

北京周報

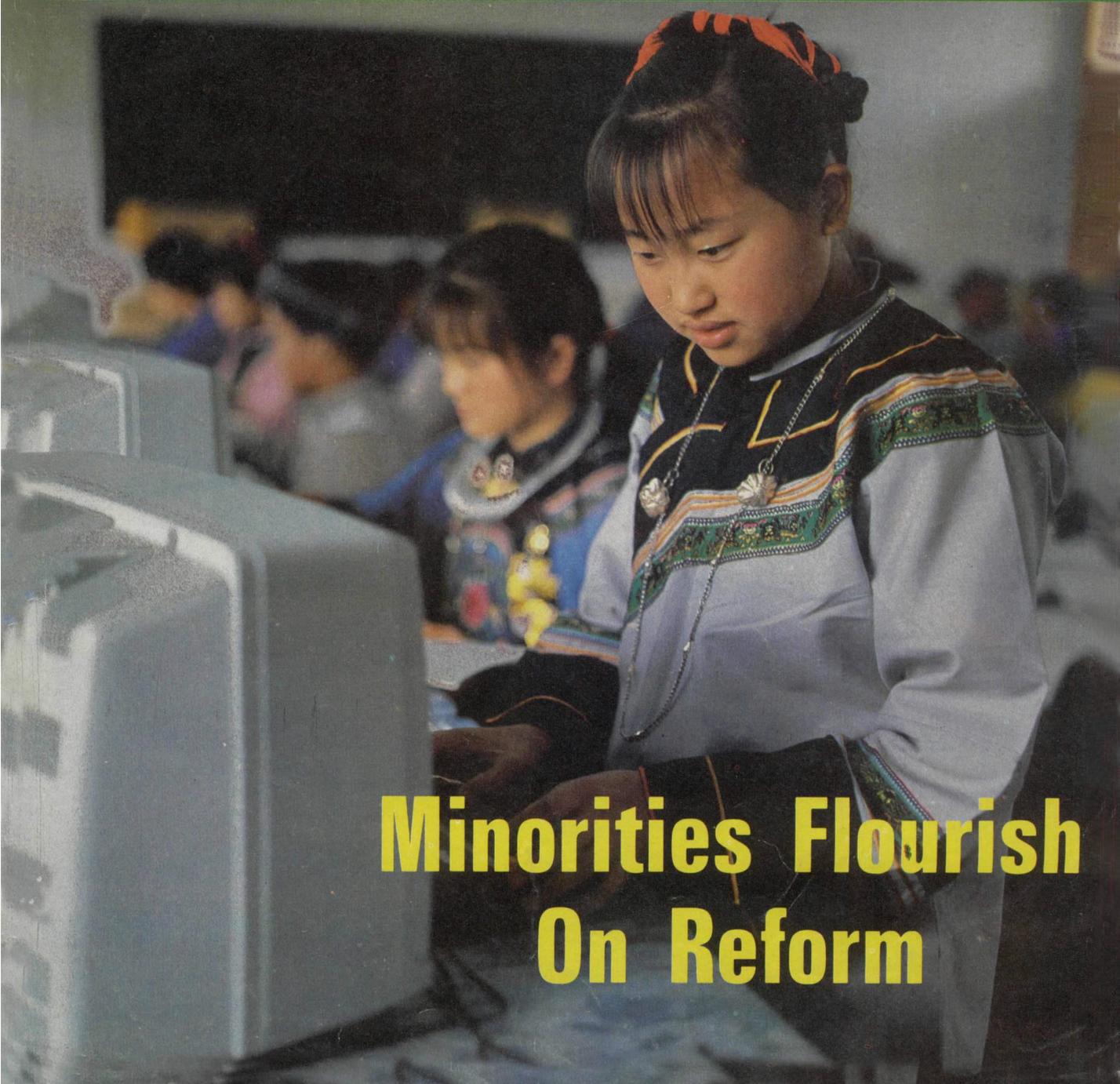
A CHINESE WEEKLY OF NEWS AND VIEWS

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September 22, 1986

South Africa: Developments in the Black Struggle



**Minorities Flourish
On Reform**

SPOTLIGHT

Tibet Trades With Foreign Countries



A finely worked silver kettle made in Tibet being admired by businessmen.



A pressure cooker manufactured in Tibet.

Nepalese businessmen inspecting sheep's wool.





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COVER: Students of the Jishou Middle School for Nationalities in west Hunan Province in a computer class.

Gao Mingyi

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Deng Interviewed by CBS News

■ Deng Xiaoping was his outspoken self as he answered questions by Mike Wallace, a "60 Minutes" reporter for CBS in the United States. The topics discussed ranged from the current internal situation and domestic policies to China's relations with the United States and the Soviet Union (p. 4).

Coastal Areas to Boost Exports

■ In an recent inspection tour of Tianjin, Qingdao and Weifang, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang urged the coastal areas to develop an export-oriented economy, face the economic challenge from the Pacific area and create a "mini-climate" favourable to overseas investment (p. 8).

Backwater Area Enters Mainstream

■ The economic reforms are working wonders even in "hell on earth"—as the Xiangxi Miao and Tujia Autonomous Prefecture in central China used to be known. That the locals have enough to eat and clothes to wear is a great advance on the past. But with Xiangxi's tourist, human and natural resources it could well bring a rags-to-riches story (p. 20).

The Black People's Struggle in South Africa

■ The Black people in South Africa are waging a fierce struggle against the Pretoria regime, attracting much support from the international community, and effectively isolating the white-minority government there. (p. 16).

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Deng On Issues of World Interest

During a September 2 interview with Mike Wallace from Columbia Broadcasting System of the United States, Deng Xiaoping, chairman of the Central Advisory Commission of the Chinese Communist Party, talked about China's current situation and a number of international issues. Following is the gist of his remarks.

Question: Mr. Chairman, Mikhail Gorbachev in his recent speech in Vladivostok seems to say to you, to China, "Let's be good friends again, let's end the tension between our two countries." He talked of wanting to reduce the number of Soviet troops on border, and making that border between the Soviet Union and China a link instead of barrier. What do you make of Mikhail Gorbachev's peaceful proposal?

Answer: There is something new in Gorbachev's speech in Vladivostok (Haishenwai), and that is why we have expressed cautious welcome to what is new and positive therein. However, his remarks also show that he has not taken a big step. Soon after Gorbachev made his speech, an official from the Foreign Ministry of the Soviet Union also made a speech which was different in tune. This shows that the Soviet authorities have to decide among themselves what China policies to pursue, and so we still have to wait and see.

Q: Would you like to meet Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev? Have you ever met him? He says he will talk at any time, at any level about anything. Would you be prepared to meet Gorbachev at the summit?

A: If Gorbachev takes a solid step towards the removal of the three major obstacles in Sino-Soviet relations, particularly urging Viet Nam to end its aggression in Kampuchea and withdraw its

troops from there, I myself will be ready to meet him.

Q: The Vietnamese said just this morning that they would like to engage in the negotiations with China to bring an end to the difficulties between Viet Nam and China.

A: Viet Nam has said that at least a hundred times. We have told them explicitly that the prerequisite is the withdrawal of all the Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea. The question of Kampuchea should be settled by the four parties in Kampuchea through consultation.

Q: So, as far as a summit between Deng and Gorbachev, the ball is in Mr. Gorbachev's court?

A: Ask Viet Nam to withdraw all its troops from Kampuchea. On this question, the Soviet Union can play its part. For without Soviet backing, the Vietnamese cannot go on fighting in Kampuchea for a single day. Gorbachev evaded this question in his Vladivostok speech. This is why I say that the Soviet Union has not taken a big step towards the removal of the three major obstacles.

Q: Chairman Deng, it seemed that Chinese relations with capitalist America are better than Chinese relations with the Soviet communists. How did that denote?

A: China does not regard social systems as a criterion in its approach to problems. The state of

relations between China and the United States is determined in the context of their specific conditions, and so is that between China and Soviet Union.

Q: President and Mrs. Reagan watch this programme just about every Sunday night. And I'm sure they are going to be watching closely on the night of this broadcast. Do you have any message for President and Mrs. Reagan?

A: When President and Mrs. Reagan were in China on a visit, we became acquainted with each other. We had a cordial and frank conversation. I would like to extend, through your channel, my good wishes to President and Mrs. Reagan. I hope that during President Reagan's term of office, Sino-US relations will make further progress.

Q: What are the major issues currently dividing China and America?

A: There are three obstacles in Sino-Soviet relations, and also there is one obstacle in Sino-US relations. That is the Taiwan question, or the question of China's reunification of the two sides of the Taiwan Straits. There has been talk in the United States to the effect that the United States has taken an attitude of "non-involvement" on the question of China's reunification, that is, the Taiwan question. This is not true. The fact is that the United States has all along been involved. In the 1950s, MacArthur and Dulles

regarded Taiwan as an unsinkable aircraft carrier of the United States in Asia and the Pacific. Therefore, the Taiwan question has been the most important issue in the negotiations on the establishment of Sino-US diplomatic relations.

Q: Is the United States failing to live up to the commitment to China concerning US relationship with Taiwan?

A: I think the United States should take a wiser approach on this question. Most regrettably, during the latter period of the Carter Administration, the US Congress adopted the Taiwan Relations Act, which has become an immense obstacle in Sino-US relations. As I said just now, I hope that President Reagan will, during his term of office, bring about further progress in Sino-US relations, including some effort in respect of China's reunification. I believe that the United States, President Reagan in particular, can accomplish something with regard to this question.

Q: What can they do?

A: They can encourage and persuade Taiwan first to have "three exchanges" with us, namely, the exchange of mails, trade and air and shipping services. Contacts of this kind can help enhance mutual understanding between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits, thus creating conditions for them to proceed to discuss the question of reunification and ways to achieve it.

Q: My colleague, Producer, says that he doesn't think that we have got an answer whether you would like to meet Gorbachev. So can I ask or I ask again for specific desire to meet him?

A: As I have said, the main thing is, if the Soviet Union can contribute to the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea, this will remove the main obstacle in Sino-Soviet relations. I will say it once again: The Vietnamese invasion of

Kampuchea constitutes the main obstacle in Sino-Soviet relations. The stationing of troops by Viet Nam in Kampuchea is a question which has actually put Sino-Soviet relations in a hot-spot state. Once this problem is resolved, I will be ready to meet Gorbachev. To be frank with you, I am over 82, already advanced in years. Having long accomplished my historical task of making overseas visits, I am determined not to take any more trips abroad. However, if this obstacle in Sino-Soviet relations is removed, I will be ready to break the rule and go to any place in the Soviet Union to meet with Gorbachev. I believe a meeting like this will be of much significance to the improvement of Sino-Soviet relations and the normalization of Sino-Soviet state relations.

Q: And what must come first specifically?

A: Among the three major obstacles, the main one is Vietnamese aggression against Kampuchea. For China and the Soviet Union are actually in a state of confrontation, a hot spot, which takes the form of pitting Vietnamese armed forces against China.

Q: Back to Taiwan, what's in it for Taiwan to be reunified to the motherland? I was there recently, this summer. They are prosperous, they are a good capitalist country. And their leaders insist they do not need and they do not want the reunification to China.

A: First of all, it is a national question, a question of national sentiments. All the descendants of the Yan and Huang Emperors want to see China reunified. The present state of division runs counter to our national will. So long as Taiwan is not reunified with the mainland, Taiwan's status of being part of Chinese territory will remain uncertain. No one knows when Taiwan will be taken away again.

Q: Chairman Deng, you always say, "Seek truth from facts." And facts are that Taiwan is prosperous, capitalist and doesn't want to reunify, they say and their leaders say.

A: In reunifying the country, we will adopt the formula of "one country, two systems," that is to say, socialism will continue to be practised on the mainland while Taiwan will practise its capitalism. This will bring no change to Taiwan and the life-style of the people there and cause no loss to them. As for the contrast in the levels of development between Taiwan and the mainland, this question should be examined objectively. The difference is only temporary. As far as the mainland is concerned, there were some mistakes and delays in our nation-building in the course of 37 years since the founding of the People's Republic. With the implementation of our existing policy, the growth rate will not be slow and the gap is being narrowed. I believe that the growth rate on the mainland will, at least, not be lower than that in Taiwan in the few years to come. The reason is very simple. Taiwan is short of resources while the mainland abounds in them. If we say that Taiwan has already tapped its potentials, the potentials on the mainland have yet to be tapped and for sure, will soon be tapped. Besides, in terms of overall strength, the mainland is much stronger than Taiwan. So it would be unbalanced to judge the superiority of one side just by Taiwan's somewhat higher average income.

Q: To modernize Chinese economy and develop your country, Chairman Deng, you said China needs Western investment. But Western investors complained that China is making it difficult to make business here: exorbitant rents for offices, too much bickering about contracts, too many

special taxes, labour that is too expensive, plus corruption, kick-backs, and the Chinese bureaucrats. Are you aware of these complaints?

A: Yes, I am aware of these things. Such phenomena do exist. As it is something new to us, some mistakes are unavoidable. We are working to change the present state of affairs. I do understand those complaints of foreign investors. No one would come here and invest without getting returns on their investment. We are taking effective measures to solve these problems. But they can only be solved gradually. Not long ago, our Premier Zhao Ziyang shared his thoughts with some foreign businessmen during their discussion. As far as I know, foreign investors were interested in this area. I believe the problems pointed out by foreign businessmen can be solved gradually. However, when these problems are resolved, new problems will arise and they, too, should be solved. As leaders, it is necessary to get a clear picture of the problems and work out effective measures to solve them. There is also the question of educating the cadres.

Q: To get rich is glorious. That declaration from Chinese leaders to their people surprises many in the capitalist world. What does that have to do with communism?

A: We went through the "cultural revolution". During the "cultural revolution" there was a view that poor communism was preferable to rich capitalism. After I resumed office in the central leadership in 1974 and 1975, I criticized that view. Because I refuted that view, I was brought down again. Of course, there were other causes. I said to them there was no such thing as poor communism. According to Marxism, communist society is based on an abundance of material wealth. Only when there is an abundance of material wealth, can the

principle of a communist society, i.e. "from each according to his ability and to each according to his need," be practised. Socialism is the first stage of communism. It covers a very long historical period. The main task in the socialist stage is to create material conditions for the advent of a communist society. So the main task of socialism is to develop the productive forces, steadily improve the life of the people and keep increasing the material wealth of society. Therefore, there can be no communism with pauperism, or socialism with pauperism. So to get rich is no sin. However, what we mean by getting rich is different from what you mean. Wealth in a socialist society belongs to the whole people. To get rich in a socialist society means prosperity for the entire people. The principles of socialism are: first, development of production and second, common prosperity. Our policy permits some people and some places to become prosperous first, for the purpose of achieving common prosperity at a faster speed. As the latter principle is eventual common prosperity, our policy will not lead to polarization, where the rich are getting richer and richer while the poor are becoming poorer and poorer. To be frank, the policy will not give rise to the emergence of new bourgeoisie. Under our socialist system, it is very difficult for people to become millionaires.

Q: Yes, but the farmers for instance that I saw down in the Pearl River estuary—They have motorcycles, they have colour television sets, they are building their homes. And what you have done is let them, you give them and send them to get rich. They only have to give a certain amount to the state, and may keep the rest for themselves. And in a sense, that is almost like our system in the United States, they give a certain

amount to the state in taxes and keep the rest for themselves.

A: They can't possibly be very rich. Even the much talked-about "household of ten thousand yuan" in the countryside has only an annual income of some 2,000 or 3,000 US dollars. Would you call that rich? By our standards, of course, that is rich. But compared with the national income in developed countries, the income is still very low.

Q: You spoke of the "cultural revolution" before, Chairman Deng, what happened to you and your family during the "cultural revolution"?

A: That episode looks bad, but in the final analysis, it is also a good thing. Because it sets people thinking and helps to locate our defects. Chairman Mao has often said that bad things can be turned into good things. In other words, if we are good at drawing lessons from the "cultural revolution", we can institute measures of reform to change China's face politically and economically. Thus bad things are turned into good things. It is because we had summed up the experience and drawn the lessons of the "cultural revolution" that we were able to formulate a series of policies currently in force by the end of the 70s and in the 80s.

Q: So, that is good for you, too? Sweep the floor, and serve meals and split fire wood, and be paraded in dunce cap?

A: Of course, these can't be regarded as entirely good. What I am saying is that in the end bad things were turned into good things.

Q: I have yet to see one picture, Deng Xiaoping, in the public place in China, why?

A: We do not encourage that. Any individual is a member of the collective. Nothing can be accomplished by an individual in isolation from others. Personally, I have all along rejected offers to write my biography. Over the

years, I have done quite a few good things, but I have done some wrong things too. Before the "cultural revolution," we committed such mistakes as the "great leap forward." Of course, I was not the chief architect, but I did not oppose it either. That means I had a share in that mistake. If a biography is written, both good and bad things one has done, including one's mistakes, should be included. So, it's better not to write it.

Q: Two questions. You say, you would like to live until you are a hundred, and then you go to visit Karl Marx, perhaps, Mao Zedong will be seating by his side. What do you think those two gentlemen will have to say to you, Deng Xiaoping, when you are up there?

A: I am a Marxist. I have consistently followed the fundamental principles of Marxism. What is Marxism, or communism? In the past, we made revolution, won the country and finally founded the People's Republic of China, because we had this faith and ideal. Because we abided by the fundamental principles of Marxism and had the ideals, we were able to win the victory. After victory in our revolution, we have again abided by the principles of Marxism in national construction, that is, the building of socialism. Our overriding task now is to build socialism. We are striving for the four modernizations, but people tend to forget that they are socialist four modernizations. This is what we are doing now.

Q: Everybody asks the question, Chairman Deng Xiaoping has done a wonderful job here in the last few years, the good modernization, economy is back, people are not as afraid as they were, but after Deng Xiaoping, we don't know what's going to happen? Perhaps, it could go back to the bad old days.

A: For sure, there will be no turning back. When one tries to find out whether the existing policy is here to stay, he should

first examine whether the policy is correct, whether the policy is right for the country and the people and whether the life of the people is gradually improving under the policy. I believe that the people's eyes are discerning. If the present policy is altered, the standard of living of the people will definitely come down. So long as the people think the existing policy is correct, whoever wants to change it will be brought down.

Q: Mao Zedong has been dead for just 10 years. What do you think would be Mao's reaction to China today, a China where the leaders say to get rich is glorious, and where personal happiness and private enterprises and political reform and greater freedom of expression are beginning to be permitted, what would Mao say? It seems you are againt everything he was for.

A: There are differences. However, there are similarities as far as certain principles are concerned. Mao Zedong thought is still our guiding ideology. We have adopted the Resolution on Some Questions in the History of the Party Since the Founding of the PRC, which has answered your question.

Q: It doesn't answer me. China of Deng Xiaoping is different from China of Mao Zedong. It's a new revolution that is going on here, at least you are trying to make a new revolution, it seems.

A: What you said is right. We are also saying what we are doing now is in essence a revolution. In another sense, we are engaging ourselves in an experiment. For us, it is something new, and we have to grope our way. Errors are bound to occur as this is a revolution and is completely new. Our method is to sum up experience from time to time and correct mistakes whenever they are discovered, so that small mistakes will not grow into big ones.

Q: Final questions, last question. You are number one in China. How long you intend to continue to be number one, the principle at height, the man who say, whose word is law here in China?

A: I am all for the abolition of life tenure and the institution of a retirement system. As you know, I told Fallaci that my plan was to work until 1985. Now, it's already one year beyond that date. I am now considering when to retire. Personally, I would like to retire early. However, this is a rather difficult question. It is very hard to persuade the Party's rank and file and our people to accept that. I believe if I retire when I am still around, it would be good for the continuation of the existing policy. That is also in keeping with the conviction I have always had. However, I need to work harder to talk people around. In the end, as I am a member of the Communist Party, I must obey the decision of the Party. I am a citizen of the People's Republic of China, so I must obey the will of the people. I am still hoping that I can succeed in persuading our people to come round to my view.

Q: You told Fallaci in 1985, what will you tell Mr. Wallace?

A: To be quite frank, I am persuading our people to let me retire at the Party's 13th National Congress next year. But so far, what I have heard is dissenting voice all around.

Q: Well, in the United States, people are trying to get Mr. Reagan to run for the third term. But the law says: No.

A: That is up to the people to decide.

Q: Mr. Chairman, I thank you very very much for this opportunity and I wish you good health and long life.

A: Thank you. I am grateful to you for giving me this fine opportunity of talking to the people of the United States. ■

Coastal Areas Urged to Boost Exports

China's coastal regions, especially the cities and areas now open to the world, should give priority to developing an export-oriented economy, Premier Zhao Ziyang said during a recent inspection tour of Tianjin, Qingdao and Weifang.

The premier said the coastal areas should make their industrial structure "lighter," that is, attach still greater importance to light and textile industries that produce goods for export. "These industries must shift from their former pursuit of greater numbers of products to better quality and higher grades," Zhao said.

"The coastal areas, whose economy has developed very quickly, have an extremely important role to play in China's modernization drive, but it must be noted that this economic growth was achieved under conditions of very low wages and cheap raw materials," the premier added.

Zhao said that because it was impossible to keep wages and raw material costs at such a low level for long, and they were in fact rising, enterprises in the coastal regions must constantly try to reduce their costs and raise product quality as a way to

increase returns. "It is no use trying to shift the burden on to the consumers," he said.

During his inspection tour, Premier Zhao Ziyang also called on people in the coastal areas to pay attention to economic challenges from the Pacific area. "The export goods of certain countries in this area are being upgraded steadily," the premier said. "This constitutes both a challenge and a very good opportunity to China's coastal industries. The coastal areas ought to enhance their competitiveness in the international market by drawing on the experience of other countries," he said.

To meet the challenge, Premier Zhao called for faster economic growth in such coastal cities as Guangzhou, Dalian, Shanghai, Qingdao and Tianjin as well as the Zhujiang (Pearl) and Changjiang (Yangtze) river deltas.

He said that the light and textile industries, as well as some other processing industries will have a great export potential for a long time to come and that was why the coastal areas should focus on them.

He added the major problem in exporting textile goods was their

poor quality, and this can be solved only through improving both management and technology.

During his tour, Premier Zhao also pointed out the importance of running Sino-foreign joint ventures well. He said, "Combining industrial production with trade and the joint operation of export-oriented businesses are good ways of doing things and they should be popularized on the basis of mutual benefit and voluntary participation."

"The fact that many foreign firms are investing in China proves that China is attractive," he said. "Our disadvantage lies in our incomplete infrastructure and underdeveloped service trades. Things are improving in this regard, but it will take time."

The premier stressed the need to create what he termed "mini-climate" favourable to foreign investment. By this he meant that Sino-foreign joint ventures and enterprises solely operated with foreign capital should be allowed to manage themselves according to internationally accepted methods. They should be given "all necessary power," including the power to manage their employees. ■

Experts help Frame Policy

China has for the first time published a series of government policies on science and technology thanks to the efforts of thousands of specialists taking part in state policy-making, said Wu Mingyu, vice-minister in charge of the State Scientific and Technological Commission.

Matters of science and tech-

nology had not received proper attention in the past, Wu said. While government decisions were made, attention was paid only to political and military policies, and science and technology were often neglected. As a result, Wu said, what the country had to suffer was not only the failure of this or that enterprise but confusion in the nation as a whole.

The published policies covering 12 areas, including power, transport and communications,

agriculture, consumer goods and the machine-building industry, form the principles guiding the overall development of China's technology in these fields. They establish the goals of technical development and indicate the appropriate production structure and product mix, as well as the ways and means of promoting progress in science and technology.

Work on these policies began in January 1983 under the leadership



Premier Zhao Ziyang talking with President Ortega, and his party.

China, Nicaragua: Working for Peace

Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang reiterated his support for the Nicaraguan people and the position of letting Central Americans find solutions to their problems peacefully through negotiations without resorting to force or threats of force. "Central Americans must be allowed to solve their own problems without outside interference," he said.

Meeting with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra on September 12, Zhao said China opposes any country that practises great power chauvinism or seeks hegemony over others.

"It is China's internationalist duty to safeguard the interests of the third world countries," he said.

According to Ortega, Nicaraguans are building a society based on a mixed economy and political pluralism. In international affairs, he said, Nicaragua follows the principle of non-alignment, and seeks to form new economic and trade relations with countries of different ideologies. "Nicaragua supports all movements aimed at relaxing world tension, ending arms race and promoting disarmament."

Meeting the visiting Nicaraguan President and his Party, Deng Xiaoping, Chairman of the Central Advisory Commission,

of the State Council. Several thousand scientists, economists and administrative personnel were involved, carrying out research, preparing proposals and documents. Consultations and studies were made in hundreds of areas in order to make a systematic analysis on the country's technical potential, economic and social conditions and natural environment, as well as the direction of development abroad.

Many of the suggestions made

had already been incorporated in the Seventh Five-Year Plan (1986-90), Wu said, and answers have been provided to questions that have been under discussion for a long time.

The policies are contained in *Guide to Chinese Scientific and Technological Policies — White Papers on Science and Technology, No. 1*, published in August by the State Scientific and Technological Commission. ■

by Shang Rongguang

China & the World

■ **Kampuchean War: a Struggle Between Justice and Injustice.** When meeting a Democratic Kampuchean delegation in Beijing on September 9, Chinese Party leader Hu Yaobang said, "It is a struggle between justice and injustice, between truth and force. The Chinese government has no choice but to support unreservedly the struggle of the Kampuchean people to the end."

■ **Chinese and Soviet Vice-Premiers End Talks.** Chinese Vice-Premier Yao Yilin held a final round of talks with Nikolai Viadimirovich Talyzin, first vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Commission of the Soviet Union, in Beijing on September 10. After the talks, a revised consular treaty was signed between the People's Republic of China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

■ **Chinese Ambassador calls for a Check on US Trade Protectionism.** In a letter to leaders of the US Congress and the US State Department, Chinese ambassador Han Xu urged the American government to draw back from a new trade protection bill that would adversely affect interests of the Chinese and American peoples.



Officials Lay Foundation Stone for Asian Games

State Councillor Gu Mu (left) and Beijing Mayor Chen Xitong laid the foundation stone at the construction site of the Varsity Gymnasium on September 10. The right picture shows the architectural model of the gymnasium. Another 26 stadiums and gymnasiums are being built or renovated for the 11th Asian Games scheduled for 1990. In addition, an Asian Games Village with training halls and a communications centre attached to it will be built.

explained the tasks confronting China: first, going all out to modernize and free itself from poverty by the end of the century; second, opposing hegemonism and working for world peace; and third, securing the return of Taiwan to the motherland.

During his three-day state visit to China from September 12 to 14, Ortega also met General Secretary Hu Yaobang. Both leaders expressed support for each other politically, and readiness to cooperate with each other economically.

During the visit the two governments signed agreements on trade and economic, scientific and technical co-operation. ■

Fighting Rural Poverty: More Cash, More Effort

Chen Xilin, a poor farmer in Eastern China's Jiangsu Province, dreamed that he could pay

off his 1,500 yuan (about US\$400) debt. Now after two years' hard work Chen and his family have earned 5,900 yuan (about US\$1,600). Apart from clearing off the debt, he has built a new three-room brick house—another dream.

Chen's story is like that of many in China's rural areas over the past few years. The Chen family was one of the poorest in the village. They had been relying on government subsidies for years. Chen's wife was sick all the time and the children too young to help. Three years ago the co-ordinator of sideline production at the local co-operative offered help. He gave Chen a loan of 800 yuan and suggested he make brooms and raise rabbits. The Chen family's fortune started to change.

Chen is not the only one to have received help from the local co-operative. To raise the standards of living of the poorest people in

the area, the co-operative assigned 78 co-ordinators to work with poor villagers, to find out about their financial situation and productive abilities, and to help them work out a plan to shake off their poverty. It provided them with 130,000 yuan in loans.

The Chinese government adopted a policy of subsidizing the poor when the People's Republic was founded in 1949. But in the past, as everyone ate from the same public pot, that is, each got an equal slice of the collective cake no matter how much he had done, the gap between the poor and the better-off farmers was not very great. In other words, everyone had a rather low standard of living. Government subsidies mainly went to areas with difficult natural conditions or which had suffered natural disasters, and to individual households with too many mouths to feed. Despite the large amounts of money spent on subsidies each year, the financial

situation of the poor never really improved. Moreover, the less capable poor came to rely on government benefits and make less effort themselves, while the initiative of those who made an effort was blunted.

Beginning with the economic reform in the rural areas in 1979, the peasants' initiative has been given full play and the gap between the poor and the better-off has widened. Though the majority of farmers have got enough to eat and wear and some are on the way to making a small fortune, some others, especially those in remote areas, are still fighting the poverty caused by an unfavourable natural environment and low productivity.

A survey in 1985 showed the average income of peasants in 36,667 households from 262 villages was 399 yuan (US\$110) a year. However, only 36.5 percent had an income higher than the average, and the income of 63.5 percent was below average. Three to four percent had incomes lower than those of 1978. The gap between the incomes of the highest and the lowest had increased 23.5 percent.

The problem of poor peasants and poor areas has drawn more attention from the government. Besides the 3.3 billion yuan allocated for the development of the poor areas, the State Council recently decided to advance another 1 billion yuan annually to those areas as loans with interest to be paid in the form of deduction. Arranged by the People's Bank of China through the Bank of Agriculture, the loans will be granted each year for five years beginning in 1986. The new funds have been allocated mostly to the country's 200 poorest counties in 14 least developed areas. The money is to be used for increasing employment and building productive establishments to help villagers make enough to eat and wear as soon as possible. Priority should be given to productive programmes which

can make good use of local resources and get better and faster social results, the decision says. Along with the loans, the decision continues, specialists, technical services, materials and information must be provided too.

Offering loans is not the only way the Chinese government helps the least developed areas and the poorest households. More effort is being made to explore the natural resources and tap the productive potential of these areas. In Dingxi County, Gansu Province, north-west China, the government, together with specialists from all over the country, have helped local people work out a plan of development to include animal husbandry, forestry and agriculture.

Dingxi is a mountainous area suffering from serious soil erosion. For 30 years the local people have lived on subsidiary grains. The key to the prosperity of this area is to regain and ecological balance. With an investment of 15 million yuan, the provincial government has encouraged peasants to turn their farmland over to pasture. As a result, domestic animals have increased by more than 30,000 and 2,000 township enterprises have been built. Average annual income in this county has gone up to 246 yuan per head.

Hengshui Prefecture in Hebei Province had its own way of shaking off poverty. Its leaders visited universities and research institutions personally to ask for scientific and technical help. Their directness was well rewarded. The prefecture attracted 3,000 specialists who introduced to the area 1,500 technical innovations. Furthermore, it established co-operative relationships with 270 universities and institutions. Now the area's 150 dying township enterprises have been revitalized and 800 others have started new lines of production.

An area where average income is below 150 yuan a year and grain production less than 200 kg. per person is defined as poor in China.

News in Brief

Bank savings amounted to a record 203.41 billion yuan (US\$55 billion) at the end of August, 41.15 billion yuan (US\$11.1 billion) more than the total for last year. The figure for urban areas was 134.71 billion yuan (US\$36.4 billion) and that for rural areas, 68.7 billion yuan (US\$18.5 billion).

Newspapers in China's capital carried articles on September 10 to mark the second annual Teachers' Day. The articles extended their regards to more than 10 million teachers, saying that teaching is one of the most glorious professions in society. Li Peng, member of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee and vice-premier, and Deng Yingchao, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, visited teachers at some Beijing schools and extended greetings to the teachers on September 9.

Of the 343 cities in China, about 95 percent have completed work on their overall urban construction plans, and 80 percent of these have so far been approved by the State Council and government departments.

UNITED NATIONS

Rallying Around Common Interests

To ensure that the resources of the seabed are fairly distributed, the Preparatory Commission of the International Seabed Authority and the Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on September 5 adopted a "Statement on the Implementation of Resolution II."

Conflicts and, ultimately, wars emerged on earth, because of the uneven social and economic development of the planet. Conflicts over the distribution of the natural resources, in particular, became intense with the dawn of the industrial age. Yet today, on the threshold of the 21st century, can our planet still remain divided?

In 1973 the first UN Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) began its work, with the aim of regulating maritime activities by defining zones and boundaries, ensuring the fair exploitation of resources of the seabed, and providing machinery for the settlement of disputes.

Since then efforts have constantly been made by many countries to implement the aims of UNCLOS. In April 1982 the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea was finally passed. It declared that the international seabed and its resources are the common heritage of mankind. This represented an important advance in international law and politics. Altogether, 130 states voted in its favour, but unfortunately some industrialized countries, including the United States, voted against it.

It was this UN Convention on the Law of the Sea that produced Resolution II, which stipulates that all nations and entities wishing to participate in the exploration and mining of the seabed should, under a unified system, apply to and register with the Preparatory Commission of the International Seabed Author-

ities. Obviously this document was aimed at allocating developing countries their share of territory for mining the seabed in the northeast Pacific Ocean.

However, since the Preparatory Commission began work three years ago, the so-called "pioneer investors," the Soviet Union, France and Japan, and the "potential pioneer investors," such as the United States, Britain and West Germany, have become entangled in disputes over the mining sites, thus seriously hampering the establishment of a unified registration system for seabed mining and keeping third world countries from developing such operations.

During this session, which opened on August 12, there were discussions and negotiations, but finally a compromise, which was apparently favourable for the

pioneer investors, proposed by the Group of 77, one of the most influential multi-national organizations, gained a consensus. As a result, the long-standing question of overlapping mining sites claimed by the pioneer investors and the potential pioneer investors has been resolved, and the deadline for third world countries to apply to become pioneer investors has been extended from January 1985 until the Law of the Sea actually comes into force, which is expected to be sometime in 1990.

The natural resources of the seabed are the "common heritage of mankind" and may be exploited by all nations. However it is one thing to write this down in a document, but another to put it into practice. The high level of scientific and technological development of advanced countries has made it almost impossible for developing nations to exercise their rights. The situation with mining the seabed is quite similar to that regarding the exploitation of outer space.

Now it is high time the prosperous North realize that it could not do without global prosperity, which in turn required global cooperation between North and South.

by She Duanzhi

JAPAN

Education Minister Fired

Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone has fired Minister of Education Masayuki Fujio, who whitewashed the war crimes of Japanese militarists four decades ago and refused to step down.

Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone showed good sense and wisdom when he eliminated Masayuki Fujio, the education minister, from his

cabinet on September 8. The latter had, since he assumed office over a month ago, stirred up an international political storm by justifying Japan's annexation of Korea

in 1910 and its slaughter of Chinese people during World War II.

Mr. Fujio made excuses for the Japanese militarists on four occasions, which aroused the anger of the Chinese people and the people of other Asian countries, including Japan.

On August 12, the minister said in a speech to the Japan Press Club that "world history is a history of aggression and war. The erroneous view that only Japan committed aggression must be corrected."

On August 15, he lamented the death of Japan's wartime Prime Minister Hideki Tojo, a war criminal, and referred to the verdict of the Tokyo International Military Tribunal as "incorrect."

In an interview with the Japanese monthly *Bugei Shunju* published in its October issue, Mr. Fujio defended further the war of aggression and denied crimes had been committed. Glossing over the holocaust perpetrated by Japanese troops in Nanjing, China, in 1937, he claimed that it was an "unredressed incident," saying that the mass murder in the city was intended to "break down enemy resistance." He even went so far as to say, "War means killing people. It is not slaughter as far as international law is concerned."

Fujio also justified Japan's 1910 annexation of Korea. "If Japan committed aggression, I believe the Korean side was partly responsible," he said.

He said to visit the Yasukune War Shrine is to "express sympathy and solicitude for those who laid down their lives for the country. It is the same as the Chinese paying homage at a shrine to Confucius or the Zhongshan Mausoleum."

As is well-known, Japan brought disaster to China and other Asian countries during its war of aggression and the massacre in Nanjing was one of the most ferocious slaughters in human history. But Fujio simply

ignored the plain fact that over 300,000 Chinese people were killed in Nanjing by Japanese soldiers in just a few days, saying, "It's not slaughter as far as international law is concerned." According to him, Japan seemed to have done nothing wrong and the Japanese invasion of other countries was completely legitimate.

However, Masayuki Fujio is not the first Japanese politician to justify the evils of the militarists. In 1982, the ministry of education denied the Japanese had invaded Asian countries, claiming in their revised school textbooks that the Japanese had merely "advanced" into these countries.

To preserve good relations with China and other Asian countries, the Japanese government has taken serious and positive measures to improve matters. Prime

Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone has changed his position. He did not visit the Yasukune War Shrine this year as he had done last year. Rather, he asked his cabinet members not to visit it in their capacity as government officials. It is reported that Nakasone is considering moving the memorial tablets to war criminals out of the shrine.

After Masayuki Fujio made his erroneous remarks, the prime minister tried to persuade him to step down voluntarily. But Fujio stubbornly insisted he was right and refused to resign until he was dismissed by the Prime Minister.

Now that Fujio has been fired, who knows whether there will be another, or a third, Masayuki Fujio? Both the Chinese and the Japanese people must keep a constant look out for such dangerous and unfriendly incidents. ■

by Ma Baolin

US-USSR

'Spies' and Bilateral Relations

The case of Nicholas Daniloff, an American journalist arrested in Soviet Union, has aroused the concern of both Washington and Moscow as it represents a threat to their bilateral relations.

American journalist Nicholas Daniloff was released on September 12 into the custody of the US embassy in Moscow. He was arrested on August 30 by the Soviet secret police on charges of espionage.

On the same day, the United States released Gennadi Zakharov, a Soviet UN employee arrested in New York in August on spying charges, into the custody of the Soviet embassy.

The immediate friction between

the United States and the Soviet Union came to an end, but Moscow said that although Daniloff had been released, the investigation into his case would continue. He will not be allowed to leave the territory of the Soviet Union.

US President Ronald Reagan has indicated that the Daniloff affair could be a major obstacle to US-Soviet relations if it is not resolved properly. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev replied by

saying that his country will settle the issue in such a way as not to harm bilateral relations.

It is interesting that the new displeasure between Washington and Moscow has occurred at a time when they are trying to reach agreements on arms control and regional disputes and nuclear treaty, in preparation for the US-Soviet conference of foreign ministers scheduled for the 19th and 20th of this month, and a second summit meeting between Reagan and Gorbachev. So far no significant progress has been made.

Although the Soviet Union has allowed the United States to undertake laboratory research on its Star Wars programme, and the Americans have agreed to put off implementing the programme for seven and a half years, no other important agreement has been arrived at.

When a new Soviet proposal on disarmament was put forward in June this year, it met with a cautious welcome from the United States. But the requirement that both sides stick to existing anti-ballistic accords for at least 15 years has prevented agreement on the proposal.

It has been reported that the US government is preparing fresh disarmament proposals in which the quota of offensive nuclear weapons will be raised closer to the level proposed by the Soviet Union. However, their failure to agree on arms reduction measures turns on what weapons to cut and in what way they are to be cut. Washington demands the Soviet Union slash its land-based ballistic missiles, in which the Soviets have an edge, while Moscow wants to limit US nuclear weapons in space and under water. Their intentions are always to reduce the superiority of the other while maintaining their own.

The two countries also find it difficult to agree on the nuclear tests issue. The United States only wants to agree about the

monitoring of tests, while Moscow wants to ban nuclear tests altogether. After the Soviet Union announced its third unilateral suspension of nuclear tests, which Gorbachev regards as the most important issue of all, the Soviet leader invited Reagan to follow suit. But the United States refused on the pretext that it was difficult to monitor nuclear tests. But another reason is the link between nuclear tests and laser weapons.

The only progress made during US-Soviet talks in June and August were in the fields of culture, science and technology

and navigation, though they have had little real effect on improving US-Soviet relations.

Soviet leader Gorbachev recently said a US-Soviet summit conference was uncertain as no step had been taken towards arms control. The Soviets require any US-Soviet summit to be preceded by progress in arms control. This remark, the most pessimistic he has made so far on the prospects of a summit conference, leads one to conjecture a possible delay in a Reagan-Gorbachev meeting.

■
by Zhang Yunwen

NICARAGUA

Economic Woes to be Overcome

The Nicaragua Government has breathed new life into the economy, which is now expected to recover from a period of sluggish growth.

Lying in the Central America Isthmus, the Republic of Nicaragua is a land of abundant natural resources. It grows coffee, cotton, sugar cane and bananas, and also has a developed fishing industry. But Somoza's misrule and the turmoil of recent decades have left it with a poorly developed economy, now further burdened by the conflict with the United States and the economic blockade and trade embargoes of 1984 and 1985.

The Nicaragua Government has tried to breathe new life into its depressed economy by readjusting policies on agriculture and animal husbandry, giving top priority to the production of daily necessities, seeking trading partners and increasing exports.

Agriculture and animal husbandry are the principal occupations in Nicaragua, employing about 50 percent of the working population and providing about 80 percent of export earnings.

Laying emphasis on increasing productivity, the government permits various systems of ownership to coexist side by side in rural areas and is continuing with the land reform it launched in the late 1970s. To date it has distributed about 2 million hectares of land to 100,000 peasant households. Meanwhile, the Nicaragua Government has decided to raise the purchase prices of grain, sugar, eggs and milk in hope of encouraging farmers to increase production.

Given the shortage of consumer goods, the government rationed a number of daily necessities. At the same time profiteers were fined or sent to prison.

The country is pinched for foreign currency as a result of drastically reduced exports and an enormous trade deficit. In order to reduce imports and improve the domestic market the government has paid great attention to

manufacturing industries which can make use of the country's raw materials, such as the textile, food and fruit processing industries, and instant coffee and furniture manufacturing — also hoping to reduce Uncle Sam's control of its markets and technology little by little. In addition to this, Nicaragua has sought more help from both the West and the East. Since 1980 its trade with West and East European countries has increased from 17.5 percent and 0.8 percent respectively of its total trade in 1980, to 27.9 percent and 29.7 percent. As a member of non-aligned movement, Nicaragua receives the support of some of its colleagues with loans or preferential tariff agreements.

Besides these measures, the government of President Daniel Ortega has done its utmost to make political life in Nicaragua more democratic. On June 3 the National Constituent Assembly released 307 political prisoners. Since 1980 a forum called 'Going to the Masses' has been held once a week attended by the President and government ministers. During the meetings they listen to people's advice and proposals and many policies have been framed later in accordance with them.

It may be said that Nicaragua's economic difficulties cannot end without first terminating the war. But the government and people are steadily improving their country by relying on their own efforts and making full use of its natural resources. ■

by Liu Reichang



ASEAN

Fostering Closer Economic Ties

The 38th ASEAN meeting was dominated by discussion of new economic initiatives and the adoption of new measures to promote regional co-operation

The three-day meeting of economic ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) ended on August 30 with practical proposals for closer ASEAN economic ties.

Certain principles were agreed by ministers from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. These include enhancing regional resilience by strengthening national economies and focusing on economic co-operation to the mutual benefit of all member countries. This co-operation is to be established in a phased way within a specific time-frame.

Intra-ASEAN trade accounts for only about 17 percent of the group's total external trade. Economic ties among them remain limited to preferential tariffs on 18,431 items that are, for the most part, neither supplied nor needed in the region.

Furthermore, as producers and exporters of primary products, most ASEAN countries have to compete fiercely with others as well as with each other. Discord and conflict between them have arisen as a result.

As the first step to facilitate the flow of goods, the economic ministers agreed to increase the tariff reduction under the ASEAN Preferential Trade Agreement from 50 percent to 70 percent. An ASEAN preferential tariff quota scheme, intended to supplement the accord, was approved at the meeting.

To encourage industrial co-operation, the ministers proposed

a supplementary agreement which would boost preferential treatment for goods produced by ASEAN Industrial Joint Ventures from 50 percent to 75 percent.

The ministers also proposed signing an agreement on the preferential shortlisting of ASEAN contractors. Its objective is to support and provide more opportunities for ASEAN contractors in fields that may otherwise be dominated by non-ASEAN firms.

A gradual approach towards establishing intra-ASEAN free trade or an ASEAN common market was decided upon. Some ASEAN countries, especially the Philippines, have long advocated the idea of a European-style common market as a long-term goal to help resolve the region's growing economic problems. But some other member nations, Indonesia for example, disapprove of the idea, considering it inappropriate because of the vast difference in economic development among ASEAN countries.

The ministers welcomed the recent decision of the Central Bank of the Philippines to permit the use of ASEAN national currencies, instead of hard currencies like the US dollar, as media of exchange in trading Philippine products with other ASEAN member states. It is very likely Singapore and Brunei will follow suit. The move is at least one step towards creating a common market among ASEAN nations. ■

by Zhai Shuyao

Blacks Struggle On in South Africa

For two years now, the black people in South Africa have been struggling against racial segregation and racial discrimination with a vengeance. They have turned their feelings of humiliation and resentment that have been pent up for generations into a storm of enmity that has severely shaken the racist system.

by Meng Qingzai

What are the main features of the black people's struggle today?

The first is its enduring and widespread character, far exceeding the Sharpeville and Soweto incidents of 1960 and 1976.

The fuse of the present struggle was the "new constitution" concocted by the South African regime in September 1983, which only allows coloureds and Indians to participate in government and political affairs on a limited basis, but stubbornly denying blacks their rights under the constitution. This has aroused the resentment of the black people. In January 1984, the United Democratic Front of South Africa called on coloureds and Indians to boycott the elections and students to boycott classes. This was the curtain-raiser to a struggle that has gone on wave after wave ever since, despite the fact that 15,000 black people have been arrested and about 2,000 killed under martial law imposed during the state of emergency.

All this is unprecedented in the history of the black people's struggle, into which people of all walks of life have thrown themselves—workers, students and new forces, the first of which was the church (92 percent of blacks in South Africa are Christians). Under the leadership of Bishop Desmond Tutu and Pastor Allan Boesak, they changed their former conservative ideas about non-involvement in the struggle against racial segre-

ation into ones of support for and participation in the mass movement. This was a heavy blow to the South African regime. Other new forces are various black mass organizations, such as the parents associations, the sports associations, and the family mutual aid groups, anti-illiteracy groups—all established in recent years—which usually come out together during a strike. For example, in 1984 the black women of the Transvaal province refused to work in white houses and boycotted the goods in white shops, taking whites by surprise. Meanwhile, more coloureds and Indians joined in the struggle, creating a united force involving various races. Moreover, the scope of the struggle, limited to black urban districts before September last year, has been extended to white city areas. On October 18, 1985, black people in Johannesburg looted white shops and, on October 24 organized demonstrations in Cape Town, leading to conflict with the police. The South African regime declared in July and October of last year the state of emergency and imposed martial law in 44 cities. It revoked these measures on March 7 after 229 days.

Out of 34 black township councils set up by the South African regime in December 1983, 31 have collapsed, 200 local officials, including 27 mayors, have

abandoned their posts and fled, and five of them were killed. Since November last year the black resistance struggle has also been extended to the rural areas and the black homelands.

The second feature of the struggle is the rapid increase in the strength of black workers and the growth of black trade unions. In the 1970s, black unions were still immature, and were illegal until 1978. Some unions were formed after the wave of strikes in Durban in 1973 and grew rapidly. But because of lack of experience and the 1976-78 economic recession, the labour movement then went into a lull. Some union leaders were arrested and the workers themselves threatened by unemployment. The unions did not revive until the black people won the right to organize in 1979. The last two years have been a period of rapid development. There are now about six black and mixed labour federations and another 20 or more black unions that remain outside the federations but are more militant. The number of black union members was under 100,000 in 1979, but increased to 400,000 in 1984 and to around 1.5 million in 1985, about one quarter of black workers. Among them, the members of the National Union of Miners, one of the most militant unions, increased from 80,000 in 1984 to 200,000 in August 1985. The Trade Union Congress of South Africa, set up at the end of last year, is the biggest

labour federation with 500,000 members. It demands the abrogation of the passlaws, the release of Nelson Mandela, the annulment of martial law, the removal of troops from black towns and the resignation of Pieter Botha. In February, the Central Executive Council of the Trade Union Congress declared that South Africa must get rid of racial apartheid completely and immediately. It is important that the trade unions turn their economic struggle into a political one.

During the past two years there has been a growing number of strikes. Most of them used to be spontaneous, but they are now led

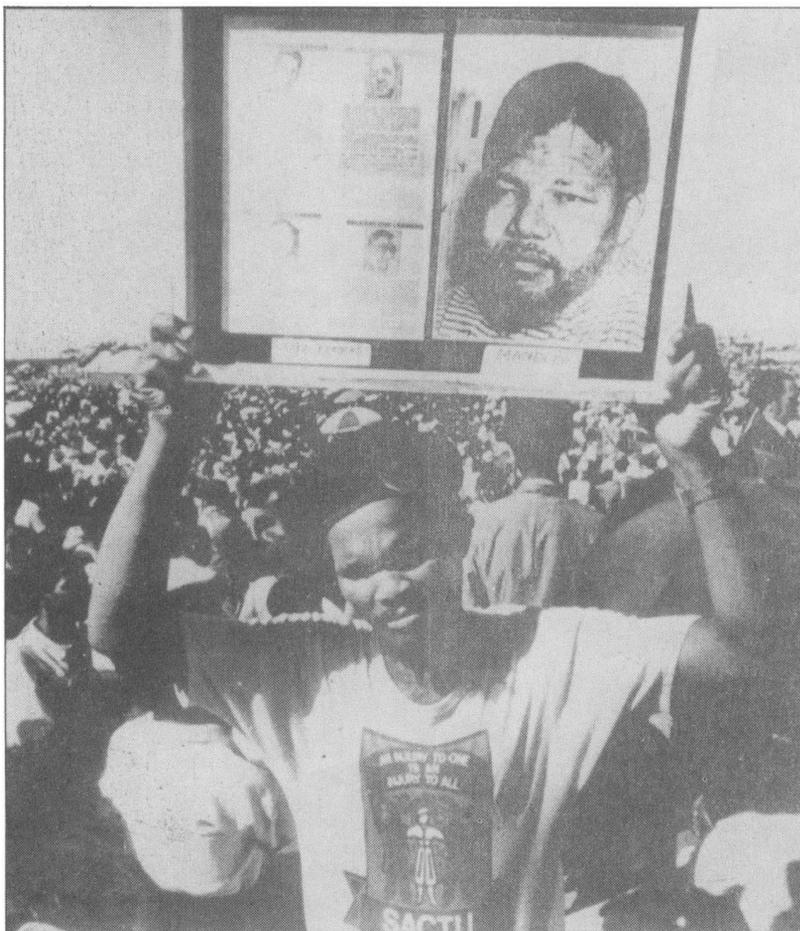
by trade unions. According to official statistics, there were 469 strikes in 1984, a 39 percent increase over 1983. The number of strikers reached more than 180,000, three times the 1983 figure, and 380,000 workdays were lost, 49 percent up on 1983. In 1985, the strikes continued to intensify, the number of strikers increasing to almost 240,000, despite the reduction in the number of strikes to 389.

The third characteristic is the increasing influence of the African National Congress (ANC), founded in 1912 but banned in 1960. Since 1984, the organization has made some important adjustments in its policy and strategy.

First, it has shifted its attention to inside South Africa, declaring its willingness to establish a broad democratic front, regardless of race, in order to unite all forces opposed to the white racist government, and to work for a non-racial South Africa that is united, democratic, and governed by the majority. It embraces people from all walks of life, including advocates of black "homelands" and some democratic whites. In June last year the organization held a conference at which it elected a new leadership, the National Executive Commission, and accepted new members from other races. Secondly, it has stressed the importance of strengthening the armed struggle. In 1985 the organization's guerrillas undertook more than 120 raids, three times more than in 1984. Thirdly, it does not refuse to negotiate with the South African authorities and is able to advance demands well-received by the people. Whenever black people gather, they sing ANC songs and its flag is placed on the coffin at black funerals. In the hearts of many black people Nelson Mandela has become the spiritual leader.

The fourth feature of the struggle is the growing involvement of the younger generation, mainly university and secondary school students or graduates. They are discontented that the severe recession in South Africa's economy has made it difficult for them to find jobs (in recent years there have been 250,000 young people coming onto the labour market annually), and that the South African government is reluctant to take measures to resolve the problem. Young people's organizations have been set up recently under the leadership of the ANC and the United Democratic Front. Among the 7,000-odd blacks detained from mid-July 1985 to February 1986, more than 2,000 were teenagers under 16.

Black worker holding portrait of Nelson Mandela demands South African troops withdraws from black townships.



There are deep class and social reasons for the persistent struggle of black South Africans. As an ethnic group they have been more cruelly exploited than any other in the world. Bantus, Bushmen, Hottentots and other Africans lived in South Africa for generations before the Dutch invasion in the 17th century and the British in the 19th century. The blacks were enslaved by the colonialists who came with cannon and guns.

After the establishment of the Union of South Africa in 1910 the whites took control of a government that enforced apartheid. In 1984 the National Party representing extreme racist view, took office and imposed policies of racial segregation and discrimination in a systematic and all-round way. Over a period of 70 years or more the white government of South Africa has enacted over 350 pieces of legislation aimed at creating a system of apartheid in the political, economic, social, cultural and other fields. Moreover, it propagated the theory that the white race is superior to others.

Seventy four percent of the black population are deprived not only of the franchise but also their basic rights as human beings — where they live, what kind of job they have, how they travel, and where to, are all controlled. They are segregated from whites even in some public places. The government has the legal right in law to detain, arrest and even kill blacks anytime it wishes, in sharp contrast to the democratic atmosphere of political and social life in most places in the world in the 1980s.

South Africa is the only developed country in Africa and ranks 25th among industrialized nations. Apart from its rich mineral resources, its wealth can be attributed chiefly to the cheap black labour. According to figures released by the South Africa Central Statistics Bureau, blacks in 1983 accounted for 88 percent

of the labour force in the mining industry, 69.6 percent in the building industry, 53.7 percent in manufacturing industry, 48 percent in transportation and the bulk of agricultural workers in white-inhabited areas. The contribution of the blacks has never been properly recognized or fairly rewarded.

White workers get much higher pay than their black brothers. The former's average income was 7.8 times the latter's in 1970, reduced to 4 times in 1983 since the blacks began to organize themselves. But

in the mining industry the whiteman's pay can be 20 times that of blacks, and never less than 6 times greater.

In recent years the living standards of blacks have deteriorated as a result of unemployment and inflation. The economic recession of 1982-84 put the heaviest burden on the blacks who suffered from price rises and the increasing unemployment. According to official statistics, the number of unemployed black people reached 520,000, or 8.3 percent of the 6,130,000 self-

Supporters of the United Democratic Front celebrate the third anniversary of the founding of the organization.



supporting blacks. Wage increases for black people lag far behind increases in prices, rents and the cost of commuting in the last two years. In 1985, the rand declined in value by 40 percent and the rate of inflation rose to 16.5 percent (it jumped to 20.7 percent in January this year). The consumer price index (100 in 1980) had risen to 165.7 in 1984 and 197.8 in September 1985. In addition to this, black people are having heavier taxes and fines imposed on them.

The ten "homelands" were established by Pretoria for African ethnic group under a policy of "separate development." They comprise more than 10 "black reservations," on barren soil and covering 13 percent of the area of South Africa. The whites, who make up 15 percent of the population, occupy 87 percent of the land area, on fertile soil with rich deposits.

The 12 millions blacks living in the "homelands" lead a terrible existence below the poverty line (the income of a family of 6 is less than £111 percent month). During the last 20 years a great number of blacks have died of pernicious diseases such as cholera, hydrophobia, myelitis and typhoid fever. According to official figures, 80,000 people died of measles, gastroenteritis, malaria, leprosy, hepatitis and malnutrition in 1981, 13,000 died of cholera in 1982 and 30,000

children died of malnutrition each year.

Although the medical services in South Africa have reached a high standard, the blacks are not given the health facilities they need. Even outside the "homelands" there is one doctor for every 12,000 blacks, while there is one doctor for every 350 whites.

Restrictions on admission to schools and universities for blacks are many. For a long time the money spent on education for blacks was only one tenth that for whites, though it has increased a little in recent years. Many universities are still closed to blacks, and there are only 37,000 black university students. According to UNESCO, the illiteracy rate is 54.52 percent among black people, but 2.82 percent among white adults.

Black South Africans are supported in their struggle by front-line states such as Zimbabwe, which set them a good example in gaining its own independence from a white minority government in 1980. They also receive the support of the international community. The UN Security Council has adopted many resolutions condemning apartheid, as have other international organizations. Even the United States and some of its Western allies bit the bullet and have imposed some sanctions

against South Africa though they may not be substantial. Meanwhile the Conservative-dominated British Government has been widely criticized by both the Commonwealth and the international community for sitting on its hands. The white-minority government of South Africa has been isolated.

White people themselves are no longer united on the question of apartheid. Some enlightened businessmen, journalists and others are beginning to criticize the Botha regime for its stupid philosophy, suggesting it should abandon apartheid, open negotiations with the ANC and free Nelson Mandela. Some demand that P.W. Botha steps down. Businessmen and leaders of opposition parties sent a delegation to Lusaka, Zambia, in search of a settlement through talks with the ANC. A conference was held in April this year in which more than 2,000 whites participated to press Pretoria to abolish apartheid.

The situation become ever more favourable to the black people in South Africa. It is attracting more and more followers at home and abroad. But the reactionary forces are launching ever more ruthless offensives against the liberation movement by political, economic and other means. So the struggle still has a long way to go before final victory. ■

Forthcoming...

Issue No. 39 of "Beijing Review" will be specially devoted to a discussion of the origins of the "cultural revolution" and the changes since its conclusion 10 years ago.



Backwater Area into the Mainstream

by Our Correspondent Lu Yun

The Xiangxi Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture in northwest Hunan Province used to be known as the "caecum of old China" and "hell on earth." A mountainous region covered with thick forests and crawling with robbers and bandits before liberation, the area was one of the poorest, its inhabitants living well below subsistence level.

Liberation eliminated the menace of robbers, and the region's total industrial and agricultural output value in 1985 was more than four times that of 1952 and 57.3 percent higher than in 1978. But it was the economic reforms which began in 1978 that have brought the greatest changes.

The Xiangxi Prefecture is made up of eight counties and two cities covering an area of 21,000 square kilometres in the Wuling Mountains. Farmers account for 90.5 percent of its population of 2.843 million. The majority (65.8 percent) of the people are national minorities including 1.114 million Tujias, 655,000 Miaos, 92,000 Bais and 8,400 Huis, Yaos, Tongs and Zhuangs.

Rich Tourist Resources

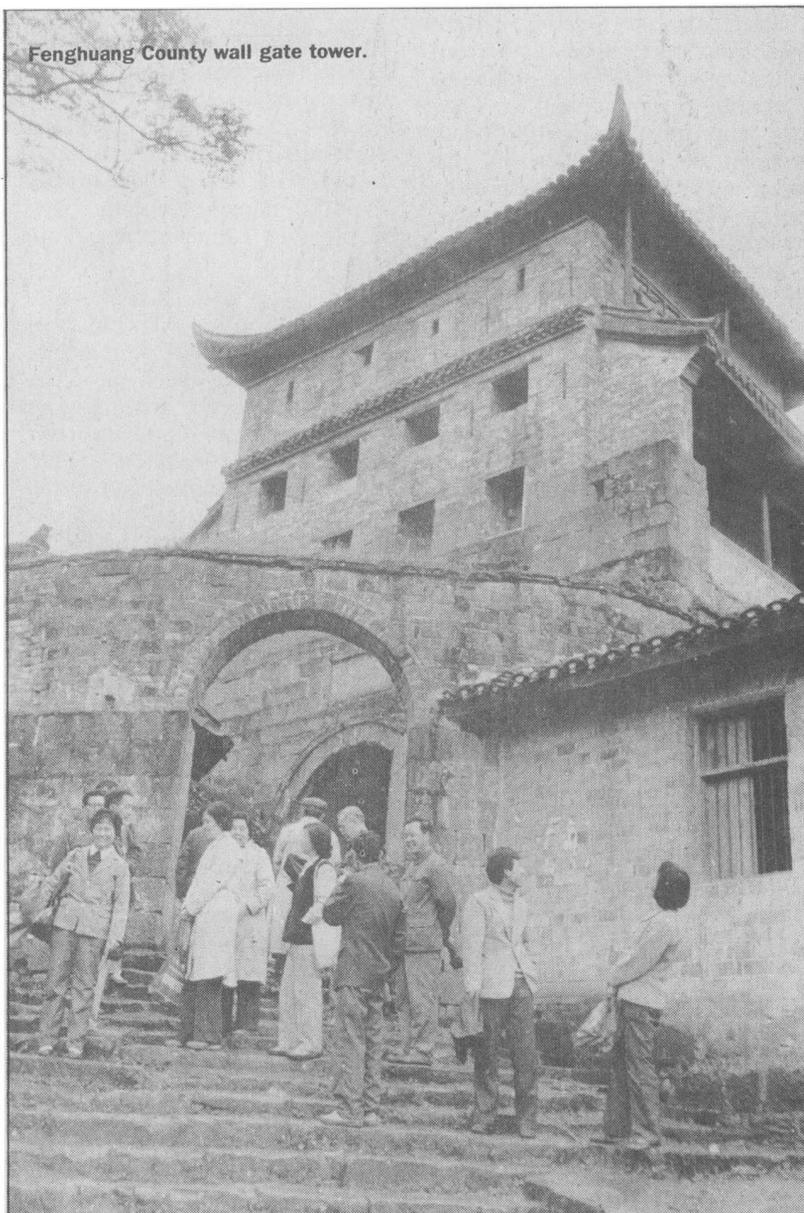
The Xiangxi Prefecture is divided by the Mengdong River into two: the south, famous for its local traditions, and the north, noted for its scenery.

Liu Gouji, secretary of the Party committee of the city of Dayong, points to a map hanging in his office and says: "We have rich tourists resources here."

For rich tradition one need look at the Miaos alone. They have distinctive dress and customs as

well as unusual architecture. The walls of Fenghuang County in their authentic ancient style and the Huangsiqiao walls are both of interest. The latter, 615 metres

long and over two metres wide on the top, were built of stones in 1798 during the Qing Dynasty, each piece weighing 1,000 kilogrammes, and have three gates





Scenic Zhangjiajie.

and 300 battlements.

The Mengdong River scenic area in Yongshun County is the focus of a great deal of beauty and interest. A major tourist attraction, now still in the development stage, covers 250 square kilometres. Both the water and the banks offer delights. On a river cruise the visitor can see the primitive forests on both steep banks, and might also catch a glimpse of the wildlife—predominantly troops of monkeys leaping among the bushes.

Along the banks there is also a network of 120 karst caves. Entering one of these, the small

Dragon Cave, for example, is like entering a fairy tale. The cave is over 1,000 metres long and its many small offshoots interwine like a cobweb, into which visitors may float on small pleasure boats.

The nearby village of Wangchun is an exquisite Tujia site. The cobbled streets are lined with wooden Tujia houses on stilts.

The county seat of Xizhou is over 800 years old. It is being renovated and will soon be open to tourists. In it is a symbol of peace: a bronze column cast in AD 939 to witness a truce between two warring tribes.

A place of more recent

historical interest is in the counties of Shangzhi and Yongshun. Marshal He Long's residence and headquarters are here. He was a vice-premier of China after New China was founded in 1949, and before that the area was a revolutionary base set up by the Marshal.

The northern half of the prefecture has sceneries remarkable both for their beauty and uniqueness. Geologists estimate that the area was a bay about 380 million years ago. Movements in the earth's crust and in the soil since have shaped steep-sloped peaks and deep ravines out of the area, which are now covered in forests and dense undergrowth.

The place has long been a place of pilgrimage for geologists, naturalists, and lovers of natural beauty. In 1982 the central government decided to designate Zhangjiajie a forest reserve and to develop it properly into a tourist area. In 1985, 410,000 visitors came, many of them from abroad.

The area is 97.7 percent secondary primitive forest. Five hundred and seventeen different kinds of woody plants have been found there, and 191 kinds of pines, cypresses, poplars and other trees. *Davidia involucrata*, known in Chinese as *Gongtong* or pigeon trees because of their pigeon-shaped flowers and leaves, grow there. So does the Ginkgo tree—nearly 50 metres tall. Both species are living fossils, survivors of the devastation of the Quaternary Glacier Period. Half of the world's dozen or so gymnosperm are also to be found there.

The wildlife is profuse. Birds of 41 species have been sighted, as have 27 species of other animals. Most remarkable is the cliff-nesting small pheasant, for a bag hangs from its neck, which can hold seven or eight days' supply of water.

This rich variety of life thrives amidst 3,000 or so peaks of many shapes identified by the locals for their similarity to bamboo shoots,



pagodas or young women and the like. Legends have grown around many of these peaks.

Jinbian Crag, or Gold-Whip Crag, is attributed to Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty (259-210 BC). The emperor, it is said, came into the possession of a magic gold whip. With it he tried to move a mountain to fill a bay. He lashed his whip, leaving a gash in the earth which is now the Yangtze River. Displeased at this, the dragon king of the sea sent his daughter to seduce him. On their wedding night, after playing the emperor with drink, the princess fled, taking the whip with her and leaving an ordinary, false one behind.

Upon waking the emperor discovered the deceit and returned to his palace in disgust, leaving the replacement whip behind. That whip is today's Gold-Whip Crag.

The Husband and Wife Crags are twin peaks. The Husband peak, his mouth slightly open, seems to be whispering into his wife's ear. Their love, however, once nearly ended in disaster.

One day when the husband was out gathering firewood the wife was captured by the armed henchmen of a local chieftain. The husband pursued the abductors and fought against them with his bow and arrows. As they were locked in battle a cloud came, spiriting husband and wife away, and deluging the bandits with rain. When the waters receded the two peaks emerged, leaning towards each other.

Local people believed that bowing before the peaks could cure all marital ills: If a couple were quarrelling it would bring harmony; if a couple were miserable, it would bring happiness; to an engaged couple it would bring a good marriage; and if one partner had had an affair it would restore good relations.

A whole collection of peaks are said to have risen where the bodies of a force that rose in revolt

against the Ming Dynasty (1369-1644) lie. At their head was Xiang Dakun, a chieftain of Tujia nationality, and self-proclaimed "son of heaven." He led 30,000 men against the Ming army but was eventually surrounded and defeated in the mountains.

The mountain was renamed Tianzi, or Son of Heaven. Three temples were built to the memory of his men. One of the temples may be renovated and opened to tourists in the future.

The Xiangxi Prefecture is looking forward to a time not too long in the future when it will welcome guests who come to see its people and scenery with style. Dayong city has had plans for an airport approved," which by 1988 should be big enough to accommodate Boeing 737s," says Liu Guoji.

A school of tourism has already been set up, and hotels, advanced telecommunications and places of recreation are in the pipeline.

Natural Resources

Before liberation the region produced about 1,600 kilograms of grain for every hectare of grainland, but it had no industry at all. Now the prefecture has 1,000 factories producing over 100 different commodities, and 43,000 kilometres of highways, 23 times the length at liberation. There is also a new railway line which was built in 1978 and links six counties and cities with the rest of the country. That people now have enough food to eat and clothes to wear is a great advance on the past.

The natural resources in the area offer great potential. The mountains are three-quarters forest, and the grass areas can support 640,000 head of livestock. There are 23.4 billion cubic metres of water; which, fully utilized, can generate 1.18 million kw of electricity. Underground deposits of 27 minerals have been verified,

primarily mercury, manganese, lead, aluminium, zinc, iron, phosphorus, coal and marble.

Much of this potential remains to be tapped. The prefecture is still lagging behind, and its industrial and agricultural output value is still 52.3 percent (per-capita) lower than the province as a whole, and the farmers' per-capita income is about 43 percent less than the national (and provincial) average.

Part of the problem is a legacy of the decade-long "cultural revolution" (1966-76) when all places were required to follow a uniform pattern in whatever they did, irrespective of local conditions. The whole country was instructed what to do, and the control problem lay in these instructors making no allowances for local factors.

When the slogan "grain comes first" was pronounced, the people in the mountains were forced to turn more slopes over to crop cultivation, felling forests and aggravating an erosion problem that was already serious. Shangzhi County lost 40,000 hectares of forest (56.63 percent of the total) that way.

Shangzhi County's area of vulnerable soil increased to 52 percent of its total area, and its rivers in 1982 were carrying 24.6 times as much silt as they had in 1952. As a Chinese saying goes: Sin against nature will be punished by nature. The prefectural government has now ordered that slopes with a gradient of more than 25 degrees — totalling 86,000 hectares — are to be reafforested. Half of the work has already been completed.

"We must change predatory production into constructive production," says Yang Zhenwu, secretary of the prefecture's Party committee. "We are in the middle of a transition period. We must also change our subsistence self-sufficient economic orientation and create a properly planned commodity economy for ourselves."

Yang, 45, a Tujia and member of the CPC Central committee, recognizes that the prefecture's economy has suffered seriously from underdevelopment and bad communications. "We used to plunder our resources indiscriminately," he says. "It was a vicious circle. The more we did that, the poorer we became; the poorer we got, the more randomly we plundered."

Although efforts were made in grain production, output did not increase. The farmers were prevented from undertaking any task other than the collective production. With the responsibility system now in force and diversification of the economy, the whole area is rallying all its forces to shake off the remnants of "left" thinking.

Today, the Xiangxi Prefecture has revived its abandoned traditional specialities, the production of raw lacquer, tung oil, tobacco, tea, oranges and medicinal herbs. Cash crops are grown over 70,000 hectares, about a quarter of which was added only last year. The output of its rural industry doubled in value between 1983 and 1984, and increased by another 67 percent in 1985.

In the Dayong city area exclusive concentration used to be placed on crop production. In 1980 the city government proclaimed the slogan "bring in wealth through more channels," and agricultural output doubled in the following two years.

In the same spirit, the county of Yongshun chose to develop its lime, sand, brick and cement processing factories, as raw materials were easily available, and the products marketable and lucrative.

Huayuan County further expanded its manganese mine, channelling the profits into other development. Fenghuang County stressed its cured tobacco, cigarettes, pigs and sideline production, and quadrupled its output value in five years. Despite a drought that hit the

area last year and cut grain yield by 25 million kilogrammes, the average annual income rose by 28 yuan per person.

Xiangxi's industry is small in scale and yields commensurately small profits. The prefectural government has set about improving its industry by taxing factories' profits as little as possible to leave them enough to update their production. Efforts are made to develop its commodity economy by opening trade markets along the borders with Hubei, Sichuan and Guizhou and by strengthening its economic links with the technologically more advanced regions.

The central government has given preferential treatment to the prefecture—reducing agricultural taxes, giving food-grain subsidies to areas that are being reafforested, reducing profit taxes on minority-run commercial outlets and also giving price subsidies and grants for them.

In combination with the special treatment given to scientists and technicians in remote areas by the

central government, these measures have contributed much to the prefecture's growth.

Last year the prefecture cooperated with 14 provinces and municipalities on 105 projects and attracted 64 million yuan in aid. Since 1984 it has brought 451 professionals in from other parts of the country to offer their expertise. The Huayuan Manganese Mine has recruited eight skilled people from other parts of Hunan and this includes its director Liu Linshen.

Workers all the way from Shanghai came to offer their services to the prefecture's garment factory—a joint venture between Jishou city, the prefecture's capital, and the Shanghai Dunhuang Shirt Mill. The factory has since succeeded in updating its equipment and keeping up with market trends. Its products have sold briskly in 22 surrounding counties and cities, and despite doubling its output and enrolling 80 more workers this year, supply still falls short of demand.

A Shanghai technician (right) instructs a local worker at the Jishou National Costumes Factory.





The Tujias

The Tujia as an ethnic group is traceable back to the 10th century. Although Han influence is great, the Tujias have kept many of their own peculiarities. The Tujias are recognized as a separate ethnic group after 1949 and they live in compact communities in the Xiangxi Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture (set up in 1957) and the Western Hubei Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture (established in 1983). Their population totals about 2,832,700 people.

The Tujias have proved themselves brave and skilful in battle. Between 1928 and 1935, led by Marshal He Long (1896-1969), they established the Hunan-Western Hubei and the Hunan-Hubei-Guizhou-Sichuan revolutionary bases, contributing much to the Chinese revolution.

The Tujia language belongs to the Han-Tibetan family of languages. The Tujias now speak and write Chinese. They have a rich tradition of arts, dancing with special hand movements, and literature, notably poetry and folk songs.

The Jishou Leather Factory has had a similar experience. The prefecture is known for its quality cattle-hide and yet the leather factory was buried in a 1 million yuan debt before it suspended production in 1984. So in March last year the Shanghai Yimin Leather Factory sent its deputy director and 12 economists and technicians to help. They updated the Jishou factory's equipment, trained competent personnel, instituted quality standards and selected first-class supervisors, so that with the doubling of output a steady improvement in quality has been noted. Businessmen as far as Shanghai have chosen to invest in the factory, and after handing over 200,000 yuan in tax, the factory still had 270,000 yuan in profit; a production boom is expected next.

Xiangxi used to be a centre of local crafts such as printed lace,

silk handkerchiefs, ploughs and pots, jewellery and costumes. During the "cultural revolution," production of many of these was suspended as "representing old culture and old customs." Over the past few years 50 new and renovated factories have begun production of 140 varieties of local goods. The value of such production has gone from 100,000 yuan during the "cultural revo-

lution" to 28.11 million yuan last year.

The Jishou Hardware Factory manufactured necklaces, bracelets and earrings using 687.5 kilogrammes of silver last year. The special local wedding silver ornaments were produced at two-thirds the market price, in deference to the local customs.

The Fenghuang County Arts and Crafts Factory produces silk

Miao and Tujia nationality workers at the Fenghuang County National Arts and Crafts Factory.



handkerchiefs, lace, belts and quilt covers. Its officials say that the last year it produced goods worth 30 times as much as it did 22 years ago when the factory was set up, and its work force has increased 7-fold.

By the time a planned expansion is completed, the factory will have 300 pieces of machines as against its present 66. In the past the factory had to hand over all its profits, if any, to the

She is promoting traditional brocade by collecting designs in the countryside. Her achievements include a large tapestry—"Developing the Mountains," which was exhibited in Europe in 1957 and received particular attention. Her works have also won recognition by the Ministry of Light Industry which has decided to collect and preserve her works as part of the country's brocade treasure.



Ye Yucui, a senior craftswoman of Tujia nationality, and her apprentices.

state. Now it is merely taxed on its basic profits, and those on above-quota production can be kept by the factory. "We can also sell some of our products ourselves," says the director of the factory.

Ye Yucui, 78, is a well-known artisan of Tujia nationality and a member of the China National Artists' Association. At 9 years old, she began learning to weave Tujia brocade, famed for its exquisite designs and bright colours. She now weaves nearly 100 different designs in silk. She works at the arts and crafts factory and has 14 young women apprenticed to her.

Since the beginning of this year the government has decided to slow down the speed of industrial development and limit the scope of capital construction. "In a sense this is bad for us," says Yang Zhengwu. "But in another sense it benefits us because the developed areas, limited as they are, will look for ways of channelling their surplus funds and technology. We could be that outlet." Yang is thrilled that some approaches for business have already been made to enterprises within the prefecture. Guangzhou and Huayuan County already have plans to jointly build a manganese-iron alloy factory in the county.

The Miaos

The Miao, one of the oldest ethnic groups in China, has about 5,030,000 members living in Guizhou, Yunnan, Hunan, Guangxi, Sichuan, Guangdong and Hubei. Their origins are in the middle reaches of the Yangtze River about 2000 years ago, but later they began moving southward. They have their own language but not in written form. Their lives and customs are as varied as their places of habitation.

The Miaos are known as hard-working, outspoken, hospitable and brave people. They had several big armed uprisings—the largest began in 1855 and lasted 18 full years.

They have a traditional culture rich in fairy tales, legends, songs, dances, paintings, flower weaving and wax printing.

At the same time the state's recent measures are compelling Xiangxi to alter its economic methods. "We are having to tighten up and use scientific methods in all our undertakings—from feasibility study, through construction to management of our projects," says Yang. He foresees expansion of co-operation with other areas around the country. "There is every possibility we will forge ahead and shake off poverty," he says. ■





Miao Woman Pioneers Reform

by Our Correspondent Lu Yun

In December 1983, Wu Chilian, 43, a Miao woman and an assistant agronomist, was elected head of Guzhang County in the Xiangxi Prefecture.

The news caused a sensation throughout the county, for it was the first time that a minority nationality woman was elected a county head in the province. Most people supported her, but some had unkind words for her and sarcastically advised the people to "prepare money now to buy expensive grain or you'll go hungry."

In the face of this feudal sexist mentality, Wu determined to work hard and to gain the support of the masses and her colleagues.

At her inaugural ceremony she did not flinch and told the cadres of the various townships: "Guzhang County is a good place. The mountain areas abound in natural resources and we should make the best use of them. I pledge to be devoted to my duty and suit my actions to the actual prevailing conditions and not seek any private gains." The message was not lost on those present.

Wu was just an ordinary government employee in Fenghuang County before she became head of Guzhang. She was quite familiar with the agricultural situation in the locality and was eager to learn more and do a good job.

Upon becoming head of the county, she resolved to work as hard as any man, act like a kind mother to the people, and keep three diaries. The first is a diary on her day-to-day work and she makes it a point to suit her action to her word. The second is a diary recording her studies and experiences gained from her colleagues and the newspapers, and in the third diary she reexamines what

she has done, particularly her temperament and approach to problems, so that she may correct her shortcomings and improve her work.

Wu says: "I know my shortcomings. Some times I take a rather subjective approach to things. I think, though, that it's good for a person to have his own individual character. When I make up my mind to do something, I'll fight for it to the bitter end."

And Wu had a lot to fight for, as Guzhang was beset with problems. Though bandits and local despots were suppressed after liberation and great changes have taken place in Guzhang, the county is still poor and backward.

Located in a poor mountainous area with a population of about 180,000, Guzhang lagged far behind other places economically. In 1983 per-capita net income was only 122 yuan. After consultations with the governor of the province, the head of the autonomous prefecture and the county's cadres and masses, and after studying the archives of the county, Wu made her proposals to help propel the county out of backwardness and lift the people out of poverty.

First, Wu determined to transform the mountains. As the saying goes: "Those who live on the mountain live off the mountain." Guzhang's mountains are a great treasure-house. According to historical records, as early as the Tang Dynasty (618-907) Guzhang tea was sent to the imperial court as tribute. Guzhang tea was packed in bamboo baskets and put on display in Beijing Hotel. It attracted the attention of a visiting Japanese mayor and his experts who later went to Guzhang to make on-the-spot

investigation and hold trade talks with the county authorities. Wu also proposed the expansion of production of traditional Chinese medicines, oranges and tangerines, and Chinese chestnuts.

In the past, Guzhang's forests were low-yielding and slow-growing. Many trees died for lack of proper management. In 1985, they began planting firs that are high-yielding and quick-growing. With proper technical guidance, 265 hectares of uncultivated land were planted with these firs and the survival rate exceeded 90 percent. Further efforts were made and today the county has 800 hectares of forests for commercial use.

Guzhang is rich in natural resources, too, but it lacks the funds and technology to exploit them. So Wu set about instituting reforms, such as opening to the outside world and co-operating with advanced cities in other parts of the country to set up joint ventures. She invited well-known people working in other provinces to discuss how to develop the mountain area, hoping they would offer the necessary expertise.

Last spring, an old friend working in Beijing, told Wu that the Beijing Timber Company and the Beijing Furniture Factory hoped to co-operate with the Guzhang Fibreboard Factory to establish a forest products company. Wu grasped the opportunity, went to Beijing and signed a contract to this effect. Between them the two Beijing units invested 400,000 yuan and sent more than 10 engineers and technicians to work with the Guzhang people.

By the end of last year the Guzhang Forest Products Company had built the main workshops and trained a number

of skilled workers who produced 33 kinds of furniture that same year.

The two co-operating sides are thoroughly pleased with the arrangement. Li Zhendong, a senior technician from Beijing, said: "Our apprentices from among the minority people are hard-working and are anxious to learn. I'll do my best to pass on to them all my experience."

There were 24,000 households in Guzhang in 1984, and for 14,000 of them the annual per-capita income was less than 120 yuan. These figures were distressing to Wu. She told me a story about Luo Wentao. Luo, a farmer, was ill and had two children and a wife. Wu took his case in hand, helped him borrow

seeds, raised money for him to repair his house, and asked other people in the village to help Luo with the cultivation of the land. Wu suggests that every county organization help a poor village and every leading officer help two poor households.

Now great changes have taken place in Guzhang. In 1984 and 1985 its industrial and agricultural output value increased 14 percent and 8.8 percent respectively; in 1984 the average farmer's per-capita income was 142 yuan, and in 1985 it further increased to 177 yuan.

Guzhang's people began to praise Wu, but she knew that Guzhang was still very poor. She reported Guzhang's difficulties to the higher authorities and hoped

they would allocate the necessary funds for its development.

When she got them, the funds were used where they were needed most, helping households develop production, invigorating enterprises and diversifying Guzhang's economy. Wu also used the money to buy seeds for the poor households and provide them with urgently-needed technical service. As for the enterprises, they replenished their equipment and recruited competent technicians to update their production.

In 1984 Wu learnt of a kindergarten which had long been out of repair and was in danger of collapse. She hurried to the place and found 260 children packed in

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China National Machinery and Equipment Import & Export Corp.



The China National Machinery and Equipment Import & Export Corporation (CMEC) is one of the biggest foreign trade corporations in China. Combining industry and trade, CMEC specializes in the import and export of machinery and electrical equipment and instruments. With its head office in Beijing, CMEC has 36 branches in various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, and 23 overseas offices and wholly or jointly owned companies and trade agencies in 20 countries. CMEC has established trade relations with 128 countries and regions throughout the world and signed agency agreements for the distribution of its products with 322 foreign companies.

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Consumers Need Guidance

"JINGJI RIBAO"

(Economic Daily)

The purchasing power of the Chinese people jumped from 80.4 billion yuan at the end of 1980 to 250 billion yuan in 1985. However, 160 billion yuan of this was deposited with banks. As a result, large numbers of goods coming off Chinese production lines are not being sold. Stockpiles have increased markedly in the first half of this year.

There are many reasons for this situation. First, China's product mix does not match market demand. Some products that sell well fall short of demand, and those that are not welcomed by customers are manufactured in large quantities. As incomes have increased, people have begun to pay more attention to quality and variety and to well-known brands. But many factories continue to make outdated goods of poor design and quality.

Secondly, some goods pile up not because nobody wants them but because of failures of distribution. Very often goods are sold in smaller towns and the countryside only after the market in the larger cities has been saturated.

Thirdly, Chinese people are used to low living standards and have given little thought hitherto to leisure pursuits. There has been insufficient development of service trades, cultural facilities and tourism, etc., making it difficult for them to spend their rising incomes.

Finally, as people get to know more about consumption in the developed countries, they are saving up to buy colour TV's, tape recorders, twin-tub washing machines and double-door refrigerators. In terms of consumption, this is an abnormal situation which calls for proper guidance to

divert people's attention away from luxury goods.

Both production and consumption must accord with China's actual conditions, and hence consumers should spend most of their money on non-luxury and basic commodities. If the demand for colour TV's, refrigerators, washing machines and tape recorders is to be met, large amounts of capital will be needed to update and retool industry with modern technology. At present, China cannot afford to do this. Therefore, it would be inappropriate to guide consumption towards luxury products at too early a

date. On the contrary, efforts should be made to develop new areas of consumption to satisfy people's increasing need for various kinds of social services and leisure activities.

It must be acknowledged that China lacks experience in providing guidance on consumption. According to the Marxist economic theory, consumption is an inseparable link in reproduction. Production decides consumption and consumption in turn promotes production. If the problem of consumption is tackled properly, the Chinese market with 1 billion people and a purchasing power of many hundred billion yuan will become a great force in the development of the economy. ■

How Is China's Future Shaping Up?

"ZHONGGUO QINGNIAN BAO"

(China Youth News)

There are now more than 47 million middle school students in China, who will, in a dozen years or so, become the backbone of the country's future.

Today's students as a whole are much better informed than their predecessors—and some of their instructors as well.

The reason for this is that more than 70 percent of urban middle school students have television sets at home, and on average, each subscribes to at least one newspaper or magazine. Each day, they have an average of two hours for out-of-class reading, during which they learn about the latest developments in science, technology, culture and politics.

For example, one student was disappointed that his teacher was unable to explain to him the mystery of a UFO.

Many teachers, when interviewed, said that they felt

pressured in front of the students and wished to have more opportunities for professional training and self-improvement to keep up with the brightest children in their classes.

A survey in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province, revealed that an increasing number of youths were quitting school altogether.

In one middle school, according to the survey, 49 out of 974 students between 1984 and 1985 had dropped out; and in a rural school, the figure was even higher, with 40 percent of all students stopping attending school.

Some of the dropouts said they were asked by their money-minded parents to help out with the family businesses, and others simply wanted to wander the streets. Some even became pickpockets or criminals of another sort and ended up in jail.

Teachers were also held responsible in part for the rising number of dropouts. They did not try to help the dropouts through

patient guidance, nor did they consult the parents involved. In the end, those students were totally ignored by society.

Social influence was another factor in the dropout tendency. In a few cities, some dropouts became private traders who attempted to show off their new-found affluence by dressing up in the latest fashions and riding imported motor cycles into school campuses. Such behaviour, together with the spread of pornographic books, magazines and video shows, has had an unhealthy effect on the development of the youngsters.

There is no reason to remain silent and do nothing about the situation. Otherwise, the nation would have to pay a higher price for the growing population of young illiterates and semi-literates.

As several of the young students interviewed noted, smoking cigarettes is all a young man has to do if he wants to be macho. In fact, 90 percent of middle school students who start smoking say they take up the habit just to be smart or trendy.

Whatever the reason, the number of young smokers has been on the rise in recent years. In some middle schools in Chengdu, as many as 85 percent of the boys smoke.

Such posturing—with cigarettes as a prop—is both wasteful and damaging to youngsters' health.

Two young delinquents in a Chengdu reform school said they started smoking when they were around 11 in the sixth grade. At first, they stole cigarettes from home, and as they became greedier, they began to steal money and other items from stores or street stalls.

An official of the Sichuan Provincial Education Bureau said that a fairly large number of juvenile delinquents in the province's reform schools had

committed crimes that were in one way or another related to cigarette smoking.

But smoking is only one of the problems faced by middle school students. There are many others. Here are some examples uncovered in the survey.

One youngster was found to be spending his time reading English texts aloud on Sunday mornings while his father, who worked far away in another town, came to do his son's laundry. The excuse is the son was preparing for college entrance exams and therefore had no time for ordinary chores.

In another instance, several students in a dormitory of a boarding school were arguing about who should do the weekly cleaning. In the end, they decided to leave it until their parents came to help.

As a result, many lost the motive to study and work diligently, or to look after themselves. To some, the very

thought of manual labour was loathsome.

The root of the problem could be traced to parents in the first place. With living standards rising, many parents are willing to do anything for their spoiled children so long as the youngsters were successful in their academic studies.

One parent even questioned his son's teacher like this: "My son comes here to study and from here he'll go on to college. How can you be so uncaring as to waste his time and force him to do all the cleaning when we expect him to do nothing at home?"

Some teachers were even blamed for their students' misbehaviour at home. It never crossed the minds of the parents that they were mainly responsible for whatever their children had become and should be reminded of their principal obligation—to provide their children with a proper upbringing. ■

(Continued from p.27)

Report from Xiangxi

a dilapidated room of 230 square metres. She managed to get 150,000 yuan for the kindergarten from the department concerned. With the money the kindergarten built a 1,400-square-metre building, a small swimming pool and a garden and bought some new toys and additional teaching equipment for the children.

Wu Chilian has co-operated well with her colleagues. Jia Changyue, secretary of the county Party committee, is of Tujia nationality and Yin Youmin, deputy county head, is a Han. They have given Wu warm support and often advised her against overanxiety for quick results.

But for all their good advice she

cannot guard against her own nature, and when she determined to do something about Duanlong's water shortages, something got done.

Duanlong is a region where the Tujias live in compact communities. Water shortage has long been a problem for the more than 10,000 farmers there. Wu raised 440,000 yuan to build an irrigation project and had 6,890 metres of seamless steel pipes laid. Last May water began to flow into the Duanlong people's homes and fields.

Yet Wu is restless. "I am head of the county," she said, "but I cannot get enough money to build up Guzhang. That is my problem. But whenever I think I am doing something for Guzhang's people, I feel happy." ■

107-Year-Old Philharmonic Society

The August heat of summer saw the orchestra of the Shanghai Philharmonic Society in the coastal metropolis pausing for a month's breathe after five months of continuous performances. In September it begins another five months season.

The society gives two performances and rehearses one new programme to add to its repertoire every two weeks. As a result the orchestra has a large repertoire of classical pieces which it can perform at any time. The society also actively promotes pieces composed by Chinese musicians and other contemporary works.

A series of 10 concerts in Beijing two months ago gave music lovers in the capital much pleasure. Under the baton of 47-year old Chen Xieyang, the first concert caught the audience's attention from the beginning with its vigorous and flexible playing. Beijing's music lovers are familiar with Brahms' *Academic Festival Overture* and Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto No. 5*, but they seldom hear them performed by Chinese players, the latter by teenager Wang Xiaodong who has twice won first prize in Yehudi Menuhin international competitions.

The second half of the concert was devoted to Zhu Jianer's *Symphony No. 1*, one of Zhu's new pieces centring on the "cultural revolution." Using traditional symphonic technique, the composer tries to portray the whole process that the Chinese people underwent during the "cultural revolution" from blindly following to doubt and discontentment, to finally standing up to resist it, through the four movements entitled "?", "?!", "....." and "!". The composer has also used

modern techniques. In the first movement, many unconnected themes are unharmoniously placed together to represent the people's sufferings and mental turmoil during these chaotic years. The second movement is based on the melody of a militant song of the Red Guards, rather popular during the early stages of the "cultural revolution," the distorted treatment of the melody satirizing the distorted social life of the time, and thus producing a strong response from the audience. The third movement seems to reflect people's wordless indignation and anxiety about being placed under high pressure. Unlike the customary victorious ending, the last movement has a slow and weak tone to symbolize the people's desire to draw lessons from a really painful and suffocating experience.

In contrast to the energetic Chen Xieyang, another younger conductor, Hou Runyu, expresses his enthusiasm in a more subtle style. Hou has studied in the Federal Republic of Germany and Austria. He was the first to conduct Bruckner's *Romantic Symphony No. 4*—one of the best known of the composer's nine symphonies—in China. He mastered the work in Austria, the composer's native country.

Another concert was devoted to well known classical pieces and arias from the operas. All the soloists, vocal or instrumental, are promising new stars who have won prizes in international competitions.

The success of these Shanghai artists is no accident. In 1879, the German Professor Rudolf Buck, together with six other European musicians, formed the Shanghai Municipal Public Band, and in



REN LONG

Chen Xieyang, leader of the Shanghai Philharmonic Society.

1907, the band had developed into an instrumental orchestra. After the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, it became the Chinese people's own orchestra and has grown gradually into one of the country's leading symphonic orchestras.

At present, giving concerts is only part of the Shanghai Philharmonic Society's job. Its musicians have held a number of radio forums, trying to nurture more music lovers in schools, universities, factories, army units and in rural areas.

Chen Xieyang and several other musicians with a spirit of enterprise were appointed leaders of the society in December 1984. In his inaugural speech Chen talked of building the society into one of the best in the country, then in Asia and the world. "We must have an orchestra we can be proud of," he said. "The orchestra, the oldest in this country, has its good points. We have a number of accomplished players, but the society needs fresh blood. It needs more contact with foreign countries. So much work has to be done. The journey will be a long and tortuous one, but we are ready to face the difficulties and the setbacks." ■

Value of Point Magnetic Therapy

The 2,000-year-old theory of the body's channels and collaterals is one of the great treasures of China's medical history. The channels and collaterals are usually described as a crisscross network in which *qi*, or vital energy, and blood, circulate through the body. In the 1960s, scientists fused the age-old magnetic therapy with channels and collaterals and created a new technique known as point magnetic therapy.

Dr. Li Dingzhong is a specialist in point magnetic therapy and associate professor in the Department of Channel and Collateral Studies of the No. 6 Hospital in Beijing. Li, born into a family of six generations of traditional medicine practitioners, specialized in dermatology at the Beijing Medical University. One year after his graduation, Li made some noticeable achievements in treating skin diseases with acupuncture and was transferred to work in the Institute of Dermatology and Venereal Disease under the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences. In 1954 he began studying the theory of channels and collaterals.

The earliest records of the theory of channels and collaterals, Li said, were found in the medical text, *Nei Jing*, (manual of Internal Medicine) written in the third or second century BC. By the later half of the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD), *Shang Han Lun* (Treatise on Febrile Diseases) further develops the theory, dealing with analysis and differentiation of pathological conditions in accordance with the eight principal syndromes (*yin* and *yang*, exterior and interior, cold and heat, hypofunction and hyperfunction), which still remain in use today.

In the Jin Dynasty (265-420), Li said, the theory of channels and collaterals was incorporated with

acupuncture points. *A Classic of Acupuncture and Moxibustion* gives a relatively comprehensive review of the techniques involved.

Acupuncture and moxibustion became popular in the Tang Dynasty (618-907), Li said, and later, the research of the theory of channels and collaterals developed quickly.

On the basis of his study of ancient history of channels and collaterals, and his clinical experience, Li came to understand that stimulation along channels does exist, and it is consistent. His theories on channels and collaterals are collected in his first book *Jinluo Phenomena I*, which was published by the Toyko Yukonsha Publishing Co. Ltd. in 1984. The second volume is expected to be published in Japan soon.

The channels and collaterals constitute a network of holographic conduction and self-adjustment, Li said. A point is connected with several channels and in turn several channels are connected with a point. Thus, interior and exterior communication between points is available, he said. Furthermore, information conduction in the channels may be controlled and adjusted by oneself or by others.

In his study of the regulation of the channels and collaterals Li chose the point magnetic therapy as his prime approach. Points are closely related to channels and collaterals, and there are various ways to stimulate points, increasing their activities with needling, light, heat, electricity, magnetics and so forth. The stimulation from outside regulates the system of the channels and collaterals, which consequently helps cure disease and relieve pain.

Point magnetic therapy, however, treats patients through stimulation of points by the

magnetic line of force. Development of modern science has provided evidence that the human body itself is a minor magnetic field, as is each organ. When disorders occur in an organ, an applied magnetic field can remove the disorders, curing the patient.

Today, point magnetic therapy has been used to treat various conditions seen in general medicine, dermatology, gynecology, pediatrics and others. Success has been won in many cases, particularly in the more complicated. Point magnetic therapy is said to activate the functioning of the channels and collaterals, improve circulation and promote growth of tissues. Such conditions as the following are particularly susceptible to point magnetic therapy: bone fractures, cervical problems, retention of urine, hyperthyroidism, diarrhea, itching and dysmenorrhea.

Statistics from a magnetic therapy group made up of doctors of seven hospitals in Sanming city, Fujian Province, indicate that magnetic therapy is effective in treating 50 diseases, and that 80 percent of 5,000 patients treated in 14 months were cured.

In the past few years, to meet the needs of magnetic therapy, several dozen factories throughout the country have begun producing equipment needed for magnetic therapy. These items include magnetic chairs, beds, underwears and waist belts. ■

by Zong Zuyun

CORRECTION: In "Making a Dent in the 'Iron Rice Bowl,' issue No. 37, p. 16, the title of He Guang should be Vice-Minister of Labour and Personnel.



Old Hands Hold Out While New Stars Radiate

The Seventh World Cup Gymnastics Tournament, held in Beijing from August 30 to September 1, saw two seasoned hands outshine the others. China's wonder boy Li Ning, all-round champion in the Sixth World Cup Gymnastics four years ago, and Yuri Korolev, Soviet all-round champion at the 21th and 23th World Gymnastics Championships, shared the top honours of

Li on the vaulting horse and horizontal bars. Whether these two can maintain their gold streak in the 24th World Championship in 1987 and the 24th Olympic Games in 1988 depends largely on their determination and the quality of their training, and maybe on the advancing speed of rivals.

This Cup Tournament has shown that few other young men

vaulting horse; Artemov took the bronze with only 0.30 points behind Korolev and Li Ning. Mogilnyi took two golds in the rings and the parallel bars. Here, Korolev and Li will face stiff competition in days to come.

In the women's events, however, the new stars outperformed most of the former ones. Among them, Elena Chouchounova and Oksana Omeliantchik of the Soviet Union and Daniela Silivas of Romania shone, while former world champion Ecaterina Szabo had to bow out. New stars come up faster than the men, usually every four or five years.

Soviet gymnastics are characterised by an excellent combination of difficulty and beauty, and this was especially true in this tournament. In the floor exercises, two of Chouchounova's routines have formerly been seen only in men's gymnastics, and her graceful body formations on the balance beam belonged to the art of sculpture. Though the new Romanian star Camelia Voinea won only the silver in floor routine, her big somersault mixed with pop dance was very impressive. And Silivas took full advantage of her small stature to demonstrate a nimble and lively style. All these young gymnasts added creative or difficult moves to their choreography and thus overtook their old rivals.

The four elements of difficulty, creativity, steadiness and grace are all essential for a gold winner, who should give special attention to one of the four while maintaining an overall grasp of the four. Chouchounova got the gold for the difficulty of her performance, Li Ning for his creativity, Korolev for his steadiness and Omeliant-



Li Ning and Korolev share the all-round title.

the all-round title here too. No new men's stars can yet outstrip these old ones.

Korolev and Li Ning maintain their grip firstly because they have solid basic skills and can put on a precise, complex high-quality performance; secondly because they can still come up with new tricks. Li's 720-degree turn is still the best in the world, and his somersault easily the highest; thirdly because they have performed steadily and with ease in all six previous tournaments, except Korolev on the pommel horse and

gymnasts are on a par with Li and Korolev. But among promising ones are Xu Zhiqiang of China, Sylvio Kroll of the GDR, and Valentin Mogilnyi and Vladimir Artemov of the Soviet Union. According to some experts, though placed sixth in the all-round event, Xu Zhiqiang would have been a strong contender for the all-round title if he had not crashed on the horizontal bar. Xu was impressive with his graceful movements and all-round skill. Kroll won fourth place in the all-round event and the crown for the

chik for her grace. Sometimes one outstanding element can make up for the other three. Korolev was weak on the vaulting horse, but he won the gold because he landed steadily. Of the four elements, steadiness was the most important in this tournament.

China's gymnastics team got four golds this time, three won by Li Ning, one by Xu Zhiqiang, the first in his career. Among women gymnasts, Huang Qun progressed to seventh in the over-all event from last year's 15th, Yang Yanli rose to 12th from last year's 16th.

However, the problem facing the Chinese team is who will succeed Li Ning when he retires. If this problem is not solved, China's gymnastics may decline into obscurity for some time. The women's team still lags behind the Soviet and Romanian teams though they were placed third at the Moscow Goodwill Games in July.

Final Results

Final results of the men's over-all apparatus events:

1. Li Ning, Yuri Korolev (Soviet Union) 3. Vladimir Artëmov (Soviet Union).

Final results of the women's over-all apparatus events: 1. Elena Chouchounova (Soviet Union) 2. Daniela Silivas (Romania) 3. Oksana Omeliantchik (Soviet Union).

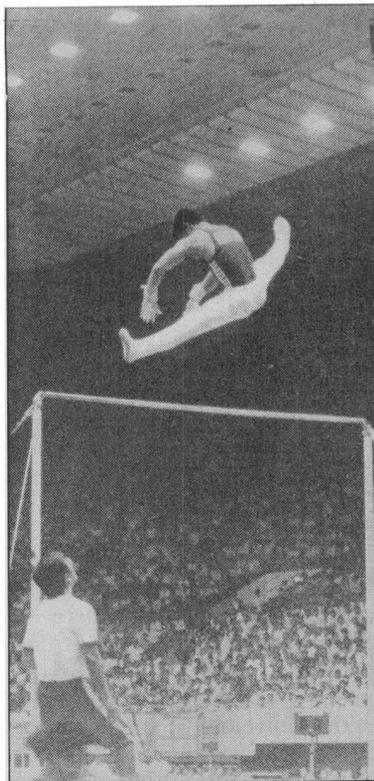
Final results of the men's individual apparatus events: Floor exercises 1. Li Ning (China) 2. Yuri Korolev (Soviet Union) 3. Sylvio Kroll (GDR). Rings 1. Valentin Mogilnyi (Soviet Union), Korolev 3. Li. Vault 1. Kroll, Korolev 3. Xu Zhiqiang (China) Parallel bars 1. Xu, Mogilnyi 3. Korolev. Horizontal bar 1. Korolev 2. Kroll 3. Boris Petri (Italy). Pommel horse 1. Li 2. Mogilnyi 3. Xu.

Final results of the women's individual events: Floor exercises 1. Elena Chouchounova (Soviet Union) 2. Camelia Voinea (Romania) 3. Oksana Omeliantchik (Soviet Union). Vault 1. Chouchounova 2. Omeliantchik 3. Ecaterina Szabo (Romania). Uneven bars 1. Chouchounova 2. Omeliantchik 3. Silivas. Beam 1. Omeliantchik 2. Silivas 3. Chouchounova.

Huang Qun cruises on the floor.



XU XIANGJUN



Li Ning on the horizontal bar.

Chouchounova on the uneven bars.



A Life Dedicated to a Dictionary

The *Dictionary of Etymology* is considered the most important reference book for ancient Chinese and is the most comprehensive work of its kind since 1949. The book is a lasting tribute to the skills of veteran editor-in-chief Wu Zeyan, who has devoted nearly all his life to the dictionary.

Wu, 74, is the oldest editor in the Commercial Press, where he started work 52 years ago — quite by chance. When he was looking for a job after graduating from Daxia University in Shanghai in 1934, he took an entrance examination for the Chinese Professional Education Office because it had been established by a famous educationalist he admired. He did not know that the office was recruiting for the Commercial Press until he was accepted.

He was taken on as an editor after six months "on probation," and apart from five years' absence during the anti-Japanese war, he has never left the press. Many years of work there prepared him for the later task of revising and editing the *Dictionary of Etymology*.

The dictionary was first published by the press in 1915 in response to a demand among intellectuals for a new dictionary to help them read Chinese translations of foreign books, which brought many new words into the Chinese vocabulary.

However, 40 years later, dictionaries specializing in many subjects had been published, and the original book became outdated and in need of revising.

By this time the press had also published a *Comprehensive Chinese Encyclopaedic Dictionary* and a *Contemporary Chinese Dictionary*, so the Publishing Bureau decided to change the

Dictionary of Etymology into a special reference book for reading ancient Chinese.

The work began in 1958, and Wu Zeyan was appointed head of the revising group. "The work was actually not revising but recompiling, because half of the items had to be left out and many new items about ancient Chinese had to be added to the dictionary," Wu said.

The most important and laborious task Wu faced was to read all the major pre-1840 classic Chinese writings to check the definitions of words and phrases.

Since Wu knew about interpreting ancient texts, phonology and lexicology, he did most of the work. "As an editor working on dictionary, one has to have a spirit of sacrifice and must be determined to give one's life to one's work," Wu said.

Wu practised as he preached. In nearly 30 years, he copied extracts from books on to 400,000 cards. The new edition in four volumes contains 12,890 words and 84,134 phrases, 97,024 entries in all. Including explanations, there are more than 12 million words. It was a meticulously researched project. With the interruption of the "cultural revolution," the editors had to stop their work for nearly 10 years and Wu went to a cadres' school.

To make up for the lost time, Wu forgot about holidays and days off, getting up at six in the morning to start work.

"The dictionary is Wu's life and he was engrossed in the work," one of his colleagues, Liu Yequi, said, "Without his efforts, it would have been impossible to get the four volumes published by 1983."

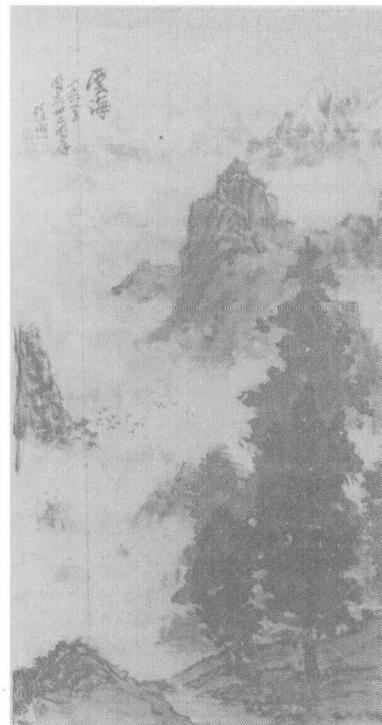
The dictionary was finally completed by the end of that year, but Wu did not stop working: he

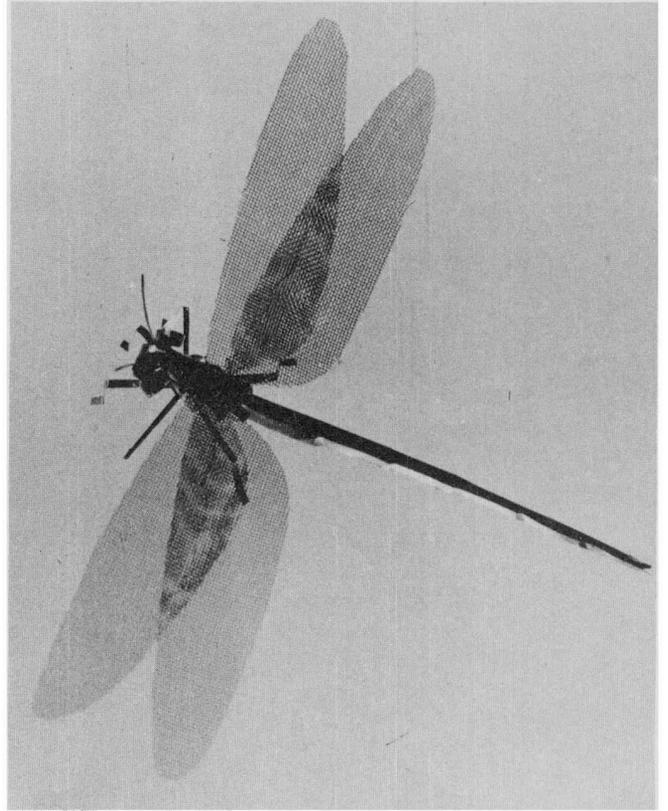
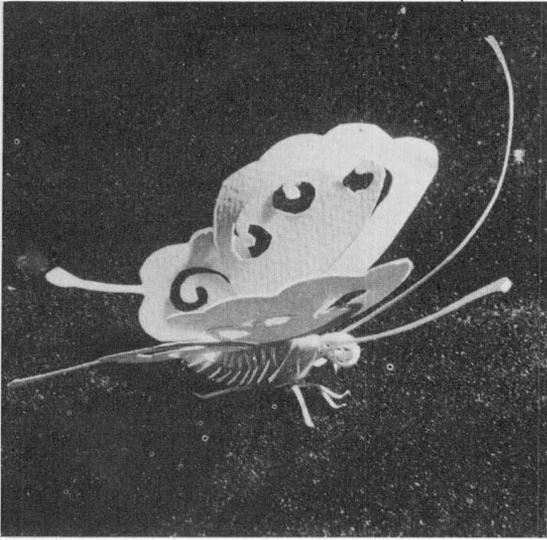
wanted to compile some supplementary books to the dictionary. Unfortunately, he fell ill in the winter of 1985 and his work had to remain unfinished.

Though recovered from his illness, he cannot work as hard as before. Walking with a cane, he still goes to the press three times a week to give directions to his colleagues, who were completing his unfinished work.

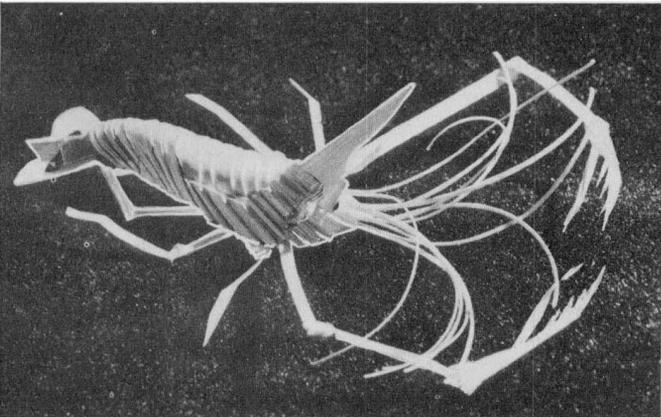
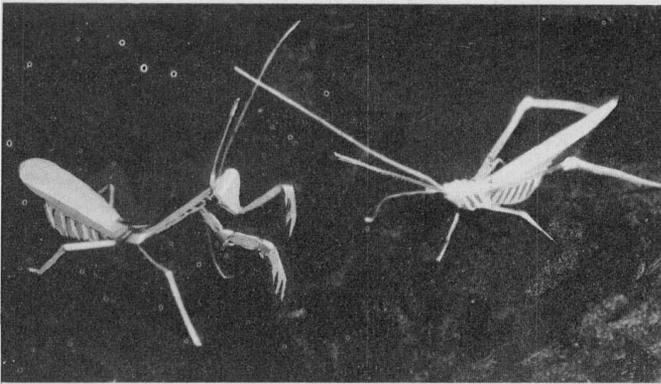
"I cannot rest without worry. Now many who have the ability to compile dictionaries do not like to do the work because it is hard for compilers to give definitions, and it is easy for the readers to find fault with dictionaries. I hope there will be more able editors and compilers who would like to give their life to the work," Wu said.

by Zhu Yuan



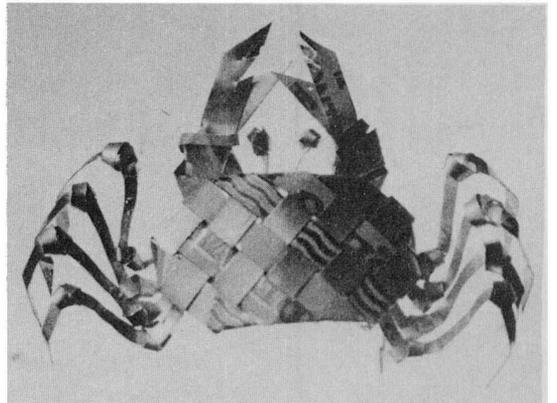


ART PAGE



Liu Xiaoyi's Art

Liu Xiaoyi, born in 1944 in Shandong Province, is art editor of the *China Youth* magazine. Inspired by straw weaving techniques, Liu has, in his spare time, used paper and metal foil to create 10 striking reproductions of wild insects.



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