

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF NEWS AND VIEWS

Beijing Review

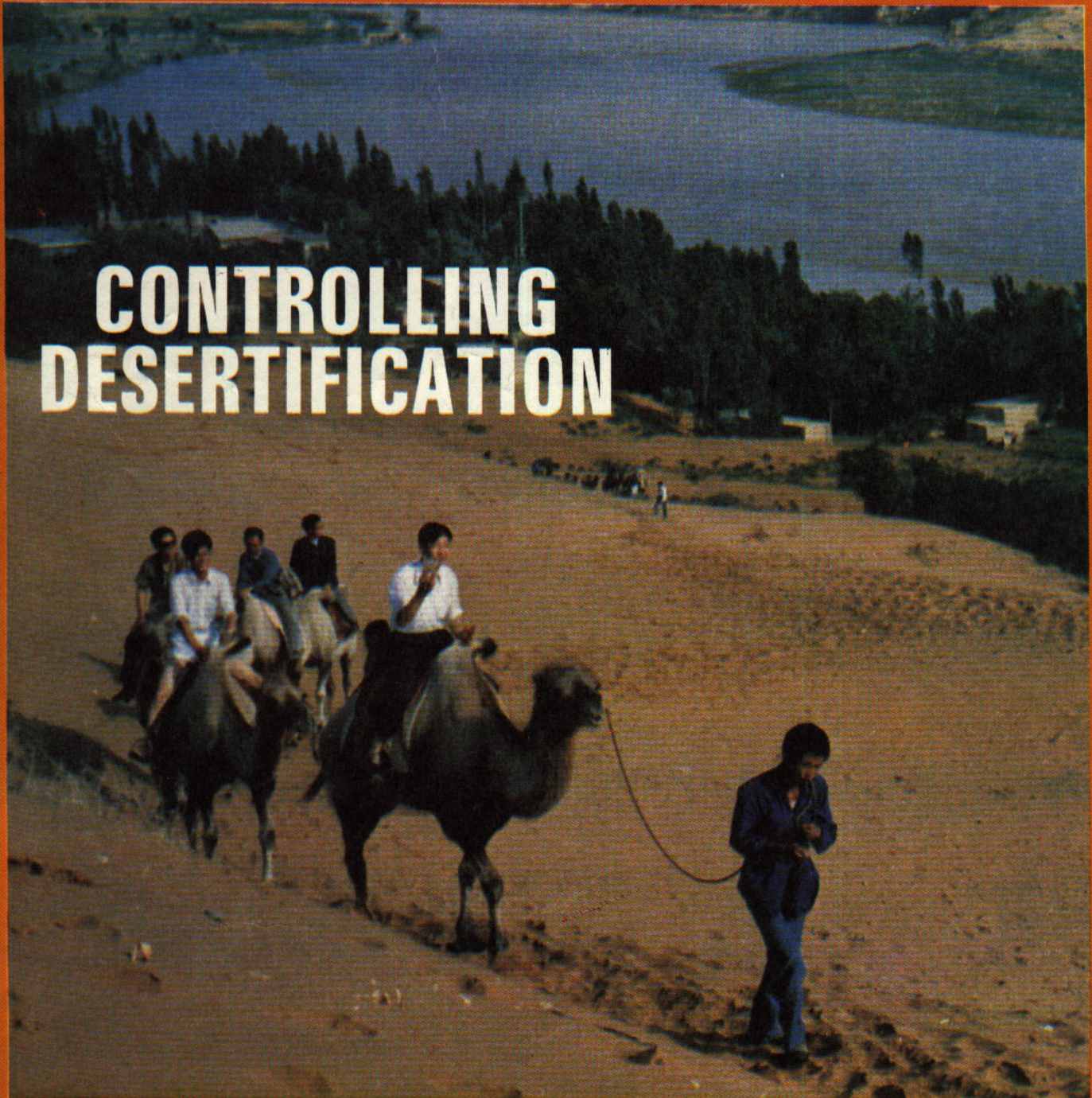
北京周報

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Important Force to Safeguard Peace

CONTROLLING DESERTIFICATION





Children Cheering the Spring Rain.

Cui Xinyi (girl, 9)

A Barbecue.

Zhang Zengang (boy, 11)





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COVER: A forest belt on both banks of the Huanghe River in Ningxia helping to halt desertification.

Chen Siyu

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK



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Mankind Will Surely Achieve Peace

■ While in Poland and the German Democratic Republic, the first two legs of his Eastern Europe tour, Premier Zhao Ziyang expressed appreciation for the two countries' unremitting efforts to promote detente and dialogue in their region and the world. He also said differences in policies and in views on certain issues between China and East European socialist nations should not become obstacles to the development of their friendship and co-operation (p. 14).

Bureaucrat Fired for Forest Fire

■ The devastating forest fire in northeast China has been eliminated after a 25-day struggle. At a plenary meeting of the State Council to summarize the battle, the forestry minister was dismissed from his post (p. 7).

The Preliminary Stage of Socialism

■ According to Marxism, communism consists of two stages. Socialism—the preliminary stage—takes a long time. From 1949 to 1978 China failed to comprehend this and pursued many impetuous policies setting back socialist construction. After learning its lessons, the Party has adopted the correct policies of reform, opening up and economic invigoration while continuing to combat bourgeois liberalization during this preliminary stage (p. 4).

Chinese Leaders on the Food Problem

■ At the recent 13th Session of the World Food Council in Beijing, Acting Premier Wan Li said the solution to the world food problem lies in national economic and social advancement, the establishment of an equitable and rational international economic order and in the maintenance of a peaceful and stable international environment (p. 16). He Kang, minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery and head of the Chinese delegation, discussed the formulation of an overall, long-term consistent food strategy in light of each country's actual circumstances (p. 16).

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Preliminary Stage of Socialism

by Dai Yannan

China is now in the preliminary stage of socialism" is the premise on the basis of which China's current policies are drawn up. This theoretical premise is an important one conforming with the development of China's society. It has far-reaching influence, because only when we have a correct understanding of China's basic conditions, can we work out appropriate policies. It is the fruit of Marxist analysis.

Marxism holds that communism consists of preliminary and more advanced stages. The preliminary stage is socialism, which itself divides into stages. Of course, before socialist societies existed or accumulated sufficient experience, Marxist writers could not make exact predictions about socialism's stages and their characteristics or how long each stage may last. This becomes clear only with time.

Through China's own practice and experience, both positive and negative, Chinese theoreticians believe they have come to some understanding of the preliminary stage of socialism.

From the founding of the People's Republic in 1949 to 1978, China failed to comprehend the need for a fairly long preliminary stage of socialism. So many impetuous policies were pursued. The result was "more haste, less speed," causing setbacks to socialist construction. In 1981 reviewing this experience, the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party passed the Resolution on Certain Questions in the History of Our Party Since the Founding of the People's Republic of China. This docu-

ment, for the first time, set forth the thesis that China is still in the preliminary stage of socialism.

After the socialist transformation of agriculture, handicrafts and capitalist industry and commerce was basically completed in 1956, China became a socialist society—in its preliminary stage. This stage has not passed in just a dozen or so years as was at first thought. It now seems that, even counting from now, it will last several decades.

It seems that counting from now this preliminary socialist stage will last several decades and so will the policies appropriate to it.

China made the change into a socialist society from a semi-feudal and semi-colonial society. That is, it missed the stage of independent capitalist development. Productivity in the country is thus still low, its commodity economy is underdeveloped, so are its education and culture. Without higher productivity, a fully developed commodity economy and socialist ideological consciousness, the building of developed socialism is impossible.

Before 1978, however, China restricted the growth of a

commodity economy and this hindered socialist construction. In the last few years, great efforts have been made to develop the commodity economy, notable results have been achieved. But it is important to make clear that the commodity economy within socialism is based on the predominance of public ownership, distinguishing it clearly from the capitalist commodity economy.

In the preliminary stage of socialism, while keeping to the dominance of public ownership (including state- and collective-owned sectors), China is now developing the domestic private sector and other economic sectors (including Sino-foreign joint ventures and wholly foreign-owned enterprises). The latter are regarded as necessary supplements to the former. Many years ago, individual businesses and farmers' private plots were eliminated in what was called cutting off the "capitalist tails." A single form of ownership was pursued and an unduly hasty transition was effected from collective ownership to state ownership. All this was divorced from China's reality.

In distribution, in the preliminary stage of socialism, "to each according to his work" and more pay for more work should be the basic principle. Absolute egalitarian distribution is not suited to this stage and ought not to have been instituted. In addition, we now believe that diverse forms of distribution should be allowed, including some non-labour income. Some people should be permitted to prosper earlier than others. Of course, excessive



personal income gaps should be avoided, by taxation and other means.

The aim of the reform of China's economic structure is to bring it in line with China's real needs. Given China's present conditions, it is, moreover, necessary to open up to the outside world, to import advanced technology and management expertise and achieve modernization.

Socialist ideology has become dominant throughout the society, but people's thought cannot be all pure and the influence of bourgeois ideas will continue. "Complete Westernization" as advocated by a few persons is an outstanding example of these corrosive ideas. Combating bourgeois liberalization — by which we mean abandonment of or opposition to the socialist orientation — is another important task in China's preliminary stage of socialism.

Chinese leaders have recently stressed that while combating bourgeois liberalization, it is necessary to persist in structural reform. In invigorating the domestic economy and opening to the outside world, current basic policies will remain unchanged. This is because these policies conform with China's reality during this preliminary stage of socialism. This stage will be a long-term one. So these policies, which are correct and supported by the people, will naturally also remain long unaltered. ■

Zhao in Poland: Mission Accomplished

I have achieved my aims in coming here," declared Zhao Ziyang, acting general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party and Premier of the State Council. He made the remark on the eve of his departure from Warsaw.

Zhao has just completed a five-day official visit to Poland. (June 4-8), the first leg of his mission to five East European socialist states. The next stop was the German Democratic Republic (GDR).

The Chinese leader had said he hoped his mission would help promote understanding, strengthen mutual trust and cooperation and uphold peace. He emphasized that China attaches great importance to its relations with Poland and other East European states, and respects the domestic and foreign policies they pursue in accordance with their own conditions.

The visit by Zhao the first top Chinese Party-Government leader to come to Warsaw — was the culmination of recent improvements in Sino-Polish relations.

After decades of estrangement, contacts began to pick up in the early 1980s. The working visit to Beijing last September by Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of the Polish United Workers Party and chairman of Polish Council of State, following many lower-level exchanges, restored inter-party ties and gave added impetus to the normalization process. While in Warsaw Zhao had two sessions of talks with Jaruzelski. Socialist construction, economic and political structural reforms, and the international situation were among the topics discussed.

Zhao praised Poland's contribution to the maintenance of European and world peace, and its efforts to ease tensions, achieve disarmament and promote dialogue between Eastern and Western Europe. Jaruzelski expressed appreciation for China's pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and for its support for a nuclear-free zone in the South Pacific. As informed sources here noted, the two leaders found that

Zhao and Jaruzelski toast for friendship.



though conditions in their respective countries differ, they face many similar problems in the process of socialist construction. As their line of thinking about reforms was pretty close in some respects, they had a common language. So they found increased contact and exchanges of experience to be quite useful.

Zhao also met Zbigniew Messner, chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers, for talks during which they briefed each other on the reforms in their countries. Both sides expressed a wish for further expansion of economic, trade, scientific and technological ties, and pledged to explore new forms and channels to achieve this. Transfer of technology, retooling of outdated equipment in factories and joint ventures were considered. The Sino-Polish Shipping Company, formed in the early 1950s, provides ocean transport between China and Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. Informed sources also noted that since a 10-year bilateral agreement on economic and technical co-operation had already been signed in 1984, and a trade agreement (1986-90) in 1985, no new accords were concluded in these areas. However, an agreement on legal assistance was signed.

Trade turnover between the two countries rose sharply in recent years, and reached 1.5 billion Swiss Francs in 1986, about seven times the 1981 figure. Chinese tea, rice and traditional and light industrial goods are available in Warsaw's stores, while Polish machinery, instruments and steel are sold to China. The Polish car Polonez can be found on Beijing's streets.

Cultural exchanges are also on the rise. A group of Chinese scientists is now visiting Poland, while a publishing delegation has just left. At Warsaw University, a sinology faculty is training a growing number of scholars specializing in Language and affairs.

Polish interest in China grew notably in recent years. The Polish-Chinese Friendship Association, which conducts lectures on Chinese culture and recent developments and runs Chinese classes, is quite active. It now boasts some 2000 members, said its president, Edward Grzywa. Among them are many writers, professors and government officials, the latest being a vice-premier and concurrently chairman of the state planning commission. The association recently signed a co-operation agreement with its Chinese counterpart and expects further expansion following Zhao's visit.

Rainy weather prevailed while Zhao was in Warsaw, but this didn't prevent him from laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and visiting the old town and royal palace. Warsaw, with its many beautiful parks, palaces and museums, was completely reconstructed after being razed to the ground by the Nazi invaders during the Second World War. Zhao was deeply impressed by the indomitable spirit displayed by the Polish people and praised their achievements in recent years—stabilizing the social and political situation, overcoming economic difficulties and pursuing reforms.

The Polish side also expressed deep satisfaction with the bilateral talks. Jaruzelski said Zhao's visit opened a new chapter in Polish-Chinese relations. The Polish media gave prominent coverage to the visit.

Zhao arrived at GDR on June 8, where he stayed for four days.

by Lin Wusun,
Our Special Correspondent

On-Campus Dialogue After Protests

Q: Did those students who took to the street in demonstrations last winter practise bourgeois liberalization?

A: Bourgeois liberalization has its

own definition, that is, to oppose the four cardinal principles (socialist road, the people's democratic dictatorship, the Party's leadership, Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought), to negate the socialist system and advocate capitalism. So, we can't say that all the protestors went in for bourgeois liberalization, but they were obviously affected by that liberalization.

Q: Have those who led the demonstrations come to an end in their political lives?

A: Well, even God allows young people to make mistakes. You are young and allowed to make mistakes. You are welcome to correct your mistakes. It's OK once you correct them. It's up to you to make your own way in the future. How could you say "come to an end?"

Q: Last winter when the protests happened, the state used all the mass media and mobilized the whole society to criticize the students, what do you think about that?

A: When you got carried away, your elders and brothers were asked to pour cold water on you, it's nothing but to calm you. If we said you were perfect, it's not true. It's good for your growth to point out your problems based on facts. You should understand the critics' good intentions....

These are excerpts from the dialogue between some students at China University of Science and Technology (CUST) and Liu Ji, deputy secretary of the CUST Party Committee and the leader of the university's Student Guidance Panel. CUST, which is located in Hefei, the capital of Anhui Province, was one of the schools which took the lead in last winter's student demonstrations.

Now, several months after the upheaval, students as well as the authorities and educators are rethinking the events—their causes, results and social consequences. More importantly, the reassessment is leading many

school administrators and students to the more profound point—what's wrong with education, especially at the college level? In other words, how can ideological work in the schools be improved? Ignoring the problems, preaching sermons and even suppression are not the answer. Teachers are looking for ways to understand rather than prejudge, to instruct rather than tame their students—to be students' friends as well as teachers, as one professor said. People on many campuses found that dialogue between students and teachers and administrators is an effective way to improve education.

Liu Ji is one educator who is good at dialogue. Some students may not agree what he says, but they appreciate the way he handles the discussion.

At Beijing University (BU), administrators have adopted a similar method of ideological work, but they don't call it "dialogue."

"We don't like the word 'dialogue,'" said Peng Xingye, deputy secretary of the Communist Youth League Committee of BU. "Dialogue sounds like two opposite sides negotiating. We and the students are not on opposite sides at all. We are from the same family. We prefer the word 'communication.' For a time, there has been a gap between the students and the authorities, and between the educating and educated, and even among the students themselves. We need communication to narrow that gap and to throw off the shadow of misunderstanding," Peng said. He added that an educator should listen to his students and understand them before he instructs them.

The Communist Youth League is the organization of ideologically advanced young people. It provides help and reserves for the Party. In China, the majority of the college students are Youth League members. Being a deputy secretary of the League Commit-

tee, Peng mainly deals with students. To communicate with the students at BU, Zhu Shanlu, the secretary of the League Committee, has held about 80 seminars and lectures so far this year, and Peng himself about 50.

At the same time, the Youth League Committee sponsored a series of lectures, given by famous professors and experts. The lectures were not the usual one-direction speech—the students were free to discuss and even debate with the lecturers. The subjects discussed ranged from student protest to economic reform, from love and marriage to young people's historic commitment, from western democracy to China's modernization; the lecturers also addressed anything else the students were concerned about.

In Shanghai, Fudan university holds University Leaders Forums and Professors Forums, similar to those at BU.

At BU, communication on campus has contributed to understanding between the students and administrators as well as professors. Some students appreciate the communication and hope they can talk to the highest authorities directly.

Many students, however, think it's more important to go down to the lowest level—factories, villages and remote areas. Some people have said that those who were impatient about the process of China's modernization and democracy, and appealed to protest were too idealistic and pedantic to understand China—its situation, tradition and people. It is said that before the demonstrations last winter, some graduate students, who are supposed to be more realistic and experienced, tried to persuade the would-be protestors, mostly younger undergraduates, not to demonstrate. Senior students thought the protest would be a stupid action, which could contribute nothing to China's reform and democratic process.

"I wish that we could complete the democratic process overnight," said a student. "However, you've got to recognize that in a country with so many illiterate people, with such unbalanced economic development and most seriously, such deeply rooted remnants of feudalism, an ideal democratic system doesn't work, absolutely not," he said.

Peng said students need to know more about society before they give their prescription to cure its social and economic ills. He cited one student's conclusion after a grass-roots investigation: "The lower the level you go down, the more you understand Deng's programme."

Peng said the League Committee has organized many student volunteers to study the workings of society and more and more students are interested in participating.

by Li Haibo

Fire Put Out In Northeast Forest

The worst forest fire in the past 40 years, which raged in the Daxingan Mountains (Greater Hinggan Mts.) from May 6 until June 2, has been brought under control. The fire-fighting frontline headquarters said on June 4 that the final victory was due to the braveness of 50,000 fire fighters and timely rain on June 2. All the surface and hidden fires appear to have been stamped out. But some 3,000 PLA soldiers and forest rangers stayed to help residents rebuild their homes, restore production and prevent any rekindling.

The fire fighters combined modern and traditional techniques in fighting the blaze. Forest rangers, equipped with 3,600 pneumatic extinguishers and carried by helicopters, were the crack force in the battle. After they had put out the surface blazes, others, mostly PLA men, came to eliminate hidden fires, clear away

combustibles and keep a watch on the ravaged area. Manmade rain also helped in the battle.

Traditional methods, such as burning a fire belt before the arrival of a blaze and clearing firebreaks, were widely used in the fight. A 900-kilometre-long fire-break efficiently blocked the fire's advance from all sides.

The fire burned an area of 1.01 million hectares, of which nearly 70 percent is forest. The blaze also destroyed houses totalling 614,000 square metres in floor space, including 400,000 square metres of residential housing. Also destroyed were five timber yards and nine tree farms, where 855,000 cubic metres of timber were burned. More than 50,000 people were left homeless, 193 were killed and 226 injured.

At the plenary meeting of the State Council on June 6 the Minister of Forestry, Yang Zhong, was dismissed from his post. "The fire fully revealed serious bureaucratic mismanagement on the part of leading officials of the ministry," said Wan Li, who is acting premier while Premier Zhao Ziyang is touring East Europe.

He reaffirmed the need for strict supervision over officials and for adhering to the principle of democratic centralism. "Bureauc-

rats must not be allowed to shield one another," he warned.

A decision made at the meeting urged the Forestry Ministry and fire-fighting command to further investigate the responsibilities of other personnel.

Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun said at the meeting that the Chinese government and people are grateful to the friendly countries and international organizations that provided support during the fire. He said many of them extended sympathy to the people in the disaster area and sent funds and materials. Hong Kong compatriots and authorities showed great concern about the disaster and donated a large amount of materials.

According to a spokesman for the Forestry Ministry, donations from other parts of China and abroad for the victims including relief funds and materials, have all been forwarded to the disaster-stricken area. He said the ministry has received US\$4.82 million in aid from dozen or so countries and seven international organizations.

The Daxingan Mountain area—stretching from north-western Heilongjiang Province to the eastern part of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region—is known as one of China's "green

treasure houses." It boasts 13 million hectares of forest, with timber reserve totalling 1.2 billion cubic metres.

But the coniferous and evergreen broadleaf forest is an ideal fuel bed in hot and windy weather with its thick spread of bushes and dry branches and leaves.

The five fire spots that broke out on May 6, however, were mainly caused by human carelessness. Reports say cigarette smoking and an oil leak from scrub-cutting machines may have been responsible.

A Canadian expert on forest fire detection, who is in the Daxingan area on a co-operation contract, attributed the devastation to poor fire-detection methods. He suggested that China spend more money on the technology and equipment. "It could save the losses otherwise caused by fires," he said.

SIAF '87: Festival Of Art & Friendship

Once again since last week Shanghaianders have been thrown into ecstasies of art and friendship, which is the keynote of the ongoing Shanghai International Art Festival (SIAF), a follow-up of the Shanghai International TV Festival held just half a year ago.

The festival was declared open on May 31, on which the traditional Duanwu, or the Dragon Boat Festival, of this year fell. The opening ceremony was held at the gigantic Shanghai Stadium in the southwestern part of the city, just opposite the giant Shanghai Sheraton hotel. The ceremony was presided over by Liu Nianqu, art inspector in chief and secretary general of the organizing committee of the SIAF, who is also a deputy director of the Shanghai Bureau of

Middle-school students, evacuated as fire raged in Mohe County, Heilongjiang Province, have returned to their class.

ZHOU QUE



Culture. Present at the rostrum were Party and government leaders of the Shanghai Municipality, including Mayor Jiang Zemin. Distinguished guests from Japan and the United States were also invited to the rostrum.

Vice Mayor Liu Zhengyuan, as chairman of the SIAF Organizing Committee, delivered an opening speech to a capacity audience of 18,000. Liu said that SIAF itself spoke volumes for the fact that China's policy of "reform and opening to the outside world"—not only in the economic field but in the field of culture as well—would remain unchanged. Fang Jie, director of the Bureau of Art under the Ministry of Culture, who came all the way from Beijing, also took the floor as the representative of the ministry. He disclosed that another international cultural event of this kind, the First China International Art Festival sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, would be held in Beijing in September.

Following the ceremony, there was a lion dance on ice. The audience watched spellbound the performances by "superstars on ice"—skating dancers from the United States, Canada and Australia. This was the first time that a Shanghai audience watched live such marvellous performances on an ice skating rink, in their own stadium, on an early summer day.

During the festival, altogether 25 different performances will be presented, including concerts, ice dancing, local operas, ballet, magic, dance dramas and plays, to be given by nearly 700 artists from Australia, Canada, Japan, Mexico, Poland, the United States, the Soviet Union, Hong Kong and Shanghai. SIAF is also the sponsor of five exhibitions—exhibitions of works of art, ancient jade and bronze carvings and bronze ware, stage art, peasant paintings and folk art.

The curtain of the festival will not fall until June 17.

by Dai Gang

Weekly Chronicle (June 1-7)

POLITICAL

June 4

■ Vice-Premier Wan Li will be acting premier and Hu Qili, a member of the political bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, will preside over the meetings of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee during Zhao Ziyang's absence for a visit to Eastern Europe, Xinhua reports.

June 5

■ Zheng Tianxiang, president of the Supreme People's Court, says at a working meeting that the current task of the courts at all levels is to continue to firmly carry out the policy of heavy penalties for criminals. Those who have done serious harm to society will be severely punished without delay, according to law. Economic criminals involved in serious cases will also be punished heavily.

ECONOMIC

June 1

■ A top official of the government of the Tibetan Autonomous Region says the regional government has recently published new regulations offering extremely favourable terms to both Chinese and foreign potential investors.

June 2

■ Since the beginning of this year, China's foreign trade has expanded. By the end of April, foreign exchange earned from exports had reached US\$11.1 billion, a 43.2 percent increase from the same period last year, *Jingji Ribao* (the Economic Daily) reports.

June 3

■ A fourth round of price cuts has been made by China's manufacturers of wristwatches in a bid to promote sales. Prices

dropped by as much as 28.5 percent, the *Beijing Ribao* (Beijing Daily) reports.

June 3

■ The Shanghai economic zone has set up a machine tool group, the largest in the country, in Shanghai, consisting of 97 machine tool manufacturers from the city and five provinces in east China.

CULTURAL

June 3

■ New findings have been made in research on the cell ageing process by the medical science researchers of the People's Liberation Army.

Experts say the discovery will open new perspectives in research on retarding human ageing, *Renmin Ribao* (the People's Daily) reports.

June 4

■ Scientists at the Northeast China University of Forestry are studying the recent fire in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province.

The researchers are investigating the causes of the fire, and are working out a reforestation plan.

SOCIAL

June 3

■ China's first social welfare lottery committee has been set up in Beijing. It will collect funds for social welfare by selling lottery tickets to individuals and organizations. A ticket will cost one yuan. Of the money collected, 35 percent will go to prize-winners and about 10 out of every 100 ticket holders will win.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

June 5

■ China and Britain sign in Beijing an agreement on the "Final and Comprehensive Settlement of all Their Historical Property Claims."

SOUTH KOREA

Protest Against Dictatorship

Under the pressure of student protests and the opposition parties, the South Korean cabinet resigned on May 26 thus assuming moral responsibility for the death under torture of a dissident student.

On May 26, President Chun Du Hwan accepted the resignation of the 22-man Iho Shin Young cabinet, naming Lee Han Key as South Korean prime minister to replace Iho and appointing seven new cabinet members.

The media in South Korea said the firing of Iho and others was aimed at quelling public anger over the cover-up of the killing of student Park Chong Chul, who died while being interrogated by police in January, thus stabilizing Chun's rule and paving the way for his party's continued domination of South Korea.

Park was arrested at an anti-government, pro-democracy student demonstration in early January and was tortured to death by policemen on January 14. On January 20, Chun Du Hwan fired the former Interior Minister, Chung Ho Yong, in an attempt to

calm the wave of protest that followed the incident. But recently, the opposition parties and students started another anti-government upsurge, commemorating a bloody 1980 uprising in Kwangju, in the south of South Korea.

More than 7,400 students at 24 universities and colleges across the country took part in the protests against the cover-up of Park's death. They demanded the removal of the Chun government, which they said was responsible for the death and the subsequent cover-up. "Down with the military dictatorship" and "Down with the brutal police," they chanted. More than 1,000 policemen used tear gas to disperse them.

Meanwhile, 68 opposition lawmakers, including Kim Young Sam, president of South Korea's main opposition group,

the Reunification Democratic Party, issued a joint statement saying the government had forfeited its right to exist. In Kwangju, 3,000 church people held a sit-in on May 18, with placards denouncing the United States and South Korean authorities.

The removal of the cabinet was triggered by the killing of Park, but the political causes go deeper. Following the pattern of former President Pak Jung Hi, Chun has been carrying out a policy of suppression first and mollification second in his dealings with student movement and opposition parties. These groups seek to transform the present conditions and gain social and political democracy. In recent years, opposition parties and the ruling party led by Chun have been struggling over the question of constitutional reform. Opposition parties favour direct election to the presidency to end the dictatorship, while the ruling Democratic Justice Party supports "cabinet responsibility" which can ensure it a long rule. This year, popular support for constitutional reform has been growing. But on April 13, Chun decided to put off a planned constitutional reform, making an about-face from a promise to reform the constitution through consultations made by the ruling party to the opposition. This shows that the ruling party still clings to its ambition to retain power through the present constitution.

Chun has consistently employed the tactics of shuffling the cabinet to stabilize the turbulent situation and divert attention from his despotic rule. According to incomplete statistics, in six years, he has revamped the cabinet at least 20 times and replaced the prime minister six times. The new cabinet members are all supporters of Chun Du Hwan and trusted by him. It is no exception this time. Lee Han Key, the newly appointed prime minister, declared he would continue to

Policemen using tear gas to disperse students



implement Chun's political policies.

The South Korean people are enthusiastically pursuing the struggle for democracy and against the Chun dictatorship. In a special mass, cardinal Kim Su Hwan said, "Only democratic reform could heal the wound left

by the Kwangju incident." He warned that "hatred for the United States and South Korean authorities is deepening," creating conditions for another Kwangju. This indicates that the unrest in South Korea will not be calmed by reshuffling the cabinet.

by Xu Baokang

nations. In August 1979, Mauritania renounced its claim to the Saharan territory. Morocco immediately took over the former Mauritanian share of Western Sahara. Guerrilla warfare in Western Sahara has continued sporadically between Morocco and Algeria ever since.

The road to reconciliation between Morocco and Algeria is long and rough. In their previous meeting held four years ago with the help of Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco reached an accord on partly opening their frontiers to each other and resuming air links. They also agreed in principle to re-establish diplomatic relations. But various obstacles prevented the decisions from being carried out.

At present, calls to resolve disputes and step up co-operation are increasingly heard in the Arab world. The exchange of prisoners between Algeria and Morocco is viewed not only as a positive step towards the normalization of relations between the two Arab countries, but also as a reflection of the increasing efforts to improve bilateral and multilateral relations among Arab nations.

by Wang Shifang

ALGERIA-MOROCCO

A Step Towards Reconciliation

The fact that Algeria and Morocco exchanged prisoners of war shows the two countries are beginning to make positive efforts to resolve their conflicts.

On May 25, Algeria and Morocco exchanged 252 prisoners of war—102 Algerians and 150 Moroccan's. The act, warmly welcomed by Arab countries, was hailed as being conducive to the solidarity of Arab nations and to the solution of some serious Arab conflicts, including the problem of Western Sahara.

The exchange of prisoners between Algeria and Morocco is seen as the first substantive achievement of the tripartite summit meeting of Algeria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia held near the Algerian-Moroccan border on May 4. The conference, organized after intensive efforts by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, concentrated on the Algerian-Moroccan dispute over Western Sahara and the normalization of their bilateral relations. Both countries have expressed willingness to continue dialogue aimed at solving their outstanding problems, reaching a peaceful settlement of their disputes and normalizing relations. The Front of the National Liberation of Algeria, the only party recognized in the country's constitution, recently said that military struggle would not lead to peace in Western Sahara: peace can be achieved only through consultations.

Military conflict between Morocco and Algeria has lingered on for 11 years. In February 1976, immediately after Spain formally relinquished control of Western Sahara, Morocco and Mauritania agreed on a division of the territory. Morocco took 170,000 square kilometres in the north and Mauritania 90,000 square kilometres in the south. Algeria opposed the division and broke off diplomatic relations with both

EL SALVADOR

Government Faces Two Tough Years

The forces of left and right in El Salvador are calling for the resignation of President Jose Napoleon Duarte because of his inability to solve the economic, social and military problems in the country.

The Salvadoran government, burdened by measures taken after last October's disastrous earthquake, faces pressure from both guerrillas and the right-wing opposition.

Confrontations between the army and the guerrillas continue in El Salvador, the smallest of the Central American nations but a country where 60,000 lives have been claimed by political violence

since the civil war began in 1979. Since October 1984, three rounds of talks between the government and the guerrillas have broken down after both sides refused to budge. Prospects for a fresh round of talks seem bleak.

To regain "popular support," President Jose Napoleon Duarte unveiled a programme in the city of Sensuntepeque on June 1 containing 50 proposals for

economic and social reform. News of the programme coincided with the third anniversary of his regime.

The president also announced the release of some 98 political prisoners of the Farabundo Marti Front for National Liberation (FMLN) and proposed an amnesty for FMLN fighters, two moves viewed as attempts to give a different tone to the remainder of his term.

However, experts in Latin American politics say the reforms will be difficult to implement and will not improve the image of the Duarte regime.

One of the most loyal allies of the United States in Central America, Duarte's government depends on US aid for existence. It gets at least US\$1.5 million a day in military and economic assistance from the US government. The guerrillas say US aid amounts to US\$700 million a year.

Although it has received US\$2.7 billion from the United States since 1980, El Salvador is going through one of the worst economic and social crises in Latin America. The civil war absorbs almost 50 percent of the national budget while the guerrillas carry out a steady stream of economic sabotage that has cost an estimated US\$1.5 billion since the civil war started.

Moreover, last October's earthquake has pushed El Salvador almost to the brink of bankruptcy. According to a government report, the earthquake wiped out half of San Salvador, killing 1,500 people, injuring 10,000 and leaving another 300,000 homeless. Losses from the disaster stand at US\$1.03 billion.

El Salvador's foreign debt is now US\$2 billion and its principal and interest payment last year totalled US\$450 million.

Inflation in the country has reached 40 percent and the unemployment rate is at 50 percent. Salvadoran labour unions say unemployment and underemployment are even higher

than official figures, ranging from 55 to 70 percent. Enforcement of the new US Simpson-Rodino immigration law is expected to add to El Salvador's economic problems. Some 400,000 of the 750,000 Salvadoran nationals living in the United States are there illegally, US Ambassador to El Salvador Edwin Corr said recently. Salvadorans residing in the United States are estimated to send home between US\$550

million and \$600 million a year, equivalent to 60 percent of El Salvador's revenue from exports. If this source of hard currency dries up, the country's financial situation will worsen.

While the left charges Duarte with selling national sovereignty for US support and says he has exacerbated the conflict, the right too demands his resignation.

by Wu Hulzhong

WARSAW PACT

Pledging to Cut Conventional Forces

The recent Warsaw Pact summit meeting, besides repeating its stand on Euromissiles, proposed to reduce its conventional forces to correct the imbalance between the Warsaw Pact and NATO.

A two-day summit meeting of Warsaw Pact countries ended in Berlin on May 29 without the expected announcement of partial withdrawal of Soviet troops from some East European countries.

The meeting was attended by the heads of member states of the bloc: Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union, Erich Honecker of the German Democratic Republic, Wojciech Jaruzelski of Poland, Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania, Todor Zhivkov of Bulgaria, Gustav Husak of Czechoslovakia, and Janos Kardar of Hungary. It was the 22nd session of the Warsaw Pact since the alliance was established in May 1955.

For months West European countries have been putting heavy pressures on the Soviet Union and its allies to take concrete steps, or make firm promises, to reduce the Warsaw Pact's advantage in arms and troop strength. Otherwise, they claim, Western Europe will be exposed to a dangerous imbalance in conventional forces—estimated at 9:1 currently or 6:1 after the superpowers pull their medium-range missiles off the continent. To strengthen Europe's security, an agreement

on intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) must be linked to a reduction of the Warsaw Pact's conventional forces, the Western countries say.

In the face of Western fears, there had been hints from the Soviet side that the Berlin summit would act to correct this advantage in conventional forces. This raised hopes in the West that the Soviet Union would announce a unilateral partial withdrawal of its troops from Eastern Europe as a further compromise to help win early approval by West European countries of a superpower accord on medium-range missiles.

Yet, according to a communique issued at the end of the meeting, there was little new in the discussions. The communique said the Warsaw Pact military doctrine is of a defensive character, adding, "It starts from the need to keep the balance of military forces at as low a level as possible, and to reduce military potential to the level needed to meet defence requirements." The communique repeated that once an INF agreement is reached with the United States, the Soviet Union will withdraw its INF

from Democratic Germany and Czechoslovakia. The communique also reiterated the pact's commitment to eliminating nuclear missiles in Europe and its proposals for an effective verification system. On the topic of conventional forces, the communique repeated a Warsaw Pact and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) cut their conventional armaments and forces by 25 percent by the early 1990s. As the first step, they should trim their troops by 100,000-150,000 men in the next year or two, according to the Budapest proposal.

But something new did emerge from the meeting. It admitted officially for the first time that there is an imbalance in conventional forces in Europe and said the imbalance should be eliminated by reducing the advantage of the Warsaw Pact rather than increasing the strength of Western troops. The leaders proposed that member countries of the European Security Conference, which includes both Warsaw Pact and NATO countries, meet at the foreign ministerial level to work towards a pact to drastically reduce conventional armaments and forces. The proposal was in response to a recent call by NATO for more military spending to beef up conventional military forces in Europe to counter Warsaw Pact superiority.

To strengthen diplomatic co-operation among the Warsaw Pact nations, the meeting decided to set up a special committee of foreign and defence ministry representatives to exchange views and information on disarmament. This was the only concrete measure adopted at the meeting. The summit also released a document on the military doctrine of the Warsaw Pact. According to the document, the doctrine is to have no more troops and arms than are absolutely necessary for defence and the maintenance of world peace

The Soviet Union, along with its allies, has put forward many proposals and offered repeated compromises in an effort to reach an INF agreement. Experience has shown that one compromise from the East always invited pressure from the West for further compromises. This time, the

Warsaw Pact countries may have tried to stop this cycle by simply awaiting an official reply from Western Europe to Moscow's "double zero option"—the elimination of medium- and short-range nuclear missiles.

by Yuan Rongsheng

PARIS

West Fights Terrorism by Co-operation

Arriving in bullet-proof cars and sitting in a building guarded by 1,000 policemen, top officials from major industrial countries discussed joint efforts to combat terrorism.

An unprecedented nine-nation meeting on terrorism was held on May 28 in Paris, focusing on international co-operation in information, techniques and tactics to combat terrorism. Interior ministers, attorney-generals and police chiefs from the United States, Canada, Britain, Italy, Federal Germany, Denmark, Belgium, Japan and France participated in the meeting and agreed to co-operate more closely in their efforts.

At a press conference after the meeting, French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua said initiatives will be taken in all areas—operations, information exchange and technical assistance. Information networks to monitor terrorism in the Middle East and Europe will be improved. And the attorney-generals of the nine countries will consider enacting special decrees on terrorism to supplement current laws. The participants set up a permanent liaison office and decided to meet again whenever necessary. They will take turns hosting future meetings. The group, called an anti-terrorism club by the Western media, seems to represent the whole Western world.

International co-operation in combating terrorism has been growing in recent years. According to the French minister, information furnished by Italy

and Federal Germany helped dismantle two terrorist networks in France. Aided by France and Spain, Italian police uncovered a group of Red Brigades. And because of an underground electrical probe using equipment developed and provided by the United States, the French police spotted explosives buried at Fontainebleau on May 26.

France, which hosted the meeting, used to treat terrorism with caution out of concern about displeasing some of its traditional allies. France refused to co-operate with the United States Air Force last year when Washington decided to raid Libya, allegedly to punish terrorism. Generally, Paris has preferred bilateral and broader international co-operation in combating terrorism and has opposed a Western role as the world's gendarme.

But despite France's cautious attitude, the country has become one of the main targets of terrorists. Last year and the first half of 1987 have witnessed a series of terrorist attacks, climaxed by the assassination of Georges Besse, Renault's director-general. Recently, a terrorist organization, called the Committee to Support Arab Political Prisoners, active in Europe, threatened to give Paris a "hot" summer, putting the French government under intense pressure.

by Ma Weimin

Eastern Europe: A Major Force for Peace

During his recent visit to Poland and the German Democratic Republic, Zhao Ziyang, acting general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and premier of the State Council, spoke highly of the achievements of the two East European countries in socialist construction and their unremitting efforts to preserve peace in Europe and the world. He also expressed the wish to further develop friendly and co-operative relations in all fields between China and the two countries.

The following are excerpts from Premier Zhao's two major speeches in these two countries.

Zhao's Banquet Speech In Poland (June 4)

This is my first visit to your country. But Poland, as the native land of Nicolaus Copernicus, Madame Curie, Frederic Chopin and Adam Mickiewicz, is not unfamiliar to the Chinese people. And the Polish people's dauntless spirit displayed in winning the independence of their motherland, their heroic deeds in the fight against fascism, and their tremendous achievements in the post-war rehabilitation and reconstruction of their country have long won the Chinese people's admiration. What especially commands our respect and makes us feel happy is that in recent years, when your country met with temporary difficulties, the Polish Party, government and people of all strata united as one. Relying on their own wisdom, courage and strength, they have resolutely adopted effective measures to turn the tide, thus pushing the situation towards stability and bringing social-economic development back on the right track. We believe that under the leadership of the Polish United Workers' Party headed by Comrade Jaruzelski, the Polish people will make even greater achievements in further stabilizing the situation and advancing economic construction.

The present domestic situation in China, both political and economic, is very good. Our People's Republic entered a new historical era beginning with the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China in 1978. Guided by our Party's correct Marxist line, the 1 billion Chinese people are working hard and opening up new paths of our advance and have made world-recognized achievements in socialist construction. We have taken the gratifying first step along the road to turning China into a modern socialist state.

The line followed by our Party since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee is to integrate Marxism with China's realities and build a socialist society with Chinese characteristics in China, a big country. This is a very arduous task, and to complete it not only requires that we Chinese people rely on ourselves and work hard for several generations, but also requires a durable, stable and peaceful international environment, support from the people of all countries in the world and extensive co-operation and exchange with all nations. It is with the sincere desire to further understanding, deepen trust, pro-

mote co-operation and safeguard peace that we have come to visit Poland and other East European socialist countries.

The Chinese people ardently love peace. In international affairs, China persistently follows a foreign policy of independence and peace, considering the preservation of world peace as its obligation and responsibility. Both of us—you in Europe and we in Asia—are fighting for the maintenance of peace. We appreciate the unremitting efforts made by the East European countries in promoting detente and dialogue in Europe and in the world as a whole. We are convinced that through both our efforts and the joint struggle of the world's people, the human race can surely disperse the clouds of war and live under the sun of peace.

Learning from the merits of various countries in their economic construction is an important part of China's policy of opening to the outside world. Poland and the other East European socialist countries all have gained rich and useful experiences in their search for a road of socialist construction suited to their national conditions. We believe that discussions and exchanging experience in this respect with our hosts will benefit

the Chinese people engaged in construction and reforms.

A profound traditional friendship exists between the Chinese people and the peoples of Poland and the other East European socialist countries. The Chinese people will never forget the precious support and help the East European socialist countries have rendered to the Chinese revolution and construction. Although there was a period of estrangement in relations, marked progress has been made, thanks to the joint efforts by both sides in recent years, in all fields of relations between China and Poland. Likewise, our relations of friendship and co-operation with the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria have also resumed and developed. We all feel satisfied and happy with this development. We treasure the progress already made and are willing to extend bilateral relations of friendship and co-operation in an all-round way. Of course, there could be differences between China and East European countries in our domestic and foreign policies, which are formulated according to our specific conditions, and in our views on certain issues. But we maintain that these differences should not become obstacles to the development of friendly and co-operative relations. We are convinced that so long as we show mutual understanding and trust; so long as we follow the principles of mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence in handling state relations; and as long as we handle the inter-party relations in accordance with the principles of independence, complete equality, mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, the friendship and co-operation between us will certainly bear more fruit.

Zhao's Banquet Speech In GDR (June 8)

The German Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of China are two socialist countries born in the same month and the same year. Over the past 38 years, the workers, farmers and intellectuals of the German Democratic Republic, through hard work and diligence, have overcome many difficulties and scored victories one after another in the course of building a new socialist country. By integrating economic and social welfare policies, the GDR has made considerable progress in developing its national economy and improving the living standards of the people, transforming itself into a new agro-industrial country and placing itself in the ranks of the world's economically developed countries. We feel sincere admiration and joy at this.

It is our view that building socialism is an unprecedented course in human history, and that it is the right of the peoples of the socialist countries to choose their own roads to building socialism according to their specific national conditions. While adhering to the principle of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, we fully respect the policies adopted by other socialist countries proceeding from their own conditions and sincerely hope that they will succeed. We are also ready to study conscientiously their experiences and learn from them.

Having experienced the misery and catastrophes caused by wars, the Chinese people treasure peace more than ever before. In order to undertake socialist modernization, we need lasting and stable international peace. China firmly pursues an independent and peaceful foreign policy. We maintain that all the countries in the world, no matter which social systems they choose, should handle their relations in ac-

cordance with the five principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. We shall spare no efforts to oppose the arms race, ease tensions and defend world peace. We are concerned about whether peace and stability can be maintained in Europe, where the military confrontation is more severe and troops and weapons more concentrated than elsewhere in the world. What happens in Europe will have a significant influence on the world situation. The European people who suffered from the two world wars in the past don't want war and strongly desire peace, stability and security in their region. China has always considered Europe, including Eastern and Western Europe, as an important force in preventing war and safeguarding world peace. We have fully understood and appreciated the efforts which the various European countries have made to defuse European tensions and improve the relations between Eastern and Western Europe. We wholeheartedly hope that Eastern and Western Europe will further develop their relations, increase their links and promote co-operation in the interests of peace in the region and in the world as a whole.

We have noted that the parties concerned are discussing arms reduction in Europe to defuse the confrontation. We hope they will achieve results truly favourable to the people of Europe and other countries. The Party and government of Democratic Germany and especially Comrade Honecker himself have made unremitting efforts and major contributions to safeguarding world peace and realizing detente and dialogue in Europe. We believe that through the joint efforts of the peace-loving forces of the world mankind will surely achieve peace. ■

13th Session of World Food Council

The 13th Session of the World Food Council was held between June 8 and 11 in Beijing. Representatives from over 30 member states and other countries and organizations attended the session. The following are excerpts from the speeches made by Wan Li, acting premier of the State Council, and He Kang, minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery.

Speech by Acting Premier Wan Li

In the coming few days, the world food problem on your agenda is a major issue concerning people's lives. The world food problem has historical roots as well as social and economic causes. The current world is perplexed by the paradox that a few grain-producing developed countries possess surpluses while the majority of developing countries suffer food shortages. The essence of the matter lies in unbalanced North-South development. Under the unfavourable international economic situation, many developing countries are earning reduced foreign exchange from their trade and shouldering increasingly heavy debt burdens. These factors, intertwining and interacting with the food problem, have aggravated the urgency of the matter. If no satisfactory solution can be found, they will affect people's livelihood and national and even international stability.

Since the World Food Conference set forth the lofty goal of "eradicating hunger and malnutrition from the earth" within an envisaged period of time, remarkable progress has been achieved in world food production and trade. However, there are still large gaps between developing and developed countries in food production, trade, reserves and consumption. The scourge of hunger and malnutrition continues to run rampant in certain regions of the world, which reminds us that we should

absolutely not slacken our efforts in solving the food problem.

The food problem is not just an isolated economic issue. It is closely linked with many facets of the general social and economic development. Therefore, the final solution of the world food problem lies in the overall national economic and social advancement, in the establishment of an equitable and rational international economic order and in the maintenance of a peaceful and stable international environment. All this calls for our prolonged and strenuous efforts.

The world is endowed with abundant agricultural resources. So long as we develop and rationally use them in light of specific local conditions, we shall not fail to guarantee the needs for mankind's advance. At present, lying ahead is the major obstacle that though developing countries have rich agricultural resources, their food production cannot meet their people's growing consumption needs due to backward farm production. To solve this urgent food problem, developing countries need to attach great importance to food production and develop it by adopting appropriate policies and technical measures to effect equitable distribution and strengthen co-operation among themselves. At the same time, developed countries should help them to accelerate economic development by transferring funds and tech-

nology with favourable terms and introduce wise and fair policies for international trade and finance, with a view to seeking common progress. Without such progress, their own economy will find no way out.

Common development and shared happy life are an ambition cherished by all peoples. I am convinced that with the firm political will of all the governments, and by fully relying on the wisdom and capability of the people, man will be able to materialize the goal of "providing food for everyone."

China is a developing socialist country with a large population. Over the 38 years since the founding the People's Republic, we have always tried to solve the problem of feeding and clothing the population for we consider it a matter of paramount importance. Agriculture is the foundation of national economic development. In developing our national economy, we first launched economic reforms in the rural areas, thereby mobilizing the enthusiasm of hundreds of millions of farmers for production. We put into effect a series of policies concerning prices for farm commodities credit, supply of production means, technical extension and training, which played a useful role in encouraging the farmers to produce more. The state guarantees regular food supply by signing procurement contracts with farmers and

provides planned supply and sales at normal prices. We vigorously exercise family planning in an effort to make population growth keep pace with economic development. In recent years, we have adopted special policies to help the poor and backward areas in developing production and improving circulation so that they will gradually shake off poverty and backwardness. Though we have

basically solved the problem of feeding our 1 billion people, we still lag behind developed countries in production and consumption. As of today, 10 percent of the rural population are still suffering from poverty. In the coming years we shall continue to implement reforms, adhere to the opening policy and reforms, develop the national economy in a planned way, increase food production

and try hard to improve the quality of life for the urban and rural people.

The food-related organizations within the UN system have exerted tremendous efforts in eradicating hunger and malnutrition from the earth. The Chinese Government will as ever support their endeavours and make its due contributions within its capabilities. ■

Speech by Chinese Delegation Head He Kang

As it is plain to everyone, food is man's primary need for life. At the same time, it is an important commodity which circulates on the market. Such a dual nature of food requires that in developing relevant policies and principles, not only should we keep in mind the interests of producers and consumers, but also properly handle the relationship between food production and marketing at home and abroad and between food-related departments and other ones. In doing so, we must have a far-sighted view and formulate an overall, long-term and consistent food strategy in light of actual circumstances, so as to enhance the common cause of eradicating hunger and malnutrition. Now I wish to highlight the following points in connection with the strategy:

First of all, it is necessary to speed up the growth of food production in developing countries. We believe that the development of production constitutes the basis for solving the food problem. Particularly food-deficit developing countries should place the development of food production in a position of strategic importance, fully utilize agricultural and human resources, introduce policies conducive to developing food production and guaranteeing food supply, vigorously popularize existing agrotechnology, effectively increase

agricultural input, accelerate the development of food production and try to improve self-reliance in food. Such an approach will facilitate the establishment of a global economic structure of grains, which can effect equitable supply and is characterized by growing food production, improved quality of products and a generally balanced pattern of supply.

Secondly, we must take an integrated strategic point of view, for food problem is not just an isolated economic issue, but it is closely related to the social and economic development of a given country. In order to find a solution, it is essential to bear in mind the overall interests and solicit substantial support from all sides. We think that to guarantee regular food supply, it is necessary, on the basis of developing production, to adopt measures to promote trade, build up reserves, improve distribution, rationalize consumption and take supplementary social measures such as family planning. In this way, population growth will correspond with the improvement of living standards and food availability. It is also necessary to adopt relevant social welfare measures to guarantee the nutritional need in food for women and children and provide opportunities for disabled persons to

make a living. Such an integrated strategy, based on self-reliance and the specific conditions of respective countries and embodying social economic measures, conforms to the idea of formulating "national food strategies" advocated by the World Food Council.

Thirdly, it is necessary to set forth a long-term objective, which should be materialized step by step. Years of experience have proved that hunger is coupled with poverty. Therefore, the two-pronged task of eradicating hunger and malnutrition calls upon us to exert sustained and unrelenting efforts. In this connection, we endorse the conclusions contained in Document WFC/1987/2. The urgent task before us is to put into the letter the various resolutions concerning the development of production adopted at the World Food Conference, properly tackle the trade issues for agricultural commodities, improve food consumption of the poor people and make new progress, so as to reverse the trend and step by step solve all the problems we are facing by adopting measures of a fundamental nature. In view of the long-term objectives, we hold that efforts should be directed towards identifying policies to consistently encourage production, enhance circulation and improve food

consumption, through policy adjustments; agro-scientific and technical advancement should be given priority so that agricultural education and extension systems can gradually be perfected; special efforts are needed to raise the farmers' scientific and cultural level in developing countries for the purpose of building up new productive capacity in agriculture. Besides, efforts have to be made to monitor more closely the environment for agricultural production by applying advanced biotechnology and new technology in building water conservancy and soil conservation projects and using meteorological and information means. At the same time, effective measures must be taken to conserve and renew agricultural resources, further enhance rural reforms, create employment opportunities in the rural areas through multiple channels with a view to strengthening the self-determining power of everyone with the ability to work.

Finally, it is imperative to further strengthen mutual support and co-ordination in the international community. It is hoped that developed countries, bearing in mind the common objective of eliminating hunger and malnutrition and the long-term interests, will adopt practical measures and endeavour to create an economic environment favourable to the common development of all countries. They are also expected to increase financial and technical assistance to developing countries for their agricultural development. It is also hoped that developing countries will enhance ECDC and TCDC, and speedily develop and expand their own capabilities through South-South co-operation in the field of food and agriculture. This will facilitate North-South dialogue and the establishment of a new international economic order. Furthermore, we hope that the UN and other international organizations will play a more active role in bringing about better co-

ordination of the international community.

The current Session is invited by the United Nations General Assembly "to assess the impact of the present agricultural trade situation in all its aspects." Before the convening of UNCTAD Seven, it will be undoubtedly useful to hear the comments of agricultural ministers on this issue.

Since World War II, the export trade value of agricultural commodities has risen from several million US dollars to over 300 billion US dollars in the early 80s. This development surely played a positive role in sustaining world economic growth, guaranteeing world food security and increasing foreign exchange earnings of the developing countries. However, at present, the international trade of agricultural products has come to a standstill. Their prices have plummeted to a record low level and there has been no sign of recovery. The supply of many products exceeds demand. Such a situation has inflicted heavy losses almost on all importing countries and in particular on the developing countries. Therefore, the key to the current issue lies in helping the developing countries to revitalize their agricultural trade. Major developed countries have reinforced their protectionist measures, limiting import and encouraging export by providing subsidies. These measures not only have harmed the developing countries but also will affect the long-term interests of the developed countries themselves. We hold that the fundamental way to improve and promote the world trade of grains is to provide support to developing countries for their economic development. Meanwhile, urgent efforts are needed to rectify and prevent various restrictions and distortions in trade for agricultural commodities; to improve the terms for farm products of the developing countries to enter the

market of developed countries and strengthen discipline in agricultural trade and expedite its liberalization.

To enhance South-South co-operation in food and agriculture is another agenda item at the current Session. Now the UNDP and WFC have proposed four areas for South-South co-operation covering food production and three other fields. Funds will be available to assist "triangular actions." We appreciate the action-oriented initiative and will give it our full support. During the past, the Chinese Government established genuine and fruitful co-operation with other developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Last year, at the 13th Special Session of the UN General Assembly, I reiterated the Chinese Government's support to the agricultural rehabilitation programme in Africa. Hereby I take this opportunity to announce on behalf of the Chinese Government that within the coming two to three years, it will try its best to accomplish the following three things: first, to solicit funds from all sides and establish, with the existing agricultural universities as the basis, a China-International Training Centre for Agricultural Co-operation, to train senior and intermediate technical and managerial staff for African countries; second, to send, on a trial basis, "voluntary agricultural service teams" to African countries in need of services in technical extension; third, with mutual agreement after consultation, to strengthen co-operation in agricultural scientific research between China and Africa. We hope that concerned countries and international organizations will render support and assistance to our endeavours. In the future, the Chinese Government will continue to expand its agricultural co-operation with African countries and developing countries in other regions within its means. ■

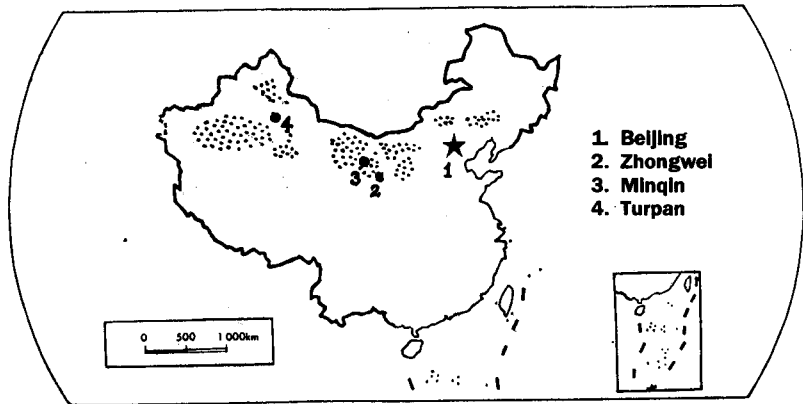
Anti-Desertification Drive Pays Off

China's desert is spreading at an average annual rate of some 1,000 square kilometres. An arduous battle is being waged against it and initial results are encouraging.

by Fang Yang

The latest scientific assessment is that if measures are taken right away, northern China's desertification will be brought under control by the year 2000, and 20,000 square kilometres will have been reclaimed. However, warn the scientists, if no measures are taken, and if the present situation continues, over 70,000 square kilometres of fertile soil will have been reduced to barren desert by the year 2000.

Since the beginning of this century, the desert has been spreading ferociously across the globe. It is estimated that the world's deserts are expanding at a rate of 50,000-70,000 square kilometres a year. One-third of the globe's land area is threatened.



China's desert area totals about 1.3 million square kilometres, 13.3 percent of China's territory, mostly scattered in north China. Desertification threatens about

3.3 million hectares of dry-crops cultivated land and irrigated oases.

Many of the present deserts were grain-producing areas and fertile grassland before. For instance, the desert near Dunhuang at the western end of Hexi Corridor in northwest China was a well-known grain-producing area during the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-24 AD). Frequent wars helped reduce the area to desert. Indiscriminate felling of trees and over-grazing also contributed.

Yulin area in China's northern Shaanxi was formerly fertile grazingland. Over 200 years ago, tree felling eroded the top soil. It is now sandy wasteland.

The main reasons the scientists see for the rapid expansion of desert areas in north China are: overzealous cultivation (25.4 percent), over-grazing (28.3 percent), tree and bush felling for firewood (31.8 percent), misuse of water resources, constructing industrial, mining and communications facilities and houses (9 percent), and only 5.5 percent is due to the forward movement of sand dunes blown by the wind.

Shelterbelts in Xinjiang.

XU XIANGJUN

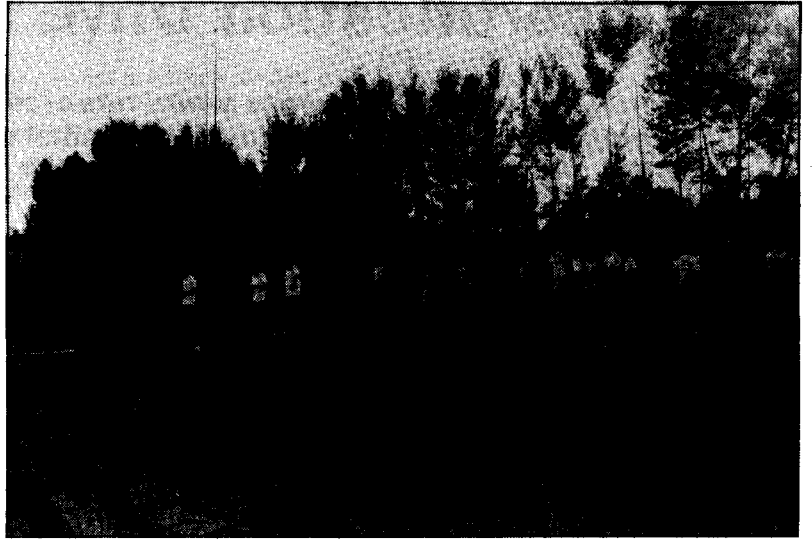


People have the power to stop desertification. Since 1959, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and other units have sent out 19 surveying teams to study a dozen or so deserts including Taklimakan on the western edge of the Gobi Desert. They set up experimental stations in north-western desert areas, to cultivate sandy land, and experiment with keeping sand in place. During the 1960s, they conducted a series of studies on how deserts are formed. They concluded that sand arose on the spot and did not come in from outside.

Since the late 1970s, China has set up a huge project for controlling deserts, the shelterbelt, across northwest, north and northeast China where the desertification is worst. The shelterbelt, composed of trees, shrubs and grasses, extends from the Kashi oasis in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in the west, across vast desert areas and the Loess Plateau into the Greater Xingan Mountains in the northeast. It is 7,000 kilometres long and known as the Green Great Wall.

By 1985, some 6.05 million hectares of land had been planted with trees, and there the environment has begun to improve. Last year marked the shelterbelt's move into the project's second stage which involves afforesting an additional 6.37 million hectares within 10 years. By then plant cover should have increased from the present 5.9 percent to 7.7 percent across China's northern areas. The whole project, when completed, should help curb sandstorms, the soil erosion and the deterioration of the ecology, thus helping to boost the economy in the north.

Changing the patterns of land use is also important. For example, farmers of Jingbian County in northern Shaanxi on the fringe of a desert planted trees on top of the mountains, shrubs in the gullies, grass on the slopes, poplar trees along rivers and



LU YUHAI

Drought-tolerating shrubs cultivated by the Shapotou desert-control station.

peach and almond trees on lower hill slopes. This layer-by-layer method controls the deserts and yields the rewards of a diversified economy.

The methods used for controlling deserts such as plane-sowing and planting shrubs and grass over large areas have proved to have a wide range of benefits. For instance, Alxa Zuoqi in the Tengger Desert in western Inner Mongolia has increased its area of vegetation by plane-sowing from 0.2 percent six years ago to 47.3 percent at present. Grasslands in the deserts have expanded to 30,000 hectares. Previously, every 1/15 hectare (*mu*) of sandy land yielded only 2.8 kg of forage grass, now the figure has jumped to 71 kg.

"Flame" Turned Oasis

Turban County at the bottom of Turban Basin in Xinjiang, the lowest closed inland basin in China, is 154 metres below sea level. The county covers an area of 10,300 square kilometres, 96 percent of which is wind-eroded desert land and sand dunes. It is dry and windy there. Annual precipitation is only 16.6 mm,

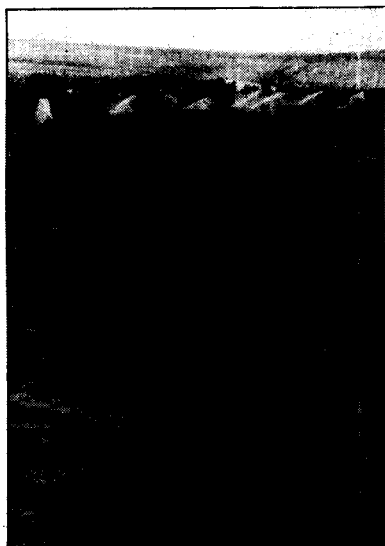
annual evaporation is over 3,000 mm. In summer, the temperature goes as high as 40°C, and the area is known as the "flame zone." Over 90 percent of the county's cultivated land borders on the desert and is threatened by it. Whenever the wind rises, it stirs up the dust, erodes the soil, buries houses, fills ditches and causes great losses.

In May 1961, the wind blew at force 12 for 12 hours. Trees were toppled, wire poles broken, ditches filled and 125 wells buried. A full 85 percent of the county's crops were uprooted and buried. That year, the county's wheat output averaged only 7.5 kg per *mu* (1/15 hectare).

After the windstorm, people discovered that in the areas not taking the brunt of the wind, cotton still grew, and in densely forested areas, people still gathered rich harvests. There was a connection there, and people came to know the importance of forest. Through investigating the wind gaps, the dunes and studying village history, people have realized that with forests, there will be life on the desert; without them an oasis will turn back into gobi, a "waterless place."

A full-scale battle to subdue the wind and sand began in 1964. The difficulties of planting trees in the wind gaps were almost insurmountable because of the undulating sand dunes, each one linked to the other. The forest belt required moving away the dunes and digging irrigation channels. Some sand dunes were as large as hills, but they were moved away slowly, carried by shoulder poles, carts

Straw-grid sand-control barriers at Shapotou. LI SHENGCAI



and pack animals. Some holes were filled up by the sand before the trees could be put in place. The people's reaction was to build a mud wall on the windward side and set up a wind curtain to protect the saplings. To water the trees, people dug ditches deep in the Tianshan Mountains over 100 kilometres away, to divert water from there.

In Turban the Yaer Lake area is worst hit by the wind and sand. The cold air from the Junggar Basin sweeps across high mountains into hot Turban forming hurricanes which rip across the river to Yaer Lake along the wind gap and stir up huge amount of sand engulfing farmland and burying villages. The prosperous ancient city of Jiaohe was laid waste to by these winds.

The Turban people set off towards this sandy area, dug five ditches across the path of the storms, planted 10 rows of trees and erected a 5-km-long forest belt, and 2-km away, they set up another forestbelt to guard against the invasion of drift sand from outside. They also set up narrow forestbelts and other protective networks to block the encroaching sand. In three years of hard work, they planted over 4 million trees in some 307 hectares of land, making a shelterbelt stretching more than 400 kilometres. By so doing, they reclaimed 1,066 hectares of land from the wind gap, and afforested over 460 hectares of desert, thus freeing eight villages from the scourge of sandstorms.

People of Aydingkol Lake (500 km southeast of Urumqi) began in 1965 to grow xerophilous plants suitable for sandy areas. In a decade, they had created over 3,000 hectares of grass belt on the desert of the lake. Like a solid green carpet, the grass belt holds down the rolling drift sand. At the same time, they erected more than 100 other shelterbelts in the desert along the periphery of the farmland.

When the wind blows now, it does not create desertification any more. Over the last dozen or so years, the people of Turban

Diverted water in Yulin County to wash away the sand. HE PING



County have persevered in planting trees. By now, the county has set up over 4,000 farmland shelterbelts stretching 1,400 km and covering 1,333 hectares. They have planted 16 million trees and 4,666 hectares of grassland to keep the sand in place, thus forming a complete shelterbelt spectrum. In so doing they accumulated much valuable experience in developing, transforming and utilizing deserts.

The Turban shelterbelt system has produced tremendous results. Summer temperatures in the forest belt of the county are 7°-11°C lower than in the wilderness, water surface evaporation is 20 percent less. Afforestation has not only reduced wind velocity and stopped the drift sand it has also changed the hot and dry climate of the "flame zone." Now when the wind blows, it howls ineffectually outside the forest network while inside there is a cool breeze. Winds below force 10, on the whole, will not bring any losses to agriculture.

The construction of a shelterbelt system has brought vitality and prosperity to Turban. Since 1962, a year before the battle was launched against the sandy wind, the county's total grain output has almost tripled; rich harvests of *Hami* melon and other fruit have been reaped every year; tract after tract of new oasis have emerged in the deserts; and about 100 villages and residential areas have been built.

Botanical Garden

On the fringes of the Tengger Desert, Minqin County in Gansu Province is dry and frequently assaulted by the wind. More than 35 days a year, the area is struck by huge sandstorms, with the dunes moving forward about 10 metres a year. Over the past century, more than 6,000 villages in the county have been buried by the sand. A folk song laments the phenomena: looking into the distance from a place uphigh, the desert stretches out to the horizons. No sooner has the wind storm risen, than my

home has disappeared; villages and farmland all buried by the sand, force my homeless villagers to wander on away.

The county set up a sand-control station in 1959. In a period of a decade or more thereafter, it afforested an area of 667 hectares of desert. It is accepted that reversing the desertification process takes 5 to 10 years generally. In 1974 the county planted a desert botanical garden, the first of its kind in China. The surrounding counties provided the garden with a large quantity of good tree seeds and saplings and helped local farmers build 7,000 hectares of tree belts, relieving 13,500 hectares of farmland from the threat of sandstorms.

The 67-hectare botanical garden has collected and successfully bred more than 100 kinds of shrubs, trees and grasses, of which 30 were imported from other countries, including *Calligonum* from Algeria and the torch trees from America. Scientists here have also made breakthroughs in the artificial breeding and growing of xerophilous plants and applied their results to large-scale afforestation.

People used to plant trees to control sand. However, because trees like water, they can hardly survive. Scientists found that the amount of water consumed by drought-enduring shrubs is one-tenth to one-fifth of what drought-resistant trees do. Therefore, they shifted their interest to shrubs and imported various salt- and drought-resisting shrubs for experiment and cultivation. In addition, they have studied the possible uses of these plants. Good results have already been achieved in extracting oil and fibres from them. The research also yielded a plant drought-enduring index, which has been helpful in the selection and planting of saplings and irrigation.

The garden has attracted the attention of scientists at home and abroad, including researchers from Britain's royal botanical

garden at Kew and the botanical garden of the University of California in the United States. It has supplied improved plant strains (including bluish dogbane, Chinese wolfberry, narrow-leaved oleaster, false indigo, and tree of heaven) which not only help control sand but can also be used as medicines, animal feed, and for fibres, wine and furniture. Over 67-hectares of desert land surrounding the garden have been planted with these shrubs—succeeding in halting the sand dunes.

Minqin's staff and facilities are too small for the area's gigantic sand control programme. So the Lanzhou Desert Research Institute under the Chinese Academy of Sciences recently signed an agreement with Minqin to send personnel to work in co-operation with local scientists on their research projects.

Railway Sand Control

The Yinchuan-Lanzhou section of the Baotou-Lanzhou Railway passes through 40 km of the Tengger Desert. The moving sand dunes along that section are the most mobile. The Shapotou section used to be a bustling rural town on the ancient route from Ningxia to Lanzhou, but was later buried by the southward-bound Tengger. In 1955, when the first batch of desert scientists arrived they found the place enveloped in dust and the sand dunes moving 4 metres a year, bringing the feasibility of a railway into question.

The scientists first tried to fix the sand by growing plants. However, the natural conditions here were so hostile with the underground water lying dozens of metres below that no plants could survive. The wind here was strong and frequent: over 200 days a year saw bad sandstorms. The annual rainfall was only 200 mm while the volume of evaporation

was 15 times more than that. In summer, the temperature of the sand was as high as 74°C while the lowest temperature in winter was 30°C below zero. Ordinary wind-resistant dry-loving plants were either buried by moving sand, or were up-rooted and withered.

Growing plants having failed, the scientists tried using sorghum, corn stalks and tree branches as barriers to stop the moving sand. But all the barriers, both standing and lying, were buried or destroyed by sandstorms. So they looked further afield and developed the straw-grid barrier method. Each square in the grid is one metre square, and the stalks 10-cm high. They serve to roughen the ground and so to reduce the wind speed, thus curbing the sand movement. In just a few years, the scientists and railway workers built 40-km long and 700 metre-wide straw-grid sand-control belts along both sides of the railway, stopping the southward encroachment of the Tengger Desert and ensuring the continued operation of China's first cross-desert railway.

With time, the straw grids decay. To replace them would be a huge project, but the scientists found that in some of the squares plants had rooted. Taking the hint the scientists selected and planted some plant seeds in the squares. Since the grids can store rainwater, reduce evaporation and lower the temperature of the sand surface, the plants survived and grew, fixing the sand and protecting the straw grids. The success has roused the interest of world desert scientists and the UN Environment Programme has held two sand-control symposia there.

Today, a layer of grey soil has appeared on the sand surface in many of the planted squares. Called "skin" this phenomenon marks the beginning of the prolonged process of desert reconversion. The area now has become the home for some wildlife—another manifestation of the improving conditions. ■

Guangdong Economy Facing World Market

As China's open policy and economic reforms continue to change the country, Guangdong Province is gearing its economy to the world market. The province has already made much headway in economic and technical co-operation and cultural exchanges with countries the world over.

by Our Correspondent Han Baocheng

Guangdong Province has made great progress since the implementation of the open policy in 1978. Apart from the three special economic zones (Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Shantou), two open cities (Guangzhou and Zhanjiang) and the open island of Hainan, the province now has staked off an area of 21,500 square kilometres on the Zhujiang (Pearl) River Delta as an export base. In 1985, it exported to Hong Kong fresh agricultural products worth of US\$4.02 billion, 70 percent of which were produced at this base. Many towns have now sprung up along this green and fertile stretch.

Situated to the west of the Zhujiang River mouth, the city of Zhongshan was originally just a

county town, but now it is a modern city with many big new buildings. In 1985, the city's total industrial and agricultural output value was over 2,334 million yuan, twice as much as in 1978. Its export value in 1985 came up to 348 million yuan, while in the ten years from 1970 to 1979 it amounted to only 100 million yuan.

Lu Zhankeng, an official of the city's Commission of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, says that the export industry has gone from processing materials provided by foreign clients to complete Sino-foreign joint ventures and co-operation. By the middle of 1986, the city had approved 17 joint ventures, 78 co-operative businesses. Nearly 800

contracts on compensatory trade and processing of foreign-supplied materials has been signed, involving a total investment of US\$123.76 million.

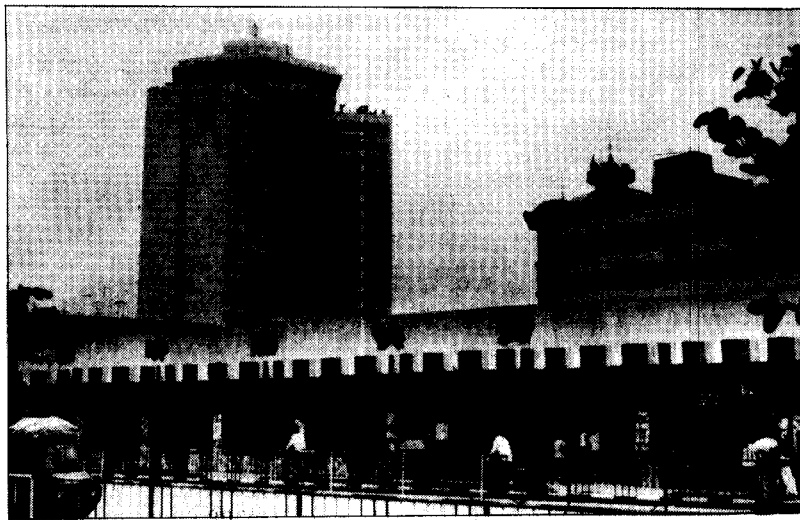
Zhongshan is spending 50 million yuan on expanding and updating an international port. It is estimated that its annual handling capacity will be 6 million tons by the year 1990. It now has one 5,000-ton and three 1,000-ton berths in operation. Since February 1985, two high-speed passenger ships have been shuttling between Zhongshan and Hong Kong, six times a day.

Being in the subtropics, the Zhujiang River Delta is one of China's richest agricultural areas. To expand the export of agricultural and sideline products, the city's foreign trade company has set up a number of export bases by signing contracts and offering funds and technology to farmers in the area, where chickens, pigs, pigeons, fruits, vegetables as well as freshwater and seafood are cultivated. In 1986, the exports from these bases equalled 10 million yuan.

On the other side of the river mouth is Dongguan, a city which has also grown out of a county town. As a "city of fruit," it is even richer than Zhongshan. Since 1979 local farmers have been concentrating on fruit production after recovering self-sufficiency in grain. In 1985 it harvested 190,000 tons of fruits. It leads the country in litchi and banana output. Every year it exports most of its

A view in Zhongshan City

HAN BAOCHENG





A workshop of the Wenhua Shirt Factory.

HAN BAOCHENG

fruits to Hong Kong and Macao.

Dongguan is convenient for processing for foreign clients, because of its well-equipped communication facilities and close proximity to Hong Kong. Buses travel between Dongguan and Hong Kong every day. Between November 1978 to June 1986, Dongguan signed 1,765 processing contracts with Hong Kong and earned US\$ 266 million in the process.

Most of the rural enterprises are in processing, with clothes as the mainstay. Hong Kong businesses provide equipment, raw materials and designs and do all the selling. The local enterprises receive processing fees and management expenses, and the equipment will be bought cheaply after depreciation.

In Houjie Town, the biggest processing enterprise is the Wenhua Shirt Factory. Its bright, modern workshops are equipped with advanced machines imported from Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany. The table for tailoring is 24 metres long, the longest in the province. The workers' monthly income is HK\$ 700. Its products are sold to Switzerland, Federal Germany, France, the United States, Japan and Australia.

In order to carve a bigger share of the world market, Guangdong province has established a non-governmental overseas economic relations and trading company, whose main business is the export of agricultural and sideline products and working with joint ventures and co-operative operations. Cai Zhongchao, general manager of the company, says: "Our purpose is to serve smaller enterprises at home and abroad. We are willing to do business involving less than US\$50,000, which the bigger companies don't like to handle."

At present, the company has branches in Tokyo and Hong Kong and is planning to set up offices in Hamburg and Bangkok. In addition to exporting, it also encourages foreign entrepreneurs to invest in China, and has signed a number of joint-venture agreements, including prawn-cultivation, manufacture of building materials and other items.

Over and above the export bases run by the province's foreign trade company, agriculture-industry-trade co-operation has been burgeoning. For example, there is a poultry production, processing and sales system in Jianggao Town on Guangzhou's outskirts. It includes one town-

and eight township-owned chicken farms, 973 specialized chicken-farming households, and a veterinary clinic. Within the area are also several fodder farms, slaughter and processing houses, purchase and marketing stations, a foodstuffs import and export corporation and free markets. In 1985, some 2.6 million chicken were sold locally and one million more exported, earning HK\$14.82 million. The town has also been successful in pig raising and market gardening.

In recent years, the links between household farming and the international market have been getting closer. In Siping County, on the western edge of the delta, is a family farm run by He Yanyan, a young peasant who used to be a state-farm worker. In 1984 he contracted 5 hectares of citrus and a 1.3-hectare fish pond. He subscribes to a dozen or so scientific and technical journals and is taking a correspondence



HAN BAOCHENG

He Yanyan studying turtle-breeding.

course on fruit growing. When he heard that the yellow-headed turtle sold well in Hong Kong, he went to Hunan Province to study turtle-breeding and tried it in his own courtyard. In 1986 he bred 300 kg of turtles. "Recently several groups of Hong Kong businessmen have come to negotiate with me," he said.

This kind of "trade-industry-agriculture association" is spreading from the coastal areas of Guangdong Province to the peninsulas of Liaoning and Shandong provinces way up north in the country. ■

Application Procedures

by Our Correspondent Yue Haitao

According to Chinese law, when applying to establish a Sino-foreign joint venture or co-operative enterprise the applicant must go through the following three procedures.

(1) Submit project proposals to the relevant department for examination and approval.

In the beginning, the foreign investor needs only communicate with his Chinese partners through letters or cables, stating his opinions concerning the joint project, including the name, site, products, production scope, amount of investment, extent of each side's contribution, form of investment, form of co-operation, distribution of profits, source of capital, product quality and marketing channels.

When both sides have reached consensus on matters of consequence, the foreign investor can ask his Chinese counterparts to submit a project proposal and a preliminary feasibility study report to the department in charge.

When they have been approved they can be re-submitted to the relevant joint project examination and approval authority. The said authority will examine whether the project conforms with the state or local development and whether co-management conditions are ripe. The joint project examination and approval authority, in the four special economic zones of Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Shantou and Xiamen, is the special zone management committee; in the provinces, municipalities, autonomous regions and the 14 coastal open cities, it is the foreign economic relations and trade commission of the area.

Generally, when a proposal has been finally approved, the Chinese side will invite the foreign counterpart to visit China for on-site inspection of the investment environment and to sign a letter of intent on which further negotiations are based.

(2) Negotiations and preparing feasibility study reports.

On the basis of the principles incorporated in the project proposal, both partners in a project should study the letter of intent and investigate and consult about the details that have been included in the preliminary feasibility study report. After that, both sides, or one side if that is agreed, or an entrusted consulting organ will write the formal feasibility study report. If necessary, the foreign investor will be invited to make further inspections of any problems or issues for the project, so that both sides can be fully in accord.

Specialists suggest that the overseas partners should always double-check the infrastructural facilities in the area where the projected joint venture is to locate, including energy supply, transport facilities and source of raw and semi-finished materials; the foreign investor should not accept blindly everything the local officials claim.

The foreign investor should also discuss with the Chinese side the employment of local technicians and managers, and the ratio between the labour service fee proposed by the Chinese side and the expected productivity of the employees.

The Chinese side will be responsible for securing approval for the feasibility study report from the department in charge before submitting it to the government organ concerned for final approval and confirmation.

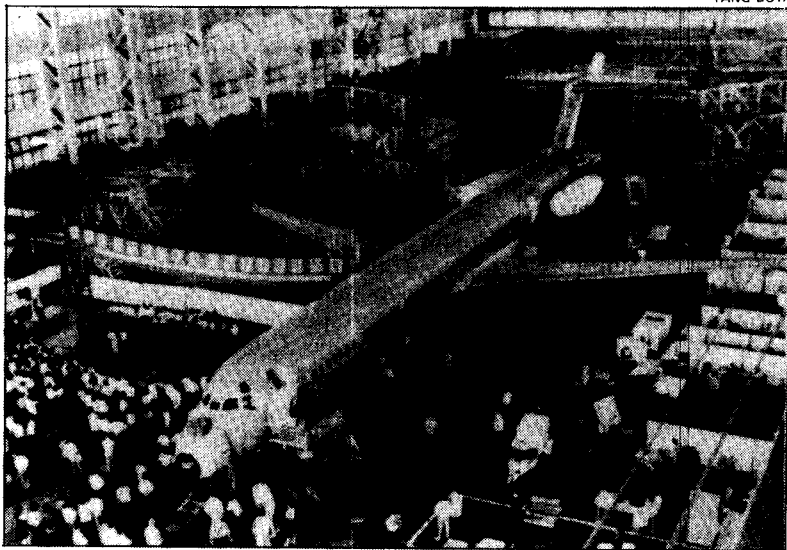
(3) Submit the contract and articles of association to the department concerned for examination and approval.

Negotiating the contract and articles of association is important and soliciting the help of lawyers and legal advisers is imperative.

The signed contract and articles of association and other legal documents are submitted to the examination and approval organ, together with the application for the establishment of the joint project, the feasibility study report, the names of candidates

The first MD-82 manufactured in Shanghai will have its test flight early next month.

YANG BOTAO



for chairman and vice-chairmen of the board of directors and the names of the candidates for the first board directors. The comments of the department in charge and the people's government at the provincial or autonomous regional or municipal level on the establishment of the venture must be attached.

The examination and approval boards have different powers at various levels. Given that the state is not required to provide transport, raw materials, fuel and power, and the marketing channels, Shanghai and Tianjin may approve productive projects each involving an investment of up to US\$30 million, and any non-productive project; Guangdong, Fujian, Beijing, Liaoning, Dalian, Guangzhou and Shenyang may approve projects up to US\$10 million; the other provinces, autonomous regions, coastal open cities and ministries under the State Council have the power to approve projects of up to US\$5 million each. After a project is approved, it should be filed with the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade for the record. Projects involving higher sums of investment need to be examined and approved by the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade.

The foreign investor can ask his Chinese partners to go through the above procedures. A definite answer is assured after all the proper documents are received within three months for large projects which need to be examined and approved by the state; 15 days to two months for medium and small projects which need to be examined and approved by local government. The answer may include provisions for revision of the documents.

Application for registration may be filed with the industrial and commercial administrative department in the area where the project is located (provinces, autonomous regions, etc.) by

producing the certificate of approval. Registration should be accomplished within one month of receipt of the certificate. Both partners are required to set up the board of directors as soon as possible and a preparatory group for the construction of the joint project, raise the capital, invite accountants to verify the investment and produce a report on the verification.

The date when the business licence is issued marks the



FANG AILIN

French expert (left) and Chinese managers of a Sino-French leather company in Nantong checking product quality.

birthday of the joint project, which, henceforth, becomes a legal person in China, whose business activities and legal rights and interests will be protected by the law of the People's Republic of China.

Local governments enjoy greater power in examining and approving Sino-foreign co-operative enterprises than in giving approval to Sino-foreign joint ventures.

Procedures necessary for the examination and approval of co-operative enterprises are simpler. Ordinary projects with no more than the stipulated investment may submit their application form, feasibility study report and

contract to the department concerned for examination and approval in one package. Larger projects with an above-the-quota investment will, like the joint ventures, have to go through that three procedures.

Unlike Sino-foreign joint ventures, the co-operative enterprises can be registered in the industrial and commercial administrative organs at the same level as the departments which examined and approved their establishment, by producing the certificate of approval. The industrial and commercial administrative organs will issue business licences to the "legal person" sort of enterprises and registration certificates to those which are not of that type. The foreign partner is required to register with the industrial and commercial administrative organ themselves in their own names.

The procedures necessary for the examination and approval of wholly foreign-owned enterprises are the simplest.

Application for the establishment of such enterprises in the special economic zones may be filed with the special economic zone's management committee; applications for the establishment of those in various provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities and the 14 coastal open cities may be filed with the foreign economic relations and trade commissions (departments) under the local governments, in written form.

Generally, the foreign investor may apply to the local government, and the application must make clear the name of the foreign company, the name of the future enterprise in China, address, planned business scope, variety and specification of products to be produced, land area needed and area of the factory premises, number of employees, source of raw materials, amount of investment, business scope, markets where the enterprise will sell its products, and other related remarks.

Family Still the Key to Helping the Aged

"ZHONGGUO FUNU BAO"
(Chinese Women's News)

In the current conditions in China, the household remains the basic means of providing for the elderly. This is likely to be the case for a long time to come, because of a combination of population and economic factors as well as tradition.

In addition to the rapid growth and uneven distribution of the aged population, there is also an important economic factor—China will become a country of the old while its economic development and living standards are still low. Generally, the increase of a country's elderly population is closely linked to economic development, a rise in consumption, the improvement of medical conditions and changes in people's ideas about childbearing. Therefore, ageing populations are mainly seen in the developed countries.

It is estimated that by the end of this century, when China becomes an old-people society, its per-capita gross national product (GNP) will be US\$800 to US\$1,000. In the majority of developed countries, which have already seen their populations reach this stage, people are better off. In the Soviet Union, for example, the per-capita GNP is US\$400, while in Japan it is US\$1,800. So, China's elderly population will continue to experience low living standards and a system for protecting the aged must start from this assumption.

Because of the limits of the economic development, few changes will be possible in the near future in the present method of supporting the elderly. The current system consists of four parts: state, society, collective and

household. It is impossible for the government to establish a large number of social welfare institutions in a short time to meet the needs of old people. According to a recent survey in Shanghai, people living in senior citizens' homes and living alone accounted for less than 10 percent of Shanghai's total elderly population. This gives an idea of the situation throughout China.

Despite a rapid increase in the number of senior citizens' homes during the period of the Sixth Five-Year Plan (1981-85), by the end of 1985 there were 28,000 such homes, housing 280,000 elderly people, less than 1 percent of China's total. This falls short of the needs of the country.

In the next 10 years or so, China will continue its large-scale economic construction and the problem of inadequate funds will exist for a long time. As a result, senior citizens' homes, sanatoriums and other welfare institutions for old people directly funded by the state will not be able to develop quickly. In the circumstances, further steps must be taken to strengthen the function of the family in supporting the elderly.

The Chinese nation has a fine tradition of respecting the aged. The majority of old people in both rural and urban areas spend their remaining years happily thanks to the profound concern of the family members. With changes in family composition, the different generations may wish to live in separate places. But although both parents and children may want to live apart, most of the aged hope their children's families will not be far away.

In the urban areas, old people have no economic problems because most of them receive pensions. But various inconve-

niences in daily life and loneliness are major problems. The elderly require the concern and respect of their families as well as the warmth of family life.

In the rural areas, the elderly do not have secure incomes, and some necessary rules and regulations safeguarding the aged have not been established. These old people need the support and concern of their children in their later years.

Many married young people wish to live with their parents because of the slow development of social services. They have to ask their parents to help them overcome their difficulties. According to a recent survey in China's urban and rural areas, a majority of babies grow up under the care of old people, while comparatively few are nurtured by child-care centres and kindergartens. This situation will not be able to change in the foreseeable future.

In conclusion, there is a solid foundation for strengthening the role of the family in supporting the aged, which is in keeping with the aspirations of both generations and with national tradition and practice.

(May 1, 1987)

Charles Chaplin Recalls 'Maotai'

"GUIZHOU RIBAO"

(Guizhou Daily)

The late Premier Zhou Enlai gave a banquet in honour of Charles Spencer Chaplin (1889-1977), a world-famous British actor and producer, during the Geneva conference in the summer of 1954. In the course of the banquet, the comedian talked cheerfully and humorously.

Since it was a banquet by Premier Zhou, it was only natural that "Maotai" wine was served. Chaplin was anxious to taste the

mellow "Maotai" and happily praised it, saying, "This is a wine for true men." After the party, Chaplin asked the premier to give him a bottle of "Maotai" as a souvenir. Zhou gave him two bottles.

Chaplin has a deep love for peace. He served the people of the world with consummate art in his motion pictures. With deep feeling Premier Zhou extolled him as an upright man. Zhou said, Chaplin was like the parts he had played in the films and was worthy of the title "great master of art of our time." Chaplin's whole life embodied the spirit of a "true man."

In honouring the great comedian, Premier Zhou also sought to strengthen friendly contacts between Chaplin and China, and between the people of the West and those in the East. Chaplin did not let Zhou down. Several years later, he wrote in his autobiography that at that banquet they drank Chinese champagne (Maotai), which was good tasting. They toasted again and again as Russians did, he said. He wished China ever growing prosperity. He remarked although he was not a communist, he still wished Chinese people and the people all over the world a happy life.

(April 18, 1987)

Prison Inmates Learn to Go Straight

"RENMIN RIBAO"

(People's Daily, Overseas Edition)

Acting on instructions from the Party Central Committee, China's prisons and reformatories have made gratifying progress since 1985 in strengthening education among inmates to help them become useful members of society.

More than 70 percent of the inmates in prisons studied more than 15,000 courses in 1986. The number of the inmates

who took television, correspondence and other courses of higher learning increased by 14.1 percent in 1986 over 1985; the number who sat for the local unified examination of general knowledge rose by 40.5 percent; and the number who won primary, middle or vocational secondary school graduation certificates or certificates for various industrial skills increased by 64.9 percent. The figures were released at a national meeting on prison inmate reform work recently held in the Yunnan provincial capital of Kunming.

Some 20,000 juvenile delinquents were awarded primary or middle school graduation certificates by local education departments last year. In addition, more than 3,000 cultural classes were set up in reform-through-labour units.

To help inmates acquire a means of living after their release, more than 6,700 professional courses had been set up by various labour reform units by the end of 1986. More than 30 percent of inmates learned various skills through these courses. A large number of inmates and juvenile delinquents have been awarded certificates by local labour departments.

(May 4, 1987)

Private Cars Roam Beijing's Streets

"BEIJING GUANGGAO
YISHU BAO"

(Beijing Advertisement Art News)

Recently, there have been some four-seat minicars of various colours running around Beijing's streets. Their owners are not state organs and industrial enterprises, but individuals.

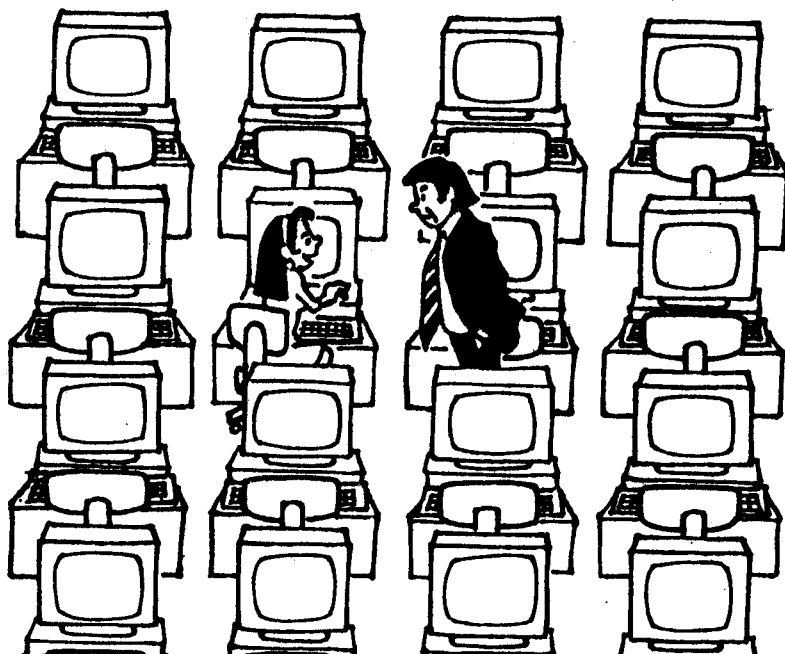
Of the 1,800 private cars in Beijing, such minicars account for a fair number. The price for a minicar usually ranges from 9,000 yuan to 11,000 yuan.

According to a survey, the owners of private cars in Beijing are mainly artists, literary figures and sports stars who can earn a large amount of additional income, as well as individual industrialists and businessmen. But, not every star or well-off person can achieve whatever he or she wishes. If you want to buy an automobile, one must pay a tuition fee of 1,800 yuan to study for three months in an driving school to obtain a driver's license in addition to the large amount of money needed to pay for a car.

(April 10, 1987)

— You want me to calculate the losses on unused computers!

Cartoon by JING YOUSHEG



International Bond Flotations

In the first five months of this year, the China International Trust and Investment Corp. (CITIC) and the Bank of China issued bonds in Tokyo, and Hong Kong and Singapore, totalling an equivalent of 60 billion yen and US\$200 million.

Between 1982 and April 1987, China floated 25 bond issues valued at US\$2.789 billion on the international financial markets, as an important means of raising foreign exchange.

In January 1982, CITIC issued individual bonds of 10 billion yen on the Japanese market for the first time. Over the last few years, more and more foreign exchange has been required in China, and as a result, the flotations have also grown.

Year	Bond values (US\$ million)
1982	43.58
1983	20.23
1984	83.17
1985	786.46
1986	1,255.53

The Bank of China floated 9 bond issues of US\$1.317 billion in Tokyo, Frankfurt and Singapore; CITIC, 10 bond issues worth US\$1.03 billion in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Frankfurt; the Investment Enterprise Co. of Fujian Province, 3 bond issues of US\$120 million in Tokyo and Singapore; the trust and investment corporations of Guangdong Province, Shanghai and Tianjin one issue each in Tokyo with a value of US\$129 million, 131 million and 61.73 million respectively.

The Bank of China and the Investment Enterprise Co. of Fujian Province are making preparations for issuing new bonds. ■



A CA—141 truck having its shock absorbers tested.

XU YINGJIE

Chinese Trucks Win Out In Bidding

The Changchun No.1 Automobile Plant has recently delivered a group of its CA—141 automobiles after winning the contract in an international bidding.

The contract is worth US\$770,000 provided by the International Development Association (IDA) to develop Chinese forests.

The international bidding included 15 manufacturers from Japan, the Federal Republic of

Germany, Austria, India and other countries as well as some Chinese manufacturers. The Changchun factory, built in 1953, won the bid for two kinds of its trucks.

Under the contract, the factory will sell 150 automobiles in two batches. The factory also won two more contracts for medium-sized trucks for projects aided by the IDA to develop Chinese freshwater fish-farming and improve red soil. ■

Shanghai Invites Foreign Investment

Last month the Shanghai Winhang Economic and Technology Development Zone offered about 100 projects for foreign investment. These are in the fields of machine building, meters and instruments, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, light and textile industries, construction materials and advanced technology.

—Machine-building covers mould making, food-processing, printing, packaging, plastics, rubber, textile machines, car parts and specialised warehouse equipment.

—Light industry here involves processing instant coffee, sweets, tourist souvenirs, pianos, and electric organs and toys, typewriters, and household electr-

ical appliances.

—The construction materials are waterproofing and fireproofing.

—The advanced technology includes sensors, industrial robots, micro-electron and laser devices and technology.

Winhang, an administrative area 30 kilometres from Shanghai proper, covers 213 hectares. Foreign businesses investing in the development zone will enjoy the preferential treatment offered by the state and Shanghai city and special privileges exclusive to the development zone such as exemption from local income tax until the end of 1995, and from real estate taxes for five years. With the state's approval, they can also build bonded warehouses. ■

Another US Office Set up in Beijing

The well-known American electrical equipment firm, the Square D Co. set up its office in Beijing in early June, as many other US companies have done this year.

The company, which established trade ties with China in 1980, registered a trade value of US\$2 million in 1986. At present, some of its modern electric power distribution and cybernation power-supply systems are in use in big hotels and computer centres in Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin, according to deputy-president Gerald E. Myers.

According to Mr. Myers, the potential of the Chinese market impelled the company to set up an office in Beijing. This office will enhance Square D's trade and co-operation with China and facilitate more for foreign investment in China.

He said that his company is negotiating projects on running joint ventures to make copper foil for printed circuits and constant power-supply equipment with China. Projects for importing Square D's technology of producing special monocrystalline silicones and infrared high-temperature ray testing instruments are also being discussed. ■

Textile Machinery Show in Beijing

The China International Textile Machinery Exhibition 1988 will be held from July 5-11 next year at the International Exhibition Centre in Beijing and again every two years thereafter.

The exhibition will be co-sponsored by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and the Ministry of Textile Industry, and is meant to enhance technological exchanges, friendly contacts and trade co-operation

with foreign counterparts of China's textile industry.

Manufacturers from European, American, Oceanian and Asian countries will take part, as well as some from the Soviet Union and other East European countries.

During the exhibition, China will exhibit its textile machines and seek to sign trade contracts.

China's textile machinery industry is large and well established. Last year China produced many cotton, wool, silk and ramie spinning, weaving, printing and dyeing machines and chemical fibre production equipment. These machines also found buyers abroad.

China's textile industry is significant in world terms—In 1986 China earned US\$6.5 billion in foreign exchange from textile exports. At the same time China is one of the world's major importers of textile machinery. ■

China Exports Computers

Since 1985, the Chinese Computer Development Co. has signed contracts or agreements with the United States, Australia, Thailand and Singapore for exporting 3,000 China-made computers valued at several hundred thousand US dollars, according to Wang Zhijin, general manager of the company.

China started to study and manufacture microcomputers in 1974, and has turned out three brands—Great Wall, Zijin and ZD. The Great Wall-0520, which was developed in 1985, has had the best sales. It became quite a hit when exhibited in the United States in November the same year.

At the Beijing exhibition for "Great Wall" computers held at the end of May, a newly developed Great Wall-286 microcomputer was displayed. It can show Chinese characters and handle both Chinese and English at a high speed. It is up to the advanced world level, and thus one of the

main models for export.

To increase exports the company has further improved its technology and readjusted prices. It also plans to establish agencies and offices abroad in order to expand its market.

by Liu Jianjun

Trade News in Brief

■ The co-operation agreement at the Beijing Air Catering Co. Ltd. —the first joint venture established with Hong Kong investment—began in 1980 and will expire in 1988. On May 30 a contract for another 12-year co-operation was signed.

For the second-stage co-operation the company will have a total investment of US\$15 million, 60 percent from the Chinese side and the rest from Hong Kong, and its production capacity will increase from today's 7,000 meals a day to 25,000.

■ China signed a contract in Pakistan last month for producing three 210,000 kw turbogenerators for Pakistan. China will be responsible for designing, manufacturing, installing and testing the generators and for training the relevant personnel. The project needs a total investment of US\$200 million and is expected to be completed by September 1990.

■ To date, China Ocean Shipping Corp. has established 14 shipping companies with overseas shipping and commercial companies in Holland, Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, Norway, the United States, Australia, Kenya, Japan, Thailand and Hong Kong. These companies handle passenger and goods transport, renting and selling of ships and shipping agent work. The company is looking to establish more such international shipping companies.

■ China exported about \$12.96 billion worth of products in the first five months this year. This represents 46 percent of the year's target and a 37 percent increase compared with the same period last year.

'Si Zhu' — Music to Live Forever

Frederick Lau and his orchestra looked dejected when they finally heard the announcement. "What? A third-class award? Don't tell me this is what we have been waiting for all morning!" Protested one of the women players, a Shanghai girl with big eyes, as she threw herself heavily into a sofa in the foreign students' dormitory at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. The rest of them were just as disappointed. Smiles froze on their faces on hearing the disheartening news. They had been confident of winning a higher prize.

But when they were playing their prize-winning pieces of *si zhu* music again, at the closing ceremony of the First *Jiang Nan Si Zhu* Contest of Composition and Performance by Musicians at Home and From Abroad, they became as confident as ever, playing so well, as if under a spell, oblivious of what had taken place.

Of the 39 entries of the contest, Lau's was a unique one—comprised of college students from six countries: The United States, Japan, Australia, Britain, France and China, the host country. This made the other contestants from Beijing, Hong Kong and Singapore pale before Lau's ensemble, which had practically stolen the show during the four-day contest.

The musical contest, held recently in Shanghai from May 4 to 8, was sponsored by the Shanghai branch of the Chinese Musicians' Association to promote the development of an important branch of traditional Chinese music known as *jiang nan si zhu*. With a long history, it first took root about 200 years ago in the Jiangnan area where varieties of folk ballad-singing music flourished. Jiangnan is a geographical term for a vast region south of the Changjiang (Yangtze)

river in east China, embracing Shanghai and the neighbouring provinces of Jiangsu and Zhejiang.

The modern *si zhu* music sprang up at the beginning of this century, and is now a musical speciality of Shanghai and beyond. Music conservatories throughout China offer a special course in this art form. *Si zhu* literally means silk string and bamboo in Chinese, that is, stringed (silk strings) and wind instruments made of bamboo, including mainly the *erhu* (two-stringed bowed instrument), the *pipa* (a stringed instrument with a fretted finger-board), and the *dizi* and *xiao* (horizontal and vertical bamboo flutes). *Si zhu* also means instrumental music of this kind.

Lau, head of this varsity orchestra, has shown tremendous enthusiasm for the contest. Actually it was Lau and Fukuyama, co-leader of the orchestra, who founded this musical ensemble. Lau, an American of Chinese origin received his higher education in Western music in Hong Kong. Back in the United States, he majored in ethnomusicology at the University of Illinois, making a comparative study between Western and Oriental music. He came to Shanghai last September to collect materials for his doctoral thesis *A Study of Chinese Flute Music*. Thanks to his knowledge and skill in the Western flute, he quickly mastered the key technique of the Chinese flute—*dizi*. Fukuyama, a tall, smart young Japanese, is also keen on Chinese music, and he, too, is working on a research paper comparing European and Oriental music.

Late last year, they came up with the idea of forming a *si zhu* ensemble to amuse themselves

after class. The idea was immediately endorsed by some fellow students. From the time of its founding, the two and their ensemble have been rehearsing every day. "The musicians have been earnest in all these rehearsals," said Zhou Zhongkang, a lecturer and adviser to the orchestra, who won a composition award in the contest. "They were anxious to enter the contest from the very beginning and got words of encouragement from us. To help augment their musical prowess, we actually had three of the most talented Chinese students in our school join their ensemble." To a certain extent, Lau's orchestra owes its success to Zhou's patronage.

Today in this world of ours, there is every evidence to show that cultures of different countries are interacting with each other on a scale hitherto unknown. Musicians of the West have been showing an ever increasing interest in Oriental music. With tremendous zeal and eagerness, many have travelled to China, India and the Arab world to try and uncover the innermost quality of this music from among old civilization. Lau, Fukuyama and their ensemble are just part of the quest.

Eighty years has passed since the inauguration of the first *si zhu* club—*Wen Ming Ya Ji* ("Lovers of an Elegant Music") in a tea house in Shanghai. During this time, *si zhu* music, its ups and downs notwithstanding, has managed to survive, because it is a deep-seated form of folk music. Everywhere people are enjoying the *si zhu* music, in conservatories and concert halls, in packed tea houses all over the city as well as in the vast countryside, and on fishing boats on the rivers. Villagers and fishermen alike

often meet to play *si zhu* music, either as a pastime or at weddings, birthday parties, festival celebrations or at funerals. At the recent contest, one could easily tell which ensemble had come from the countryside, for it is their custom to trim their instruments with colourful ribbons. Each rural musical ensemble of this kind, I was told, has a history of ten or 20 years or longer.

Si zhu music has, to this day, a huge audience of all ages, even though there has been a growing interest in China for Western classics and pop music. True, "tea-and-music saloons" entertaining people with the piano, electric guitar, synthesizer and pop songs are mushrooming in Shanghai and they have outnumbered the *si zhu* ensemble in tea houses. But the sound of *si zhu* music will never die out. Both professional and amateur *si zhu* players across the city with a rich repertoire of *si zhu* musical pieces have proved to be a big attraction to Shanghai-landers and tourists alike.

The *si zhu* music has a charm that has not only attracted the interest of such young Asian musicians as Lau and Fukuyama, but also people like François Picard, a quiet, thoughtful-looking Frenchman studying Chinese classics in the same conservatory. He and Lau are regular customers at the well known tea house named Hu Xin Ting (Pavilion in the Middle of the Lake) near the city's garden park Yu Yuan, where they listen spellbound to the elegant music made by veteran *si zhu* players, from whom they had much to learn. Sometimes they also join these elders in their performance.

Stephen Jones, British, now studying ancient Chinese music at the Central Conservatory of Music, travelled all the way from Beijing at the invitation of Lau's ensemble to play with them at the contest. Interviewed by *Beijing Review*, he could not but show his

strong passion for the traditional school of Chinese music. He is every inch a *si zhu* buff and plays the *erhu* with his heart and soul. Excitement shining in his eyes, he strongly believes that both Western and Chinese music are timeless, and one could not say which is superior to the other. "Fantastic" is the word he used at least three times to speak of his experience of playing with the ensemble at the contest.

"I don't really mind about awards," chimed in Jones, "I'm here to create music." He said that most of the players in the ensemble wished to pay their respects to their Chinese tutors, particularly those in the tea house.

Everybody in the ensemble played together well at the contest. The three women students chosen to reinforce Lau's ensemble had done a very good job. Elsa Lee, the drummer, an Australian born girl of Chinese origin, whose parents too are very fond of Chinese music, impressed her audience with her lively beat. Then there was Ohtsuki, another Japanese student, who dutifully supported Miss Lee on his *bangu* (a small drum to mark time). Indeed, music and friendship have bound them together and won them honours.

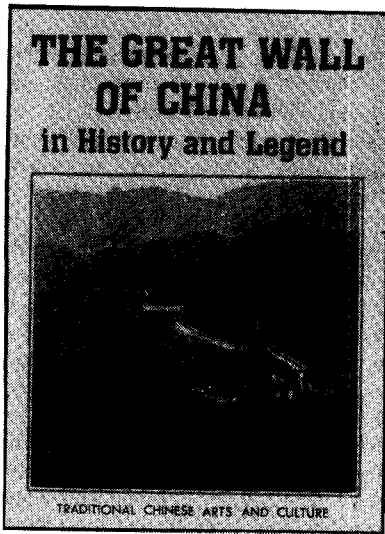
At the end of the interview, Jones told *Beijing Review* that he would set up a *si zhu* club or an ensemble upon his return to Britain. So would Tony Wheeler, the Australian *daruan* (a vertical stringed instrument) player in the ensemble. He believes that what he has learnt about Chinese national music will be of great help to his future career as a composer.

A group called "Folk Union" was the most qualified group at the contest. They are veteran *si zhu* players giving regular performances at the "Pavilion in the Middle of the Lake" Tea House and have been recognized as the true representatives of *si zhu* music as a folk art. By the time China had survived from the nightmarish

"cultural revolution" sometime in 1976, many of the famous *si zhu* fathers were no more. It was Xu Zhongyi, now leader of the Hu Xin Ting ensemble, who reorganized it and restored *si zhu* performances in the tea house. He cherishes the hope that more and more young people will come to like and play *si zhu* music so as to carry on the tradition. "Young people are our hope," the retired worker said with confidence, "*si zhu* music won't die off." He and his ensemble were honoured with a special "Pioneers Award."

Several years ago, when China decided to enter the world arena of soccer games, its top leader Deng Xiaoping noted that the training of football players must "begin with young kids." It seems that this applies to the *si zhu* players as well. Eight years of experiment in training youngsters mostly under ten in mastering traditional Chinese musical instruments, resulted in Cao Yuanlong's ensemble of ten young girls and boys from Chang Ning District of Shanghai winning the "Seedling Award." Cao is a teacher of music at a local cultural centre, a man with an ideal and the stamina to turn it into reality.

It was also a treat to listen to an orchestra composed of nine faculty members and students from the Central Conservatory of Music. The musical piece they have composed themselves *Ode to the South: Mountains, Rivers and Bamboo* evokes a picture of south China's beautiful landscape, and brought the contest to its climax. Both the composition and performance were first class, and thus made a conquest of the audience and finally carried all the five "golden medals" during the contest. "The success is a surprise to us," said orchestra leader Feng, "but more important, we have got a wonderful opportunity to learn from others their style, skills and way of presentation. Above all, we hope to study and grasp the quaint essence of *si zhu* music in Shanghai, its cradle."



Book on China's Wonder

The Great Wall of China in History and Legend (In English, French, German and Spanish)

Written by: Luo Zhewen and Zhao Luo

Price: RMB 14.30 Yuan

Pages: 61 for text and 68 for plates

Published by: Foreign Languages Press in Beijing, First Edition in 1986

Distributed by: China International Book Trading Corpora-

tion (Guoji Shudian), P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China

The Great Wall of China in History and Legend has recently been published in English, French, German and Spanish and other language editions will be available soon. With over 100 photographs in colour or black and white showing the grandeur and beauty of the wall, the book introduces the Great Wall in a systematical and concise way.

The contest has ended, but the zeal and love for *si zhu* music inspired by it will last. It bodes well for brighter future for *si zhu* music, not only in Shanghai, in Jiangnan, but elsewhere in the country, and in Hong Kong, Singapore and everywhere in the world where people will grow to

love the music. Maybe this is the reason why the contest was held.

Lau and his friends will not stop there. They will continue their regular visits to their teachers at Hu Xin Ting. Each Monday afternoon, they are there.

by Dal Gang

Chinese Shuttlers Show Their Stuff

China made badminton history when it swept all five titles at the Fifth World Badminton Championships recently held in Beijing.

China's Yang Yang won the men's singles crown, defeating Denmark's Morten Frost. Yang Yang is China's second world crown winner of the event. Han Jian won the title at the fourth world championships.

Defending women's champion Han Aiping played a steady game to beat compatriot Li Lingwei in the final and became the first woman to win the singles title twice.

Top seeded pair Li Yongbo and Tian Bingyi of China beat Malaysia's Sidek brothers in the men's doubles final, winning the title for China for the first time.

China's Lin Ying and Guan Weizhen clinched the women's doubles title after they beat Han Aiping and Li Lingwei. This is the

third time China has captured the title in a row.

China completed its sweep when Wang Pengren and Shi Fangjing beat top seeded Lee Deuk Choon and Chung Myung Hee of South Korea in the mixed doubles final. The mixed doubles crown was China's first at the world championships.

Sports specialists said the outstanding achievement of the Chinese shuttlers shows the Chinese team can maintain its superiority in the years ahead. But they added that training of a reserve force must start immediately.

Luan Jing, a famous retired shuttler, said striking progress has been made by European contestants in the men's singles event. There were five Europeans among the 16 contenders for the title. Denmark's Morten Frost, runner-up in the event, has three times

made it to the finals of the world championships and has won titles in other world competitions. The Europeans continually changed their way of serving and offence, and every point was hotly contested. There is no absolute superiority on the Chinese side, Luan said.

In praise of European contestants, including Denmark's J.P. Nierhoff and M. Kjeldsen, and some shuttlers from Sweden, he said, "Although they lack experience in competitions, they will certainly be among the future top contenders."

Coach Hou Jiachang said, "China did well in the Fifth World Badminton Championships." But he stressed the importance of training more first-class younger shuttlers.

Hou noted that while the Chinese players who took part in the May championships are known to the public, 120 Chinese players with an average age of 23 took part in the 1987 China Open Badminton Championships held in Nanjing in April.

The results of the world championships show that Asia still dominates badminton. Nine of the first and second places in the five events went to Asian players, with only one left for Denmark's Frost.

The Great Wall is widely considered to have been built during the reign of Qin Shi Huang (the first Emperor of the Qin Dynasty) in the third century BC. But in fact, China had its first Great Wall as far back as the 7th century BC. Until the 17th century AD, each emperor mobilized tremendous manpower and materials to build the Great Wall, whose total length stretches over more than 50,000 kilometres. (The section in the Inner Mongolia is 15,000 kilometres long.) The Great Wall is not a relic left by a certain dynasty, but a heritage of much of China's history and cultural development.

With no machinery available at all, why was the Great Wall built with all that hard and bitter labour? The book explains that the construction of the wall was required by the times, to keep off invaders. Emperors throughout history tried to keep peace on their borders by marrying their princesses to neighbouring rulers or by paying their neighbours off, but the peace never lasted. Many statesmen in ancient China believed the best way to guard against the nomadic tribes from the north was to build high walls and deep moats and station soldiers at the borders. The long wall served to block cavalry, and enable clear organization of defensive forces and aided communications. In the several thousand years from the Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods (770-221 BC) to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) all the emperors built up the wall to protect peace and defend the border.

The authors, Luo and Zhao, are well-known specialists in ancient architecture and the Great Wall. With abundant background material, they chronicle the construction of the Great Wall through time. The Great Wall was begun in the state of Chu in 656 BC. Later other sections were built by the state of Qi in the 5th century BC in present-day Shandong

Province, by the state of Zhongshan in today's Hebei Province, by the state of Wei in Henan and Shaanxi provinces, and so on. It is clear that the various princes in the Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods were trying to annex one another's territory and gain dominance, and they built these walls to allow them to defend themselves and attack others.

The Great Wall of the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD) extends 10,000 kilometres and its ruins, its castles and beacon towers are to be found in Xinjiang, Gansu, Ningxia, Inner Mongolia, Shanxi and Hebei. The Great Wall sections built from the Southern and Northern Dynasties (420-589) to the Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368) were constructed mainly by minority nationality rulers. Between the 5th and 13th century, in the states of Northern Wei and Northern Qi, and in the Jin Dynasty, the Great Wall was being built on a particularly large scale.

Its construction did not stop during the 200-odd years of the Ming Dynasty. In the first year of the Ming Dynasty (1368) the first emperor Zhu Yuanzhang sent General Xu Da to supervise the building of the Great Wall in Juyongguan and other places. When Qi Jiguang was in command of the Jizhou Garrison area, over 1,000 beacon towers were constructed along the line linking Shanhaiguan and Juyongguan.

At crucial sections, especially to the north of the capital Beijing, Qi built many layers of wall, in some places more than 20 layers, and erected many observation posts and beacon towers. The Ming Great Wall starts at the Yalu River in the east of Liaoning Province and ends at Jiayuguan in the west of Gansu Province, measuring over 6,300 kilometres. The section between Shanhaiguan and Jiayuguan is better preserved and is much visited these days.

The book is useful for visitors to the Great Wall. It introduces the

historical sites of the wall one by one, for example Shanhaiguan in Hebei Province, Jiayuguan in Gansu, and the section at Badaling 50 kilometres north of Beijing.

The book includes in its appendices seven legends about the Great Wall. *Meng Jiangnu Looks for Her Husband* is a well-known tale of Fan Xiliang who was forced into the Great Wall construction soon after he married Meng Jiangnu. Several years later Meng went to look for him and found him dead and buried in the wall. She sat and grieved and wept until that section of the Great Wall crashed down and Fan Xiliang's corpse was revealed. At first Emperor Qin Shi Huang wanted to punish her but he changed his mind when he saw how beautiful Meng was and decided to take her for himself. On the wedding day Meng drowned herself after cursing the emperor. She is remembered as a woman who was loyal to her husband and dared to oppose a tyrant.

The Chinese government has attached great importance to the protection of the Great Wall. As early as in 1961, the government listed Shanhaiguan, Jiayuguan and Badaling as primary historical sites protected by the state and called on the people to protect them. Other sections of the Great Wall are also included in local government protection lists. The Great Wall belongs not only to China but to the world. The publication of the book is a celebration of this.

by Qing Hua





The Great Wall.

Woodcuts by Zhu Chunyi

Zhu Chunyi, born in 1928 in Jinxian County, Liaoning Province, now works in the Dalian Mass Art Gallery.

Zhu, a self-taught artist who has been fond of painting since childhood, specializes in black and white woodcuts.



Out to the Sea.



Shark Hunting.

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