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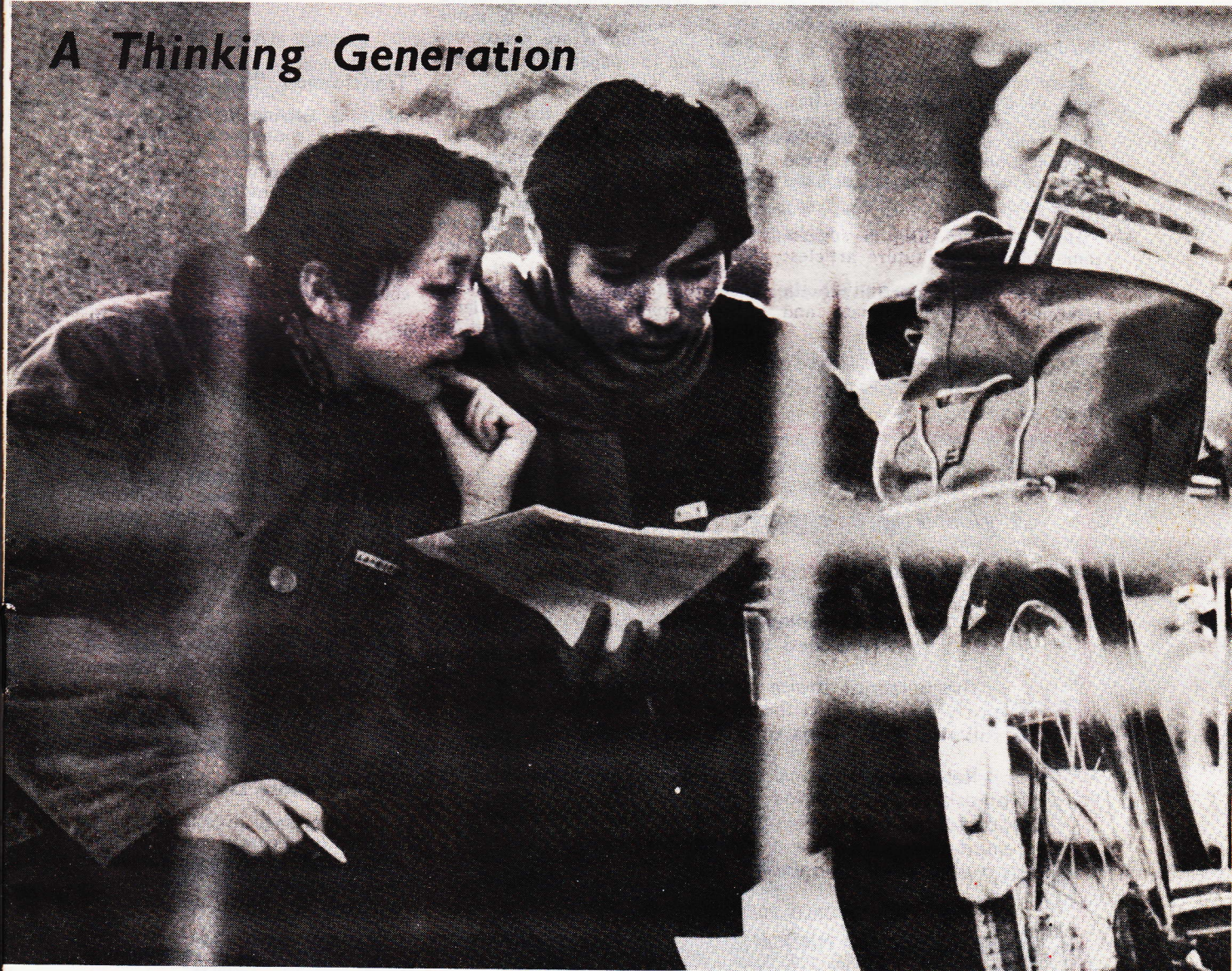
May 2, 1983

BEIJING REVIEW

北京周报

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

A Thinking Generation



- Socialist Spirit and Modernization
- Premier Zhao's Australian Tour

LETTERS

20 years in Mexico

I am writing to express my congratulations on the 20th year of the distribution of *Beijing Review* (Spanish edition) in Mexico. I appreciate your detailed reports, especially those covering often neglected topics.

I have thought of writing you for a long time. I didn't write previous to reading your "To Our Readers" (No. 10) because I thought you were too busy for correspondence.

I am interested in the development of China's society, politics, economy and culture. I appreciate your commentaries on numerous subjects as they help me examine major issues of the world.

Here I would like to suggest some subjects for future articles:

1. Economic productivity (with reference to land, climate and crops).

2. Population distribution (including charts and maps).

3. Crops: rice, cotton and tea (with illustrations).

4. Fish and other aquatic products breeding.

5. Industrial centres (for example, northeast China, Tianjin, Shanghai, Wuhan and Guangzhou).

Martin Cryz Ortiz
Mexico City, Mexico

Wide Coverage

Beijing Review is a quality magazine. It carries timely interesting reports that are amusing and sharp. The layout is quite good; the columns are neatly divided and the paper of reasonable quality.

Your "Notes From the Editors" informed readers about the hostilities between some countries in Southeast Asia and China's reasonable attitude. Also the reportage on the acceleration of China's economic development provides food for thought. The brief comments on foreign countries reveals China's many faceted considerations. Your journal is scientific.

It presents creative ideas on international politics and helps people ponder various questions. While concentrating on improving the people's livelihood, China, as reflected in your journal, does not neglect the Taiwan issue.

The column "A Glimpse of China" (French edition only) reports the changes in the lives of the Chinese people and the improvements in urban environmental sanitation.

I hope you will also write about China's public lawsuits, transportation system and humour. Also more reports on China's progress in science, archaeology, industry and journalism will be welcomed.

Omari Katedja
Kisangani, Zaire

Transformed 'Beijing Review'

I think *Beijing Review* has improved its contents and layout.

As a subscriber since 1972, I realize that China has experienced tremendous changes and is striving for modernization. I shall continue to read your weekly in order to keep abreast of your country's advances.

Roberto Lavaselli
Varallo, Italy

Window Into China

Your magazine provides a window to observe China with its vast territory and complex developments. The coverage of China's socialist construction and related documents and reference material are useful.

Your international coverage reports on the world situation in a realistic and all-round way. I would be particularly interested in articles analysing the current situation in Spain.

Vicente Ventura Soriano
Barcelona, Spain

More Details

The reportage in your magazine is usually accurate but lacks details, both in domestic accounts and in reports on El Salvador and other Latin American countries which are undergoing revolutions.

I am interested in your political and economic articles.

Brillat Laurent
Monteau, France

A glimpse of past glory

BAI JUYI

**200 Selected Poems
Translated by Rewi Alley**

The personal charm and intelligence of Tang Dynasty poet Bai Juyi that emanates from his work is still vital 1,000 years after it was created.

Rewi Alley's translations from the classical Chinese combine a poet's mastery of English with a profound knowledge of China. The book is a remarkable achievement both as a work of art and as a glimpse of an ancient culture.

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CONTENTS

LETTERS

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS 4-5

Safeguarding women's rights

EVENTS & TRENDS 5-9

Premier Zhao Ziyang visits
Australia

Chinese, Indian Parties to re-
sume ties

Firm support for Democratic
Kampuchea

70 key projects boosted

Taiwan pilot crosses over to
mainland

Sex ratio of China's newborns
normal

INTERNATIONAL 10-13

Washington-Moscow: The arms
race in outer space

Soviet-French relations: Grow-
ing contradictions add to
chill

Japan: Nakasone's visit to
ASEAN states

Czechoslovakia: Striving to
improve foreign trade

Premier Zhao Ziyang Gives Press Conference in Canberra 14

Chinese-Type Modernization (10): Building Socialist Spiritual Civilization 16

After Careful Thought and Com- parison 20

The Pillars of Tomorrow 23

FROM THE CHINESE PRESS 28-29

CULTURE & SCIENCE 30

ART PAGE 31

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Socialist Spiritual Civilization in Modernization Drive

Tenth in the series on Chinese-type modernization, this article details the implications of the concept of socialist spiritual civilization and its relationship to economic construction (p. 16).

A Thinking Generation

Two reports examine the contributions of Youth League members to the modernization drive and the process through which Beijing University students have reinforced Marxist convictions (pp. 20 and 23).

Premier Zhao Visits Australia

Premier Zhao Ziyang and Australian Prime Minister Robert Hawke held amicable talks (p. 5). Premier Zhao also gave a press conference in Canberra (p. 14).

Communist Party of India (Marxist) Delegation

General Secretary Hu Yaobang of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee met with E.M.S. Namboodiripad, General Secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), and announced that the two Parties have agreed to resume relations (p. 6).

China's Infant Sex Ratio Is Normal

According to Li Chengrui, Director of the State Statistical Bureau, the ratio of male to female newborn babies and infants in China is generally normal, except in a very few areas (p. 9).

Taiwan Pilot Crosses Over

Major Li Dawei (Li Ta-wei) of the Kuomintang air force in Taiwan left the island in the morning of April 22 and landed safely in a coastal area in Fujian Province after a flight of about two and a half hours (p. 8).



Two students on holiday.
Photo by Xu Zhigang

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

Safeguarding women's rights

Chinese newspapers recently have exposed cases of women being bullied by their husbands and insulted by their parents-in-law simply because they did not give birth to sons. On the employment front, some enterprises have shown reluctance to hire women.

The All-China Women's Federation and the public have condemned these phenomena. They have called on people in all walks of life to fight such erroneous behaviour and safeguard the rights of women.

In old China, working women, like men, were oppressed by the exploiting classes and foreign invaders. They also suffered from feudal ethics and were expected to be subservient to their husbands. For thousands of years, women were told to be "obedient to your father before marriage, to your husband after marriage and to your son after the death of your husband," and that "ignorance is a woman's virtue." Women were frequently mistreated, abused and persecuted.

With the victory of the Chinese revolution, women also won their own emancipation. Both men and women have become masters of the country and society. The Constitution of the People's Republic of China stipulates: "Women in the People's Republic of China enjoy equal rights with men in all spheres of life, political, economic, cultural and social, including family life," and "the

state protects the rights and interests of women."

In order for women to acquire equal positions with men in all spheres of political, economical and social life, they must be guaranteed the right to take part in social labour and must be freed from the oppressive aspects of family work.

At present, 150 million women peasants in the rural areas work side by side with men on various kinds of jobs, as do 29 million women workers and staff members in industrial, commercial, cultural, educational, public health undertakings as well as in scientific research institutions and transport and communications.

In addition, thousands upon thousands of women have become government leaders or deputies to people's congresses at various levels, taking part directly in running the state.

Large numbers of advanced women have appeared in all fields. For instance, 2,372 young women have received the title of "pace-setters in the new long march" from the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Youth League because of their excellent performance in the country's modernization drive, and more than 400,000 women have been named "March 8 red banner winners" by the women's federations above the county level.

Clearly, "emancipation of women" and "equality between men and women" are no longer

just clauses in law books but have become widely accepted reality in China. Anybody who respects facts cannot but admit that this is the major trend in China today.

However, there is no need to deny that, in present-day China, a few people still look down upon women. Cases of discrimination against and maltreatment of women have indeed occurred in some places.

The most important reason is the tenacity of old feudal ideas, especially in remote rural areas, that "men are superior to women" and "only sons can carry on the family tree."

Moreover, in some places political and ideological work has been neglected with the institution of the responsibility system based on households and the implementation of the family planning policy of "one couple, one child" (both are necessary and correct in view of China's actual conditions). Hence, the idea that "men are superior to women" has come to life again among some people.

Open criticism of the ugly phenomenon of discrimination against women in China is aimed at stopping it and educating the people. It shows the firm attitude of the Chinese Government against such erroneous behaviour.

Some friends of China are concerned about the significance of these events, perhaps because they do not quite understand either the actual conditions and the influence of inherited traditional feudal ideas or the policies and attitudes of the Chinese Government.

Premier Zhao Ziyang visits Australia

Premier Zhao Ziyang visited Australia April 17-23 at the invitation of Prime Minister Robert Hawke. He was the first Chinese head of government to go there since diplomatic relations were established between the two countries in 1972.

In two rounds of talks, the two leaders agreed that the Kampuchean issue cannot be solved without the total pullout of Vietnamese troops and that Kampuchea should become an independent, peaceful, neutral and non-aligned nation.

Prime Minister Hawke said that his country will not resume giving aid to Viet Nam until it has listened carefully to the opinions of the ASEAN member states, China, the United States and other countries.

During the talks, Premier Zhao stressed that a root cause of the Kampuchean issue was Viet Nam's long-harboured ambition to annex Kampuchea and Laos and to turn Indochina into an important stepping-stone in

Hanoi's expansion into Southeast Asia.

Zhao said that Viet Nam's aggressive expansionist policy of regional hegemonism has the support of the Soviet Union and is the result of Vietnamese-Soviet strategic collusion.

On Chinese-Australian bilateral relations, Premier Zhao pointed out that both countries have immense potential for economic and technological cooperation and trade relations. He said that he hoped to see steady long-term development of bilateral relations and that diverse forms and package deals would boost trade relations and economic and technological cooperation.

Prime Minister Hawke said that his country was eager to ensure further development in the fruitful relations with China in the second decade following establishment of diplomatic relations. This, he said, will be of benefit to both countries and



Premier Zhao with Prime Minister Hawke.

Another small handful of people wish to take advantage of China's honest examination of its own problems to discredit it. Their attempts will not succeed.

At present, an educational campaign is being conducted in China to commend those who safeguard the rights of women and those couples who decide not to have any more children after giving birth to a daughter. At the same time, those who maltreat and persecute women are being punished according to law.

Recently, the All-China Women's Federation decided to gradually make itself a mass organization with the authority to protect and educate women. The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party also issued directives to its organizations to pay attention to the interests of women and support the work of the women's federations at various levels.

We can confidently predict that, with the active support of the Party and government, Chinese women will further improve their lives and, in a concerted effort with the whole society, stop and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.

— Social Editor
Xin Linmei



will help maintain regional and international peace.

Addressing a state luncheon he gave in honour of Premier Zhao, Prime Minister Hawke noted, "Friendship with China has become a significant element in the foreign policies of all Australia's major political parties and enjoys widespread support in the Australian community."

He called attention to "outstanding strategic and political problems" in the Asian-Pacific region, saying, "There are no ready solutions to these problems." But he also pointed out that the region today is far more stable and prosperous than it was a decade ago.

"The broadening of China's relationships throughout the region since the early 1970s has contributed greatly to the present improved scene," he added.

Premier Zhao discussed world economic relations in his address at the luncheon, saying that the current unjust, unequal international economic relations are detrimental to third world countries who desire just, reasonable international economic relations based on equality and mutual benefit.

"I believe," he continued, "that the reform of old international economic relations will be beneficial to both the economic growth of the developing

countries and the interests of the developed countries. This is not only an economic issue, but a major political issue having a bearing on world peace and stability."

Premier Zhao told his host that China is ready to join Australia in efforts to promote global negotiations, enhance international co-operation and boost economic development.

On April 19, Premier Zhao held a press conference in Canberra, where he explained the Chinese Government's position on a number of world issues (see p. 14). He also visited Sydney and the state of Queensland during his stay in Australia.

Chinese, Indian Parties to resume ties

Hu Yaobang, General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, and E.M.S. Namboodiripad, General Secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), agreed that the two Parties would resume relations, which were severed 15 years ago, through consultations on the basis of mutual respect and co-operation.

The two Parties also agreed to work for better understanding and closer friendship between the people of China and India.

The delegation of the CPI (Marxist) Central Committee headed by General Secretary Namboodiripad arrived in Beijing on April 23 for a two-week visit at the invitation of the CPC Central Committee. It is the first official delegation to China by the CPI (Marxist) since its founding in 1964.

At the April 24 banquet in honour of the delegation, Hu Yaobang said that the Chinese

Party and the Indian Party had enjoyed good relations, which later were suspended for a fairly long time. "Now that we have

come to realize the damage this separation has done to both Parties," Hu said, "we are determined to restore our relations."

"With the experience of both co-operation and separation,"



Hu Yaobang welcomes E.M.S. Namboodiripad and his delegation.

Hu said, "I am sure that the rebuilt relations will be better than the previous one."

Discussing Party-to-Party relations, he said experience over the past decades showed that these relations and co-operation with each other must be based on mutual respect and independence. "Without independence, all other issues are out of the question," he said.

Hu Yaobang said: "To us, independence means to be responsible to one's own country and its people. It means for a country to independently select its own socialist road on the basis of Marxist principles and independently observe world affairs and make its own decisions. It also means that all Parties must decide all their own affairs and make their own judgments independently."

Nambudiripad said that the international communist movement today is different from that of the days of the Communist International. Marxism holds that all countries are going to advance towards socialism, communism. But every nation, with its national peculiarities and national conditions, will adopt its own course, he said.

The Indian Party General Secretary said that the principle of independence is the application of the universal principles of Marxism-Leninism to the actual conditions of one's own country.

He said that the Communist Party of China is now solving its own problems correctly and reviewing its past, as is the Communist Party of India (Marxist). "In this process, our two Parties have a big role to play," he said.

During talks between the General Secretaries of the two Parties, Nambudiripad briefed Hu on the programme and the political line of the CPI (Marxist) and explained his Party's views on domestic and international issues.

Hu Yaobang described the tortuous path the CPC has followed since the People's Republic was founded in 1949, as well as China's present political and economic situation.

Hu reiterated the CPC's foreign policy and basic stand. "China will never seek hegemony," he said. "Our Party has decided to reaffirm this policy at each national congress. A communist party in power will damage the image of socialism if it practises hegemonism and this will make it difficult for those parties not yet in power to

speak to the people. China opposes both Soviet and US hegemonist actions.

Discussing China's relations with some neighbouring countries, Hu Yaobang said China has no territorial ambitions against any neighbouring country. China only wants to resolve the border disputes fairly and reasonably. China is a socialist country and it will never try to grab other countries' territories.

The talks proceeded in a warm, sincere and comradely atmosphere. The two sides had identical views on many of the topics discussed. Although there were differences on some issues, they maintained that these differences would not hamper the two Parties from restoring and developing their relations.

Firm support for Democratic Kampuchea

The Chinese Government and people firmly support the struggle led by the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea against Vietnamese aggression and for national salvation and firmly support the just position of the Thai Government and people in resisting the Vietnamese invasion and safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity, said Li Xiannian, Standing Committee Member of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, at a banquet on April 21 in honour of Samdech Sihanouk and Madame Sihanouk.

Li Xiannian said that in response to repeated Vietnamese provocations against China's border areas over the past few

days, Chinese frontier guards have been forced to return the fire of Vietnamese troops.

"Should the Vietnamese authorities cling obstinately to their present course and continue to play with fire, threatening the security of China and the peace and stability of Southeast Asia, they will inevitably swallow even more bitter fruit," he said.

In his speech, Samdech Sihanouk strongly condemned the Vietnamese authorities for their barbarous military attacks on the peace-loving inhabitants in the border areas of Thailand and China. He said that Democratic Kampuchea and he himself unreservedly support the Chinese Government's measures

for defending China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and safeguarding peace in areas bordering northern Viet Nam.

Sihanouk said: "We will never be fooled by Viet Nam's tricks, nor will we ever believe their sweet words of 'compromise' and 'political settlement.'"

He said that the solution worked out by the United Nations General Assembly is and will remain the only solution to the Kampuchean question. The International Conference on Kampuchea sponsored by the United Nations is the only acceptable international conference on the Kampuchean issue, he said.

At a press conference on April 19 in Beijing, Sihanouk said that whatever the development of the situation, he will never quit the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea. "I cannot give up my homeland to Viet Nam or the Soviet Union. I will let the world, Viet Nam and the Soviet Union know that till I die I cannot accept the Vietnamese and Soviet fait accompli in my country," he said.

Sihanouk said that he plans to go back to Kampuchea very soon to meet with his colleagues and followers, that he will inspect two liberated areas and attend the third session of the Coalition Government there.

70 key projects boosted

China recently decided to accelerate the construction of 70 construction projects by giving them priority in materials and funding.

The 70 key projects — out of 600 nationwide — include mainly those in energy, light and building material industries as well as transport and communi-

cations. Eight are in the coal industry, 13 in the power generating industry and nine are railway construction projects.

The new support will allow two projects to be completed and go into production this year — the Jidong Cement Works in Hebei Province, with a designed annual capacity of 1.55 million tons, and the Panji No. 1 Pit in Anhui's Huainan Coal Mine, with a designed capacity of 3 million tons.

During the same period, six big hydropower stations in Jilin, Hebei, Liaoning, Heilongjiang, Zhejiang and Hubei respectively will increase their generating capacity to 1.275 million kw; four railways totaling 224 kilometres will be double-tracked; and another 146 kilometres will be electrified.

Some provinces and municipalities also will give priority to the state projects. For instance, Shanxi Province, China's biggest coal producing base, where building materials and transport facilities are limited, has adopted measures to ensure the designated projects with funds as well as building material supplies and technically competent and well equipped construction crews.

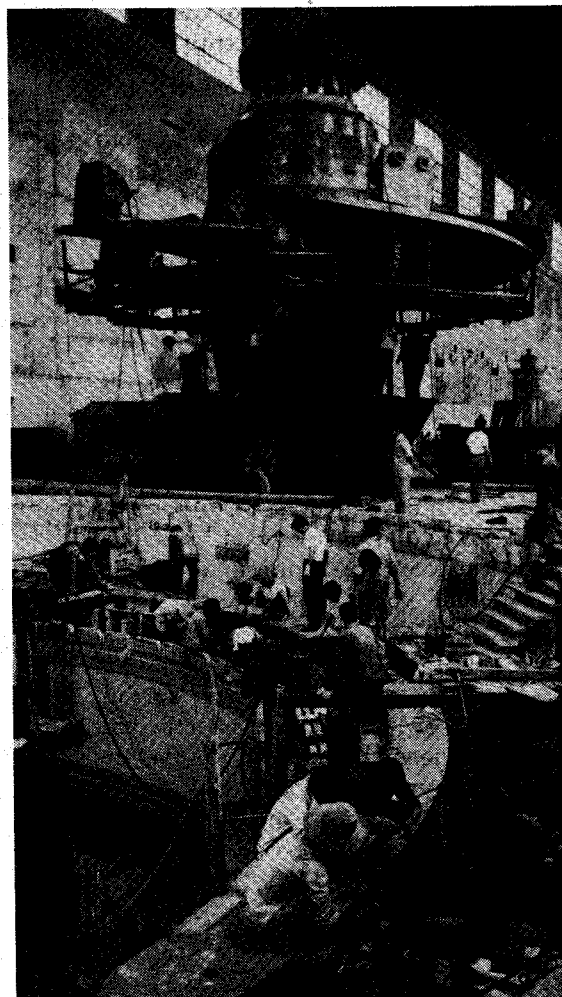
China's economic development is uneven. The development of such basic industries as energy and transport and communications has lagged behind the economic development as a whole. The state's decision to give priority to the 70 key construction projects is part of a

national drive to eliminate the unevenness in a short period of time.

China has accumulated some successful experience in this respect. During the First Five-Year Plan (1953-57), China concentrated its limited resources on 156 major construction projects, which laid a foundation for the country's industrialization. Similarly, if China completes a number of key projects in the 80s, it will lay a foundation for accelerated economic development in the 90s.

In order to ensure the construction of the key projects, the state also plans to control investment in fixed assets and adopt related measures, such as

Workers install the No. 5 generator in a station on the second channel in the Gezhoubu Hydropower Project.



reducing the number of projects in the processing industry and appropriately limiting the number of non-productive construction projects.

Taiwan pilot crosses over to mainland

A Taiwan army air force officer flew a U-6A aircraft over to Fujian Province on April 22, according to military sources in Fuzhou.

Major Li Dawei (Li Ta-wei), 33, is leader of the first flight of the observation squadron of the first group under the Kuomintang army air force in Taiwan.

He left Hualian (Hualien) Airport on the east coast of Taiwan at 09:50 hours and landed safely in a coastal area in Fujian Province at 12:25.

Upon his arrival there, he was accorded a warm welcome by the local armymen and people, the military sources said.

Li Dawei received training at the Kuomintang army school and aviation school, and was posted at Jinmen (Quemoy) and elsewhere.

Alighting from the plane, Li Dawei said that he was dissatisfied with social corruptness on the island and the rule of the Taiwan authorities. He often listened to mainland China's radio broadcasts and learnt about former Kuomintang air force pilot Huang Zhicheng's return to the mainland.

"I decided to cross over, convinced that only the government on the mainland can make our Chinese nation strong and prosperous," he said.



Li Dawei and the plane he flew over to the mainland.

The Kuomintang major's father, who is from Fuyang County, Anhui Province, east China, is in Taiwan with his mother. His wife and daughter are also in Taiwan.

Li Dawei told journalists in Fuzhou on April 25: "The Taiwan authorities have said that my crossing over to the mainland was because I drifted off course and was forced to land.

Sex ratio of China's newborns normal

The ratio of male to female newborn babies and infants in China is generally normal, except in a very few areas, Li Chengrui, Director of the State Statistical Bureau, said recently.

The data from the third national population census showed that on July 1, 1982, the male-female ratio was 106.3 to 100, he said. In the country's first national census in 1953 the ratio was 105.99 to 100 and that of the second national census in 1964 was 105.46 to 100. He concluded that therefore the sex ratio in China is normal.

According to manually tabulated figures from the third national census, the male-female

ratio of the 1981 newborn babies in the 29 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions was 108.47 to 100.

How can that be possible? It could only deceive a three-year-old. I was a hero of the Kuomintang army on two occasions and received by Jiang Jingguo. I have a flying log of more than 2,600 hours. How could I have gone off course?"

He also said: "I did not tell anyone before I took action. I demand that the Taiwan authorities do not make things difficult for my family. My father has worked for the Kuomintang all his life and his plight now is pitiful. I hope the Taiwan authorities will not confiscate the small house where he now lives. I eagerly await a reunion with my wife and daughter on the mainland."

The latest figures tabulated by computers for 88.71 million people, a 10 per cent sampling in 25 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions indicate that the male-female ratio of newborns is 107.66 to 100; 107.92 to 100 for the one-year-old infants; 107.44 to 100 for the two-year-old group; 106.75 to 100 for the three-year-old group; 106.38 to 100 for the four-year-old group; and 106.50 to 100 for the five-year-old group, Li said.

In other words, the male-female ratio for babies under

(Continued on p. 13.)

*Washington-Moscow***The arms race in outer space**

WITH the development of modern science and technology the US-Soviet arms race has expanded to outer space. US President Ronald Reagan's decision to start work on developing a space-age anti-ballistic missile defence system constitutes a new step forward in the arms race with the Soviet Union.

The idea of building such a defence system is not new. Both Washington and Moscow have carried out a series of studies and experiments on setting up an anti-ballistic missile system (the ABM defence system). The Soviet Union has already built a thin ABM defence system around its capital. Reagan's new plan is that the United States should develop an ABM defence system using lasers, particle beams and other sophisticated technology which could destroy Soviet nuclear missiles in flight and render these missiles impotent and obsolete.

Some US newspaper articles have said that Reagan is attempting to turn the "star-wars" type of science fiction into reality. But the realization of such a new defence system would not be easy. Even Reagan himself has acknowledged that it is very difficult to estimate how many years and how much money the United States would have to spend to complete it. Scientists estimate that it will take decades and US\$200-300 billion to research

and develop an ABM defence system.

Search for Strategic Superiority

Each of the two superpowers has a nuclear arsenal capable of annihilating its opponent. As a nuclear attack from one side is sure to incur nuclear retaliation from the other, this so-called balance of terror prevents either side from attaining an advantage sufficient to overwhelm its adversary. If either side made a breakthrough in defensive strategic weapons that would make it capable of launching a nuclear strike without having to worry about reprisals, it would be invincible.

Reagan has said that the work of developing such a defence system must start right now, and the sooner the better. This means an attempt to outrace the Soviet Union to gain superiority.

When Washington and Moscow signed the SALT I treaty in 1972, they also signed the ABM treaty under which each side could build an ABM defence system around only one site. However, the treaty did not limit research on the development of ABM defence systems. In fact, Washington and Moscow have never stopped their research work on ABM defence systems.

US officials have admitted that the United States has been doing research work on lasers, particle beams and other microwave technology for years. Reagan recently called for greater efforts to develop an

ABM defence system because the Soviet Union has been doing secret research on such systems. General Vessey, Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that the Soviet Union has done much more than the United States, and therefore, Washington should implement an effective research programme to match Moscow's efforts.

Tension Rises

Reagan's new plan has evoked strong responses from the Soviet Union. Soviet leader Yuri Andropov has said that US efforts to attain strategic superiority over the Soviet Union would be futile. In a joint statement, 245 Soviet scholars and scientists have warned that Reagan's proposal will accelerate a new round of US-Soviet arms building.

Anxious to triumph over the United States in the contention for world hegemony, the Soviet Union obviously will not resign itself to a possible defeat in the search for military superiority.

In spite of its economic difficulties and technical backwardness, as compared with the United States, the Soviet Union will probably curtail civil spending and, building upon results achieved in recent years, step up the development of an anti-missile system.

The large-scale extension of the US-Soviet arms race into outer space shows that their dangerous contest has entered a new stage. This will aggravate the tension in US-Soviet relations and pose a greater menace to world peace and security.

— Tang Shan

Growing contradictions add to chill

RELATIONS between the Soviet Union and France have chilled even further in the last few weeks, as indicated by repeated attacks on French domestic and foreign policy in the Moscow press.

An important incident in the developing contradictions was the French authorities' expulsion of 47 Soviet diplomats and other personnel in early April, who were accused of espionage activities in France.

Soviet officials warned that this move would have "negative effects" on Soviet-French relations and several Moscow social figures issued public statements charging France with "whipping up an anti-Soviet campaign."

It is not yet clear how the issue will be settled or how the French Government will respond if Moscow retaliates by expelling French diplomats. But one thing is certain—the impact of the current tensions will not be rapidly eliminated within a short period.

Another source of growing strain is the French attitude towards the deployment of US nuclear missiles in Europe—the most vital security issue in the region.

Since Francois Mitterrand was elected in 1981, France has insisted upon maintaining an independent nuclear force. It also has supported the NATO plan to place US-made intermediate nuclear missiles in Western Europe, a move intended to restore the balance upset by the

Soviet installation of large numbers of SS-20 nuclear missiles.

Last December, Soviet Communist Party Secretary-General Yuri Andropov proposed that the British and French medium-range missiles be included in US-Soviet arms control talks in Geneva. He said that if NATO refrained from further deployment of these weapons, the Soviets would maintain their medium-range arms in Europe at a number equal to those of Britain and France.

France vehemently opposed this plan. French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson repeatedly stressed the independence of French foreign policy and nuclear force during his February visit to Moscow.

The Soviet response was a thinly veiled threat that because French arms are pointed towards the Soviet Union and its allies, in the case of a nuclear war the Soviets would not hesitate to attack Western Europe.

The gap between the Soviet Union and France also appears wider on international issues. Although both Cheysson and his Soviet hosts described the two countries' position on the Mid-

dle East as "identical," the Soviet newspaper *Izvestia* termed the French position "hypocritical" in an April 19 article linking France with the anti-Arab policy of the US Government. Moscow also charged France with direct involvement in the "undeclared war" against Afghanistan.

Soviet-French trade also is beset with obstacles. Soviet exports to France increased quite rapidly between 1976 and 1980 but the growth rate slowed in 1981 and dropped in 1982.

France, once the third largest trading partner with the Soviet Union but now the fifth in the West, has become concerned about the increasing trade deficits with the Soviets (from a favourable balance before 1979 to an estimated one billion rubles deficit in 1982).

Moscow also is unhappy that France raised the interest rate on loans to the Soviets for the purchase of French equipment from 7.8 to 12.5 per cent and that France has imposed restrictive measures on exports to the Soviet Union of materials considered strategic by the Paris Consultative Group Co-operation Committee.

Tensions continue to mount, but it is unlikely that either side will allow relations to degenerate completely.

— Wang Chongjie

Japan

Nakasone's visit to ASEAN states

THE Japanese Government hopes that the visit by Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone to the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will usher in "a new era" in Japan-ASEAN relations.

During his trip to Southeast Asia from April 30 to May 10, Nakasone is expected to assure the five host countries that his government continues to attach importance to relations with them. He will strive to ease the frictions in bilateral trade and

dispel ASEAN's fears over Japan's military buildup.

Nakasone is reported to have decided that Japan will increase substantially its economic assistance to the ASEAN countries and import more ASEAN products. Scientific and technological co-operation agreements will be signed by Japan with Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore. These agreements will include exchanges of scientific data in the fields of energy, medicine, agriculture, telecommunication and meteorology. Japan has already signed such accords with Indonesia.

Economic ties between Japan and ASEAN are close. Every year Japan imports large quantities of industrial raw materials and farm produce from the ASEAN countries. Japanese imports from ASEAN in relation to Japan's total demand are: tin, 98.8 per cent; rubber, 97.5 per cent; lumber, 94 per cent; edible oil, 65.5 per cent; sugar, 29 per cent; copper, 24 per cent; and oil, 16.9 per cent.

Japan also invests in ASEAN countries which are important markets for Japanese products. Japan's investments in the area totalled US\$9.4 billion by the end of November 1981, 22 per cent of its total overseas investment. In 1980 alone, Japan's exports to the area accounted for 30 per cent of ASEAN's total imports.

The Strait of Malacca and the Strait of Lombok in the area constitute an artery for Japanese transportation. Japan receives 40 per cent of its total annual import in addition to 80 per cent of its oil, and ships 35 per cent of its annual export

through these waterways. Therefore Japan's fate is closely tied with the security of this region.

ASEAN countries have often complained that Japan buys cheap and sells dear and that Japan practises a discriminatory policy and protectionist measures in trade. This complaint is underlined by the fact that in the fiscal year which ended March 1982 Thailand's trade deficit with Japan stood at US\$1.03 billion. Singapore and the Philippines also suffered trade deficits, \$3.05 billion and \$386 million respectively.

Czechoslovakia

Striving to improve foreign trade

CZECHOSLOVAK foreign trade, through a series of effective reform measures, has reversed its long-term adverse trade balance.

Following the 1981 elimination of trade deficits the Czechoslovak foreign trade balance was favourable again in 1982.

As a participant in the integration and "international labour division" of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA), Czechoslovakia has what it calls a typical processing economy. For a long period of time, it has been dependent on exporting manufactured goods in exchange for energy, raw materials and other resources, so as to maintain and enlarge production. Accounting for one-third of its national income, foreign trade plays a pivotal role in Czechoslovakia's economy.

According to statistics

ASEAN's apprehension over Japan's increased defence capability is another issue Nakasone has to cope with during his trip. Though ASEAN countries believe that a stronger Japan will contribute to peace and stability in Southeast Asia in face of the increased Soviet military presence, they are afraid that this may lead to the revival of militarism in Japan and consequently endanger themselves. Therefore, Nakasone will have to explain to them his government's defence policy.

— Xin Ping

published by the Czechoslovak Government, the country's trade deficits for the period of the 1971-75 Fifth Five-Year Plan was 4,400 million koruna. During the period of the 1976-80 Sixth Five-Year Plan, the deficits climbed to 20,100 million koruna. These huge deficits exhausted the national foreign exchange reserves and forced the government to borrow increasing amounts of foreign money in an effort to balance revenue and expenditure. Even this measure failed to guarantee much-needed imports, the lack of which hampered economic growth. The adverse foreign trade balance thus became a nagging problem for the Czechoslovak Government.

Causes of Foreign Trade Imbalance

The serious imbalance in foreign trade, Czechoslovak

officials and economists believed, was the product of deteriorating external economic conditions, that is, unfavourable changes in prices of goods on international markets since 1970. These changes forced the government to spend an extra 52,900 million koruna for raw materials from other countries throughout the 1970-80 period. This figure was equal to one-third of the increase in national income over the corresponding period.

The price changes also affected Czechoslovak trade with the Soviet Union. During 1973-80, the price of Soviet oil sold to Czechoslovakia and other CMEA members rose 360 per cent, while the prices of their industrial products sold to the Soviet Union rose only 50-60 per cent. As a result, although Czechoslovakia exported more to the Soviet Union than it imported from the country during the period of the Sixth Five-Year Plan, the value of its trade with the latter shifted from a favourable to an unfavourable balance.

Its foreign trade also was affected by the protective meas-

ures adopted by Western countries in response to their severe economic crises, and the reduced imports of the developing countries due to their economic stagnation.

Moreover, some domestic factors were not negligible, such as low efficiency in production and management, slow application of new techniques and inventions, and retarded reformation of economic structures. Because of these problems, the quality of Czechoslovak goods could not be improved and thus could not compete on international markets. This contributed further to the need for increased imports.

Improved Measures

Encumbered with such serious foreign trade imbalances, the government was obliged to take a number of steps to restore and maintain the balance. Priority was given to enhancing efficiency, pursuing rational import policy and improving the system of foreign economic relations. Various measures were adopted to intensify the application of scientific and technological advances to production and product im-

provement. More efficient use of energy and raw materials and human resources lowered production costs and raised the competitiveness of products.

Furthermore, all industries and units of the country were urged to help secure better economic results in foreign trade and to increase exports by setting up special material incentive funds to encourage exports, by building organic ties between foreign trade and production, by changing the structure of production, and by implementing thorough reforms in such basic management areas as planning, appropriations, pricing and exchange rate determinations, especially in the system of material incentives.

These measures have raised economic efficiency and product exportability, thus turning foreign trade around in the past two years.

At present Czechoslovakia is engaged in implementing its 1983 economic and social programmes designed to further restore balanced foreign economic relations and realize a higher rate of economic growth.

— Yan Zheng

(Continued from p. 9.)

three years old is 107.43 to 100 and that of the young children under five years old is 107.09 to 100. "Generally speaking, the sex ratio of China's newborns and infants is normal," he added.

He pointed out that the proportion of males to females in some areas is a bit too high, which deserves attention. For instance, the ratio in Anhui Province for newborn babies is 111.12 to 100, for children under three years old 110.53 to 100 and for children under five years old 109.84 to 100.

Li noted that cases of drowning and abandoning female babies have been found in some places. The departments concerned are taking measures to deal with these problems seriously in accordance with Premier Zhao Ziyang's report to the Fifth Session of the Fifth National People's Congress in November 1982.

Li stressed that the male-female ratio in China as a whole cannot be based on the figures of a commune, a production brigade or a city residential district. Correct judgments can only be made on the basis of

large-scale investigations and scientific analyses.

He explained that population statistics both in China and abroad show that male newborns generally outnumber females, with a ratio of about 105 to 100, allowing for a margin of 103-107 to 100.

Since the infant mortality rate of males is higher than that of females, the number of males and females are almost the same when they enter adulthood. However, when they reach advanced ages, females outnumber males because men tend to die younger.

Premier Zhao Ziyang Gives Press Conference in Canberra

Premier Zhao Ziyang, at a news conference in Canberra on April 19, explained the Chinese Government's positions on Kampuchea and on Sino-Vietnamese, Sino-US and Sino-Australian relations. — Ed.

IN his opening statement, Premier Zhao said that in the past two days of sincere and friendly talks he had exchanged views with Australian Prime Minister Robert Hawke on questions of mutual concern. "Both of us noted with satisfaction the present good relations between China and Australia and expressed readiness to work for further co-operation in all fields, especially trade, economy and technology," he said.

Turning to international issues, Zhao said that both sides "held identical or similar views on many international issues." "China and Australia, both situated in the Asian-Pacific region, share common interests in maintaining peace and security in the region. Developing friendly relations and co-operation between the two countries is not only in the best interests of the domestic development of both nations, but will also contribute to the preservation of peace in the Asian-Pacific region," he added.

Kampuchea and Viet Nam

Premier Zhao said that Kampuchea was one of the important issues he discussed with Prime Minister Hawke. He said that their full and candid discussions had contributed greatly to clearer understanding on both sides. "The positions of the two sides on some basic aspects of the question were close to each other," Zhao said. "Both of us held that the military occupation of Kampuchea by Viet Nam constitutes a grave threat to peace and stability in the Asian-Pacific region. We also agreed that a political settlement of the Kampuchean problem is essential, but that a political settlement would only be possible after the Vietnamese occupation forces are withdrawn completely from Kampuchea. We both hope that Kampuchea will become an independent, peaceful, neutral and non-aligned state."

In response to a reporter's question on aid to Viet Nam, Premier Zhao said: "I discussed the question with Prime Minister Hawke during our talks. I got the impression that the Australian Government will approach this issue with caution."

Foreign Aid to Viet Nam

"The position of the Chinese Government on this issue is well-known," he said. "You all know that China had good relations with Viet Nam in the past. Over the 28-year period, from 1950 to 1978, China gave Viet Nam about US\$20 billion in aid, 93 per cent of which was given gratis.

"But after the reunification of Viet Nam, the Vietnamese authorities turned to a certain superpower for help in realizing their goal of establishing a so-called 'great Indochinese federation,' without any regard for the fact that this would strain Sino-Vietnamese relations. Viet Nam considers the realization of a 'great Indochinese federation' more important than anything else."

"From China's experience," Premier Zhao stressed, "we believe that it is impossible to make Viet Nam drift apart from a certain superpower or withdraw its troops from Kampuchea by providing it with some aid or by adopting a somewhat flexible policy towards it, as some believe." "In pursuing its ambition to establish a 'great Indochinese federation,'" he continued, "Viet Nam has already made itself totally dependent on a certain superpower, politically, economically and militarily."

"And to obtain a strategic foothold in Southeast Asia, that superpower is giving full support to Viet Nam's regional hegemonism. This strategic alliance is not likely to change at present," he said.

Zhao Ziyang said that there are only two possible solutions to the Kampuchean question: recognition of the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea as a *fait accompli*; or the continuation of the international political pressure on

Viet Nam and support for the Kampuchean people's resistance so as to force Viet Nam into giving up its ambition of creating a "great Indochinese federation."

Zhao said that all countries which uphold justice should do their utmost to avoid the first possibility and strive for the second possible solution.

Premier Zhao said that to resume giving aid to Viet Nam before it withdraws its troops from Kampuchea would only further encourage its aggressive ambitions, increase its military strength for aggression, protract this unjust war and add to the dilemma of the Vietnamese people. He said that China would not like to see this happen.

Sino-US Relations

"The present state of Sino-US relations is not encouraging," Premier Zhao said. "The key problem is the Taiwan issue. In addition, repeated incidents of interference in China's internal affairs and of infringement on her sovereignty and hurting the national feelings of the Chinese people have further strained Sino-US relations."

Zhao said that China considers Sino-US relations important and is willing to make efforts to strengthen them.

"However," he stressed, "the development of our relations with any other nation must not damage the national dignity of China or jeopardize China's independence and sovereignty."

"We hope that the US Government will strictly implement its commitment made in the August 17 Communique of 1982 between our two countries and remove the obstacles to the development of Sino-US relations," Zhao said.

No "Card Playing"

In response to a question about Zhao's view of the United States playing its so-called "China card" against the Soviet Union and to a related question asking for Zhao's view of President Reagan, Zhao replied that he hoped that both the United States and the Soviet Union would refrain from playing cards, that "China never plays cards" in its international relations, that "card playing cannot resolve any problems." "The Chinese Government," he said, "has a high respect for President Reagan, and we hope

President Reagan will take concrete actions to promote the development of Sino-US relations."

Sino-Vietnamese Border Situation

Zhao Ziyang said that the recent Chinese action was only a defensive response to repeated Vietnamese provocations along the Sino-Vietnamese border and that the development of the situation will depend on whether Viet Nam continues its border provocations and on how extensive such provocations are.

"As soon as Viet Nam ceases its provocations, China will stop returning fire," he said. Zhao stressed that China is willing to improve relations with Viet Nam, but Viet Nam must first withdraw its troops from Kampuchea. He said: "China issued a statement on March 1, declaring that as soon as Viet Nam proclaims unconditional and complete withdrawal from Kampuchea and actually withdraws the first contingent of troops, China will resume negotiations with Viet Nam on improving relations between the two countries."

In answer to whether China has had any recent contact with Viet Nam in Romania, Premier Zhao said: "As Premier of China, I have heard nothing of this."

China-Australia Trade

Premier Zhao said that he had talked with Prime Minister Hawke about mutual trade and technological co-operation and that other Chinese officials accompanying him had discussed these issues in detail with their Australian counterparts. He indicated that China and Australia agreed that there are broad prospects for greater economic co-operation and trade between the two countries and that the past decade since the establishment of relations between the two countries has witnessed great progress in this respect. He said that China would like to expand its trade with Australia still further in the coming decade. Zhao said Australia has a great variety of commodities such as wheat, iron ore, wool and sugar that China needs and wants to import in large quantities in the future.

Zhao Ziyang observed that there is still a large discrepancy in the trade balance between China and Australia. He stressed that China is not seeking an absolute balance in this respect, but suggested that if Australia imports more from China, China will be able to import even more Australian goods. □

Building Socialist Spiritual Civilization

by Pang Yongjie and Li Shanquan

CHINA'S modernization programme entails the building of a socialist spiritual civilization simultaneous with the building of a socialist material civilization, concomitant undertakings which are peculiar to the Chinese way of modernizing the country. The twin tasks will ensure attainment of the modernization goal.

Since the shift in the emphasis of its work to the modernization drive, China's well-wishers around the world, while acclaiming the momentous decision, have expressed worries nevertheless. Many wonder if the process will rob China of its fine revolutionary spirit, court the "spiritual pollution" intrinsic in capitalist societies and derail the modernization programme in the end. Such worries are not unfounded.

As early as September 1979, the Party Central Committee called for parallel construction of economic and spiritual civilization, with each promoting the other. For, it is held, the building of a spiritual civilization is crucial to maintaining the socialist aspect of modernization, facilitating the consolidation and development of the socialist economy, forestalling any possibility of "Westernization" and preventing China from going capitalist.

Together with the four modernizations, socialist spiritual civilization has been included in the fundamental law of the land and the Constitution of the Chinese Communist Party, the ruling party, as a programme of action for the entire Party membership and the people throughout the country.

Implications

The term "socialist spiritual civilization" refers to the nature of all that is implied in spiritual civilization under the socialist system. It involves two fields of construction, ideological and cultural. Its quintessence lies in communist ideas, which places it worlds apart from capitalist spiritual civilization.

The authors are on the staff of the Economic Research Centre Under the State Council.

Ideological construction concerns ideals and moral values to be advocated and fostered among China's 1,000 million people. Through the study of Marxism and education in communist ideals an ever increasing portion of society will acquire a revolutionary outlook on life and the world and will become well-educated, well-disciplined workers imbued with lofty ideals and moral integrity. The aim in society as a whole is to develop new human relationships characterized by unity and mutual assistance and to establish new social morals and customs.

Cultural construction covers such areas as education, science, literature and art, the media, public health and sports. It is built within the framework of the socialist system, guided by Marxist theories and communist ideas, and is



Liu Xuecheng, a peasant in Shandong Province, has earned annually over 10,000 yuan for three years running by growing grain and cotton. He gave 300 yuan to the village school and bought 2,000 yuan of fertilizer and pesticide for needy peasant families.

different from capitalist culture in that all of its fruits belong to the people and serve the public and the socialist cause.

New Term, Classic Concept

Some may ask: On what grounds did you invent the term "socialist spiritual civilization," as it is not mentioned in any Marxist classics?

It is true that this term does not appear in Marxist literature. But didn't Marx and Engels, when speaking of humanity entering upon an age of civilization in new dimensions, predict that history is bound to witness a higher-stage civilization characterized mainly by the abolition of class exploitation? By that time, they projected, products will flow in abundance; people inspired by communist values will develop their talents comprehensively and freely; all traditional ownership of the means of production and related concepts will be abolished and discarded; and education, science and arts will enjoy a full scope of development.

Lenin, too, repeatedly expounded on the significance of communist education, morality, discipline and attitude towards labour. The basic task of communism, he pointed out, is to help educate the labouring masses to overcome outmoded habits and customs left over by the old system; and knowledge of all sciences, technology and arts should be obtained to serve socialist construction.

Mao Zedong contributed much to this discussion as well. He issued a call to build a civilized and progressive China dominated by a new culture. Ideological work, as he saw it, is the guarantee for accomplishing economic and technical advances.

The task of building socialist spiritual civilization was defined on the basis of these principles and the summary of historical experiences gained after the founding of the People's Republic. It was set forth at a time when new policies were formulated for a new period of historical development.



Zhang Haidi, a paraplegic who taught herself to be a medic by sheer will-power, has achieved fame as China's Pavel Korchagin, the hero of the Soviet novel "How the Steel Was Tempered," written by Nikolai Ostrovsky.

Relationship With Economic Construction

What is the relationship between the modernization drive and the building of a socialist spiritual civilization?

Just as a socialist society develops in the direction of communism, so the success of China's modernization drive hinges not merely on the accumulation of material wealth but also on the heightening of people's communist consciousness and revolutionary spirit.

Economic construction, or the building of material civilization, lays the groundwork for the construction of a socialist spiritual civilization. Without the former the latter would be out of the question.

Socialist spiritual civilization in turn provides an impetus for economic construction and guarantees its growth with the correct orientation.

In China, the tumultuous 10-year "cultural revolution" confounded right with wrong and good with evil, sapped people's confidence in Marxism and communism, and opened the floodgates to bourgeois individualism and anarchism. Although things have improved in the last few years since we began to set right the

wrongs in all fields of endeavour during this period, it will be quite some time before we can remove all the aftereffects of this "revolution" from people's minds.

The new policy of opening to the outside world and stimulating the domestic economy, adopted after China switched to the modernization drive, has boosted the economy significantly and raised living standards. But the influences of the old private-owner mentality and decadent capitalist ideas from abroad also left their ugly marks because we overlooked our ideological work.

Facts show that if one buries himself in economic construction to the neglect of building socialist spiritual civilization, he will run after things material and may even be interested only in material gains. Thus he turns himself into a slave to material things, leading a rich yet spiritually meaningless life, a life which impels him to cheat, rob and kill.

Failure to check this tendency, rather than mobilizing the nation to work as one in economic construction, would lead China astray, on to a road of lopsided development, and weaken, or even scuttle its socialist economic foundation, reducing the socialist modernization drive to nothing but a pipe dream.

One erroneous assertion has it that socialist spiritual civilization can be built only in the presence of a highly developed material civilization. It is true that generally spiritual civilization is predicated on material civilization, just as full-fledged science and culture required an economy commensurate with it. However, spiritual civilization is not the simple, mechanical offspring of material civilization.

In other words, socialist spiritual civilization does not grow spontaneously with the development of material civilization. Rather, it needs to be championed and cultivated and practised by the people in their thousands and millions.

Under certain circumstances, spiritual civilization — especially its ideological aspect — may grow by itself, independent of the development of the material civilization. As Engels pointed out, "Economically backward countries can still play first fiddle in philosophy." ("A letter to C. Schmidt," October 27, 1890.)



Zhu Boru, a PLA officer known far and wide for many selfless deeds, and Wu Wengying, a model Young Pioneer, help passengers along at the Beijing Railway Station.

This has been borne out by recent history. During the revolutionary war years, the Communist Party and the people's army it led operated under extremely harsh material conditions and their scientific and cultural levels were fairly low. Yet a mature revolutionary consciousness, fine moral values and a camaraderie permeated the revolutionary ranks. Such spiritual civilization succoured us. We overwhelmed a far stronger, better equipped enemy and went on to win nationwide victory.

It stands to reason that the building of spiritual civilization need not wait until material civilization attains a high level of development. On the contrary, by redoubling our efforts to build spiritual civilization we can undoubtedly serve the revolutionary cause and accelerate the construction of material civilization.

Today and Tomorrow

What problems does China face in building the socialist spiritual civilization?

Over the last few years, China has adopted a series of measures including publicity and educational efforts to build socialist spiritual civilization.

We have advocated the "five stresses" (stress on decorum, manners, hygiene, discipline and morals) and the "four points of decency" (de-

gency of the mind, which means cultivating a fine ideology, moral character and integrity and upholding the Party's leadership and the socialist system; decency of language, which means the use and popularization of polite language; decency of behaviour, which means doing useful things for the people, working hard, being concerned for others' welfare, observing discipline and safeguarding collective interests; decency of the environment, which includes paying attention to personal hygiene and to sanitation at home and in public places).

In addition, we have designated March this year, and March every year, as Socialist Ethics and Courtesy Month.

Designed to foster fine life styles among our people, these activities have achieved initial results in correcting undesirable social practices.

Furthermore, we have commended those who have worked selflessly and made outstanding contributions to society, combated bourgeois liberalization and cracked down on crimes in the economic sphere. All these have enabled the people to learn from the advanced, distinguish the right and good from the wrong and evil and fortify their confidence in socialism.

However, it is no small job to build socialist spiritual civilization in a country where the economy and culture remain relatively undeveloped and where the "cultural revolution" has left such deep scars. At present, our Party's style and civic virtues leave something to be desired, and more so do our science, culture and education. Moreover, the influence of capitalist ideas is spreading in the wake of expanding exchanges with foreign countries; and the philosophy that "money is everything" still has quite a following among the populace. We need to be on our guard.

Beginning in autumn this year, in order to strengthen the building of the spiritual civilization, the Chinese Communist Party will initiate a self-education process to consolidate itself in an all-round way. It expects to bring about real improvements in the Party's style within three years by which to influence and improve ways of doing things throughout the society.

Further nationwide efforts will be made to publicize the "five stresses" and "four points of decency" and the "three loves"

(love for the motherland, socialism and the Party), especially during the annual Socialist Ethics and Courtesy Month. People in both urban and rural areas will be urged to consciously formulate and observe rules and regulations for morally important issues so as to involve an ever expanding circle of people in building spiritual civilization. In this way social mores are expected to be fundamentally improved.

Investment in various cultural undertakings will be increased and systematic cultural education popularized.

More importantly, further efforts will be made to educate the whole nation, particularly the cadres and the young, in Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought, in the Party's programme, in revolutionary traditions as well as in Chinese history.

All citizens will be urged to be conscious of their rights, duties and ethics. Education in professional responsibility, integrity and discipline will be conducted in all trades and professions.

Sustained education will enable the people to enhance their communist consciousness and guard against the influence of capitalist ideas.

Through the concerted efforts of the entire nation, China will steadily increase its material wealth and will bring up generation after generation of people with high communist values. This is not only our wish. It is a goal we aim at in our socialist modernization drive. □

A peasant library in Honghu County, Hubei Province.



After Careful Thought and Comparison

—Increased conviction in Marxism among Beijing University students

by Our Correspondent Wu Naitao

THE unveiling of two bronze statues at Beijing University last fall was more than a formal acknowledgement of the contributions of the two men depicted. It was a reaffirmation of students' faith in Marxism.

One statue portrays Li Dazhao (1889-1927), a Beijing University professor and a founder of the Chinese Communist Party who was one of the earliest exponents of Marxism in China. The reactionary warlords sent him to the gallows for his beliefs.

The second figure overlooking Weiming Lake in the campus is Cai Yuanpei, a former president of Beijing University who was forced to resign because students under his authority were active in the 1919 May 4th Movement against imperialism and feudalism.

The statues were funded by 6,000 yuan donated by the more than 3,000 graduates of the

university in 1982.

After unveiling ceremony, representative of the graduates Pan Weiming announced, "We dedicate these two statues to our Alma Mater as an embodiment of our respect for the older generation, our inheritance of the revolutionary traditions and an expression of our firm conviction in communism."

A Change in Thinking

The students' convictions were not always so firm. During the "cultural revolution" (1966-76) many were hoodwinked by the gang of four and led to believe that erroneous "Left" ideas were Marxism.

The traumatic and enduring negative effects of those ten chaotic years left some students with the feeling that they were incapable of making a satisfactory analysis or of judging either theory or social reality.

These students generally studied assiduously but some looked at political issues with reservation.

Another segment of students responded to the wearing process of the "cultural revolution" by being attracted to the works and philosophies of the West.

In the years immediately after 1976, large numbers of students were not sure of their beliefs but sought a scientific guide to action, a theory that would elucidate their own observations and experiences.

The high tide of competition between theories came with the elections for the district people's congress in

Students under the statue of Li Dazhao express their determination to carry forward the revolutionary spirit of their forerunners and their commitment to communism.





Students of the Chinese language and literature department and professor Wen Jiasi (second from right) discuss works of Wen Yiduo, a revolutionary and a man of letters.

1980. Some students ran for the congress and 80 per cent of the student body attended the election speeches—speeches unlike any they had heard before.

Some candidates quoted John Stuart Mill's (1806-73) *On Freedom* and called for bourgeois democracy and freedom.

Others applied existentialism and bourgeois humanitarianism to Chinese society and offered a new analysis of the youth movement on that basis.

Still others tried to attract votes by saying that the university should abolish the basic courses of Marxism-Leninism.

The speeches sparked much interest in Western philosophy among the students. However, as they gained familiarity with these works, most became increasingly confirmed Marxists.

Compare and Contrast

Philosophy student Peng Qinghua said that he had once been fascinated with existentialism and with the freedom and equality that were said to be products of Western thinkers in the Age of Enlightenment.

"Later I systematically studied works by Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Zedong. Now I have changed my mind. I am convinced that Western philosophical trends were the outcome of given social conditions and historical factors. They are idealist conceptions of life, not based on the economic and historical conditions of society. They consider individuals in the abstract, in isolation from their environments.

"They cannot correctly answer the fundamental human questions, let alone provide a scientific outlook on life and the world.

"Marxism values personal initiative, freedom and human worth in their concrete social and historical context. It sees the essence of man is the ensemble of the social relations.

"The individual human potential can only be fulfilled by scientifically understanding the world and transforming it. Marxism offers a realistic path towards human emancipation, freedom and development," he said.

Peng's interest in Marxist philosophy has grown and he decided to take the examination that will qualify him for postgraduate study.

Huang Gaoxiao, an erudite 19-year-old in the international politics department, has read Marxist classics, the *Bible*, Charles Darwin and works by pragmatists, utopian socialists and even fascists.

"After comparison of several theories, I have come to realize that only Marxism-Leninism can scientifically elaborate the laws of nature and of human social development. My conviction is repeatedly confirmed by my studies.

"I value the fruits of my spiritual labour and regard them as the cornerstone of my ideals and a motive force in my life," he said.

Over the past two years, the university student association has arranged numerous extracurricular lectures on topics like Western philosophical schools, West and East European economic theories and conditions, and how to read foreign literary works.

Students today have gained tremendous strengths from their comparative studies—the ability to reason things out for themselves and to assess situations accurately.

Survey Results

A recent Beijing University Communist Youth League survey found that among 500 students in liberal arts and sciences, 70.4 per cent said that understanding Western ideology

and culture would help or not harm their study of Marxism; 8.6 per cent said it would adversely affect confidence in the ideological system of Marxism-Leninism; and 21 per cent were undecided.

In another survey of 500 students in May last year, 77 per cent of the students filled in the column labeled "Your Belief" with words like "Marxism-Leninism," "socialism" or "the Communist Party and its ideological spirit."

Only five students (1 per cent of the sample) named beliefs such as "individualism" or "anarchism and liberalism."

A liberal arts student said that he believed in Marxism-Leninism but his weak belief "is established mainly by sentiments."

Another student wrote that although he believed in Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought, the reality fell short of the theory.

Thirty-four students wrote that they had "no clear and definitive conviction" or that their belief "had not taken shape" and was still in the "stage of exploration."

Social Investigation

The great changes brought about by the construction and transformation of recent years

have also impelled the students to deepen their understanding of the Party's current policies. Many students spend vacation periods travelling and gathering data on actual conditions.

Zhao Fuhe, a world economy student, conducted a social investigation of a brigade in Chaling County, Hunan Province, during his winter vacation which gave him great confidence in socialism.

He found that the production responsibility system and the flexible economic policies had increased the brigade's annual grain output by 15 per cent between 1979 and 1981, that 40 of the 54 households had built new homes and that many previously poverty-stricken individuals now had bank savings.

A group of students from the international politics department were entrusted by the former State Agricultural Commission to conduct similar investigations in Hunan, Heilongjiang and Zhejiang Provinces in the spring of 1981. All nine of the counties they observed had increased both their production and individual household incomes. Moreover, the peasants whom the students met were happy and enthusiastic about their work, and warmly supported the Communist Party and the government.

Bright Prospects

Xu Zhiwei and Li Qiang spoke glowingly of their impressions. Before they left, they had believed that many rural cadres lacked good work styles and leadership. But their experiences changed this view. They found many cadres who had worked in the countryside for years without ever uttering a word of complaint. They found that many of them were theoretically knowledgeable and could apply theory to practice. Some even knew a little about political economy.

Before their investigations, they were skeptical about the question of adhering to the Party leadership. But they saw for themselves that in the rural areas, wherever the Party organization provides strong leadership, production goes up. In one county, where the Party leadership was weak, the peasants indiscriminately felled trees and farm machinery was damaged.

Another student who benefited from grass-roots investigations was



Beijing University students and composers Qu Xixian (second from right, front row) and Jiang Chunyang (third from right, front row) sing campus songs extolling the new mood in socialist society.

Chen Xinquan, a Party member and a postgraduate in the philosophy department. He had suffered from disappointment and spiritual depression because of the mistakes in guidelines and unhealthy tendencies within the Party which arose during the "cultural revolution." He even had the erroneous notion that Party membership was an embarrassment.

But, he said, "many things helped change my thinking, two in particular. First, during my investigation in the summer of 1981, I found only a few cadres who pursued private ends, sought privileges or led dissipated lives. Most Party members I met had firm convictions and served the people wholeheartedly. From them I have again seen the fine traditions and hope of the Party.

"Second, I studied the Resolution on Certain Questions in the History of Our Party Since the Founding of the People's Republic of China which was adopted by the Sixth Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee. I realized that our Party has not dodged its mistakes, but has boldly and sincerely summed up its experience and lessons and accurately revealed its

mistakes to the public. This is where our Party's strength and hope lie."

Sha Jiansun, an associate professor who has taught political theory for more than 20 years, said, "Young people of this generation are becoming mature in socialist society under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. The society has brought benefits to them as well as their families. They have no fundamental conflicts of interests with the society. Because of the ideological confusion created by the gang of four and mistakes in the Party's work, they have some prejudice against the Party and Marxism-Leninism. All this is being gradually transformed by educational guidance and actual life experiences."

Marxism's growing popularity also is manifested in the marked growth in Party membership applications among students. By the time of their graduation, nearly 50 per cent of the 1982 graduates in the Chinese language and literature and the physics departments applied for admission into the Party. Every Youth League member in some classes of the departments of international politics and law submitted applications for Party membership. In the past four years, altogether 389 students have been admitted into the Party. □

The Pillars of Tomorrow

—Youth League members join modernization drive

by Our Correspondent Wu Naitao

THE Communist Youth League, with 48 million members between the ages of 14 and 28, is a close assistant and reliable reserve force of the Chinese Communist Party.

It has proved to be a training ground for some of the country's top leaders. The General Secretary of the CPC, Hu Yaobang, was once a leader of the Youth League.

The League's 11th national congress held last December elected many new members from many walks of life to its new central committee. These outstanding young people are on their way to becoming the pillars of the state in the decades ahead.

The four stories that follow typify the spirit of the newly elected members and the hope of their whole generation.

Friendship Saves Misguided Youth

It was winter, 1980. On an unheated train chugging through the frozen northern hills between Xian and Lanzhou, an inadequately clad teenager shivered, trying to gain a little warmth from the cigarette cupped in his hands.

His incessant coughing caught the attention of a young woman sitting across from him. Her fine qualities had led to her election as deputy secretary of the Youth League com-

mittee in the Lanzhou Knitwear Mill where she was a hosiery worker.

There on the train Wang Junling once again displayed the qualities that endeared her to her fellow workers. She gave the youth some cough medicine she was carrying with her, and brought him a cup of hot water. Against his protestations, she wrapped her overcoat around him.

She asked his name.

"Gao Linfeng," he said hesitantly.

"What do you do?" she asked, after telling him about her job in the knitwear factory.

"I work with my father in the Xian High Tension Porcelain Insulator Plant," he said.

"You're lucky to have a job already," she replied (many youths in China have to wait a period of time after finishing middle school before they are assigned permanent jobs).

"I'm just a temporary worker," he revealed (temporary workers do not have the same benefits or job security as permanent workers).

Gao told Wang he was on his way to visit his aunt in Yinchuan city in the neighbouring Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

It was dark by the time the train arrived in Lanzhou, and the temperature outside had dropped even further. Gao's plan was to sleep on a bench in the cold, unheated railway station until the train to Yinchuan departed the next day. But Wang, mindful of his ill health and thin clothing, insisted that he come home with her to her small living quarters.

So, instead of sleeping on a cramped wooden bench, Wang slept in a real bed (shared with Wang's younger brother) and in the morning his hostess saw him off at the station.

Wang gave the young man a towel, some tangerines and a mug so he could take advantage of the free hot water on the train.

"Now, don't throw the peels away after you eat the fruit," she instructed him. "Soak them in hot water and then drink the brew. It will help stop your coughing." Her attention for the boy moved him to tears.

Ten days later, Wang answered a knock at the door only to find Gao, who had come all the way back from Yinchuan to talk with her.

He told her that he had, in fact, been a temporary worker at his father's factory, but was dismissed for misconduct.

He had fallen in with a disreputable crowd and had taken to stealing. After he was caught and detained by the Public Security Bureau on three different occasions, his parents threw him out of their house. Without funds and without friends, he took 200 yuan of his parents' earnings and began to wander around the country.

"Everyone hates me and I hate them. Life really doesn't seem worth living. I've thought about killing myself," he told Wang.

"I never expected to meet anyone like you. You treated me better than my own sister," he said.

Although she was astonished at his confessions, Wang felt that Gao's return to her home was a good sign and resolved to help him. "You're only 16. You can't just give up. You can start again. I think you will find life much more worth-while if you use your labour to do something socially useful and I think you'll respect yourself much more," she said kindly.

Gao returned to his home, and Wang wrote to him regularly, sometimes sending him books she thought would support his decision to become a new person.

But he found his resolution difficult to carry out. His family members were cold and wary. His former friends and co-workers kept him at a distance and some openly despised him. His old gang continually tried to lure him into their illicit activities.

He had the strength of character not to be pulled back into his old ways, but he despaired of ever having an opportunity to prove that he really had changed.

He fled from his home, planning to bid farewell to Wang and then commit suicide.

This time Wang took him to visit her own factory. To his surprise, workers there were kind to him even though they knew of his misdeeds. Party and Youth League cadres in Wang's workshop stopped to chat with him.

"You see," said Wang, "people are really nice to you. You've lost the trust of your own people because of your past mistakes. I think your parents' hearts must have been broken when they learnt what you did. So you must prove that you can change. You must go home, little brother, and try again."

Gao returned to Xian once again with a heavy heart. He knew Wang was correct but he dreaded the cold treatment he had experienced.



Workers at the Sichuan No. 1 Textile Printing and Dyeing Mill who taught themselves English and Japanese have translated many materials for the mill.

But he found that his family was much more welcoming than he expected.

It turned out that Wang had written to his parents and to the Party organization at the insulator plant where his father worked. Her letters said, "Gao is a clever boy with a good mind. He is not 'stone' but 'ice.' If you treat him warmly and are patient with him, his heart will melt. He will change."

Gao's parents were touched by Wang's letter. They and his brother and sister adopted a new, amicable attitude towards the boy, and people around re-established friendly ties with him.

A Party committee cadre from the insulator plant visited him and, after a lengthy discussion, told him he would be allowed to return to work as a temporary worker.

Gao's second attempt at beginning a new life was successful. He worked and studied hard, often scribbling down inspiring passages from the books he read. Out of his small salary, he saved towards repaying the 200 yuan he owed his parents. Two years later he applied for membership of the Youth League, an action he had once considered as remote from his life as moving to another planet.

In changing his old habits, he became convinced of the destructiveness of dishonesty. One time he forcibly tried to stop a man who was stealing materials from the factory and was wounded in the fight that ensued. He was praised for his bravery.

Wang Junling, whose chance friendship caused Gao's metamorphosis, takes little personal credit for his improvement.

"I am a Communist Youth League cadre. It is my duty to be concerned about young people. Helping Gao was no more than doing my duty. I felt sorry for Gao because he was sick. All I did was help him find his own cure."

For Common Prosperity

Everyone agrees that Wan Mingqi was generous. But his grandmother thought his warm-heartedness had gone too far when he gave the family savings, earmarked for a new house, to Sichuan flood victims.

Sichuan Province was hit by severe floods in June 1981. In addition to massive government flood relief efforts, thousands of individuals sent money and clothing from all over the country.

Wan, a 19-year-old peasant from Daming County, Hebei Province, donated the huge sum of 1,000 yuan.

His 94-year-old grandmother opposed the donation because she thought Wan wasn't considerate enough of his own family's needs. Only five years earlier the family had been 500 yuan in debt — an amount larger than an individual peasant's average annual income in those days.

The family's life began to change in 1979 when the government instituted flexible economic policies and called upon the peasants to develop a diversified economy and sideline occupations.

Wan, the second of three children of a surgeon father, suggested that the family follow the new policy by raising small animals. After a discussion with their father, the three young people began to raise minks, rabbits, earthworms and scorpions for medicinal use.

Wan threw himself into the work. The animals' survival rate increased as he and his brother and sister learnt better methods for raising them. In 1981 only three of their 210 minks died.

In the same year, the family also reaped big harvests from the land they contracted to cultivate under the responsibility system.

By the year end, the combined total income of the family came to 30,000 yuan. Wan's family became well-to-do members of the village, a sharp change from their indebted past.

But Wan's new found wealth did not lull him into complacency. Although he had never been outside his own county, he had a broad vision.

"As a Youth League member I should not be short-sighted. Socialism won't be truly beautiful until everyone is well-off," he said.

He put his philosophy into action. When his commune needed funds to build a theatre, he lent it 5,000 yuan. When a neighbouring production team needed money to buy a truck, he lent the team 2,000 yuan. He lent another team 2,000 yuan so it could start up a sideline occupation.

He never said no to anyone who asked for help and he never accepted interest on the loans. Last year he bought 1,000 yuan in treasury bonds in response to a government call.

When Wan heard about the ravages of the Sichuan floods in the summer of 1981, he quickly made plans to send a large sum.

Unexpectedly, his grandmother said no. She was very anxious to have a new home and knew that Wan's donation would delay its construction.

He said to her, "It's true we're living in very crowded rooms. But at least we have a roof over our heads. In Sichuan, a lot of people have nowhere at all to live.

"I remember you told us that when we had floods in 1963 the government airdropped bread into our area. You said it saved our lives.

"Relief materials came from everywhere — soybeans from the northeast and rice from the south. If it hadn't been for the concern of the Party and people from other provinces, we would not have had enough to eat. So it's partly to their credit that we have become what we are today."

"You're right, of course," sighed his grandmother. "Send the money off immediately."

A Hunter on the Sea

One dark and stormy night, an armed patrol boat cruised through the turbulent South China Sea, on watch for illegal activities.

Suddenly crew member Li Lianhai spotted a large ocean-going vessel the *Haitian No. 1* from Xianggang (Hongkong). The patrol boat sped towards the ship.

The captain called through a loudspeaker that on behalf of the Gongbei Customs in Zhuhai, Guangdong, his crew would conduct an inspection of the ship's cargo.

Instead of complying with the inspection, the large vessel swerved towards the small patrol boat, clearly intending to ram it and flee.

The patrol boat captain, no longer doubting that the other vessel was a smuggling ship, ordered a forced boarding on to its deck.

Li Lianhai and two other Youth League members volunteered for the dangerous task. As their boat was drawing near the other vessel, they leapt to ropes dangling off its side and scaled the three metres to its deck.

For nearly an hour they were locked in heavy hand-to-hand battles with the smugglers, but the young customs boat crew finally gained control of the ship.

The *Haitian No. 1* was the largest smuggling ship they had intercepted in more than 30 years. A total of 2.5 million yuan worth of smuggled goods were discovered in its hold, including nylon material, wrist-watches and TV sets.

Although his day-to-day work is less dramatic, it is perhaps more perilous to Li Lianhai. He is regularly tempted to forego his integrity and take advantage of his position.

One autumn night during a routine inspection, he discovered six wrist-watches buried in the salt jar of mess kitchen aboard the *Huidong 2002*.

A crew member accompanying him whispered conspiratorially, "There's only two of us, let's not say anything and just go halves."

Li turned to him wordlessly. The other took this for a signal that he wanted more. "All right, you take five and I'll keep only one," he said.

Li finally regained his voice. "These are illegal. Every one is being confiscated by the customs office."

During another customs search Li and other inspectors discovered 1,000 radio cassette recorders among other smuggled goods aboard the *Jinjuhong*.

A crew member offered to give the customs crew the whole cargo for their own use if they would let the smugglers go.

"This is not our practice," said Li. "Within China's territorial waters, we will prosecute

anyone who endangers the interests of our country."

Li admits that his job is not all excitement. "Life at sea is difficult and monotonous. Sometimes we're on board all night.

"But when we capture a smuggling ship or arrest a criminal, it's all worth it," he said.

Li studies the Chinese language and literature in his spare time through a correspondence course. He hopes one day to be admitted to the college run by the customs house.

"I believe my wish will come true if I work hard."

The "Tomato King"

"Every young person should find a career with as much promise and enjoyment as mine," said 27-year-old Lei Anjun. "I will be content to spend my life experimenting with tomatoes."

Lei began his experiments when he was 20. Two years ago he found that by cultivating the tender young plants in "greenhouses" consisting of plastic stretched over thin pieces of wood, he could lengthen the harvest period from less than three months to all year round.

He also increased the yield to a national record high of 19,306 kg per *mu* (1/15 of a hectare.).

This earned him the name of "Tomato King" among the members of his village on the



"Tomato King" Lei Anjun.

outskirts of Taiyuan, the capital of Shanxi Province.

Lei was secretary of the Youth League branch in his village in the winter of 1975 when he first headed a team of league members to experiment on a small plot of 0.7 *mu*.

Relying on book knowledge, they tried new cultivation methods and increased their yield per *mu* to 7,500 kg a year later.

In 1977, they changed the variety of tomatoes they used and began to plant them closer together, which yielded them 11,000 kg per *mu*.

The next year they again improved the planting method and planted both an early and a late crop, which extended the harvest period and increased their yield to 12,500 kg per *mu*.

Another variety, planted in 1979, increased the yield to 16,000 kg per *mu*.

Lei's "greenhouse" experiment is a result of the knowledge the team had gained in those earlier experiments and his understanding of advanced techniques used abroad.

Lei was the first in his family to have any schooling at all. His senior middle school education, while far from adequate in providing the knowledge he needed for tomato cultivation, was a long way from the illiteracy of his parents and grandparents.

Lei's limited education did not prevent him from learning how to erect the plastic sheds or regulate the light, air, temperature and humidity for his tomatoes. He taught himself the necessary chemistry, physics and botany.

Lei was cited as a national pace-setter in the new long march in 1980 by the Youth League's central committee.

National fame has brought him unexpected vexation, however. "I have to meet endless reporters and visitors. About 150 days a year I attend meetings. This has made it impossible for me to concentrate on the tomatoes. We have had no new breakthroughs in the past two years.

"I do not care about fame. What I do care about is enough time to study science so I can go on with my research," he said.

The staff of the *Chinese Youth News* was informed of Lei's plight and responded that it was a common problem among successful and model youths, workers and peasants. The newspaper plans to investigate the phenomenon and seek a national solution. □

OPINION

China must be reunified

RENMIN Ribao (People's Daily) reprinted "To Reunify China' Is Our Sacred and Unshirkable Duty," an article which first appeared in Taiwan's *China Times*. It reported that all the 35 town heads interviewed emphasized China should be, must be, reunified.

The interviewees were selected from 309 mayors of towns and cities under the county administration and included both Kuomintang members and personages without party affiliation. Their views reflect the opinions of the populace.

Speaking in terms of kinship, history and culture, they agreed, Taiwan and the mainland will never be separated. The people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits have blood ties. They will not deny their Chinese nationality and succumb to separatism. Proceeding from ac-

tual life and in light of Taiwan's area, natural resources and other conditions, Taiwan must be reunited with the motherland. Only in this way will China's problem be solved.

AN article by Li Jingyi on industrial and technological levels in Taiwan Province and the mainland first appeared in a Xianggang (Hongkong) magazine and was later reprinted in *Taiwan Voice*.

The author argues that the people's living standards are improving quicker on the mainland, but the standard of living on Taiwan is higher. The absolute value of wealth created and investment is far greater on the mainland than on the island.

The town heads interviewed unanimously opposed the call for an "independent Taiwan" which were raised by a few people.

On how to reunite China, many of them suggested that since the people on Taiwan and the mainland are compatriots, it is best to reunify China, by peaceful means.

Industrialization: Taiwan and mainland

In the technological level in communications, energy, chemistry, machinery, metallurgy, medicine and defence, the mainland is far ahead of Taiwan. For example, industrial facilities on the mainland produce automobiles, locomotives, ships, airplanes and power; extract coal and crude oil; and refine oil. The equipment is wholly or mostly produced by the mainland workers. By contrast, Taiwan cannot open an oilfield by itself; its auto industry is still at the stage of assembly; and



Right: Cui Changchun (left) presents his calligraphy "Hope You Return" to children from Taiwan who reside in the US.

Left: This pigeon, which has recovered from a wound under the care of the Beijing Pigeon Association, carries this tag on its left leg: "From Taiwan's Jiaxian County| 82-62640." The association is making efforts to locate its owner.

it manufactures just freight cars for trains. It builds oil tankers with 200,000-ton displacements. However, though it rolls the plates, spare parts, instruments and meters and even the designs are foreign.

China on both sides of the straits has a developed textile industry. The mainland manu-

factures 1,200 kinds of textile machinery and exports textile machines as well as textile goods. In Taiwan, the textile exports account for a quarter to one-third of total exports, but only simple textile machines are made. Taiwan's electronics industry is very developed and its exports rank second only to textiles. Most of Taiwan's elec-

tronics plants are built with foreign investment and are basically assembly facilities. The quality of their products and volume of exports surpass that of the mainland, however, the mainland's enterprises use domestic parts and are developing through their own efforts.

— "Taiwan Voice"

People's mailbox

I AM a young commune member from Taishan County," began a letter received in September 1981 by "The People's Mailbox" of the Guangdong provincial radio station. "A few months ago I decided to go appreciate the 'flower city' (Guangzhou) for the last time. I had decided to end my life which I felt was at a dead end. Thus I came to Guangzhou." He explained he had gone to the Sun Yat-sen Library to seek the meaning of life from books, but this failed as the heroes of literature seemed dissimilar to the people he knew and the expoundings of theorists were too profound.

His letter then enumerated his troubles. He had an excellent middle school teacher from whom he learnt the skill of creative writing. Then, towards the end of the "cultural revolution," this instructor was labelled a counter-revolutionary and, as an outstanding student of this teacher, he was forced to criticize and denounce his mentor. He wrote that people now do not make allowances for the circumstances and his name remains mud.

Three times he sat for the college entrance examination without success.

He cannot work in the fields because he has a rheumatic heart. When he tried his hand at creative writing, people said he loved leisure and despised labour.

He felt society was unsympathetic. He wrote, "When a person has fallen so low, he has lost all value as a human being, so why should he live?"

He was walking aimlessly along the Zhujiang River one day when he heard the radio programme "The Masses' Lives" being broadcast over a street loudspeaker. The topic was "How Can One Control One's Own Fate?" He wrote, "I decided to hold out and see what gospel your discussions would deliver." The letter was signed Liu Xisheng but (as "xisheng" means "want life") it was clearly not his real name.

The editors were concerned. On September 19 Li Yiping, the responsible person for the "Mailbox" read the letter over the air and afterwards she sympathetically but directly advised Xisheng.

After some time, Liu Xisheng appeared at the radio station. He had heard the programme. "Your calling out moved me to tears," he said. "I am just an ordinary peasant but you treated me sincerely and

patiently tried to dissuade me from suicide."

Some letters and money orders the radio station had received from listeners were turned over to him. Listeners had requested that the station pass these on to Liu Xisheng so that he could overcome his difficulties and face life bravely. Liu Xisheng held these gifts as if they were more valuable than gold. Was this the unfeeling society he had cursed?

Liu Xisheng was encouraged by the editors to return to his home village to start life anew. Arriving in Taishan, he was met by encouraging villagers, classmates and teachers. Since Liu was famous for criticizing his teacher, so when "The People's Mailbox" was talking about him, everybody recognized who he was in spite of the pen name. The message did not fall on deaf ears. All who knew him wondered: Am I partly to blame? Shouldn't I do something to help him? Thus people rushed to welcome him home.

"I was wrong. I gradually realized that in our society it is light rather than darkness that predominates. If one is persistent and hardworking, life is brimming with hope," said Liu, casting off his bias.

Liu is now studying at Hunan's Jiuyi Hill Institute. Truly his life has a new start.

— "Nanfeng" (Southern Wind)

MUSIC

*Young violinists
awarded*

Five teenage violinists from the People's Republic of China won prizes at the First Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition held in early April in Folkestone, Britain. They earned first, second, third and fifth prizes in the junior section (under 15 years old) and the fourth prize in the senior section (under 19 years old).

The performance of Wang Xiaodong, the 13-year-old first prize winner in the junior section, drew acclaim from the audience with his consummate skill and subtle yet imaginative expression; even the members of the jury, who usually do not reveal emotions during a competition, applauded loudly. His rendition of Bruch's Concerto in G minor was poetic and showed depth of understanding.

The 15-year-old second prize winner Wang Zhengrong played Paganini's *Witches' Dance* in a clear, relaxed manner and Zhang Le, also 15, captured third with his enthusiastically powerful rendition of Wieniawski's *Themes and Variations*. The fifth prize winner was 13-year-old Li Siqing who is studying at the Menuhin Music School in London.

Sixteen-year-old He Hongying won the fourth prize in the senior section. Her performance of Vieuxtemps' Concerto No. 5 with the British Royal Philharmonic Orchestra was well received.

"It is quite rare for one country to win so many prizes at a high level violin competition like this one," remarked one jury member. However, Yehudi Menuhin, who chaired the jury, told correspondents that there was no reason for surprise, "because the Chinese are very talented, very great and very deeply feeling and intelligent people. They can play any composition excellently."

Wu Zuqiang, President of the Central Conservatory of Music and a member of the jury, said, "The Chinese violinists have shown their talent. Their suc-

cesses are the result of China's progress in music teaching in recent years. This competition also provides our violinists a chance to raise their skill." Wu predicted China would train more world-class violinists.

These young musicians received structured training at early ages. All were enrolled by music conservatories of Beijing or Shanghai through stiff competitions in 1977 when Chinese music schools reopened their doors to students.

The first prize in the senior section at the Menuhin competition went to Chen Lilun, a youth from Taiwan who is studying in Switzerland.

Fifty candidates from 19 countries (or regions) including Britain, the United States, Austria, West Germany, Romania, Poland and China participated in the competition.

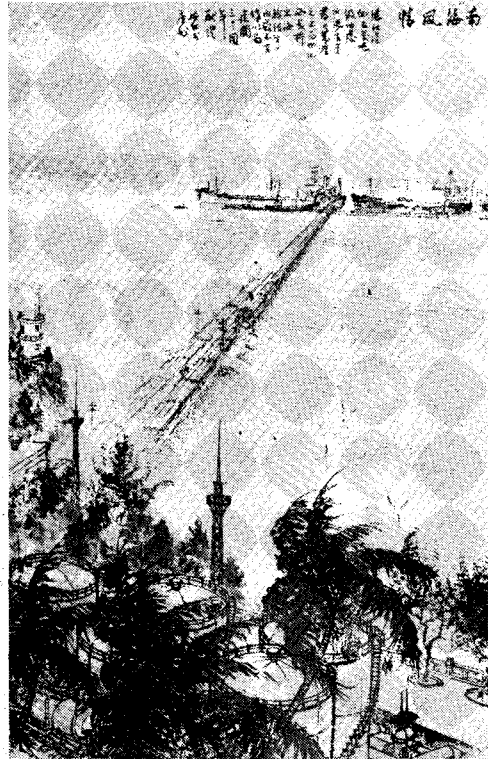


Wang Xiaodong plays Mendelssohn's Concerto in E minor with the San Diego Youth Symphony Orchestra in Shanghai.

*Paintings by
Huang Anren*



A Southern Stream.



A Scene on the South China Sea Coast.

Born in 1924 at Yangjiang County, Guangdong Province, Huang graduated from an art school in his youth and has dedicated his life to traditional Chinese painting techniques. His landscapes are not just recreation of natural beauty; they incorporate the breath of life and the features of the era he lives in. Now he works for the Guangdong branch of the Chinese Artists' Association.

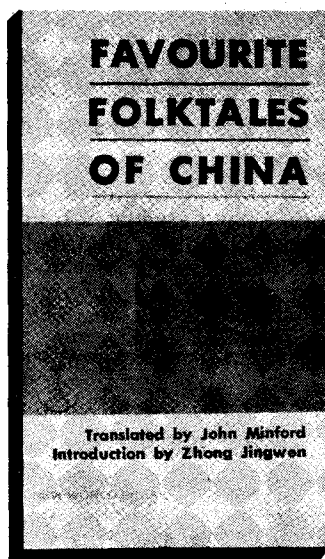


Mist-Veiled Danxia Mountains.

Favourite Folktales Of China

Translated by John Minford

Introduction by Zhong Jingwen



Here is a collection of 20 best loved folktales from China's Han nationality and 12 minority nationalities.

The introduction by Professor Zhong Jingwen, one of China's leading folklorists, traces the origin and development of Chinese folk literature, explores its social significance and artistic achievements and discusses the ideological and moral standards of the collection's stories.

All the stories have been rendered into lucid English by John Minford, a British scholar of Chinese literature who has translated for the Penguin Classics' *A Dream of Red Mansions* (Volumes V and VI).

The 20 enchanting stories are illustrated with 31 drawings by the renowned artist He Youzhi and several other Chinese artists.

The appendix provides basic valuable information about the 12 minority peoples whose stories are featured in this collection.

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