties to the conflict to cease immediately and simultaneously all military activities within Lebanon and across the Lebanese-Israeli border. The council requests all member states which are in a position to do so to bring their influence to

bear upon those concerned so that a cessation of hostilities can be obtained. The council requests the Secretary-General to undertake all possible efforts to ensure the implementation of and compliance with the Security Council ceasefire resolution of last July and to report to the Security Council as early as possible. The next day the UN Security Council adopted another unanimous resolution demanding that Israel withdraw all its troops from Lebanon immediately and unconditionally.

Aggression leads to resistance and bloodshed deepens hatred. All justice-upholding and peace-loving people and countries should take action to stop Israel's aggression and work for a just and reasonable settlement of the Middle East problem.

— Zhong Tai

## Advances in the Zimbabwe's Countryside

### Report From Harare:

**G**REAT changes have taken place in the Zimbabwean rural areas since independence in April 1980. Over one million refugees have returned to their homes; agriculture has been restored and developed. The roads and bridges which were destroyed during the war have been repaired, and schools, medical clinics and stores have been rebuilt. The countryside is advancing.

### Rural Development

Since independence the Zimbabwean Government has put its stress on building up the countryside. Eighty per cent of foreign aid has been assigned to rural development. The

government has pursued a policy of distributing unused land which was redeemed from the white farm owners to those who had little or no land. The Zimbabwean Government has bought more than 1.5 million hectares and distributed it to over 14,000 families. It plans to buy 8 million more hectares within the next three years and settle 132,000 families.

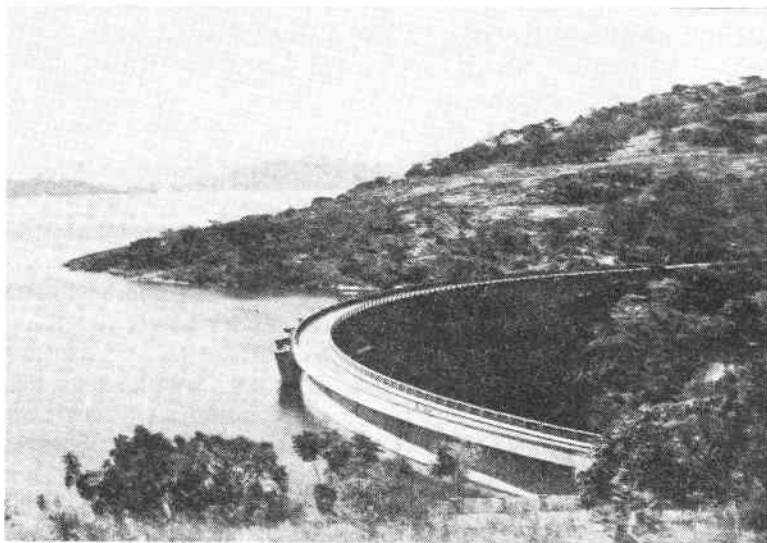
The northeast Darwin mountainous area which was one of the guerrilla bases was ravaged by the war. War-damaged buildings were everywhere. Today newly built houses, shops, schools and health clinics can be seen. A head of a settlement project told us that the government bought 19 farms, each

with an average of 1,500 hectares. A total of 563 families (3,500 people) have been distributed land. Each family is allocated 6 hectares. In addition, each family receives half a hectare for building a house.

The Zimbabwean Government encourages the farmers to run agricultural co-operatives and go the co-operative road. There are some voluntary agricultural co-operatives in Zimbabwe. We visited a co-operative of young people near the Darwin Mountains. It was set up in October, 1980 by 15 persons; now there are 67 members. This co-operative which owns 1,900 hectares of land has a management committee composed of elected representatives. There is a group to lead production. The co-operative plans to raise chicken and pigs and run a farm, a vegetable garden, a canteen and a carpentry shop. The government has contributed ox-drawn carts, agricultural tools and a tractor. In 1981 the co-operative harvested nearly 1,000 bags of maize (a bag equals 90 kilogrammes) and sold out 600 bags. Twenty-five per cent of its profits was deposited into the bank for future investment. Five per cent was allocated for repairing agricultural tools and the rest was distributed to the co-operative members. In addition to food and housing, each member received 100 Zimbabwe dollars in cash last year.

### Train Agricultural Cadres

To change the face of the countryside and unleash a spirit of self-reliance, a new school for training agricultural cadres was set up under President Canaan Banana. The name of this school means "indomitability" and "struggle" and President Banana intends to train the students in such a spirit. Opened up in February of 1981,



Kyle Dam, one of the largest in Zimbabwe.

this school now has 120 students. 50 per cent are demobilized soldiers. They spend equal time on theoretical study, practice and productive labour. The graduates will help with running co-operatives and other rural development projects.

The Zimbabwean Government also pays attention to the role of the commercial farms. They provide 96 per cent of marketable agricultural produce and 42 per cent of the industrial raw materials.

The government's policy and good rain yielded a bumper harvest last year. The output of maize was more than twice as much as the previous year, enough to meet the internal demand and export some. On the decline since 1965, tobacco plantations also made strides forward. Last year Zimbabwe received 220 million Zimbabwe dollars of foreign exchange from the sale of tobacco.

— Guan Yunqiu and Li Hong

## Environmental Protection In Bulgaria

**E**NVIRONMENTAL protection measures are showing signs of success in Bulgaria after more than a decade of effort.

This Balkan country has eliminated 75.4 per cent of the harmful material in its air and has purified 45.6 per cent of its sewage. The air in some severely polluted areas around factories and mines has returned to normal and the re-utilization rate of industrial waste material

and water has reached 24.5 per cent. The deterioration of the natural environment has been basically prevented.

In Bulgaria, protection of the environment is a component of the annual plan for national economic development. Since the "Act of Natural Environmental Protection" was approved in 1967, it became an organized social activity.

Currently more than 10,000 units take part in this activity. Three per cent of the population participate directly in environmental protection. The annual investment for environmental protection accounts for more than 4 per cent of all investments.

In bringing water pollution under control, it is necessary to first conduct a general survey in order to fully understand the source and extent of the pollution as well as the chances for automatic purification. With this thorough analysis of water quality, it is possible to begin pollution reduction and prevention. At the same time, a unified national standard of quality and a plan for water usage and drainage have been mapped out by dividing areas into water use districts in order to identify and eliminate the source of pollution. Facilities for water purification are established in places where pollution sources exist. While treating pollution from industrial production, Bulgaria is striving to implement a recycling process for the waste water generated by production units.

Air pollution control is primarily carried out in heavy industrial cities and areas with factories and mines. The main measures are to install dust cleaning and filtering equipment. In the regions that have been polluted or have pollution sources, Bulgarians plant pollution-resistant trees, such as dragon spruce and wild pear trees.

Erosion of soil is still a serious problem. A 25-year plan to bring soil erosion under control, which was approved in 1975, is being carried out.

— Ren Yan



Tokyo

## Premier Zhao's Press Conference

*At a press conference in the Japanese press club in Tokyo on June 2, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang spoke of the results of his visit to Japan and answered questions raised by reporters. Following is the coverage of the press conference. — Ed.*

### Aim of Japan Visit Attained

**P**REMIER Zhao Ziyang told the press conference that he had visited Japan mainly to exchange views with Japanese Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki on the international situation of common concern and to further develop Sino-Japanese relations. "This purpose has been attained," he said.

Zhao said: "Prime Minister Suzuki and I have reviewed with satisfaction the development of friendship and co-operation over the past 10 years since the normalization of relations between the two countries, and reaffirmed the great significance of the normalization of relations and the conclusion of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship Between China and Japan.

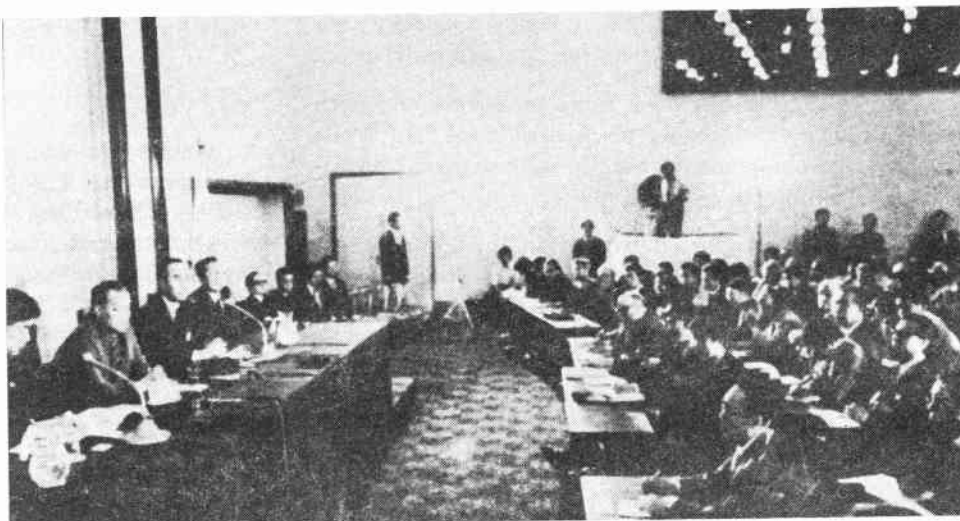
"We have earnestly discussed the necessity and possibility of establishing a system of economic co-operation between the two countries which is based on the three-point principle — peace and friendship, equality and mutual-benefit, and long-standing stability.

"We agree that it is the common task of the governments and peoples of the two countries to further consolidate and develop their bilateral relations of friendship and co-operation."

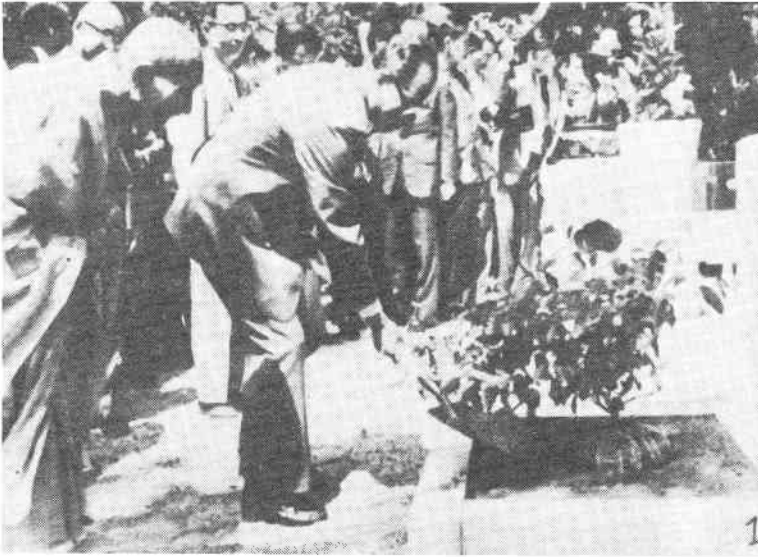
"The promotion of friendly relations of co-operation with Japan," he said, "occupies an important place in China's foreign policy. It is our hope that these relations will not be affected by vicissitudes in the international situation and that they benefit the people of the two countries and serve the interest of peace in the Asian-Pacific region and the world at large."

Speaking of the international situation and China's foreign policy, Premier Zhao said that the current international situation is growing more tense and turbulent. The independence, security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of some countries are being subjected to violation and intervention. Peace in the Asian-Pacific region and the world is gravely threatened.

"China has consistently adhered to an independent foreign policy. It firmly opposes hegemonism and safeguards world peace. China has always extended support to peoples of various countries in their struggle to win and defend national independence and safeguard state sovereignty, and has always stood for developing state-to-state relations on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence," he said.



Premier Zhao (second from left) at Tokyo press conference.



Premier Zhao planting a sapling of the Chinese "Qionghua" tree at the Toshodai Temple in Nara.

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## On Prospects for Sino-Japanese Economic Co-operation

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Co-operative exploitation of China's energy and other resources will be a new aspect of Sino-Japanese economic and technological co-operation, according to the Premier.

He said that China's policy of readjusting its national economy was first announced in 1979. In 1980 and 1981, readjustment was conducted on a considerable scale. It achieved better results than had been anticipated. The main objects of readjustment envisaged at that time were improved relationships between accumulation and consumption, a better proportion among agriculture, light industry and heavy industry and a curtailment on capital construction.

All this has been done in accordance with China's strengths at the present stage. The work of readjustment in these areas has been basically completed.

In his report delivered to the Fourth Session of the Fifth National People's Congress, the Premier proposed that China continue to carry out the policy of readjusting, restructuring, consolidating and improving during the Sixth Five-Year Plan period.

However, he said, readjustment in the coming five years "will not be that in its original sense." It will not mean discontinuing projects or retrenchment. It will aim to reshape the

composition of products and readjust technical structure and the organizational structure of enterprises.

It will mean rationalizing China's economic structure, management system and organizational work with the main purpose of striving for high economic returns. "Although it is still called readjustment, it will bear quite different implications," he said.

The Chinese Government envisages a plan that starts from the Sixth Five-Year Plan period and continues through the whole of the 80s, he said. Besides technical transformation in the present enterprises,

China wants to concentrate on the construction of key projects, exploit energy and other resources, construct communications and transportation projects and readjust the technical structure.

Premier Zhao said he thinks that the two countries have much to do in their economic and technical co-operation whether in the technical transformation of present enterprises or in major construction projects. Sino-Japanese co-operation in exploiting energy and other resources and in the construction of basic installations will be indispensable to both countries.

When asked if Sino-Japanese co-operation will be extended to the military field, Premier Zhao said: "I have never heard the Chinese say that Sino-Japanese co-operation will be extended to the military field. During the late Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira's visit to China in 1979, he spoke about Japan's three principles governing Sino-Japanese economic co-operation. The first principle excludes military co-operation. We raised no objection then; we understand and respect the position taken by the Japanese Government."

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## A Severe Test Facing Sino-US Relations

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Answering questions about Sino-US relations, Premier Zhao said: "Sino-US relations are confronted with a severe test. The key problem lies in the continued US arms sales to

Taiwan. Our two countries have held many talks on this issue. During the recent visit to China by US Vice-President George Bush as entrusted by US President Reagan, talks focused on the question of US arms sales to Taiwan. We believe that the talks have enabled US leaders to have a deeper understanding of China's principled stand towards the US arms sales to Taiwan."

He added that Vice-President Bush conveyed President Reagan's wish for the solution of this problem. "We expressed our welcome to his approach."

"Generally speaking," he said, "direct contacts between the leaders of China and the United States have been beneficial. I hope these contacts will be helpful to the settlement of this difficult issue between the two countries." During the talks, both sides agreed to continue negotiating on the issue.

"As to the impact of the US insistence on continued arms sales to Taiwan," Premier Zhao said, "I am sure it will be a serious and negative one."

"The development of Sino-US relations is certainly conducive to peace and stability in the Asian-Pacific region and the rest of the world. China attaches importance to Sino-US relations. China hopes that Sino-US relations will continue to develop rather than be suspended or retrogress."

He pointed out that the issue of US arms sales to Taiwan is "an issue of principle concerning whether to respect China's sovereignty or to interfere in its internal affairs."

He stressed that China will develop Sino-US relations only on the basis of the principles of mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

"We are willing to solve the issue, left over by history, of US arms sales to Taiwan together with the United States on the basis of the principles agreed upon by both sides in the Shanghai Communiqué and the Communiqué on the Establishment of Sino-US Diplomatic Relations."

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### **On US-Soviet Nuclear Arms Reduction**

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When asked about his view on the US-Soviet talks on the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons, Premier Zhao said: "The huge arsen-

als of nuclear and conventional weapons possessed by the United States and the Soviet Union pose a grave threat to world peace. They should first of all reduce their nuclear and conventional weapons. This is their unshirkable responsibility. But I doubt whether they can first carry out large-scale nuclear weapon reductions just by holding bilateral negotiations. It needs pressure and supervision by the international community and all peace-loving forces."

"China endorses the US-Soviet talks on the reduction of nuclear weapons. It maintains that disarmament should include the reduction of nuclear and conventional weapons. The United States and the Soviet Union, the two superpowers, should first of all reduce on a large scale their nuclear and conventional weapons."

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### **On Issues of China's State Chairman And Population**

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When asked who will be Chairman of China, Premier Zhao said that the draft of the revised constitution has just been made public for discussion by the people throughout the country and will be adopted at the Fifth Session of the Fifth National People's Congress to be held at approximately the end of the year. If there is no further revision on the draft of the Constitution and if the Constitution to be adopted calls for a state chairman as the state system requires, the state chairman will be elected during the latter half of next year. That means, he explained, that there will be at least one and a half years to go before the state chairman is elected by the National People's Congress.

"As you know, it is impossible to be sure who will be the state chairman one and a half years ahead of time," the Premier told the press circles.

He added that the state chairman will be elected by the National People's Congress. Before that, the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party will discuss the issue and consultations will be held with the democratic parties.

In answering a question about China's population, Premier Zhao said, "China now has a population of 996 million, not including that of Taiwan Province." He told Japanese reporters that China will conduct its third census beginning July 1. After which time he will be able to provide the latest and most precise figure. □



# Impressions of India

by Our Staff Writer Wu Jingsheng

Wu Jingsheng, an editor of "Beijing Review's" international department, visited India from April 29 to May 14 with a delegation of Chinese journalists. Following is his report. — Ed.

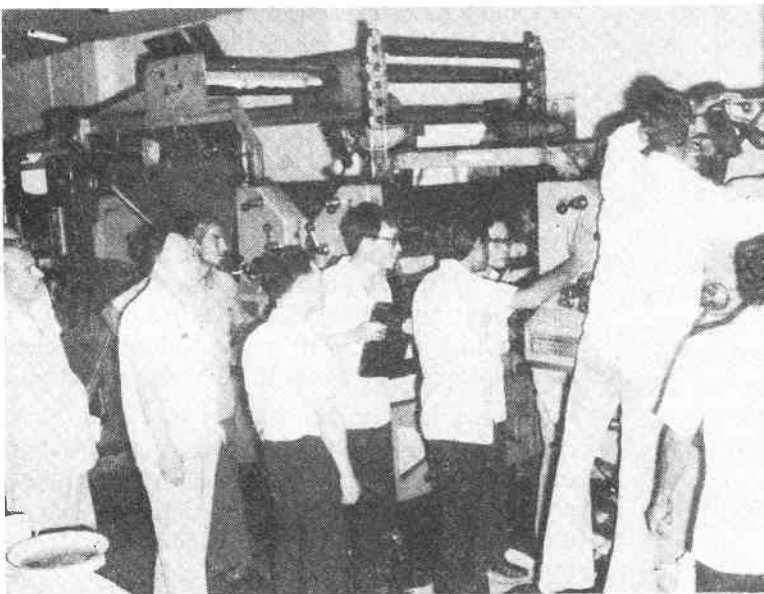
SINCE I returned from my two-week stay in India, scenes of New Delhi's large lawns, Calcutta's bustling streets, Bombay's beautiful coasts, picturesque Bangalore and the magnificent palaces of Jaipur are still fresh in my memory. I was most impressed, however, by the friendship between the Chinese and Indian people.

The friendship was expressed in the sentiments and tacit mutual understanding of the two peoples rather than in red carpets or bouquets strung with sandalwood beads which are commonly used to welcome guests. Historically speaking, China and India are both civilized ancient countries which had contacts before Christ. The palaces, temples and carved stone statues we saw in India, though different in shape from those in China, are not strange to us. China's legendary novel, *Pilgrimage to*

*the West*, was written on the basis of the trip by Xuan Zhuang (602-664 A.D.) to India for Buddhist scriptures during the Tang Dynasty and has so far remained popular among the Chinese people. In the Baima Monastery in Luoyang, Henan Province, the tombs and the tombstones of two celebrated Indian monks erected under the reign of Emperor Ming Di (58-75 A.D.) of the Han Dynasty have been well-preserved.

Statues of and monuments to anti-British heroes stand in urban streets as reminders of the history of imperialist and colonialist oppression. During that humiliating period, India was reduced to a colony and China a semi-colony. This similar experience makes it easy for the people of the two countries to sympathize with and understand each other. The Chinese people will never forget that during those difficult years when the Chinese people were heroically fighting the Japanese aggressors, India sent a medical team to support China. During that period, the great internationalist fighter Dr. D.S. Kotnis devoted his young life to the Chinese people's cause of national liberation. This time we made a special trip to Bombay to see his relatives. In his younger sister's house, we saw Chairman Mao's inscription, written on the occasion of Dr. Kotnis' death, hung on the wall. Now, four of the team's five members are dead and only Dr. B.K. Basu is still living. We saw him at a banquet. His robust health and his frank and open way of talking impressed us with a cordial feeling.

Historically, China and India had common sufferings and friendly contacts; and today, despite their different social systems, they are



Chinese journalists visiting the printing plant of the Rajasthan Patrika.

confronted with similar problems. They are both working hard to develop their national economies and build their countries. "What is the problem which concerns the Indian people most?" I asked an Indian friend. "Raising the people's standard of living," he replied without hesitation.

Since its independence, India has made significant economic and cultural progress, especially in industry, grain production, science, technology and education. However, statistics indicate that 48 per cent of the nation's total population lives below the poverty line. This results from many factors, one of the most important being the rapid growth of population.

India's population has exceeded 680 million. Although its birth rate has declined somewhat in recent years, India's population is still growing. This obviously has a negative impact on per-capita income. Such a dangerous phenomenon is also a topic of discussions among the Chinese people, because China has nearly one-third more population than India.

Last June, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi proposed a popular birth control movement in an attempt to curb population growth. The Indian Government responded by allocating a large sum of money. While in Punjab, we were told that contraceptives and contraception treatment are free. Anyone ready to be sterilized can get a subsidy to make up for his or her wage loss. Food and transportation fees to and from the hospital are paid by the government. In New Delhi, we visited Lok Kalyan Samiti, a small but well-equipped hospital. It has a family planning clinic which provides birth control information. It also performs abortions and passes out contraceptives. Each day, people visit the hospital for abortions and contraceptives.

According to the Indian Government's birth control plan, the birth rate will drop from the present 33 per thousand to 21 per thousand by the year 2000. A UNI reporter who came to Beijing to cover the Asian Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development last year said that because of social and religious reasons as well as customs and habit, the family planning drive encounters obstacles. From 1975 to 1977, the Gandhi administration used mandatory means to promote birth control, but failed. Since returning to office, she has used persuasion to get people to accept family planning.



Two Indian girls carrying water.

Despite the pressure of its rapidly increasing population, India's grain production has made much headway. A report of the Indian Agricultural Ministry shows that India's grain output in the 1981-82 fiscal year is 134 million tons, an increase over the previous year. This should be attributed to the Central Government and the governments of some of its federal states. In order to grow more grain, they are popularizing high-yield strains, expanding the areas under irrigation, increasing the use of fertilizers and insecticides, increasing agricultural expenditure and expanding rural credit.

About 40 per cent of India's 140 million hectares of arable land are under irrigation. On the way from New Delhi to Jaipur, we saw that part of the desert in the state of Rajasthan has become green and a 445-kilometre-long canal is under construction. When completed, the canal will irrigate 1.254 million hectares of land.

In New Delhi, we visited the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, which is the oldest and largest of the country's 34 agricultural institutes. It has produced many new high-yield hybrid wheat strains and many dwarf rice strains. The dwarf wheat variety of *Arjun* has a high yield and is resistant to diseases and lodging. With 15 disciplines, the institute com-

bines education, research and production. This approach has helped solve many practical problems. It has also produced several cultivation programmes designed to grow four crops a year. For instance, the programme — potato from October to December, wheat from January to April, mung beans from April to June and maize from July to September — can produce 16 tons of grain from a hectare of land. The other scientific research units we visited in India, such as the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, all emphasize the application of science and technology to solving problems of production and life.

India's effort to increase production with high-yield strains made it possible for India not to import grain for three successive years from 1978. This is a great achievement. In terms of per-unit output, per-capita grain and dependence upon the weather, there are still some problems in India's agriculture. Shortly before we left New Delhi, we read an article in *Indian Express* under the title "Rain Brings Tears to Rural Delhi." The article said that wheat in many villages on the outskirts of the capital was inundated by a heavy rain and the peasants expected to lose 70 per cent of the crop.

The Indian Government has made great efforts to develop its national industry. India has strict restrictions on the import of foreign cars. No imported recorders and TV sets are to be seen on the Indian market. Most of the cars we saw in big cities are of two home-made brands: Ambassador and Premier. In Calcutta, we visited the Hindustan Motors, the Ambassador-brand car producer. The factory has technical co-operation with the US General Motors. But it conducts designing and innovations independently.

India pays much attention to labour-intensive industries, especially small enterprises. We were told that small factories with a capital of no more than 2 million rupees account for 80 per cent of total business and turn out 30 per cent of the total industrial output value. In the state of Tamil Nadu, for instance, there is a Small Industries Development Corporation which has 47 industrial estates. The Guindy industrial estate in Madras includes 250 small factories, each of which has a work force ranging from 10 to more than 100 people. They produce shoes, transistors, fire extinguishers, stainless steelware, aluminium utensils, matches and

carved woodwork. We visited a shoe factory. Jointly operated by five partners, the factory has a capital of 1.8 million rupees, 175 workers and its turnover last year was 15 million rupees. Its products are exported to Europe and America. Such small factories play an important role in providing daily necessities and alleviating unemployment.

Some Indian friends did not hesitate to tell us that there are still some problems in the people's livelihood, such as traffic jams, housing shortages and unemployment. Some people still live in slums. The rich-and-poor polarization exists and there are beggars on the streets. The Indian Government and people are taking measures to change their backwardness and poverty.

Both China and India are developing countries and are working hard to eliminate poverty. However, each has its own experience and problems. India's experience in developing modern industries, increasing grain output and boosting educational undertakings is worth China's study. If the two countries enter into friendly contacts in a wider scope and learn from each other, that will not only benefit the construction of both countries, but also promote mutual understanding and the development of friendly relations. While meeting us in his mother's official residence, Rajiv Gandhi, Member of Indian Parliament and elder son of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, said on April 30 that India and China have many things in common. He also said: "Our two countries can exchange experiences, from which both of us can benefit." This is also the Chinese people's aspiration. Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua said while on a visit to India last year: "Both China and India belong to the third world and have many points in common." "We can learn from and co-operate with each other in many fields in order to achieve common progress and development."

While visiting India, we made extensive contacts with our Indian counterparts. Both sides hope the mass media can serve as a bridge, not a wall separating us. The media should play a role in promoting the development of friendly relations between the two peoples. The border problem left over from history should not be an obstacle hindering the development of relations between the two countries. The friendship which has existed for millennia should continue. □

# A Programme for Current Agricultural Work

*The "Summary of the National Conference on Rural Work" released by the CPC Central Committee on April 6 is another programmatic document on the Party's work in rural areas, following the adoption of the Decisions on Some Questions Concerning the Acceleration of Agricultural Development (Draft) (see "Beijing Review," No. 11, 1979) at the Third Plenary Session of the Party's 11th Central Committee held in 1978.*

*The conference was held by the Party Central Committee towards the end of 1981. The programme systematically sums up the experiences gained in the recent years' readjustment and restructuring of the rural economy. It defines and solves some new problems encountered in practical work and charts further measures for rural development. Following is a slightly abridged translation of the document. — Ed.*

**A**T the heels of the adoption of the decision on accelerating agricultural development, the Party Central Committee decided upon a series of measures to raise the purchasing prices of farm produce, to maximize the effectiveness of the responsibility system for agricultural production and to develop a diversified economy. Meanwhile, it carried out economic readjustment and restructuring in rural areas. All of these were enthusiastically accepted by the peasants and boosted the growth of rural economy.

The peasants have raised a number of questions encountered in practice. These must be solved in good time so as to ensure sustained, all-round development.

## The Responsibility System

(1) More than 90 per cent of the production teams across the nation have adopted some form of the responsibility system. The large-scale changes have come to an end, and the focus of our work is to sum up experience, perfect the system and stabilize the situation.

The progress in establishing the system mirrors the strong desire of the peasants to boost socialist agriculture in line with concrete conditions. The system has proved adaptable to

numerous widely divergent areas. Egalitarianism with "everyone sharing the meal in the same big pot," which long pervaded the collective economy, has been overcome. By improving the organizations of the labour force and the methods of remuneration, the system changed the long-standing overconcentration of power in the hands of managers and the mechanical application of operational policies.

The collective economy, with a range of organizational scales and methods of operation, is still the major rural economic form. Coexistent with it are state farms, and the household-based economy which is playing a supplementary role. This structurally varied socialist agricultural economy is conducive to the development of the social productive forces and the full display of the superiority of the socialist system. It will undoubtedly have a positive influence on our rural economic construction and on social development as a whole.

Various localities' successful implementation of the Party's policies on agriculture, formulated after the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee, indicates the overall correctness of the policies.



Commune members of Dai nationality in Yunnan Province apply fertilizer.



Since the transformation is so extensive and complicated, involving hundreds of millions of people, the emergence of problems is predictably unavoidable. We should strive to maximize the effectiveness of the responsibility system for agricultural production. From now on, except in a few districts and communes and production brigades, the responsibility system should be stabilized in the rural areas as a whole. Leaders at various levels should conduct thorough investigations of the grass-roots organizations to help sum up their experiences and solve problems in order to further improve the system.

(2) Chinese agriculture must adhere to the road of socialist collectivization. The public ownership of land and other basic means of production will remain unchanged for a long time to come. So will the responsibility system for agricultural production for the collective economy.

The various forms of responsibility system in force at present include paying remuneration according to a short-term contract, paying seasonal remuneration for specialized farm work done, also according to a contract, fixing output quotas based on production groups\* and allotting work to individual households\*\*. Whatever form is currently being implemented should remain in force unless the peasants demand changes.

Some people believe that the production responsibility system is just a form of "alloting work to individual households," which means individual farming achieved by dividing up the collective land and properties. This is a misunderstanding.

Since the implementation of "alloting work to individual households," many production teams have begun to operate with each household as a basic unit, responsible for their own

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\* Under both these forms, peasants contract with the production teams to produce a particular quantity of a crop or product. This amount must be delivered to the collective, with the remainder going partly or wholly to the peasants themselves as reward. As members of the collective they also receive an allotment which is apportioned from the collective produce. The specialization contracts divide labour according to specialized jobs while the production-group contracts do not specify a division of labour.

\*\* The contractors deliver to the production teams the part retained by the collective, with the remaining part belonging to the peasants themselves. They do not receive an allotment from collective distribution.

gains and losses. But this is based on the public ownership of the land, with the peasants and the production teams maintaining a contracting relationship.

The collective still administers the utilization of the land, large-size farm tools and water conservancy facilities. The production team subjects itself to the guidance of the state plan and retains a portion of the earnings to provide subsidies for members of revolutionary martyrs' families, soldiers' dependants and people who have financial difficulties.

Some production teams also engage in agricultural capital construction under unified planning. These activities differ from the private individual economy that existed before the co-operative transformation of agriculture. They are a component part of socialist agricultural economy. With the development of the productive forces, this form of responsibility system will gradually develop and improve.

(3) In introducing the responsibility system for production, more than 80 per cent of the production teams have adopted the method of paying remuneration according to output. Generally speaking, this form calls for contracting. It can co-ordinate appropriately the relationship between the collective and individual interests, simultaneously displaying the role of collectively unified management and the individual peasant's power of decision-making. Hence its welcome among the peasants.

The various forms of responsibility system are the result of flexible implementation of contracting in light of local conditions. In some places with poor economic development, there are no distinct technical divisions, farming is the main economic activity, and collective sideline occupations are undeveloped. There the land is contracted out according to the proportion of labour power to the number of persons, or according to the average ability of the labour force. In the relatively economically developed communes and production teams which have highly specialized technical and occupational divisions, contracts are written for each economic specialty, such as farming, forestry, animal husbandry, sideline occupation, fishery or industry. In some places, the two methods are introduced in a mixed way to suit local conditions.

Some odd jobs may be contracted to the individual labourer or household. Those that need co-operation may be contracted out to groups. Whatever the form, it only reflects

the scale of the labour organization required, and is not itself an indication of progress or regression.

Alloting work to individual labourers, households or production groups is a very simple method of production welcomed by the peasant masses. With this method, peasants hand over to the collective only a defined portion of their yield and there is no need for book-keepers to determine work-points for them. But it is suitable only in places where scattered operations or management are most needed. In other places where sideline occupations account for a significant portion of the earnings, and there are complexities in the economic relationships and the utilization of labour, the equal exchange of labour needs a unified calculating standard for unified distribution in order to balance reasonably the earnings in various occupational categories.

In summary, each form of contracting has its own adaptability and limitation at a given place and under a given condition. Therefore, different methods are appropriate to different jobs.

(4) While establishing and perfecting the production responsibility system in agriculture, it is necessary to maintain the collective ownership of the land and pay earnest attention to the protection and rational utilization of cultivated land.

The utilization of land, vegetable gardens, forest land, grassland, water surface and beaches as well as barren mountain slopes and land owned by the collective must accord with the unified planning and arrangements of the collective. No unit or individual is allowed to occupy them randomly. The collective retains ownership of the small plots of land and mountain slopes distributed to commune members for their long-term private use as well as of the land allotted to them for building houses.

The peasants are strictly forbidden to build houses, dig graves or remove soil on land contracted out to them. If contracted land is bought, sold, rented, given away or wasted, the collective has the right to reclaim it. Peasants who do not have enough strength to till their plots, or who decide to do other jobs, should return the land to the collective.

China has a large population but little cultivated land. Therefore, it is an important state policy to control the growth of the population and protect cultivated land. Strict controls



A production team's brick kiln in Wuwei County, Gansu Province.

should be exercised over the occupation of cultivated land, especially of vegetable-growing land on the outskirts of cities, by government offices, enterprises, organizations, army units, schools, communes, production brigades or teams. Cases of illegal or irrational occupation of land should be corrected and dealt with.

Public buildings, production facilities, trees and other public property on the collectively owned land are a part of the socialist public accumulation. They are also the foundation upon which the collective economy can be further developed, so they must be properly protected. Suitable management techniques conducive to production may be adopted. Wanton destruction of them is not allowed.

(5) It is necessary to closely integrate perfection of the responsibility system with the goal of achieving an overall development of agricultural production. The current drive to diversify the economy and develop commodity production is a response to urgent demands from the broad masses of peasants. Development must keep pace with such demands. Production teams must draw up plans for the overall development of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, sideline occupations, fishery, industry and commerce in line with their specific conditions. They must also make a good arrangement of the labour force and adopt suitable forms of the responsibility system.

(6) Production teams which use contracts to implement the responsibility system must clearly define the rights and obligations of the parties to the contract. Because contracting is the main medium in the managerial work of the collective economy, it must be done with all might. Furthermore, the contracts must

stipulate the parties' contributions towards the construction of public utilities, their family planning quotas and their quotas of grain for the state.

### **Improving Rural Commodity Circulation**

(7) The current financial resources of the state require a basic stabilization of the purchasing prices for agricultural and sideline products during the foreseeable future. We cannot pin our hope of increasing the peasants' income on raising purchasing prices or lowering purchasing quotas. We can only depend on the development of commodity production and production of more marketable goods.

(8) Agricultural economy is an important part of the national economy and its major component must be the planned economy, with regulation by the market playing a supplementary role. The policy of state monopoly of purchasing and marketing of grain, cotton, edible oil and other products must be upheld.

Reasonable and basic quotas for second-priority agricultural and sideline products (such as meat, poultry and eggs), which are decided by the state, should remain unchanged for a few years. On products for which it is difficult to determine purchasing quotas, a reasonable ratio should be ascertained between the proportion purchased by the state and that kept by the individual producers.

As for that portion above the basic quotas, the state may purchase all of some products, it may purchase a portion of other products, while still others should be left entirely to the communes and production teams or the individual peasants.

The prices of products that exceed the basic quotas should be allowed to fluctuate within a certain range in line with the supply and demand of the market. Peasants on the outskirts of cities should be encouraged to grow more vegetables. Long-standing vegetable-growing plots should not be used for other purposes so that the vegetable supply to the cities can be guaranteed and improved. The contract system must be publicized and gradually adopted in order to improve the co-ordination between the tasks set by the state plan and the peasants' own priorities for production.

(9) Supply and marketing co-operatives in the countryside are a major channel for economic exchanges between the cities and the countryside. They are also a bond to promote eco-

nomical integration in the rural areas. These co-operatives should be gradually reformed. Each province can choose one or two counties to carry out the following experiment: Run the supply and marketing co-operatives at the grass-roots level as a form of co-operative commerce; take in more shares from the production teams and individual peasants on a voluntary basis; distribute the profit in the form of dividends according to the amount of shares and amount of agricultural and sideline products sold to the state; introduce democratic management and combine the management of the co-operative with the economic interests of the peasants.

(10) It is necessary to open up and strengthen the channels of commodity circulation by every available means. The state commercial departments and rural supply and marketing co-operatives must make full use of existing institutions, overcome the limitations in communication between the localities, organize commodity circulation according to economic laws and do a good job in marketing.

(11) It is necessary to carry out on-the-spot processing, select the choice products and to comprehensively utilize agricultural and sideline products under the precondition that the established quotas are handed over to the state. In addition to the development of processing industries run by the communes and production brigades or teams in the rural areas, the commercial departments can also process agricultural and sideline products they purchase, or process them together with the communes and production teams, or they can entrust the job to peasant households.

### **Agricultural Science and Technology**

(12) Agriculture can absorb the fruits of scientific and technological research in many fields and thus become a knowledge-intensive productive sector. While giving full play to our country's traditional agricultural techniques, wider use of the results of modern science and technology to reap greater economic results and maintain the ecological environment with less investment and lower consumption of energy will change the outlook of our countryside.

(13) In carrying out agricultural scientific research, it is necessary to mobilize all forces to work out a plan for key projects, such as breeding higher quality varieties of crops, improving the cropping system and cultivation techniques, scientific application of fertilizer and rational use of water, developing new effective and low-



Two members of one of the many peasants' associations for science popularization in Jilin Province.

toxic insecticides and publicizing agricultural mechanization in a selective manner.

(14) It is necessary to restore and strengthen the institutions for popularizing agricultural technology at various levels and to reinforce the contingents of technical personnel. Stress should be placed on improving those at the county level. Organizations responsible for popularizing technological findings, plant protection measures and soil and fertilizer information should gradually be combined. They should be centrally managed, with a reasonable division of labour and should co-ordinate with each other so as to fully utilize the results of scientific and technical research in production.

(15) Agricultural work such as resource surveys and agricultural zoning must be done well so as to provide a scientific basis for the exploitation, utilization and protection of natural resources and for readjustment of the structure of agricultural production. At present, stress should be placed on surveys of soil, water and biological resources and surveys of key areas. Particular attention should be paid to strengthening the protection of agricultural resources and halting the deterioration of the ecological environment in some places. We should make efforts in defining agricultural zones at the county level and, on this basis, draw up a general plan for utilizing land and building up the countryside.

(16) Departments concerned should make efforts to consolidate and strengthen the leading

bodies of colleges and universities of agricultural sciences and improve their working conditions. Middle schools at or below the county level should include agricultural courses in their curriculums. Some middle schools in the rural areas may be converted into agricultural technical schools. Both agricultural colleges and secondary agricultural technical schools should shoulder the task of training cadres who are now working in the countryside.

(17) The vast countryside is presently experiencing an upsurge in the number of peasants seeking to learn and use science. Agroscientists and agrotechnicians should devote their energy to agricultural production and unselfishly give the peasants whatever assistance they can provide. In the future, graduates of colleges and universities as well as secondary vocational schools will be assigned jobs as technicians at the commune level every year. They will enjoy the same status as cadres. All localities may hold examinations for self-taught peasant technicians at regular intervals, issue diplomas and grant technical subsidies to them. They should find employment for the most accomplished.

### Enhancing Economic Results and Improving Production Conditions

(18) Like other sectors, in agricultural production, great importance should be attached to economic results and tapping potentials.

During the readjustment period, investments in agriculture are limited and efforts should be made to maximize results with these minimal investments. Agricultural work must stress improving the per-unit yield and increasing labour productivity in farming, cultivation and industrial and sideline occupations. The increase of grain and cash crops mainly depends on intensive farming and improvement of medium- and low-yielding plots. Other sectors should also make efforts to improve economic results.

(19) A rational production structure should be established in accordance with the requirements of the all-round development of farming, forestry, animal husbandry, sideline production and fishery. The past error of developing a single-product economy should be avoided. Attention must be paid to co-ordinating the rational distribution of agricultural production in the country on the one hand and local development plans suited to specific conditions on the other. All localities must implement the policy of "never slackening the





A production team's mushroom breeding farm in Sha-zhou County, Jiangsu Province.

grain production and vigorously carrying out the diversified economy." In the utilization of the land, major efforts should be made to gradually convert the cultivated plots which are not suitable to grain production but are suitable to other crops. Cotton and sugar-bearing crops which are urgently needed by the state, should be developed in suitable areas. Diversified economy should be vigorously developed. Emphasis is to be on the development of mountainous areas, water surface, beaches and grasslands and on household animal raising.

The development of the diversified economy should be a combined effort of the collective and the individuals. The existing enterprises run by communes and production brigades should be straightened out. Administration and democratic management should be improved. At the present stage, in some areas many items will mainly be managed by the peasant families. The policy of supporting household sideline occupations and skilful individual peasants should be implemented. Assistance and guidance in the fields of funds, techniques and supply and marketing must be provided. At the same time, attention must be paid to the requirements of the development of production. Co-operation and association must be promoted between individuals, and between individuals and the collective. Co-operation and association between communes and production brigades in the localities and those in other areas are also allowed.

(20) The weak links of our national economy are forestry and animal husbandry.

Effective measures should be taken to restore and develop them as quickly as possible.

The 1981 state resolutions on the protection of the forest and other questions on the development of forestry and the decision to develop afforestation through participation from the whole people should be earnestly implemented.

In the rural areas, effective measures and policies encouraging the development of animal husbandry should be carried out down to the households, making full use of the favourable conditions of the abundant labour force, equipment and fodder there. On the basis of investigations, the ownership of the pastoral areas should be specified so as to better protect and build up the pastoral areas. On the vast frontiers as well as on barren hills and uncultivated areas, aeroplane sowing, tree and grass planting should be continuously carried out in a planned way.

(21) Since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, great achievements have been chalked up in irrigation, but great waste and losses still exist. In the future, large-scale water conservancy construction should be carried out in accordance with the overall plan. Those water conservancy works which require much investment but yield little benefit should be suspended. Attention must be paid to scientific management of those works which have gone into operation. Small-scale construction of water conservancy works must be carried on and substantial results must be stressed. Advanced irrigation techniques and cultivation measures should be popularized.

The mechanization of agriculture must be carried out step by step. For a fairly long time to come, mechanization, semi-mechanization and hand tools are to be developed simultaneously; and manpower, animals and power energy should all be used. Farmland capital construction and technical, biological measures should be combined.

Energetic efforts should be made to increase the production of phosphorus and potash fertilizer and fertilizer containing microelements, thus improving the composition of the chemical fertilizer and raising the effects of their application. Attention must be paid to the utilization of farmyard and green manure and leguminous plants. Compost made of stalks should be returned to the farmland so as to regulate the chemical and physical functions of the soil and increase the soil's organic matter. Chemical

fertilizer supplies to the medium- and low-yielding areas should be increased and efforts must be made to produce pesticide with high efficiency and low toxicity.

(22) The accounting units of the collective economy must establish an economic accounting system and carefully analyse economic activities in order to reduce the cost of production.

### **Strengthening Ideological Work And Organization at the Grass-Roots Level**

(23) In recent years, the Party has done a great deal of work in the rural areas and has achieved remarkable results. However, laxness and weak ideological and political work still exists in some rural areas. Effective measures must be taken to improve this situation.

The broad masses of peasants are willing to take the socialist road under the leadership of the Party. But at the present stage, some peasants still retain the ideologies and habits left over from the old society. They need the constant education and correct guidance given by the political party of the working class.

In the winter of 1981 and the spring of 1982, the central task for leaders in various localities should be to educate the peasants in the light of their problems in work and in ideology centring around the consolidation of the responsibility system so as to make them understand: China must adhere to the road of socialist collectivization of agriculture; the public ownership will not change for a long period of time; nor will the responsibility system in production; and none of the interests of the state, the collective or the individuals should be neglected. The production portion designated for the collective and the state quotas must be fulfilled. The peasants must be clear that in the past three years, the state has done its utmost to give consideration to the interests of the peasants, and the peasants should give their consideration to the difficulties of the state. They should make efforts to develop production, increase commodities and make further contributions.

(24) The implementation of the Party's policies and the fulfilment of various tasks in the rural areas depend on the organizations at the grass-roots level, including the Party organization, the administrative organization, the economic organization and the mass organizations.

At present, weakness in the leadership in some localities has caused paralysis or semi-paralysis in the leading bodies of some production teams. The result is that no one is responsible for certain kinds of work. Leading groups in the communes and production brigades should be well organized in order to improve the production responsibility system.

As collective economic organizations, production brigades and production teams should retain authority over essential economic functions. They should rationally distribute the plots to individuals, take good care of the cultivated land and use them well, draw up production plan, arrange work in capital construction, popularize new techniques, sign contracts with the peasants and carry them out, fulfil the state purchasing quotas, designate the portion of products for the collective, and take care of the families of the martyrs and army-men and those with financial difficulties.

(25) Party organizations at the grass-roots level in the countryside are the force at the core leading the broad masses forward. The Party and its members united and led the peasants to wage great revolutionary wars and carry out land reform and the co-operative movement in the past. Now China is living in a era of great changes and developments. Members of the Party in power should carry forward the traditions of wholeheartedly serving the people, and should unite and lead the peasants in readjusting and restructuring the rural economy, thus contributing to the modernization of agriculture. At present, they should stand in the forefront of the peasants and lead them to improve the responsibility system in production.

Starting in 1982, with the county or the commune as a unit, Party members in the rural areas, particularly the commune and production brigade cadres, should be trained by rotation in a planned way during the slack seasons. They should be organized to study the "Resolution on Certain Questions in the History of Our Party Since the Founding of the People's Republic of China" and the various policies of the Party in the rural areas, to sum up experiences in the spirit of rectification, to unfold criticism and self-criticism and to enhance their awareness. The Party branches in the rural areas should become staunch fighting nuclei, thus securing the Party's leadership over the administrative organizations, economic organizations and mass organizations and ensuring the fulfilment of various tasks. □

## FOLK LITERATURE

*"The Fifth Girl"*

A 2,000-line narrative poem *The Fifth Girl* which is the longest one of the Han nationality in extant was recently recorded in Wujiang County, Jiangsu Province.

The folk song tells of a tragic love in the Qing Dynasty during the reign of Emperor Qianlong (1736-1796). The Fifth Girl was the daughter of a landlord. Her parents died when she was young, so she lived with her brother. The Fifth Girl fell in love with Xu Atian, a hired hand of the family, but the two young people were ill-treated by the girl's brother and sister-in-law, who thought they were not well matched in social and economic status.

One bitter night, the Fifth Girl attempted suicide but her elder sister the Fourth Girl saved her. After the Fifth Girl and her fiance ran away, the Fourth Girl decided to burn herself to death so as to distract attention.

After living for two years on a remote island, Xu Atian went back to visit the Fourth Girl. Bribed by the sister-in-law, the local authority arrested him and charged him with arson and murder. Hearing the news the Fifth Girl hurried back but it was too late. Her husband was dead. Heart broken, she drowned herself.

A masterpiece among southern China's folk song, this touching story portrayed characters well and used vivid language.

*The Fifth Girl* was dictated by Lu Amei, a 79-year-old woman who began to learn folk songs at the age of eight

and used to be famous in her native area. She learnt *The Fifth Girl* from her father, also a folk song master.

At the first national symposium on Wu songs (a kind of southern China's folk songs) held not long ago, experts agreed that *The Fifth Girl* was an excellent work of folk literature. The assertion that the Han nationality had no long narrative poem was refuted.

Since the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), folk songs have been popular in southern China where the Wu dialect is spoken. Called Wu songs, they are considered to be among the unique features of Chinese literature.

*"King Gesar"*

The first three volumes of *King Gesar*, a Tibetan epic amounting to 1.6 million lines, have recently been published by the Tibet People's Publishing House. This story was orally handed down from generation to generation since the 11th century and its only recorded forms were hand-written manuscripts and woodblock versions.

Gesar, child of a herdsman, was well versed in letters and the martial arts. After he became king, he repeatedly led his people in repelling invasions and prevented his state from being conquered. According to the legend, the king was a hero who shared weal and woe with the people and also a celestial being with a supernatural power who could kill ghosts and overpower demons and monsters.

Gesar's moral character and physical strength reflect the aspirations which the Tibetans developed in their battles against nature and other peo-

ples. This masterpiece records their struggle, love, adventure and philosophy. It provides insights into ancient Tibetan society by portraying the social life, moral code and customs of ancient Tibetans.

*"Kerekbatak"*

The first four volumes of *Kerekbatak*, a long literary work of the Kazakh nationality, have been recompiled and published.

*Kerekbatak* is an ancient Kazakh legend of benevolence and punishment. It is said that there was a brave and wise young herdsman named Baketeyar who was sentenced to death by a self-indulgent king. Baketeyar's last request was to tell the king some tales. For 40 days he recounted the history of the Kazakh nationality: the struggles between truth and falsehood, good and evil, beauty and ugliness. These epic tales were passed down orally and almost every Kazakh knew them.

In the late 18th century, a Kazakh poet and singer Januzak adapted these tales into long poems each with 5,000 lines. Compiled in 40 volumes, the verses are either for reading or to be sung accompanied by a string instrument. Unfortunately, his original work is lost. The present *Kerekbatak* was recollected and re-edited by writer and poet Halem in 1979.

The Kazakh nationality which lives mainly in Xinjiang has a rich folk literature. In recent years, its literature has developed rapidly. Novels, poems and songs by professional writers and folk tales have been printed. A Kazakh language publishing house whose publications include the periodicals

Grass and Dawn has been established in Xinjiang.

## SPORTS

### 6th Asian Table Tennis Championships

China swept all seven titles at the Sixth Asian Table Tennis Championships held in Jakarta, Indonesia, just as they did two years ago at the previous championships in India. Chinese players also placed second in five of these events. The championships closed on June 3 after 11 days of keenly contested matches.

In the team events, the Chinese men's and women's teams beat their Japanese opponents 5:0 and 3:0 respectively. Both the Japanese teams finished second, and the teams of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea came third.

Cai Zhenhua captured the men's singles by beating his countryman Xie Saike 3:2; Xie, the men's singles runner-up of the previous championships, again came in second. Another Chinese player, Guo Yuehua, finished third together with Kiyoshi Saito of Japan.

Showing a good form in the women's singles finals, Cao Yanhua defeated the world champion Tong Ling 3:1. Huang Junqun of China and Kim Gyong Sun of the DPRK were in the third place.

Guo Yuehua/Xie Saike won the men's doubles after beating team-mates Cai Zhenhua/Jiang Jialiang 3:0. The third place went to Japan's Masahiro Maehara/Hiroyuki Abe and Xianggang's Chiu Man Kuen/Vong Iu Veng.

Cao Yanhua/Huang Junqun defeated another Chinese pair Tong Ling/Li Chunli 3:0 in the women's doubles finals. This placed the latter in the second place. DPRK's Kim Gyong Sun/Bung Chun Duk and Japan's Yoshiko Shimauchi/Keiko Yamashita finished third.

Jiang Jialiang/Tong Ling routed Guo Yuehua/Li Chunli 3:0 and captured the title of mixed doubles. Guo Yuehua/Li Chunli were the runners-up. China's another two pairs, Cai Zhenhua/Cao Yanhua and Xie Saike/Huang Junqun, placed third.

About 150 athletes from 21 countries and regions took part in the championships.

## BOOKS

### Paris Commune as A Chinese Saw It

My Visit to France With an Imperial Envoy (in Chinese),

《随使法国记(三述奇)》

Author: Zhang Deyi,

Published by the Hunan People's Publishing House,

Distributed by the Hunan Xinhua Bookstore,

Price: (paperback) RMB 0.89 yuan.



Portrait of the author Zhang Deyi, found with the manuscript.

No Chinese, it had been assumed, saw the action of the Paris Commune, nor gave a first-hand account of it. The authenticity of this assumption went unchallenged in many years. Ten years ago, in remembering the centenary of the Commune, this point was repeated in some foreign historians' lectures and essays.

Facts, however, have proved it untrue. The manuscript of *My Visit to France With an Imperial Envoy*, discovered only recently, was precisely a ring-side account of the heroic Paris Commune by a visiting Chinese.



Cao Yanhua (far right) congratulated by Indonesian ping-pong fans after winning the women's singles champion.



Zhang Deyi, the author, was 23 when he visited France in 1871 as the interpreter for Chong Hou — the Qing court's minister in charge of foreign trade in Tianjin, Niuzhuang and Dengzhou and vice-minister of war — on an imperial mission to Europe. On March 17 that year, the eve of the birth of the Paris Commune, he was sent by Chong Hou from Bordeaux, then the seat of the French Foreign Ministry, to Paris to rent a house for the Chinese delegation. When the slogan "Vive la Commune!" resounded throughout Paris, he found himself amidst an epoch-making event.

Everywhere he went in Paris, he saw public notices signed by the French government leader Adolphe Thiers and his ministers calling for disbanding the Parisians' armed force.

Vividly, he wrote: "When the government troops entered the city, they met with armed resistance from the rebelling Parisians. A government general ordered his men to open fire, but they refused to comply and pointed their rifles backwards. The general had no alternative but to call off the battle, only to be doggedly chased by the rebels. Dozens of soldiers were killed and two officers, Lecomte and Phomas by name, were taken prisoner and shot to death." The Thiers government ended in utter defeat and the people who rose up in arms controlled the city.

"It was said that last night thousands of rebels gathered around the Victory Column at the Vendome Square to the left of the royal palace," he wrote in his March 19 diary. "Vehemently, they threatened that their men would replace ranking officials of the ministers of personnel affairs and national defence, and replace all the generals, the commander of

the Paris garrison and judicial officials. Scared, the officials fled to Versailles, leaving Paris leaderless. The rebels ruled the city and the government troops turned their weapons upside-down to show that they harboured no hostility." These lines reflected the fact that the proletariat in Paris had seized government power.

The same diary described the fierce battle of Paris that ensued: "The whole city found itself under a hail of bullets." The frenzied shelling by the counter-revolutionaries left Paris "shrouded in thick smoke and fire; it seemed that thousands of buildings had caught fire." The indomitable Paris Commune soldiers "built up barricades on piles of wheels, stones and timber." Waving red flags and singing *La Marseillaise*, they fought the maddened enemy with a vengeance.

The commune members lost the battle. Then came mass arrests and massacre. "By three o'clock in the afternoon, about 1,200 Parisians who were taken prisoner were marched through the street, including two lines of women. Their clothes were torn and their faces blackened with dirt, but their eyes flashed with heroism."

"Some 2,500 more prisoners were paraded along the street, some smoking cigarettes and the others singing. Though they were arrested they showed no signs of fear." "More than 100 of them were women. They wore prisoners' clothes but looked undaunted." Shouting "Vive la Commune!" they faced death with a moving calmness.

Judging from the historic data it provides, *My Visit to France With an Imperial Envoy* is an authentic historical account of the Paris Commune. Talking about Lissagaray's *History of*

*the 1871 Paris Commune*, Marx said: "This will be the first authentic history of the commune. L[issagaray] has not only used all the printed sources but also possesses materials inaccessible to others, not to mention the fact that he has been an eyewitness of most of the events he depicts." (*A Letter to Wilhelm Bracke, Collected Works of Marx and Engels*, German edition, Vol. 34, p. 205.) It goes without saying that Lissagaray, both a Frenchman and a participant, was in a better position to write about the Commune. But, with first-hand knowledge about the event and a faithful way of recounting it, Zhang Deyi's book is of no small value.

His book also shows the profound influence of heroism displayed by those who fought for the Commune on a young Chinese from a feudal society.

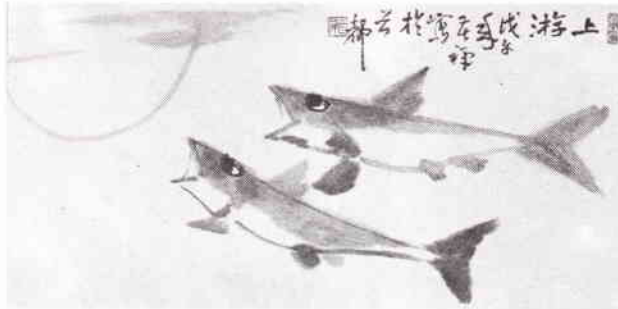
Priceless though the book is, it had fallen into oblivion for well over a century. After liberation in 1949, the author's descendants contributed the manuscript to the Beijing Library, which subsequently stored it in one of its branches, the Bailinshi Library. It lay there untouched until 1980, when editors from the Hunan People's Publishing House came in search of materials needed for its *Into the World* series. With the help of the Beijing Library staff, they finally brought the manuscript to light.

As an imperial interpreter, Zhang Deyi repeatedly visited foreign countries with Qing court dignities. This enabled him to write down what he saw abroad. His writings include eight travelogues which run to more than one million words. The first volume is entitled *Travelling on the Sea. My Visit to France With an Imperial Envoy* is the third.

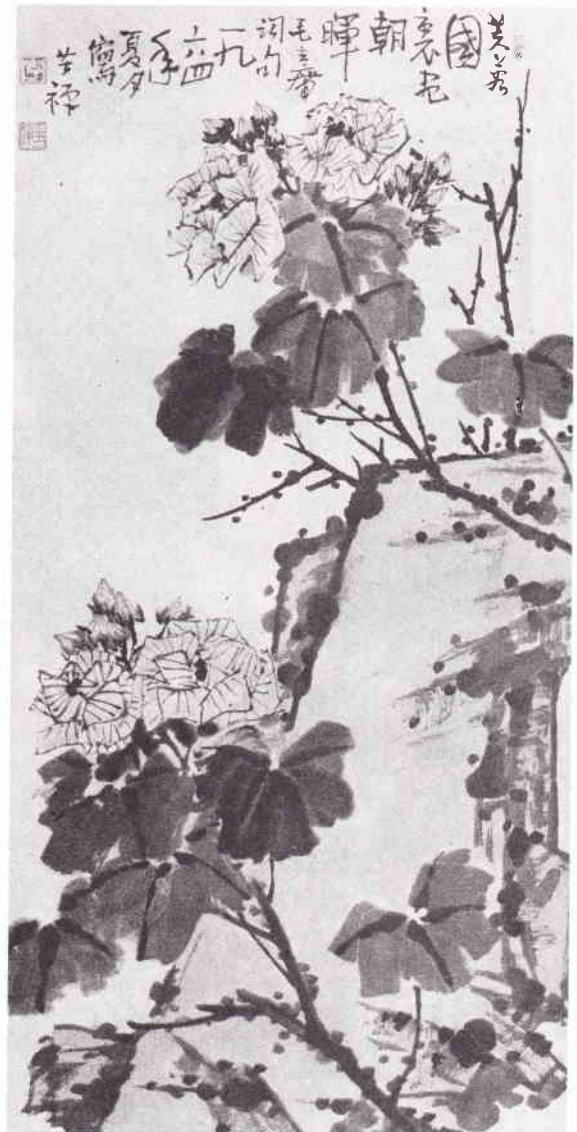
## *Li Kuchan's Traditional Chinese Paintings*

Li Kuchan, born in 1898 in Shandong Province's Gaotang County, is now a professor at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing.

He is noted for the freehand brushwork in his flower and bird paintings. His works express fresh ideas in varied presentations with bold, vigorous strokes.



Surging Ahead.



Cottonrose Hibiscus in Blossom.

Water Birds.

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