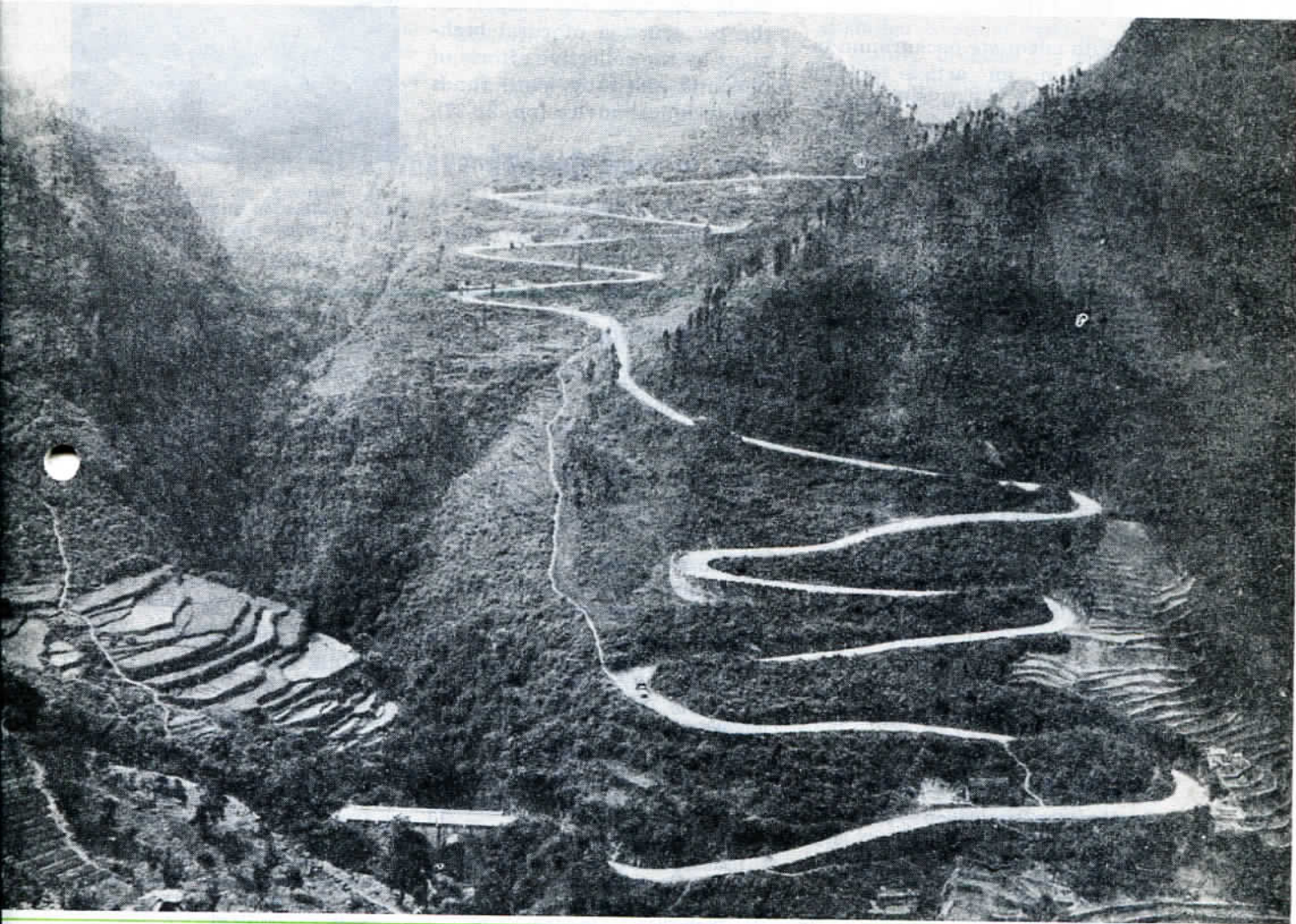


BEIJING REVIEW

北京周報

A CHINESE WEEKLY
OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

- The ACPPD Beijing Declaration
- The US-USSR Nuclear Negotiations
- *Highway Construction in China*



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

The ACPD Beijing Declaration

Full text of the declaration recently adopted in Beijing by the Asian Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (pp. 13-17). A news report sums up the achievements of the conference whose objective was to explore ways of integrating population control with development programmes, promote international co-operation in population activities and enhance friendship among Asian nations (pp. 17-18).

The Question of Disarmament

With adequate background information, an article on the forthcoming US-USSR nuclear negotiations analyses the major differences between the two superpowers on this crucial issue (pp. 10-12). Excerpts from a recent speech by China's rep-

resentative to a UN committee highlights the Chinese position on the question of nuclear and conventional disarmament (p. 12).

Premier Zhao Visits Mexico

A brief report on this important event — the first visit by a Chinese Premier to a Latin American country (p. 9).

China's Highway Construction

A three-part special feature including an introduction of New China's achievements in this field, an essay on highway bridge building, and a report on the construction of rural highways by the collective efforts of peasants aided by state funds and technical advice (pp. 21-27).

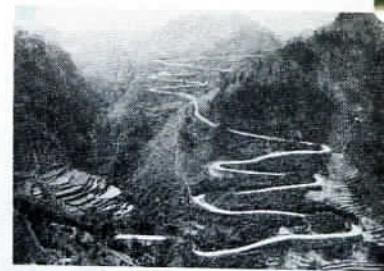
How to View Rebellions

One of a series devoted to controversial questions related

to the "cultural revolution." It explains why China disapproves of the rebellions which took place during that period (pp. 19-20, 31).

Dramas With Youthful Themes

Three new productions on Beijing's stage reveal the problems in the life and work of Chinese youth as well as the clashes of outlook among them, leaving the audience with many thought-provoking questions. (pp. 28-29).



A highway in mountainous Guizhou Province.
Photo by Long Qiyun

BEIJING REVIEW

北京周报

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

Vol. 24, No. 45 November 9, 1981

CONTENTS

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS	3-4
About the Constitution — Political Editor An Zhiguo	
Light and Heavy Industries — Economic Editor Wang Dacheng	
LETTERS	4

EVENTS & TRENDS

Younger Cadres Promoted to Leading Posts	5-9
Rural Planning	
New Economic Laws and Regulations	
Southern Xinjiang Railway	
"Iron Rice Bowl" Is Breakable	
Premier Zhao's Successful Visit to Mexico	
China-Venezuela	
Independence of Antigua and Barbuda Greeted	

INTERNATIONAL

A Look at US-USSR Nuclear Negotiation — Gong Weixin	10-12
Concrete Disarmament Action Wanted	

ARTICLES & DOCUMENTS

ACPPD: The Beijing Declaration on Population and Development	13
Asian Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development	17
On the Party Resolution: Did "Rebellions" in the "Cul-	

tural Revolution" Play a Positive Role? — Yang Zengjia	19
--	----

SPECIAL FEATURE

Highway Construction in China	
From Coastal Plains to the Roof of the World — Wang Zhanyi	21
Highway Bridges With National Characteristics — Cheng Bangde	23
Rural Highways — Our Correspondent Wei Min	25

CULTURE & SCIENCE	28-30
HUMOUR IN CHINA	31

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

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

Subscription prices (1 year):

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

About the Constitution

When will China promulgate a new Constitution?

The work of making major amendments to the Constitution, adopted by the Fifth National People's Congress at its first plenary session in 1978, is high on the agenda. But it is unlikely that the revised draft will be submitted for discussion at the fourth plenary session of the Fifth National People's Congress scheduled to be held in November. This is because it will have to be discussed by the people of the whole country first before being submitted to the NPC.

China has adopted three Constitutions since the founding of

the People's Republic — in 1954, 1975 and 1978. The first one which is comparatively comprehensive will serve as the basis for making the amendments. The new policies and principles laid down since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee in 1978 will find expression in the new Constitution which will, among other things, uphold the socialist road and the leadership of the Communist Party and provide the guideline for building China into a modern socialist country with a high level of democracy and civilization.

— Political Editor An Zhiguo

Light and Heavy Industries

For a period of time China has put the stress on the development of light industry. But now it seems the stress has been shifted to heavy industry. Does this mean a change in the policy of economic readjustment?

The answer is our policy has not changed.

We always hold that light and heavy industries should develop in a proportionate way. In the item "Economic Structure" in issue No. 24, I pointed out: "Stress is being laid on developing agriculture and light industry and on producing more consumer goods. This is done, however, not at the expense of heavy industry. Rather, the aim is to readjust and restructure heavy industry so that its development will be compatible with that of agriculture and light industry."

The work we've done in the past two years in readjusting the national economy is for the purpose of rectifying the disproportionate development in the various fields. In the industrial sector, our aim is not only to solve the question of disproportionate development between light and heavy industries resulting from our past one-sided emphasis on heavy industry, but also to readjust the relationship between the various branches of heavy industry. For instance, we have slowed down the production of iron and steel while giving priority to developing the coal and power industries as well as transport and communications. In addition, we shall co-ordinate the growth of heavy industry with that of light industry in a better way so as to lay a foundation for the sound development of industry as a whole. To expand

light industry and slow down the growth of heavy industry for a certain period of time does not mean that we are overlooking heavy industry. It is meant to change the abnormal economic structure.

After a period of readjustment, initial results have been achieved in bringing about a more rational relationship between light and heavy industries. The production of consumer goods has increased by a big margin, and this has not only met the people's demand but also increased state revenue.

Heavy industry has been curtailed to some extent. This is mainly because the scale of capital construction has been reduced and some of the products had a poor market. Another reason is that it takes time to restructure heavy industry, which used to be self-serving, and make it serve light industry, agriculture and technical transformation. It is only natural therefore that the development of heavy industry has been slowed down for the time being. It is wrong to think that we no longer attach importance to heavy industry.

While further expanding light industry, attention is paid to maintaining a certain rate of growth for heavy industry without which the replacement of equipment and the technical transformation of light industry would be out of the question and this of course ultimately would affect light industry.

Practice over the past year has proved the correctness of this guideline. In some places, production has been growing rapidly because attention has been paid simultaneously to

LETTERS

Taiwan Issue

I learnt with great interest and satisfaction of the statement of Mr. Ye Jianying, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, elaborating Beijing's policy concerning the realization of peaceful reunification and the return of Taiwan.

The proposal, dispatched by Xinhua News Agency on September 30, is generous and well intended. Necessary contacts will sooner or later lead to the desired outcome.

Nations friendly to China sincerely hope that concrete actions will follow this verbal overture.

Rene Van den Bulcke
Bonnevoie, Luxembourg

China and the Third World

I enjoyed your article "China Belongs For Ever to the Third World" (issue No. 39). I am glad that China, just as in the past, views itself as a member of the third world and will continue to develop relations with other third world countries. No major foreign policy changes have occurred since the death of Mao Zedong.

China played an important role at the Bandung Conference in April 1955. After the conference, there appeared the non-aligned movement of the Asian, African and Latin American countries. It is unfortunate that China is not a member, whereas other socialist countries, such as Korea and Yugoslavia, participated in it. I am interested why China does not

developing light industry and making readjustments in heavy industry. Zhejiang Province offers a good example. It has maintained a fast rate of industrial growth this year on the basis of years of continuous expansion. Its total industrial output value in the January-August period this year

participate in this movement while keeping good relations with non-aligned countries.

Herbert Jorns
Basel, Switzerland

The Vietnamese Authorities

I concur with the views expressed in "Moscow's Intervention" and "Nguyen Co Thach's Latest Ruse" (issue No. 39). The enemy adopts the tactics of all-round encirclement, attacking from north and south and pressing forward steadily. During the Viet Nam war, the Americans carried out the scorched earth policy; the aftermath is still a pitiful sight. I hope that the Vietnamese will remember this. Now the national rejuvenation of Viet Nam is entrusted to the Soviet Union who will take advantage of this. I hope that the Vietnamese authorities will realize the truth as early as possible. History should not be repeated. Viet Nam should reverse the present situation as quickly as possible and seek its own national renewal. No misfortune should be brought to the rest of Southeast Asia.

Susumu Imabayashi
Tokyo, Japan

Gezhouba Dam

I enjoyed the special feature on the Gezhouba project in issue No. 35. It shows the determination of the Chinese to build their country and the skills they have acquired to achieve this.

Peter Hunter
Ont., Canada

Daily Life

We have a few comments. We feel that more pictures or photographs

amounted to 13,970 million yuan, which is 69.85 per cent of the annual plan, or 14.5 per cent more than that of the corresponding period of last year. This is the fastest rate of growth in the nation.

—Economic Editor
Wang Dacheng

can be added on. After all it is a Chinese maxim which says that a picture speaks more than a thousand words. Secondly, many of your feature articles tend to be too heavy and dry. Why not have a section containing articles of a lighter vein—more human aspects of life in China.

Editor of "Asian Defence Journal"
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

If you could continue to increase the amount of information about daily life in China and the masses' daily problems, I think it would be appreciated by most foreign readers.

G.U. Hateiotti
Suva, Fiji

Maps

I would like to suggest that articles on international questions, such as clashes in Africa, the Middle East and Asia as well as the Sino-Soviet boundary question, should be illustrated with maps. Thus they could be used as teaching materials, which would help extend the readership of *Beijing Review* to middle school students and those who don't have a good command of world geography.

A.N. Gutierrez
Pamplona, Colombia

One suggestion I would like to make is about the article in your issue No. 30 "The Crux of the Sino-Soviet Boundary Question." It would have aided your readers if you had included diagrams of the land area being discussed. A map in colour illustrating the various treaties, e.g., Treaty of Nipchu (1689), Treaty of Aigun (1858) and Treaty of Peking (1860), would have been helpful.

I fully support your stand on the question of unequal treaties imposed by the Russian imperialists on a weak China. As a patriotic Samoan, I find it difficult to understand the action of Soviet Russia, a country supposed to champion the cause of third world countries.

Letur Tamaton
Apia, Western Samoa

Beijing Review, No. 45

POLITICAL

Younger Cadres Promoted To Leading Posts

The Standing Committee of the Ninth Executive Committee of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions unanimously approved at its recent meeting the resignation of Gu Dachun and six other elderly cadres as members of the federation's secretariat. Younger cadres were elected to replace them. The secretariat is now made up of 16 members, and their average age is 56, six years younger than before.

This reshuffle is in response to the Party Central Committee's policy decision that younger cadres, who are dedicated to the cause of socialism and proficient vocationally, be promoted to leading posts at all levels.

Earlier, the State Council appointed some cadres in their prime to be ministers or other important posts. Hao Jianxiu, 46, was appointed Minister of Textile Industry. An ordinary textile worker in the 50s, she was later sent to college and be-

came a textile engineer. Li Peng, 53, an engineer with practical experience and a capable organizer, was appointed Minister of Power Industry. Liu Daoyu, 48 and a graduate of the department of chemistry of Wuhan University in 1958, was made president of that university. He is now China's youngest president and, incidentally, the first university graduate trained after liberation to be promoted to this post.

Serious attention has been paid to selecting and promoting middle-aged and young cadres to leading posts by some of the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions.

In northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, 509 middle-aged and young cadres have been promoted over the last two years to leading posts at the provincial, prefectural, city or county level. Three of them, aged around 55, were made members of the provincial Party committee; six aged around 50 were appointed first secretary of the Party committees or head of government at the prefectural or city level. Thirty others, with an average age of 45,

became leading Party and government cadres at the county level.

In Liaoning Province, also in the northeast, over 1,500 cadres have been promoted to leading posts at the county level and above, most being middle-aged or young cadres.

Of the 20 million cadres in China today, middle-aged and young cadres account for over 60 per cent, and there are about 5 million technical cadres with special skills trained after liberation. In leading bodies at all levels, there are some cadres who are weak and advanced in age and can hardly cope with the day-to-day work. It is necessary therefore to select and train in a planned way a great number of younger, energetic cadres who uphold the Party's line and are professionally competent. This has been emphasized by the Party Central Committee as a task of strategic importance, and veteran cadres are urged to help accomplish it as their primary duty.

ECONOMIC

Rural Planning

The work of rural planning is now in progress throughout China. Special departments for this purpose have been set up in 19 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities.

In northeast China's Jilin Province, over 2,000 people have been trained in rural planning and relevant technical materials have been issued to every production brigade (or village). The first group of more than 30 model villages and towns have been built and, by the end of this year, plan-

Liu Daoyu (third from right), President of Wuhan University, with the students.





Cultural centre of a commune in Jiangsu Province.

ning for about 80 per cent of the 10,000 brigades in the province will be completed.

For thousands of years, China's villages and towns have developed not according to a unified plan but according to natural and social conditions. This is no longer suitable for the new period of economic construction and development in the rural areas.

As a result of the adoption by the Party of flexible economic policies to enable the peasants to get rich through increased production, rural economy has in the last few years developed rapidly and the peasants' income has increased. This accounts for the demand for better material and cultural life. Hence the need for rural planning.

The work will be carried out in two stages. Overall planning with respect to the layout of farmland, industries, commerce, cultural, educational and medical centres as well as transport and communications will be done at a higher level, while plans for the actual building of the towns and

houses are done at a lower level.

The aim of rural planning is to facilitate production and the people's living and save land. Existing villages and towns and their facilities will be made full use of, so that the scale of rebuilding will not be too large and the expenses not too high.

Investments for social welfare facilities will be made by the collective, while private houses will be financed by the peasants themselves and built with the help of the collective under a unified plan.

With the improvement of the peasants' livelihood, more from increased incomes, more house are being built in the countryside. From 1978 to 1980, a total of 900 million square metres of housing have been built, more than half of which were completed last year. More new houses have brought a new outlook to the countryside, but some problems have also cropped up. In some places, for instance, the houses are built on cultivated land. In April this year, the State Council issued a circular to stop this tendency, urging the peasants to build their houses on mountain slopes or unused land.

To provide the peasants with convenient, economical and beautiful houses, the China Construction Society and Rural Housing Office of the State Capital Construction Commission sponsored a rural housing designing competition in February last year. By June this year, over 6,000 designs had been submitted by professional and amateur architects in various parts of the country. The best ones are being selected and recommended to the peasants and departments in charge of rural planning.

New Economic Laws and Regulations

Seventeen economic laws and regulations have been drafted and will be examined and discussed at a research centre under the State Council before the end of this year. Then they will be submitted to the State Council or the National People's Congress (or its Standing Committee) for adoption and promulgation.

The new laws and regulations include those governing economic contracts, state-owned factories, income tax for foreign enterprises, economic and trade contracts with foreign countries, marine safety, offshore environmental protection, and mineral resources. In addition, there is a law for dealing with cases of speculation and profiteering.

Economic legislation and judicial work has been neglected in the three decades since the founding of New China. Economic work is conducted mainly by administrative measures, and even disputes between enterprises are resolved by administrative decisions.

Since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee held towards the end of 1978, the focus of the Party's work has been shifted to the four modernizations and the importance of improving the legal system has been stressed. With the adoption of the open-door policy and the expansion of exchanges and trade with foreign countries, it has become increasingly important to enact economic laws and regulations and strengthen economic judicial work.

Since the law on joint ventures with Chinese and foreign investment was adopted at the Second Plenary Session of the Fifth National People's Congress

in June 1979, great attention has been paid to work in this field. To date, 1,200-odd economic courts at various levels have been set up across the land.

Southern Xinjiang Railway

Passenger and freight services have recently started on a 476-kilometre-long railway line in the southern part of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in northwest China.

Linking Turpan and Korla, the new line passes through the Tianshan Mountains. It is the second railway line built in the region following the completion of the Lanzhou-Xinjiang railway which links Xinjiang with the other parts of the country.

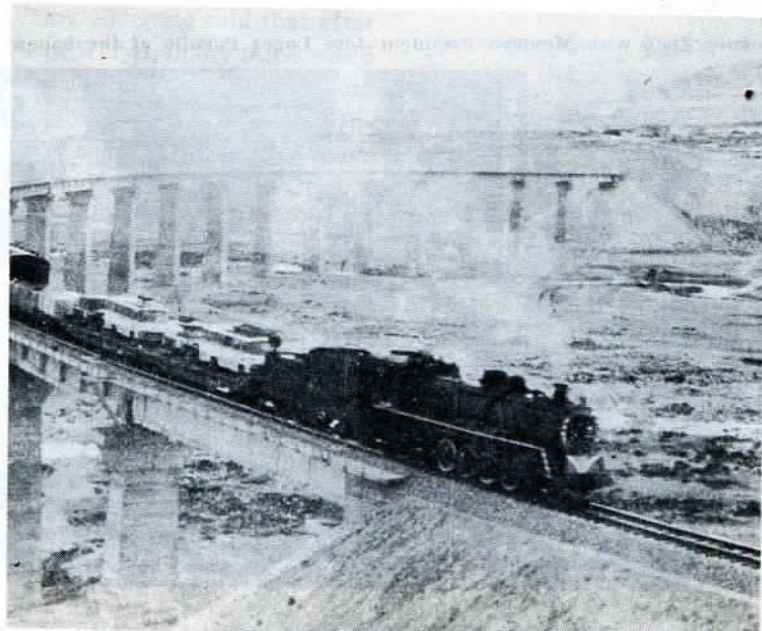
The southern Xinjiang railway line will play an important role in stepping up the interflow of commodities between the southern and northern parts of the region and speeding up the exploitation of the rich natural resources in southern Xinjiang.



The railway passes through difficult terrain, particularly that section zigzagging across the Tianshan Mountains. Completion of the line is an engineering feat. There are altogether 29 tunnels and 396 bridges, the two adding up to 14 per cent of the total length.

Railway construction has made great headway since the founding of New China in 1949 and total mileage has upped from 22,000 to 51,000 kilometres. But it still cannot keep pace with the nation's economic development. While building new railway lines, China is presently renovating the old lines and speeding up the building of electric railways.

A train crossing a bridge on the southern Xinjiang railway line.



SOCIAL

"Iron Rice Bowl" Is Breakable

National and local newspapers have recently featured news stories of workers discharged by some factories and enterprises for having persistently violated labour discipline, stayed away from work without leave or refused to mend their ways despite repeated warnings.

A loading worker of a motor transport team of the Beijing Hardware Company absented himself from work without leave for over two months. Severe disciplinary action was taken against him. He was sacked when he again failed to turn up for work for 103 days from March to August this year. Later it was found that he had been detained twice by the police for creating disturbances on the streets.

A worker at the Mixian railway station under the Zhengzhou railway sub-bureau in Henan Province was discharged for neglecting his duties.

The sacking of workers, which is rather common in the capitalist countries, is rare in socialist China. The founding of the People's Republic put an end to the system of exploitation by the landlords and capitalists, and the workers have since become masters of the country. Their work and livelihood are guaranteed, and this is often euphemistically described as the "iron rice bowl." Prior to 1966, the people led a secure life and everyone worked conscientiously to create wealth for the state.

Having gone through the 10 chaotic years of the "cultural revolution" from 1966 to 1976, a small number of people, particularly the young who were influenced by the anarchist trend of thought, repeatedly violated the law and labour discipline and refused to mend their ways, counting as they did on their permanent jobs and secure income and thinking that the state and people could do nothing about them.

The situation has taken a turn for the better in recent years. Although a few workers continue to go their own ways. Those who seriously violate labour discipline are now given stern warnings or are demoted with a reduction in their wages, or in more serious cases, they are placed on probation for a year or two to see if they show repentance for their misdoings.

The discharge of workers is always handled with care. Before a worker is sacked, his case must first be discussed by the workers' congress of the workshop concerned and then submitted to the factory administration and the trade union at the same level for approval. The decision will come into effect only after it has been examined and approved by leaderships from a higher level.

Those who are discharged are helped to correct their mistakes and start anew. On request, labour departments will make arrangements and find new jobs for them.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Premier Zhao's Successful Visit to Mexico

Premier Zhao Ziyang left Mexico City for home on October 27 after concluding a suc-

cessful 4-day official visit to Mexico.

This was the first visit by a Chinese Premier to a Latin American country, and it marked a new stage in the development of friendly relations between China and Mexico.

Premier Zhao held talks with the Mexican President. The two leaders had deep-going and wide-ranging discussions about the development in the international and regional situation since President Portillo's visit to China in 1978. They also discussed the results and problems of the just-ended Cancun Summit, and had identical views on many issues. On the further development of bilateral relations, they agreed to explore new spheres of expanding economic and technological co-operation and cultural exchange.

At a banquet he gave in honour of Premier Zhao Ziyang on October 26, President Portillo pointed out that mounting confrontation between the superpowers undermines the international climate and constitutes a grave root cause of world disturbances. He declared: "The struggle for economic justice should be the primary task of the third world countries

after winning political independence."

In his speech at the banquet, Premier Zhao paid warm tribute to the friendship between the Chinese and Mexican peoples and cited the common points in the foreign policies of the two countries. He said that both countries are opposed to imperialism, hegemonism and colonialism and uphold world peace. Both oppose the irrational old international economic order and are working actively for the establishment of a new one.

In his toast at the banquet given on October 27 by the Chinese Ambassador for Premier Zhao's visit, President Portillo praised the role played by China in the Cancun Meeting. He said: "At such a meeting, the voice of China is indispensable, and her words are wise and instructive. Her principles, her presence and her experience have been of great importance to the success of the meeting."

Referring to Premier Zhao's visit to Mexico, the President said that it was "an occasion for affirming our identical points of views and for justifying the role we should play in a turbu-

Premier Zhao with Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo at the banquet.



lent world where we should endeavour, through peaceful means, to correct the abnormal state caused unfortunately by big-power rivalry. The independent and firm voice of China was explicit and coincided with ours." He also said that Premier Zhao's visit would further promote the relations and deepen and broaden the channel of friendship between the two countries.

China-Venezuela

President of the Republic of Venezuela Luis Herrera Campins and Mrs. Herrera paid an official visit to China in late October and early November. They visited Shanghai and Xian before arriving in Beijing. Premier Zhao Ziyang gave a banquet in honour of the distinguished guests, and Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping met with the President and had a cordial talk with him.

"The third world countries should strive to maintain their independence, work for their prosperity, and build up their self-confidence." This was stressed by Deng Xiaoping during his meeting with President Herrera.

Deng Xiaoping said that after World War II, many third world countries have stood up and now they have their say on international affairs. They have much common ground on a series of world issues.

Referring to the international situation, Deng Xiaoping said that factors causing unrest and turbulence have increased and that the threat to world peace comes mainly from the Soviet Union. To oppose hegemonism, he said, China and the other



Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping with President Luis Herrera Campins.

third world countries as well as Japan, the United States and European countries should unite. He added that obstacles to unity should be surmounted.

President Herrera said that the people of the third world countries now have the common task of combating the threat posed by hegemonism and developing their own countries to safeguard world peace. He praised China for taking the same position as the other third world countries on international affairs and for actively supporting their just struggle.

Premier Zhao Ziyang held talks with the Venezuelan President. The two sides resolutely support the principles and objectives of the UN Charter, determinedly defend international justice and peace, oppose superpower attempts to set up spheres of influence and dominate the world, and resolutely oppose colonialism in all forms, old and neo-colonialism. They also advocated the establishment of a fair and reasonable new international economic order. The

two leaders expressed satisfaction at the development of friendly relations between the two countries and stressed that they would make common efforts to further develop bilateral relations in trade and economic co-operation.

An agreement on co-operation in culture and another on science and technology were signed between the two governments in Beijing on November 1.

Independence of Antigua and Barbuda Greeted

Premier Zhao Ziyang sent a message on October 30 to Prime Minister Vere Bird, extending China's recognition of the newly independent Antigua and Barbuda.

The message congratulated the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda and expressed the hope that the relations between the two countries and the friendship between the two peoples will develop with each passing day.

A Look at US-USSR Nuclear Negotiation

NEGOTIATIONS between the two superpowers on restricting theatre nuclear weapons in Europe are to start in Geneva on November 30. Relations between the two countries have been cool all this year and the eight-year-long European disarmament talks and the 11-month-old European Security Conference in Madrid have produced no results. What is the outlook for the coming talks in November?

Prior to the Agreement And After

Since it began to deploy SS-20 medium-range missiles in Europe in 1977, the Soviet Union has attained a nuclear superiority over NATO in Europe. NATO's "dual resolution" adopted in December 1979 is a move to counter these Soviet missiles. The resolution calls for negotiations with the Soviet Union on European-based medium-range nuclear missiles and a start in 1983 to deploy 572 cruise and Pershing-II missiles in Western Europe. The resolution came under vehement Soviet attack as soon as it was adopted and Moscow attached two preconditions to negotiations: NATO should cancel its resolution to deploy new missiles in Europe; and the US Congress must ratify the SALT II treaty. Actually, Moscow was saying "no" to negotiations.

Then in the autumn of 1980, in order to get itself out of the predicament it had got itself into by invading Afghanistan, the Soviet Union changed its tactics. It said it was now willing to hold talks with Washing-

ton and ditched its two preconditions. In October-November 1980, the two countries started preparatory talks on limiting nuclear missiles in Europe. But no headway was made since each side stuck to its own stance. It was announced that the meeting was recessed indefinitely. That was at the end of last year. All this year, the Soviet Union has been running into mounting difficulties at home and abroad. After he took office, Reagan has pushed a hard-line policy towards the Soviet Union and has raised the US military budget, worked out new strategic counter-measures against Moscow and boosted US armed forces. He is also set on fulfilling plans to modernize NATO's medium-range missiles as scheduled. With Western Europe committed to deploying cruise and Pershing-II missiles, Moscow's military superiority in Europe is now being challenged by the United States.

At the 26th Congress of the CPSU in February, Brezhnev made a series of proposals for "detente," including Washington-Moscow summit talks, suspending the deployment of new medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe and negotiations to restrict theatre nuclear weapons. This was followed by a powerful Soviet-inspired "propaganda" and "diplomatic" offensive. The Soviet Union also offered to hold separate disarmament talks with Western Europe. These were all aimed at driving a wedge into US-West European relations and preventing NATO from strengthening its forces and up-

dating its medium-range missiles.

Even before NATO's "dual resolution" was adopted, the West was arguing whether to "negotiate before deploying," or "deploy and then negotiate." Some West European countries wanted negotiations before deployment, vainly hoping for an agreement and avoiding deployment. NATO's "dual resolution" is the compromise reached between the United States and Western Europe.

After Reagan became US President, the United States has been cool to negotiations with the Soviet Union on limiting nuclear weapons. Reagan declared that emphasis should be on increasing defence, "negotiating from strength," and that deployment should precede negotiations. Reagan's attitude made many Western countries uneasy and differences over priorities between the United States and West Europe over the question of negotiation and deployment grew sharper. Some West European leaders have visited the United States one after another since January. They held talks on counter-strategic measures against the Soviet Union and policies to defend Western Europe. West German Chancellor Schmidt on his May visit to the United States managed to talk Reagan into resuming disarmament talks with the Soviet Union. In their joint statement issued after, they said equal emphasis should be placed on negotiations and deployment. The forceful demand of West Europe had prevailed.

At the same time, the United States' troubled economy has forced Reagan to trim ambitious plans for arms spending.

The Reagan administration's anti-inflation and lower expenditure programme is in conflict with expanding arms expenditures. The United States is not favourably placed to embark on an all-out arms race with the Soviet Union, given the present poor economic situation.

In September the US administration had to lop off 13 billion dollars for military spending from its 1982 budget. Reagan's refusal to talk with Moscow has also run into opposition from the liberals. Therefore, Reagan has opted to resume negotiations with the Soviet Union on the reduction of theatre nuclear weapons.

Major Differences

Despite the United States and the Soviet Union agreeing to negotiate, serious differences over many questions are sure to emerge because their positions and goals are completely different. According to Western press reports the principal areas of differences will be:

1. In the estimation of the East-West military balance in Europe. In the early 70s, the East-West balance of military strength in Europe, by and large, was the Warsaw Pact surpassing NATO in conventional forces, with NATO superior in tactical nuclear weapons and the United States having a relative edge over the Warsaw Pact in strategic nuclear arms. A "balance within an imbalance" was attained in Europe. Since the latter 70s, the balance has been upset by Soviet deployment of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. Since 1977, the Soviets have deployed more than 250 SS-20 missiles in Europe to boost Soviet nuclear power. However, the Soviet Union insists that it has not attained military superiority

in Europe. It maintains that military forces are roughly balanced, and asserts that its deployment of SS-20 missiles has not affected the balance and both sides now have a similar number of medium-range missiles. The Soviets declare that the NATO decision to deploy Pershing-II and cruise missiles upsets the existing East-West military balance in Europe and threaten that if NATO goes ahead with its plans to deploy US-made medium-range missiles, they will deploy more SS-20 missiles.

2. Scope of arms talks. What category of weapons are to be included in the US-USSR nuclear arms talks? The lists of the two sides do not tally, each having its own calculations. This is not mentioned specifically in the US-Soviet "joint announcement." The wording is purposely vague, saying only that Washington and Moscow will discuss the "problem of arms control with nuclear weapons included, as discussed earlier in Geneva." According to the Western press, Washington wants arms control talks confined to Soviet SS-4, SS-5 and SS-20 missiles, and Pershing-II and cruise missiles which NATO has decided to deploy in Europe. But the Soviets want medium-range missiles and US forward-based nuclear weapons in Europe, including US bombers stationed in Europe, brought within the scope of the talks. The United States says that if the Soviets insist on including this type of aircraft in the talks, then the Soviet Backfire bombers will have to be included too. Western observers see this "as a major obstacle to reaching any final agreement."

3. Agenda for arms control talks. As to nuclear weapons control in Europe, the United

States wants "not only limitation," "but also reduction," to bring theatre nuclear weapons of both sides in Europe "to a balanced and lowest possible level." The Soviets say that "only if NATO deploys no new-type US-made missiles in Europe, will they agree to reduce the number of their medium-range missiles. The Western press has recently aired a so-called "zero option." But the specific assumptions of both the United States and the Soviet Union are completely different. The Soviets' zero option wants Washington to withdraw all nuclear weapons (including non-deployment of Pershing-II and cruise missiles) that can reach Soviet territory from NATO territory, and then the Soviet Union would withdraw all its nuclear weapons systems which can hit NATO territory from Soviet territory in Europe. Superficially, it looks like "withdrawal" by both sides, but in reality, NATO is to be effectively prevented from deploying new-type missiles, while the Soviet Union keeps its SS-20 missiles, merely pulling these missiles out of Soviet territory in Europe. Of course, this is unacceptable to the West. West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt commenting on this so-called zero option has said that Soviet nuclear superiority must first be removed and the balance of medium-range nuclear missiles maintained at the lowest possible level. Meeting Gromyko on September 23 this year, Haig pointed out that the talks must have as its goal the reduction of all theatre nuclear weapons in Europe, and not the Soviet Union merely shifting its SS-20 missiles out of European Russia, but their actual numbers must be cut down. It was unthinkable to let the Soviets retain their mobile missiles, while the United States has to

cut down the number of their missiles deployed in Europe, said Haig. Clearly, Washington and Moscow will haggle long and hard over this issue.

4. Inspection. On July 14, Haig said, when he talked about the US stand in the arms control talks, that any arms control agreement must contain "effective means of inspection." The Soviets are adamantly against this. Moscow launched a massive propaganda barrage attacking this and charged that Haig

was "wanting to wreck negotiations."

Anyone can see that the European arms control talks will be a protracted and sharp struggle. Already, one US newspaper has predicted on September 29 that "negotiations between Washington and Moscow on limiting nuclear arms based in Europe are apt to be the most difficult and most complicated in the 20 years' history of superpower efforts at controlling atomic weaponry."

—Gong Weixin

Concrete Disarmament Action Wanted

In his speech to the First Committee of the UN General Assembly on October 22, China's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Liang Yufan called for concrete disarmament action by the superpowers. Following are excerpts of his speech.

DISARMAMENT negotiations today face greater difficulties because the two superpowers have started a new round in their arms race.

If the superpowers are sincere about disarmament, they should come up with concrete actions, reducing both the size of their enormous arsenals and the military threat against other countries, and withdrawing their aggressor troops from foreign soil.

A Non-Pacific "Peace Offensive." At the current UN General Assembly session, one superpower launched what it calls a new "peace offensive." It has

called for a "declaration" on the first use of nuclear weapons as "the most serious crime against mankind." But it has refused all along to undertake "not to be the first to use nuclear weapons at any time and under any circumstances," or to assume unconditionally the obligation not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against the non-nuclear-weapon states. This superpower is continuing to develop its nuclear weapons and refusing to make any reduction. With the conventional armaments of this superpower far exceeding those of its rival, people have every reason to look for an ulterior motive behind its so-called proposal against the "first-use of nuclear weapons." The plain truth is that the proposal would enable it to carry out blackmail and expand its sphere of influence by relying on its superiority in conventional armaments. The invasion of Afghanistan is ample evidence that unbridled

aggression and expansion by means of superior conventional armaments is possible without prejudicing the strategy of nuclear deterrent.

We hold that the only way to reduce and remove the danger of a nuclear war is to halt the nuclear arms race between the two superpowers and to demand a drastic reduction of their enormous nuclear arsenals.

Nuclear and Conventional Disarmament. We support the legitimate demand of the small and medium-sized countries. Since many countries without nuclear weapons are facing the grave threat of nuclear weapons, the countries with nuclear weapons should unconditionally guarantee not to use or threaten to use such weapons against these countries and should stop procrastinating under various pretexts. It is not only necessary to oppose nuclear war and to strive for nuclear disarmament, but also to oppose wars of aggression fought with conventional weapons and to seek corresponding progress in conventional disarmament.

Chemical Weapons. Recently reports and information about the use of chemical weapons in Afghanistan, Kampuchea and Laos have continued to surface. In order to facilitate the early verification of these crimes, the work of the expert group established in pursuance of last year's General Assembly resolution to investigate the use of chemical weapons should be supported and strengthened. The group should be given an opportunity to inspect all victims on the spot, and no one should be allowed to obstruct on any pretext.

ACPPD

The Beijing Declaration on Population and Development

This declaration was adopted at the plenary session of the Asian Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development on October 30. The full text is as the following. — Ed.

Preamble

1. We, the **parliamentarians** from 19 countries of Asia attending the first Asian Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development in Beijing from 27th October to 30th October 1981 in addressing ourselves to the inter-relationship between **population and development**:

Note the efforts made by countries of Asia in social and economic development and their initiatives in the formulation and implementation of population policies and family planning programmes during the last two decades, which have contributed significantly to the decline in the global birth rate;

Recognize the inextricable relationships between population, resources and environment in the efforts to manage issues of poverty, employment and development and, in this regard, reaffirm the objectives and goals of the **Colombo Declaration on Population and Development** and the **Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Resources, Population and Development**;

Reiterate the need for the countries of Asia to adopt an approach which will ensure the appropriate integration of resources and population in the formulation and implementation of their development policies and programmes;

Affirm the need for closer co-operation among countries of Asia in their endeavour to accelerate and advance the social and economic well-being of their peoples while respecting the national sovereignty of each country;

Reaffirm the need for continuous efforts towards the early realization and

establishment of the **New International Economic Order** for a just and equitable distribution of the world's resources, and stress that these goals be realized through strengthening the bonds of solidarity and co-operation between and amongst the countries of Asia.

2. **Acknowledging** the diversity in religion and beliefs as well as culture and traditions, and **mindful** of the differences in social, economic and political conditions in the countries of Asia, we recognize, however, that we share many common concerns:

That the current population of Asia is estimated to be 2.6 billion, accounting for nearly 60 per cent of the total world population and that by the year 2000 it is expected to increase by another billion;

That 90 per cent of the world's poor live in Asia and if present trends continue, this situation will further deteriorate. This large proportion of our population suffer from malnutrition, illiteracy and ill health and thus does not fully enjoy their basic human rights and the benefits of development;

That although women constitute nearly 50 per cent of the population of the countries of Asia, this important sector has not been accorded equal opportunity to effectively participate in the development process and share the benefits thereof;

That although nearly 60 per cent of the total population in Asia is below the age of 25, estimated to be 1.5 billion in 1980, youth as a vibrant segment of human resources has not been provided adequate opportunities for their development to the fullest potential as citizens and leaders of the future;

That while many countries of Asia are endowed with abundant natural resources, the achievement of a long-term balance between population and resources in order to improve the quality of life for our people is constrained at present by a lack of

the complementary factors essential for their effective and productive utilization;

That the effects of the imbalance between population and resources are resulting in deforestation, soil erosion and other ecological changes leading to a deterioration of the natural environment which if unchecked will threaten the very human existence;

That most countries of Asia are developing economies predominantly dependent upon agricultural production and the exploitation of natural resources and do not realize the just and equitable benefits from their participation in the existing international economic system;

That peace, national security and stability are preconditions for development, and unless these are guaranteed for Asia, all our efforts to better the quality of life of our people cannot succeed.

Objectives

In view of the concerns as expressed in the Preamble and recognizing the need to deal with them more effectively, this conference, therefore, addresses itself to the following objectives:

1. To **promote** co-operation and collaboration amongst parliamentarians of the countries of Asia through greater and continuing interchange of experience and knowledge in population and development.
2. To **further improve** and enrich the quality of life of the peoples of Asia through a more effective utilization and management of resources by the integration of population, resources and environment in the development process.
3. To **attain** social justice and economic progress through a more effective mechanism to hasten the process of an integrated and balanced approach to population, resources and development at national, regional and international levels.
4. To **consolidate** the efforts and strengthen the co-operation between and amongst countries of Asia to achieve the early realization and establishment of the New International Economic Order.

Calls

This conference therefore calls on:

All Parliaments of the Countries of Asia

1. To encourage the formation of national groups of parliamentarians concerned with

the issues of population and development and through these groups to:

- increase the awareness and promote greater understanding of the inter-relationships between population and development amongst parliamentarians;
- initiate, promote and support exchange programmes amongst parliamentarians from the countries of Asia and other countries of the world, in order to increase knowledge of, and to exchange experience dealing with the inter-relationships between population and development so as to develop new ideas and approaches to these issues;
- promote continuing dialogue between parliamentarians and social, economic and population planners and implementors at local, regional and international levels.

Governments of the Countries of Asia

2. In formulating strategies and programmes for the socio-economic development of their peoples, not to ignore the wealth of intellectual, philosophical and cultural traditions, but to draw upon the richness of this knowledge and their scientific basis for direct application to planning and implementation efforts.
3. In consonance with national needs and aspirations, to demonstrate their political will and to give greater impetus in support of the existing population programmes and allocate adequate resources to meet the needs of the programme, in addition to the adoption of a comprehensive population policy as an integral part of national development plans.
4. To establish a national co-ordinating body, where it does not exist, for the formulation and effective implementation of population policies and programmes.
5. To undertake periodic population surveys and examine their population trends and the impact of these trends on health, education, agricultural and industrial development, housing and the environment.
6. To increase financial allocation for family planning and population programmes within their country according to their needs.
7. To stimulate and sustain community participation and involvement in population and development through efficient use of the mass media as well as through effective mobilization and utilization of community resources.

8. To promote and strengthen the participation of non-governmental voluntary organizations in programmes of population and development at local, national, regional and international level in spirit of common endeavour and partnership. To this end non-governmental voluntary organizations be encouraged by the government to intensify efforts to accelerate the process of integration of population with development by according a pivotal place to their role within the framework of national policies.
9. To review the existing targets and goals in the implementation of population and development programmes so as to contribute to the attainment of the one per cent population growth for the Asian region by the year 2000.
10. To strengthen and expand socio-economic development programmes and ensure that development is directed towards reducing and narrowing of social and economic disparities and thus hasten the creation of a just society.
11. To ensure that the development process includes emphasis on individual and community self-reliance by creating, among the people, greater self-confidence, social awareness and responsibility as well as political consciousness oriented towards a grass-root approach in development planning and implementation.
12. To plan an effective strategy for the conservation of their natural resources and their effective utilization while being mindful of the need to safeguard the environment.
13. To widen the opportunities of women for equal participation at all levels in the political, economic, social and cultural aspects of development, taking particular note of the **United Nations Programme of Action** for the Second Half of the Decade for Women in the Field of Health, Education and Labour adopted at the Copenhagen Conference July 1980.
14. To enact and implement laws on family rights, where necessary, to ensure full and equal rights for men and women and to raise the level of education of women to make possible an increase in their social responsibilities and rights, particularly in their role as mothers.
15. To initiate, promote and utilize studies and research for better understanding of the problems of youth so as to introduce pro-

grammes to harness these vast human resource in the best interest of future development.

16. To promote basic and vocational education and training, to ensure continuing education, to integrate population education with formal and non-formal educational systems as a preparation for youth to become responsible citizens for their participation in development and population programmes.
17. To re-emphasize the importance of and inculcate the need to balance material development with spiritual values, particularly among the young, so as to achieve the fullest benefit from development.
18. To give greater consideration to increased incidence of drug addiction and sexually transmitted diseases.
19. To strive for the early achievement of the goals and objectives of the New International Economic Order by intensifying co-operative and collaborative efforts in areas of mutual interest.
20. To undertake measures to increase intra-Asian trade and economic co-operation so as to take the fullest advantage of any economic complementarity, the availability of natural resources and the market potential existing among the countries of Asia.
21. To increase meaningful dialogue between the developed and the developing countries in order to improve trade relations and effect a more equitable share of resources, technology and expertise.

All Governments

22. To increase the overall allocation or international assistance to population programmes of UNFPA, other agencies of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, and reaffirms the call of the Colombo Declaration on Population and Development to achieve an annual target of one billion (one thousand million) dollars for population assistance by 1984 and that contributing governments designate a meaningful proportion of their development aid to population programmes. The increased international assistance proposed here will require that the role and function of UNFPA be strengthened.
23. To strive for the cessation of the mass migration in the form of refugees caused by political and military aggression, taking particular note of the United Nations resolutions on this matter.

24. To strive for the cessation of the arms race as a step towards genuine disarmament and further utilization of the resources thus made available for the solution of population and development problems.

The United Nations

25. To hold a UN World Population Conference in 1984 as recommended in the Colombo Declaration to review the progress made over the 10 years since the Bucharest Conference on population and to make proposals for further action.
26. To declare an annual **World Population Day** as a measure to increase awareness and enhance the understanding of the population problem as they relate to development.

United Nations and All Its Specialized Agencies and Organizations, the World Bank and Other Regional Development Banks as Well as Other Inter-Government Agencies

27. To increase their financial support and contribution to governments of Asian countries in order to sustain and further promote the implementation of projects and programmes for integration of population with development.
28. To follow up this Conference of Asian Parliamentarians on Population and Development by supporting the organization of similar conferences at least once in every three years.
29. To maintain close relationships with groups of parliamentarians in this endeavour and support the organization of sub-regional meetings of parliamentarians on the same subject on a regular basis.
30. To support the continuing efforts of parliamentarians at Asian and sub-regional levels to effectively co-ordinate the activities of national groups of Parliamentarians on Population and Development.
31. To support the strengthening of existing training and research institutions in the field of reproductive health, contraceptive technology and population and development studies in Asia, and to establish greater co-operation and collaboration amongst Asian countries as well as to expedite the development of trained manpower and expertise in this field which will indeed hasten the process of integration of population with development.
32. To accord high importance to the non-governmental organizations for transform-

ing the family planning programme into a broad-based peoples' movement and to emphasize the role of the private sector in supporting the efforts of these organizations.

33. To support and consolidate programmes of non-governmental organizations which are consistent with national policies for integrating resources, population and development thereby facilitating the achievement of national goals. To this end, non-governmental organizations such as the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) have a key role to play and should get increased support.

Non-Governmental Organizations

34. To raise their efforts and level of participation in spreading information on population issues and in implementing family planning programmes within the framework of national policies, especially in remote and inaccessible areas where access to family planning is not normally available.

The Press and Other Media

35. To provide positive coverage of population and development issues, so as to increase public awareness and understanding of these matters.

Religious Leaders

36. To take into account the tremendous impact of population pressures on human, spiritual and physical well-being.

Commitment

We, the parliamentarians at this conference, in our various capacities as legislators, community leaders and representatives of the people, commit and dedicate ourselves to continue initiating and pursuing actions to achieve effective integration of population into development policies and programme.

As Legislators

We will stimulate the interest and create awareness and understanding of the inter-relationships between population and development amongst fellow parliamentarians;

We will promote the formation of groups of parliamentarians concerned with population and development at national, regional and international levels;

We will ensure through appropriate legislative measures that adequate allocation of resources be provided for the implementation of

projects and programmes designed to integrate population into development policies and programmes;

We will participate in and support the implementation of policies and programmes so as to facilitate effective integration of population with development, and to ensure that the benefit will reach all levels of society, especially the poor and the underprivileged;

We will ensure that discussions and deliberations on population issues are guided by the best interest of the nation as a whole.

As Community Leaders

We will generate public support, participation and involvement to achieve optimum use of resources in the implementation of programmes to improve the socio-economic level of the people.

As Representatives of the People

We dedicate ourselves to functioning as the channel of communication for the articulation of the peoples' needs and problems as well as to ensure and to be involved in the assessment of the implementation of policies and programmes and to bring about the necessary adjustments and improvements.

We, who are the closest link between government and the people, dedicate ourselves to carry the message of the inter-relationships of population and development through grass-root organizations.

Finally, in All These Efforts

We commit ourselves to work closely with other organizations in order to realize the aims and objectives of this declaration. □

Asian Conference of Parliamentarians On Population and Development

THE four-day Asian Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development in Beijing's Great Hall of the People ended on October 30. The conference issued a Beijing Declaration on Population and Development, which calls on:

- Asian parliamentarians to strengthen co-operation in population activities and people of various Asian countries to pay great attention to the issue of population and development and the governments of Asian countries to contribute to the attainment of one per cent population growth for the Asian region by the year 2000;

- The United Nations to declare an annual World Population Day;

- And reaffirms the call of the Colombo Declaration on Population and Development to achieve an annual target of one billion dollars for population assistance by 1984.

Conference Objective and Goal

More than 200 parliamentarians, specialists, scholars from 19 Asian countries, and representatives of international organizations and from Latin America attended. The main subject of the conference was to explore ways of integrating population with development pro-

grammes in the Asian region, promote international co-operation in population activities and develop friendship among the parliamentarians and peoples of the Asian countries.

Asia's population now numbers 2.6 billion, making up nearly two-thirds the world total. Population trends and the relation between population and development in Asia have drawn the attention of the governments of Asian countries. After their independence, a major obstacle the Asian countries have to overcome on their road forward is the reduction of their population growth rates, improving the quality of the population and appropriately integrating the population with the resources they must exploit to promote their national economies and attain the goal of flourishing prosperity.

The conference pointed out the recognition that rapid population growth creates difficulties in food grain, industrial goods, fuel and education, followed by falling living standards. The representatives from India, China, Jordan, Maldives, Japan, Syria and Indonesia unanimously agreed that the time has come to bring the population growth down. The leader of the Japanese Delegation, former Prime Minister, Takeo Fukuda, said: "We must use every resource at our disposal to ensure that



Left: The ACPPD in session.



Right: Premier Zhao Ziyang meets Rafael Salase, Executive Director of the UN Fund for Population Activities.

population growth does not delay modernization in Asia or prevent us from responding swiftly to the age of change."

Exchanging Experience

Representatives spoke of their countries' population conditions and policies and exchanged experience on family planning and population growth control. From speeches and discussions, it was learnt that 16 Asian countries have a population policy. China and the Philippines have stipulated population control in their respective Constitutions. Population control figures prominently in national economic programmes of Asian countries. The Nepalese representative told the conference that in the Kingdom of Nepal the King issued a public communique on population to the whole country and that the Prime Minister was personally responsible for the implementation of a comprehensive population growth programme. The Government of Bangladesh has included family planning in its second five-year plan (1980-85). Indonesia has decided to change publicizing "three-children families" to "two-children families." It also has planned to move half a million young couples out of densely populated Java to other parts of the country in the next five years. Malaysia is encouraging family planning by lowering income tax for couples with two children and increasing tax from the third child on.

Representatives took a great interest in China's population policy and its experience in handling the population question.

Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Delegation and Deputy Secretary-General of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress Luo Qingchang said the population

question was a major issue of strategic importance in China. It must be appropriately handled through working out relevant policies and taking all necessary measures. In the past decade or so, the Chinese Government has adopted a policy of controlling population growth in a planned way. Its basic points are, he said, that in densely populated areas late marriage, late child-bearing, few births and eugenics were advocated, while giving intensive medical treatment in individual cases of infertility. In sparsely populated areas inhabited by minority nationalities, measures favourable to the prosperity of these nationalities and the local socio-economic development were taken, and technical guidance and help to couples who really wish to practise control were provided. These policies and measures were adopted in the light of China's actual conditions and carried out by the people on a voluntary basis.

He said that since the 1970s, some initial progress has been made in family planning. The rate of natural increase in 1970 was as high as 25.95 per thousand but by 1979 it had dropped to 11.66 per thousand. This has helped to alleviate somewhat the contradictions between population and development. "In the late 1970s, the Chinese Government set a grand goal for socialist modernization. In order to make modernization a success," he said, "it is our hope to hold China's total population down below 1.2 billion at the end of this century."

This is the first Asian regional conference on population and development held in China and will play a significant role in the field of population activities and promoting economic development and strengthening the friendship between the Asian countries. □

Did "Rebellions" in the "Cultural Revolution" Play a Positive Role?

by Yang Zengjia

All rebellions should be analysed. It was necessary and justifiable for the Chinese people to rebel against imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism, the three big mountains that weighed heavily on their backs before liberation in 1949. But rebellions during the "cultural revolution" of 1966-76 proved to be harmful because their spearhead was directed against the proletarian Party and the people's government, and they caused serious damage to the cause of socialism.

THE word "rebellion" was in vogue in the "cultural revolution" from its very beginning. The Red Guard movements started under the banner of rebellion. In the name of rebellion, mass organizations mushroomed in factories, villages, government organizations and schools. How, then, should such a phenomenon be assessed?

The key to the whole matter is whom the rebellions were against.

In the Chinese history, the cruel economic exploitation and political suppression by the landlord class was opposed by numerous peasant uprisings. A motive force propelling history forward, such rebellions against the reactionary ruling class were justifiable in the eyes of any progressive, justice-minded people.

The Chinese working class mounted the political stage following the May 4th Movement of 1919*. Shortly afterwards, the Chinese Communist Party was born. Under the Party's leadership, the Chinese people rebelled against imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism. Some veterans of those rebellions are still alive, although quite old. It is clear that without revolutionary rebellion there would have been no New China and no emancipation of the Chinese people.

Marxists advocate rebelling against exploiting and oppressing classes; Marxism is in itself a spiritual weapon for the oppressed people in

such rebellions. However, rebellions during the "cultural revolution" were totally different.

When the "cultural revolution" was launched, neither an exploiting class nor its political representatives existed in China.

After New China was founded, socialist transformation was in the main completed during 1953-56 with respect to the public ownership of the means of production and the principle of "to each according to his work" was carried out to a great measure. The system of exploitation of man by man was abolished, and landlords and capitalists no longer existed as classes. With the development of socialist construction, the people were much better off than before liberation. Under such circumstances, against whom were the rebellions directed?

The "cultural revolution" started in the educational and cultural fields. The Red Guard movement was launched from schools, and one of its first acts was to overthrow leading members of educational and cultural departments, who were branded representatives of the bourgeoisie. Accused were many older cadres who were veterans of the long years of revolution and some outstanding younger cadres who were brought up by the Communist Party and the people's government. They were not representatives of the bourgeoisie, but representatives of the proletariat. Many professors and experts who had contributed to China's economic and cultural construction were labelled "bourgeois reactionary academic au-

* In January 1919, the countries which won World War I held a conference in Paris. Despite the fact that China was one of the victors, the conference awarded Japan certain rights in China's Shandong Province, a prerogative previously enjoyed by Germany, a defeated country. The Chinese government was ready to acknowledge this decision. On May 4, thousands of Beijing students took to the street to protest the Paris Conference decision. Young people and workers all over the country echoed the protest. The Chinese government finally was forced to refuse to sign the Peace Treaty of Versailles. The May 4th Movement marked the beginning of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal new-democratic revolution in China.

The author is a theoretical worker.

thorities." To varying degrees, most intellectuals were harassed and persecuted.

At the time, some people thought that only abolishing the original educational system would generate opportunities for children of workers and peasants to attend universities. But such thinking was a miscalculation of the actual situation. It is true that many university students during the early post-liberation years were children of the exploiting classes. This was unavoidable given the social and historical conditions. But with the political and economic emancipations of the labouring people, the percentage of students from workers' and peasants' families grew steadily. In 1965, the year prior to the "cultural revolution," 64.6 per cent of the university students were children of workers and peasants, while those from families of the exploiting classes accounted for only 9.4 per cent.

The rebels also aimed heavy fire at a great number of fine works of literature and art. As a result, the once flourishing literary and art world was smothered.

In addition, indispensable rules and regulations for managing factories and enterprises were thrown overboard. The rebels labelled them "shackles" that bound the workers hand and foot. Abolishing all disciplinary codes threw factories and enterprises into disorder.

In its totality, the "cultural revolution" was actually a political rebellion which targeted Party and government organizations at various levels. Large numbers of Party and state leaders were overthrown as "capitalist roaders." The Secretariat of the Party Central Committee was replaced by the "central cultural revolution group," a de facto headquarters for the rebels. The slogan "make revolution by bypassing the Party committee" paralysed wholly or in part Party organizations at various levels. All in all, rebellions in the "cultural revolution" were launched by the Party leadership based on a wrong assessment of the actual situation, and brought disasters to the people. They never hurt the enemy as they intended.

These rebellions were unquestionably the result of the "cultural revolution" wrongly initiated by Chairman Mao; but to a large extent the Jiang Qing and Lin Biao counter-revolutionary cliques manipulated and took advantage of them.

Briefly, the initial events were: In May 1966, the nation's first big-character poster by

Nie Yuanzi and others was instigated by Kang Sheng, an important member of the Jiang Qing and Lin Biao counter-revolutionary cliques. After the poster was published and broadcast, leaders of Beijing's 55 universities and colleges were harassed and attacked. The rush to topple those in power spread swiftly from cultural and educational departments to Party and government organizations and to industrial and mining enterprises. In December 1966, the Red Guards, incited by Jiang Qing and other members of the "central cultural revolution group," suddenly arrested Peng Zhen, Liu Ren and Wan Li, leaders of the Beijing municipal Party committee. The persecution of many Party and state leaders, including such outstanding proletarian revolutionaries like Liu Shaoqi, Peng Dehuai, Tao Zhu and He Long, was also egged on by Lin Biao and Jiang Qing counter-revolutionary cliques. Lin Biao said, "power should be wrest back from top to bottom", and "some cadres should be arrested, some should be crowned with tall paper hats and paraded through the street and some should have their houses searched." The cliques regarded cadres who were loyal to the Party as stumbling-blocks to their own bid for top leadership positions in the Party and government. Many naive and inexperienced young people were led astray and acted unintelligently. But when they gradually saw through Lin Biao, Jiang Qing and company, they returned to the right track. Some quitted rebel organizations and rejected the instigations by these political swindlers.

Is it justifiable to launch a rebellion against cadres seriously affected by bureaucratism? The answer is no. It is true that bureaucratism should be opposed and done away with. But on no account should cadres who committed serious mistakes be the object of outright rebellions, nor should they be toppled like enemies. Instead, orderly measures should be taken — employing the Constitution, state law and Party discipline.

During the "cultural revolution," our country was badly wounded politically, economically and culturally; some of our people were affected by anarchism, individualism, equalitarianism and other wrong ideas and wrong habits. To heal the wounds takes time, but to free people from erroneous ways of doing things requires an even longer period of patient and meticulous ideological work.

(Continued on p. 30.)

Highway Construction in China

Highway construction, important for connecting the vast territories of China, has grown faster than either railways or inland waterways in the last 32 years since the founding of the People's Republic. What has New China achieved in highway construction? What are China's relevant principles and policies? What problems and tasks remain for highway construction during the period of national economic readjustment? These topics are discussed in the following reports.

From Coastal Plains to the Roof of the World

by Wang Zhanyi

BEFORE liberation in 1949, China had few highways, most of which were located in the coastal southeast, unconnected to the inland mountainous areas or the minority areas. Today all of China's 2,100-odd counties, with the single exception of a particularly remote, sparsely populated Tibetan county, are accessible to trucks and automobiles.

The raw numbers outline the boom in construction: Only 80,700 kilometres of road were open to traffic in China's 9.6 million square kilometres before 1949 (an average of about 1 kilometre of road per 100 square kilometres of land). In 1980, the country boasted nearly 900,000 kilometres of highways, an 11-fold increase; and a total of 2,220 million passengers and 3,820 million tons of freight travelled the highways, bringing the

turnovers to 72,900 million passenger-kilometres and 76,400 million ton-kilometres (see chart).



GROWTH OF CHINA'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

Freight turnover (100 million ton-kilometres)	1949	1980
Railways	184	5,717
Waterways	63.1	5,053
Highways	8.1	764
Airlines	0.2	1.4
Passenger turnover (100 million passenger-kilometres)	1949	1980
Railways	130	1,383
Waterways	15.2	129
Highways	8.0	729
Airlines	—	40

But underlying the numbers is a story of systematic isolation of minority areas in the old society. Most highways built before 1949 were concentrated in the plains and hilly southeast regions which account for one-third of China's total area, while highways were almost non-existent in the mountainous regions and border areas inhabited by minority nationalities. As the saying goes: "Travelling in Sichuan is as difficult as going up to Heaven." In this province, 106 counties were untouched by highways. Not even a post road existed in Tibet, an area of 1.2 million square kilometres.

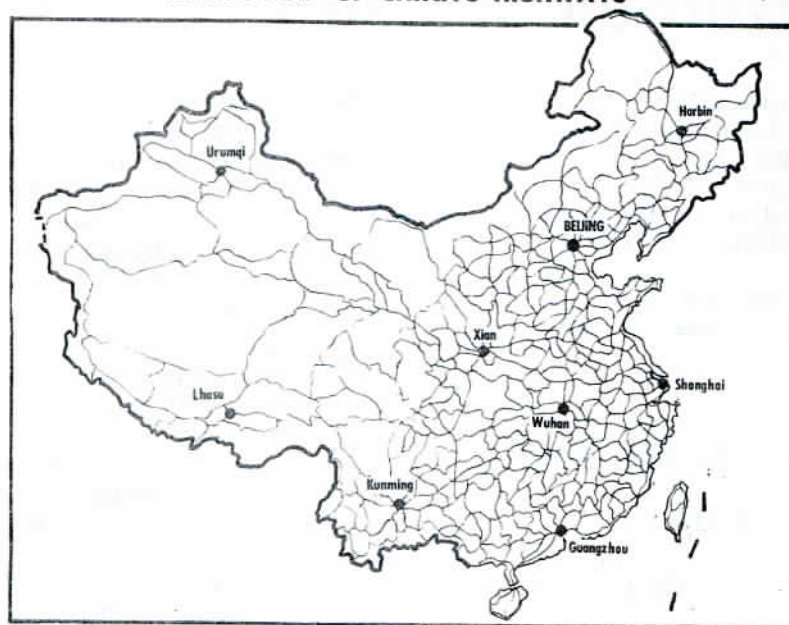
The Policy

Highway construction received much state funding after the founding of New China. To encourage initiative in various fields of endeavour, the government adopted the policy to combine state funds with locally raised money, combine the efforts of both the central authorities and various localities and combine the construction work done by both professional teams and local people.

In the 1950s, herculean efforts were made to build highways into minority areas on the frontier. These included three highways to Tibet, roof of the world, from Sichuan, Qinghai and Xinjiang as well as the Chengdu-Aba, Wenzhou-Fuzhou, Shenyang-Dandong highways and other trunk lines leading to the Wuzhi Mountain, the Xishuangbanna area in Yunnan Province and the Greater and

The author is deputy director of the Highway Bureau of the Ministry of Communications.

SKETCH MAP OF CHINA'S HIGHWAYS



Lesser Hinggan Mountains. Thus the uneven distribution of highways across the land was alleviated to a large extent. In the same period, many county highways were built. By the end of 1959, total length of highways open to traffic reached 500,000 kilometres.

In the last two decades, with the stress switched to improving maintenance and increasing the highways' traffic capacity, more than 150,000 kilometres of highways have been resurfaced with asphalt; 100,000 wooden bridges totalling 3.2 million metres have been replaced with more durable ones; and 10,000 kilometres of highways have been upgraded. Primary highways are now found in Beijing, Liaoning, Jiangsu, Shandong, Heilongjiang and Sichuan, and an additional 400,000 kilometres of highways connecting counties and rural communes have been built. As a result, over 90 per cent of the people's communes (each county embraces a number of communes) can be reached by highway. A highway network has taken shape, which, with Bei-

jing as the hub, embraces all the provincial capitals in the mainland and connects the cities with the rural areas.

Even in the rugged mountains of the Tibet Autonomous Region, trucks roar along more than 100 highways, totalling 21,000 kilometres, which knit together over 60 per cent of the people's communes there. Five arterial lines connect Tibet with Yunnan, Sichuan, Qinghai and Xinjiang and with Nepal, a friendly neighbouring country. In the past it was a two- or three-month arduous trek from Lhasa (capital of Tibet) east to

Chengdu (capital of Sichuan), and north to Xining (capital of Qinghai); now the journey takes only several days by bus. More highways have strengthened Tibet's ties with other parts of the country and helped its economic and cultural construction.

Self-Reliance

Shortly after liberation motor transport corps monopolized by comprador-bureaucrats were confiscated and converted to state ownership (in China this means ownership by the whole people). In the 50s, in order to free China from foreign control, China built its own automobile industry and developed its petroleum industry. Today China is self-sufficient in oil supply and 90 per cent of trucks in use in China were home-made. It is turning out cars, buses and trucks as well as special-purpose vehicles like containerized trucks, tank cars and heavy-duty trucks. A solid foundation has been laid for further development of highway transportation.

Auto-fleets have been set up in all the counties except for Medog County in Tibet. Nearly 90 per cent of the people's communes operate bus and truck transportation business. The total mileage of highways is now 21 times that of the early 50s and the number of passen-

A mountain highway in western Fujian Province.



gers and volume of freight handled is 124 and 97 times greater respectively.

The number of tourist buses has also multiplied in recent years in response to the mushrooming tourist industry. Bus terminals have been built to accommodate tourists in almost every scenic spot and place of interest in the country.

New China has trained 40,000 highway engineers and technicians capable of surveying, designing, constructing highways and maintaining China's growing asphalt labyrinth. From basic problems like resurfacing old dirt roads to complicated techniques such as laying a highway across the tricky Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, from preventional measures against damage by snowstorm or sandstorm to the building of long-span bridges and underwater construction, China's engineers have their work cut out for them.

Since 1956, Chinese technical personnel and workers have gone abroad to help build highways and bridges. Thirty new roads and 16 bridges were built with highly acclaimed Chinese aid in more than 20 countries including Mongolia, Yemen, Burma, Nepal, Somali, Pakistan, Zambia, Iraq and the Sudan.

Tasks During National Economic Readjustment

China's highway construction and motor transportation systems are not without problems. Arterial highways need to be upgraded; traffic jams have long been a liability in certain highway sections; and bridges are greatly needed across dozens of major river crossings where traditional ferry boats have slowed vehicle movement to a snail's pace. In the mountainous and border areas, the

scarcity of highways is a constant inconvenience for local people. Moreover, highway transportation companies are still troubled by poor management, high fuel consumption and high costs.

In line with the general principles for the current period of national economic readjustment, the tasks for China's highway construction are:

—Improve maintenance, increase traffic efficiency through technical transformation such as resurfacing the highways with asphalt and cement (in technical transformation, give top priority to the country's 70 trunk highways which connect the big and medium-sized cities and industrial and agricultural bases), focus attention on road sections where the traffic is heavy and accidents are fre-

quent and on highways leading from major seaports to the hinterland, build extensions to connect the most needed highways and open them to traffic as soon as possible, replace ferries at important river crossings with bridges and upgrade the network of arterial state highways;

—Build more highways to major scenic spots and places of interest as well as in the mountainous areas;

—Improve the management of auto-fleets, organize joint motor transport firms along specialized lines and popularize the use of trailers and containerized vehicles. At the same time, do everything possible to save fuel, lower costs and improve service so as to better serve the ongoing drive for four modernizations.

Highway Bridges With National Characteristics

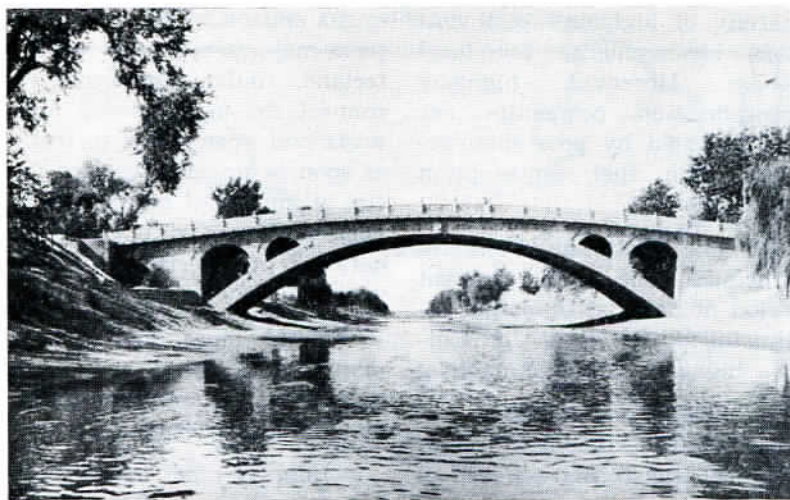
by Cheng Bangde

CHINA has a long history of bridge-building. Simple stone bridges were built as far back as the Western Zhou Dynasty (1066-771 B.C.). In 600-610 A.D., a Sui Dynasty craftsman named Li Chun built a bridge called Anji Bridge (also named Zhaozhou Stone Bridge) which is still open to traffic today. Located in Zhaoxian County, Hebei Province, the ingenious and beautiful structure is 50.82 metres long, 9 metres wide and has a span of 37.37 metres. It is the oldest existing stone arch bridge in China.

The author is deputy chief engineer of the Highway Bureau under the Ministry of Communications.



Another internationally known bridge is the Lugou (Marco Polo) bridge spanning the Yongding River on the southwestern outskirts of Beijing, which was built in 1192. The 11-arch bridge is 265 metres long and 8 metres wide, and is flanked by stone balustrades and pillars. The pillars are adorned with 485 exquisite-



The Anji bridge, built in 600-610 A.D. in Zhaoxian County, Hebei Province.

ly carved, lifelike stone lions. It was considered one of the eight wonders of Beijing. The Lugouqiao bridge demonstrates the superb skill and excellent artistic talent of China's bridge-building ancestors.

Between the founding of New China in 1949 and the end of last year, 127,000 highway bridges were constructed across China's large and small rivers, totalling 3.6 million metres. This has fundamentally changed the primitive and problematic system of run-down bridges in old China. Four highway bridges now span the torrential Changjiang (Yangtze), China's longest river. More than 30 bridges were built over the Huanghe River, including a prestressed concrete beam bridge in Luoyang, Henan Province, which is 3,423.88 metres long with a span of 50 metres.

Following are some highway bridges with distinctive Chinese features:

Stone Arch Bridge

The stone arch bridge is among the most practical and common of Chinese bridges. Its

advantages are its solid structure and durability as well as its beautiful shape. Local materials can be used, and its simple construction techniques can be mastered by the broad masses. During the 50s and early 60s when steel and cement were in short supply, China built many arch bridges with ashlar stones, rubble stones, cobbles, bricks and concrete blocks. During that time, the technique of arch bridge-building rose to a new level.

China built, for example, several remarkably long stone arch bridges. The first, a single-vaulted stone arch bridge with a span of 60 metres, was built in Huanghugang, Hunan Province, in 1959. This structure served as a model for two bridges — the Changhong single-vaulted stone arch bridge in Yunnan Province, with a span of 112 metres, and the Sichuan Province's Jiuxigou bridge with a span of 116 metres. The last one is the largest stone arch bridge in China.

However, the stone arch bridge has its limitations. Its bulky structure requires abundant construction mate-

rials and labour power, in addition to a long construction period. Moreover, it is difficult to build stone arch bridges across torrential rivers and navigable waters.

Two-Way Curved Arch Bridge

In 1964, on the basis of improving and developing the arch bridge while incorporating the strengths of modern prefabricated reinforced concrete, China's bridge-builders successfully completed a new type of bridge with distinctive national features — a two-way curved arch bridge.

This bridge is used widely in China because it has many advantages: it costs less and uses fewer materials than the stone arch bridge, and the prefabricated parts can be fit together on the spot. China's 5,000 two-way curved arch bridges cover a total length of more than 500,000 metres. The Xiangjiang River bridge in Changsha,



A single span double-arch bridge across the Nujiang River on the Sichuan-Tibet highway.

Hunan Province, which was completed in 1972 and is 1,250 metres long and 20 metres wide, is a comparatively bigger one.

Box Arch Bridge

Another recent addition to modern bridge-building resulted from efforts to increase the rigidity and horizontal stability of arch bridges. Since 1970 China has developed a prefabricated reinforced concrete box arch bridge, thereby enhancing industrialized production and faster construction of longer-span arch bridges.

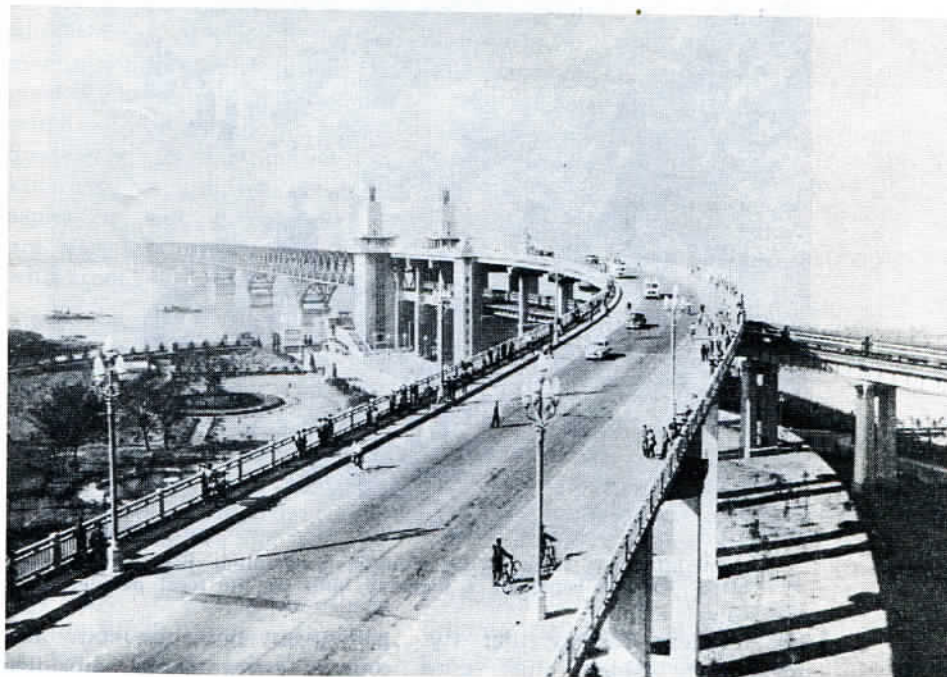
The largest concrete box arch bridge is the bridge on the Jinsha River in Yibin, Sichuan Province, completed in 1979, with a main span of 150 metres.

In addition, China has also developed reinforced concrete truss arch bridges, reinforced concrete thin shell bridges and rigid frame arch bridges. All these have given a fillip to the development of China's arch bridges.

Combine Study With the Blazing of New Trails

While developing traditional techniques of bridge-building and blazing new trails, China is also studying advanced techniques of bridge-building abroad.

China has incorporated foreign technology in the construction of the Hanjiang River bridge (2,000 metres long, main span 90 metres) in Guanghua, Hubei Province, the Changjiang River bridge (1,121 metres long, main span 174 metres) in Sichuan Province's Chongqing, both completed in 1980, and the Sanjiang bridge (763 metres long, main span 150 metres) completed this year in Gezhouba, Hubei Province's Yichang. All three are prestressed con-



The double-decker Nanjing Changjiang River bridge. The upper decker is a highway and the lower one a double-track railway.

crete T-shaped rigid frame bridges.

China will soon complete another new bridge, the Huanghe River bridge with a main span of 220 metres in Jinan, Shandong Province. Together with

the Maogang bridge with a main span of 200 metres in Shanghai, it is a relatively new type of bridge—a cable-stayed bridge—which has been built in the past two decades in foreign countries.

Rural Highways

by Our Correspondent Wei Min

TWO-THIRDS of China's highways are rural roads built with a unique system of local collective construction aided by state technical advice and some state funds. The system has been so successful that many foreign visitors—especially those from third world countries—have expressed interest in the details of how the system works.

Rural highway construction is typified by road building in two Beijing suburban counties—Miyun County, which nestles in the Yanshan Mountains some 70 kilometres northeast of the capital, and Fangshan County

in the Western Hills 40 kilometres from the city.

Today, trucks loaded with mountain products, fruits and industrial goods crowd the winding highways in Miyun County, passing through tunnels and across deep valleys. Before modern highways, such transportation was impossible.

As China is still a developing socialist country, our economy is underdeveloped and we lack both the financial power and the professionals we need to build highways. But we need highways nonetheless, so what should we do? The late Chairman Mao Zedong once said:



A maintenance team of the Fengjiayu commune in Beijing's Miyun County repairing a highway built by the local people.

"Do I mean to say that the government alone must take care of everyone and everything? Of course not. In many cases, they can be left to the direct care of the public organizations or the masses — both are quite capable of devising many good ways of handling them." This is how we build our highways.

Investment

Sand and pebbles, the chief materials for building highways, can be found anywhere. And China is rich in labour power. But there are many other costs. The government spends about 5,000 yuan per kilometre for cement, dynamite, crowbars and other tools and materials, as well as for wages for peasant workers. Peasants are paid by their own communes or bri-

gades, but both the state and county governments subsidize those wages on a per-kilometre basis, depending on the relative wealth of the work unit. Poor mountain brigades usually are awarded more than well-off brigades in the plains and hilly areas. Some more prosperous work units are paid 1,000-2,000 yuan per kilometre in government funds, some get no subsidies at all. The funds are administered by the district or county highway administration bureau, which also oversees construction.

During the five years from 1976 to 1980, seven of the districts and counties on Beijing's outskirts built 2,448 kilometres of highway which cost 38.18 million yuan. The following table shows the sources of investment:

Investing Agency	Amount Invested	Percentage of Total Investment
State	24 million yuan	62.9
District (County)	1 million yuan	2.6
Commune and brigade labour	13.18 million yuan	34.5

Deducting the peasant workers' wages paid by their communes and brigades, the average investment per kilometre was about 10,000 yuan.

Government aid for highway construction takes two forms:

— A local collective builds and funds the highway with some government financial aid. For example, Nanshangle, a well-off commune in Fangshan County, built a 17-kilometre highway in 1980, which cost 170,000 yuan. The commune invested 120,000 yuan and received a subsidy of 50,000 yuan (less than 3,000 yuan per kilometre) from the county highway administration office.

— The government provides the money and the local collective provides the labour. This is the most common form of aid, and all the rural highways in Miyun were built in this way.

Construction

While the labour force for the rural highways is usually organized by communes and brigades, the state supplies technicians who plan, survey, design and supervise the project. Municipal or county level technical personnel are responsible for the technical standards of the construction, and pay special attention to tricky construction like bridges, tunnels and culverts.

Communes or brigades that do a poor job will be asked by the county highway administrators to do the work over again. Zhuanghutai production brigade of Xiayunling commune in Fangshan County built a 5-kilometre highway in 1978 that was of such poor quality that it was not approved until July 1981 after it was rebuilt.

With the boom in highway construction in the mountainous

areas during 1976-80, technical supervisors were scarce and in demand. To ensure that road standards would remain high, some county highway administration offices opened technical skills courses that trained a large number of peasants to be technicians. Other peasant workers learnt technical skills on the job and were later promoted to technicians' positions.

Maintenance

Highway maintenance also relies on peasant labour. Some maintenance workers are provided by the counties and by the communes, but each production brigade also provides from one to five additional workers who are responsible for the highway section that passes their brigade.

Nanshangle commune in Fangshan County uses a combination of collective supervision and material incentive to maintain its road. Each of its 20-member maintenance team is responsible for a 1,500-metre section of road, and those who keep their road surfaces flat and the roadside ditches unblocked receive a year-end bonus

of 40-60 yuan (worth 130-200 kilogrammes of rice). Regular meetings are held to praise the good members of the team and criticize those who do an inadequate job. Except for one 1.4-kilometre section, the road is asphalted and many sections are very well kept and lined with trees.

Maintenance costs are paid mainly by the communes and brigades with some state aid. The state pays 200 yuan annually per kilometre in the mountainous areas and 300 yuan per kilometre on the plains. Some well-off communes and brigades bank the subsidies to cover future major repairs, while others use the funds to buy equipment or tools, or to subsidize the peasant maintenance workers.

Economic Returns

This system of constructing and maintaining rural highways has proved better than the method which totally relies on the state and local government investments, since it costs less and the funds are easy to collect. The result is that rural highways are built quickly in many places.

From 1976 to 1980, Fangshan County built 294.4 kilometres of highways for a total cost of 2.708 million yuan, or 9,100 yuan per kilometre (including bridges, tunnels and culverts). By comparison, the per-kilometre cost of state-constructed highways built in the same period was 80,000 yuan.

The commune and brigade highways have brought marked economic benefits to the rural collectives and the peasants. Before the Liudu commune in the mountainous Fangshan County was accessible to motor traffic, a large percentage of its persimmon crop was wasted. Although the Wanglaopu brigade produced 50,000 kilogrammes of persimmons a year, without a road they could not move the fruit to market so brigade members bought them at three yuan per hundred kilogrammes. The brigade members had too many persimmons, and received little collective income from the sales. Last year, after the highway was built, persimmons could be sold at distant markets for 22-26 yuan per hundred kilogrammes and the brigade's income on persimmons alone increased by 10,000 yuan.

Before a highway was built, the stones littering the ground of the Zhangquan brigade of the Dachengzhi commune in Miyun County were nothing but a nuisance. Today the brigade produces and sells stone slates to the foreign trade department. Last year's slate sales made up one-third of the brigade's total income. Each peasant received an average of 133 yuan from the collective, compared to only 60 yuan in 1975.

With sand and pebbles and hard work, China's rural areas are becoming a network of highways bringing them into a more modern life. □



The new highway constructed with local resources allows large quantities of fresh and dried fruit to be shipped out of remote hilly regions of Huairou County, Beijing.

THEATRE

**Three Modern Dramas
With Youthful Themes**

Beijing audiences have been treated to three outstanding dramatic performances this season, each of which has focused on the problems and aspirations of young people.

The three plays, *Gold, A Love Song in a Secluded Valley* and *The Ideal Is Beautiful*, attest to the vitality and realism of modern theatre in China.

Written by Tian Fen and performed by the China Youth Art Theatre, *Gold* zeroes in on the social and personal problems of young people waiting for jobs. The three-act play centres around Su Qiuhua and 10 other young people. It graphically presents the suffering, spiritual depression and sense of inferiority they experienced while awaiting employment.

Despite the pain and anguish conveyed by its participants, the play ends on a happy note when the young people form a service co-operative which permits them to re-orient their lives, utilize their intelligence and regain faith in the ideals of society.

A Love Song in a Secluded Valley is a five-act play written by Li Binkui and Tang Dong. It was performed by the modern drama troupe under the political departments of the Urumqi army units in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The play initially focuses on the romantic problems of Zheng Zhitong and other members of a People's Liberation Army road-building crew. The hard-working young soldiers, who are faced with the arduous task

of working for an extended period of time on a project in the Tianshan Mountains of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, are portrayed in an heroic fashion. Their dedication to work and serving the people is contrasted with the lives of young people living in cities.

Some city youths, having been influenced by the corrupt ideas and values of exploiting classes, are portrayed as confused people. Their lives were meaningless and their minds apparently filled with the desire for money and other material goods. Most important, they found it difficult to imagine anything positive about the work and ideals of their road-building counterparts in the Tianshan Mountains.

The play eventually focused on the dilemma of Li Qian, a woman technician, who lives in the city but loves Zheng Zhitong. The play ends with Li Qian enmeshed in a flood of conflicting emotions. On the one hand, she wants to be with Zheng Zhitong, but on the other, she finds it impossible to leave her life in the city. The audience is left with numerous questions pertaining to her future and the proper role of young people in New China.

Another play *The Ideal Is Beautiful* conveys the tension and drama which surround the gap between the goals and aspirations of China's older and younger generations.

Written by Liu Chuan and performed by the Frontline Modern Drama Troupe of the political department of the Nanjing army units, the play provides an unequivocal assessment of the perplexing questions presented by the generation gap.

Centring around a group of scientists conducting sophisticated radar research, it delineates the subtle dimensions of the misunderstandings produced by the 10 chaotic years of the "cultural revolution," which in a way undermined national attempts to achieve the four modernizations.

Tao Sizheng, a veteran revolutionary from the older generation and head of the research institute conducting the project, is the play's main character. He has a steadfast Party spirit, broadminded vision and a sense of realism.

Zhao Liwen, a young technician employed on the research team, is initially convinced that his elder supervisor was responsible for the wrongs he had suffered. By the end of the play, however, he comes to realize that was not the case. The play ends with the two sharing a sense of how they can collectively use their talents to serve the state. The play's message is that during the 1980s, the ideal of the younger generation will not be ignored because it is beautiful.

Although significantly different in message and approach, each of the three plays was warmly received by audiences. The audiences were particularly gratified by the fact that each one portrayed numerous situations and dilemmas commonly witnessed and experienced by people living in China today.

The realism which characterizes much of the action presented in all three results from the experiences of the playwrights. Tian Fen, *Gold's* author, spent long periods of time interviewing and living with young job-seekers. While the play was

running, she made numerous alterations in the script in order to accurately present the characters and their complex circumstances.

Li Binkui, one of the authors of *A Love Song in a Secluded Valley*, drew on his observations of army road-builders in order to enrich the play. The author of *The Ideal Is Beautiful* devoted a year to interviewing scientists and visiting research sites before making final decisions on the structure of his script.

The depth and character of artistic life in Beijing has been enriched by the efforts of those who wrote and acted in these fine plays. Each in its own way makes an important contribution to contemporary efforts to learn from realistic interpretations of life and develop healthy and constructive goals for the future.

MUSIC

Promising Musicians

• In the Sixth International Van Cliburn Competition held in the United States May this year, Zhu Daming, 29, placed sixth. He overcame stiff competition from 39 pianists of 17 countries to become the first Chinese pianist to win a prize in an international contest since 1963. The first five prize-winners were all Americans.

Zhu Daming's performance of a scherzo by Chopin was acclaimed as poetic. He also played *Petrushka*, a difficult modern piece and a composition by Stravinsky. A listener's remark to his performance of Debussy's piece was: "He has grasped the oriental flavour of the work."

Zhu Daming started to play piano when he was nine years old. For six years of the "cultural revolution" he was

unable to practise. Later he worked in a PLA cultural troupe as an accompanist. In 1979 he was enrolled in the Central Music Conservatory in Beijing as a graduate student.

• Shanghai pianists Li Jian and Qin Yingming won prizes in the International Marguerite Long-Jaques Thibaud Piano Contest held in Paris last June. This was the first time Chinese took part in this competition. Li Jian, a 16-year-old student of the middle school affiliated with the Shanghai Music Conservatory, placed second. His performance was steady and enthusiastic, and he displayed mastery of the keyboard. He started his piano training eight years ago. His mother, Yu Lina, is a famous violinist. Hong Teng, a prize-winner in an international contest in the 60s, is his instructor.

Qin Yingming, a postgraduate of the Shanghai Music Conservatory, placed sixth. He was praised by the press as "a poet at the piano." Now 28 years old, Qin Yingming started his training at the age of seven. When he was 16, he moved to the countryside. Subsequently he worked as a pianist for a *pingju* opera troupe and a PLA cultural troupe. In 1975, he entered the Shanghai Music Conservatory to receive further training.

• Tenor Liu Jie and soprano Ye Ying, both students in music conservatories, won the third prizes in the international vocal contest held in Rio de Janeiro last June. Liu Jie, 29, was the only male prize-winner in the competition. He was born and raised in the countryside, and prior to entering the conservatory he worked as a peasant, a worker and finally as a singer in a county cultural troupe. His voice is full of warmth.



Li Jian.

Ye Ying, 26, worked in a cultural troupe after she graduated from middle school. In 1977, she passed the entrance examination and went to study in the Central Music Conservatory. The quality of her voice is good, and her range, wide. Her performances are laden with emotion. Her understanding and mastering of the style of European classical pieces is good too.

The Chinese musicians who won prizes in the international competitions this year are all young people. They experienced the chaos of the "cultural revolution," and they have matured rapidly in the last few years. Their achievements are a credit to their country. It is hoped that their skills will continue to improve and more youthful musicians will be developed.

SURGERY

Cancer Patient Restored Laryngeal Function

A newly-developed silicone larynx allows a cancer patient whose own larynx has been removed to breathe normally, speak clearly and eat and drink



Dr. Wang Tingchu (seated), one of the inventors of the silicone artificial larynx, with his patient. Inset: A silicone larynx.

without choking. Altogether 14 patients of cancer of larynx at a hospital affiliated with the Shandong Medical College in east China have successfully restored their laryngeal function by such operations over the past 20 months.

The same hospital experimented with China's first ex-corporal artificial larynx in 1958. The early models allowed the patient to speak with the artificial larynx, but he could breathe only with the help of a tracheotomy tube inserted through the tracheal wound.

In the mid-70s, doctors there learnt the Italian surgeon Arslan's technique by lifting up the trachea and suturing it to the hyoid bone to restore the functions of the larynx after its removal, but only two-thirds of the patients are successful either

in breathing, speaking or swallowing without choking.

Doctors are hopeful about the long-term success rate of this new technique, but only further practice and long-term observation will prove whether this artificial larynx is really satisfactory.

Silicone, which has long been used for artificial cardiac valves, is non-cancer-stimulating, non-irritative and bacteria-free.

Different operations to restore laryngeal functions for cancer patients have been performed by doctors in other countries.

SPORTS

China Wins Two Shooting Titles

In late October, Chinese women took two gold medals

in skeet shooting events at the 42nd World Shooting Championships in Tucuman, Argentina. This is the first time China has won both titles at the world shooting championships.

The women's individual skeet competition witnessed a fierce seesaw battle between China's 25-year-old Wu Lanying and veteran Illa Hill, nine-time winner of the US title. The first day ended with the two deadlocked. On the second day, Hill pulled into a one-point lead early in the first round but Wu managed to even the score before the last volley. In the final round, Wu outshot the American by one point, finishing with a total of 184. Hill placed second; Bianca Hansberg of Italy, third.

The Chinese women's team, consisting of Wu Lanying, Feng Meimei and Shao Weiping, scored a total of 383 points to edge out the US team by one point. France won the bronze with 363 points.

In the men's skeet shooting events the individual title went to Imnaishvili Tomazi of the Soviet Union who scored 198 points.

In the men's team event, Italy took first place with 575 points; France, second, followed by the Soviet Union. China placed ninth.

(Continued from p. 20.)

After the people's democratic dictatorship was established, particularly after the socialist transformation was basically completed and the exploiting classes were overthrown, China entered a period of peaceful development. But today socialist revolution is not yet completed and more transformations are needed. Under such conditions, revolution should be carried out within the framework of the socialist system, under leadership, step by step and in

an orderly manner. The policies and methods used in the "cultural revolution" in which "one class overthrows another" should never be repeated.

At present, the Chinese people, led by the Chinese Communist Party, are striving to build China into a modern socialist country with a high degree of democracy and civilization. Confident that they will overcome the effects of the "cultural revolution," they are uniting as one in their march forward. □

Humour In China



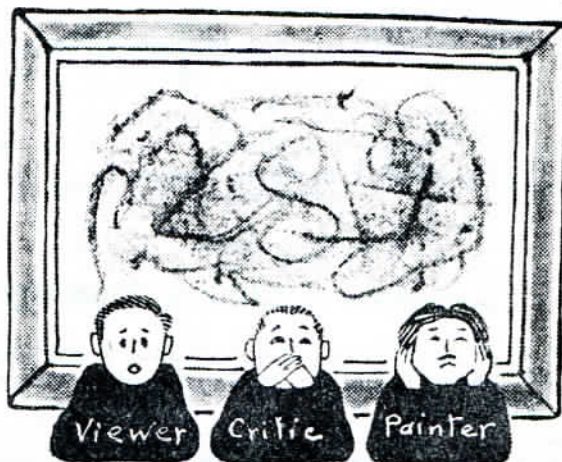
The Loathesome Lone Rider.

— Cheng Yimang



"Now, about mistakes"

— Shun Qi



"The Painting."

— Wang Letian

Painter — I won't listen to criticism.

Critic — I won't comment at all.

Viewer — I don't understand at all.



Finding a Spouse.

— Miao Di

Coming Soon

1981 ALMANAC OF CHINA'S ECONOMY

(in Chinese)

Editor-in-Chief: Xue Muqiao Deputy Editors-in-Chief: Ma Hong and Chen Xian

Foreign publishers invited to bring out ALMANAC OF CHINA'S ECONOMY in other languages.

Almanac of China's Economy

is a survey of China's economy and includes important statistics, from 1949-80. It is the first economic almanac published by the People's Republic of China.

It is edited by Xue Muqiao, an outstanding economist, ably assisted by Ma Hong and Chen Xian, and backed by a commission made up of well-known economists and members of the Economic Research Centre of the State Council. All its articles are by specialists. This is an authoritative handbook, indispensable for all who are studying China's economy.

Almanac of China's Economy

is published in Chinese by the Beijing Economic Management Magazine Office for domestic distribution. Modern Cultural Enterprise Corporation publishes a Chinese edition in Hongkong for overseas distribution. The Japanese edition is brought out by the Sino-Japan Trade News Office in Tokyo. Foreign publishing houses are cordially invited to use the following addresses to contact us for translating the almanac into English, French, Spanish, Italian, Russian and other languages.

Economic Management Magazine Office,

No. 2 Yuetan Beixiaojie, Outside Fuchengmen, Beijing, China.

Telephone: 894394

Cable: 0870

Modern Cultural Enterprise Corporation,

3rd Floor, Seat A, No. 107 Wanchai Road, Hongkong

Telephone: 5-8910491