

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF NEWS AND VIEWS

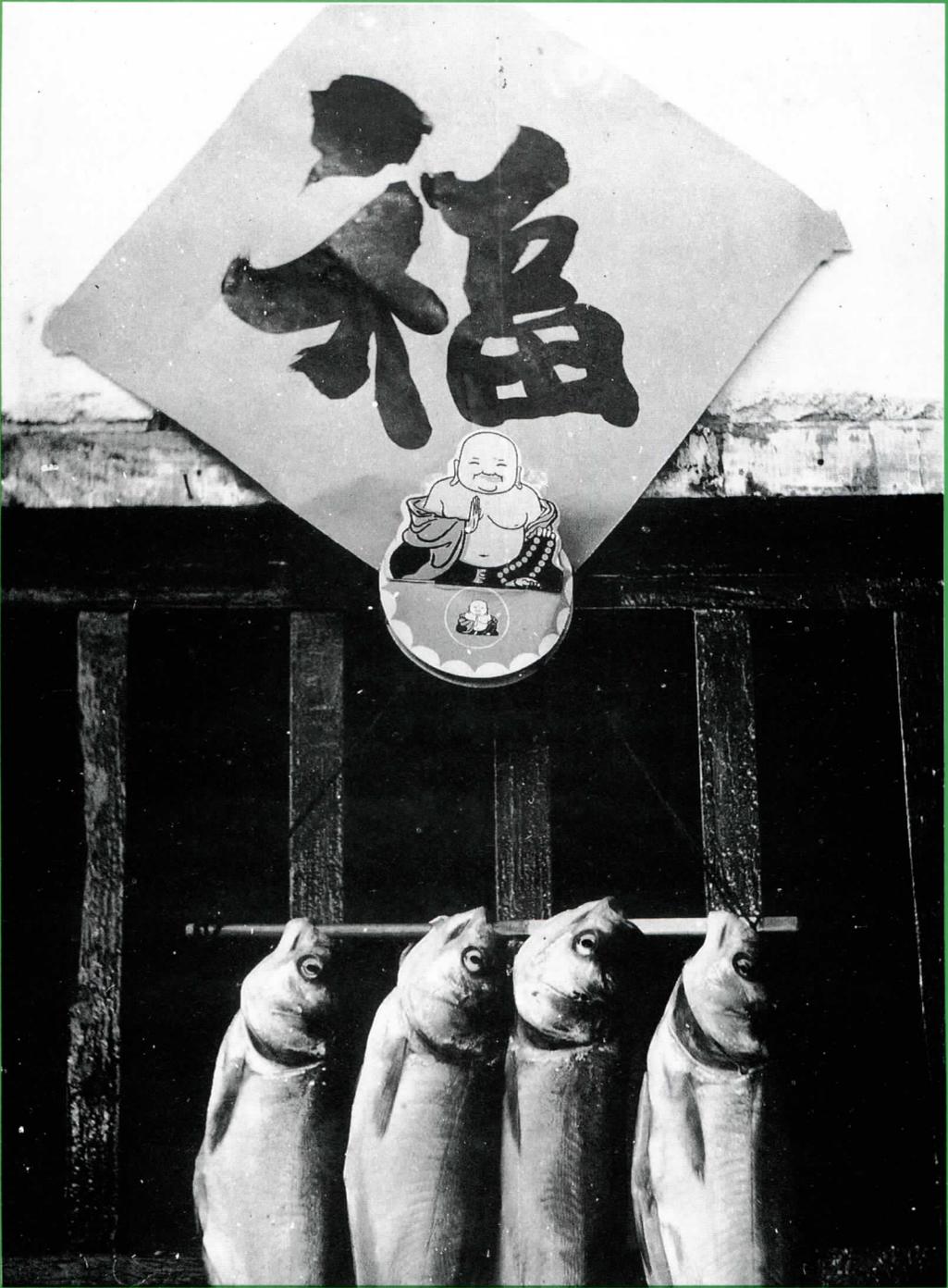
Beijing Review

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CHINA'S EXPANDING ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE INDUSTRY



President Yang Visits
Indonesia and Thailand



Good luck comes to every family. .

Photo by Li Chunhe

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

President Yang Visits Indonesia and Thailand

□ President Yang Shangkun's visit to Indonesia and Thailand from June 5 to June 15 will deepen understanding, strengthen trust, expand co-operation and further friendship between China and the two countries (p. 4).

China—A Major Electrical Appliance Producer

□ The production scale and output of China's household electrical appliance industry are now among the world's highest and the industry's equipment has reached the advanced world level. These achievements have allowed China to switch from an importer to an exporter of household electrical appliances (p. 13).

Returned Students Play an Important Role in China

□ Over the past 12 years, China has sent 100,000 people to study or carry out research abroad. Nearly half have returned to China and assumed important roles in the nation's socialist modernization drive (p. 22).

The World Expects Much of the United Nations

□ It is the world people's desire that the United Nations should play a more extensive role in promoting security and stability in the Middle East and the world as a whole. China, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, will support the world body in its efforts to maintain peace-keeping operations (p. 8).

The Traditional Chinese Painting

□ Distinctive in their expressive form, traditional Chinese paintings have their own unique style. A painting usually includes the subject title as well as poetry and seals, all of which combine to enrich its artistic scope and depth (p. 26).

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COVER: Household electrical appliance production line.

Photo by Wang Junchao

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A Visit of Great Importance

by Our Guest Commentator Tang Shuifu

President of the People's Republic of China Yang Shangkun will pay a visit to Indonesia and Thailand at the invitation of Indonesian President Soeharto and King of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej June 5-15.

This is the first visit of President Yang to these two countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The aim of his visit is to deepen understanding, strengthen trust, expand co-operation and further friendship between China and Indonesia and Thailand. This tour will also further strengthen relations with ASEAN.

President Yang's visit to Indonesia, a return one to President Soeharto's to China last year, is also the first visit to that country by a Chinese head of state since former Chairman Liu Shaoqi visited there in 1963. China and Indonesia are neighbouring countries. Since ancient times the two countries have had traditional friendly exchanges and have established strong ties of friendship. Indonesia is one of the first countries to have established diplomatic relations with New China. The two countries have had good co-operative relations and have made positive contributions to safeguarding peace and stability in the Asian region. With efforts by both sides, the economic, trade and personnel exchanges have been restored in recent years.

On August 8, 1990 China and Indonesia restored relations af-

ter a 23-year-old suspension. The normalization of the relations between the two countries has not only opened broad prospects for their co-operation in political, economic, trade, science and technology, educational and cultural fields, but also promoted peace and common development of Asia. Chinese Premier Li Peng visited Indonesia last August and Indonesian President Soeharto visited China last November. These visits laid down a favourable foundation for relations between the two countries.

Since China and Indonesia signed a memorandum of understanding on the restoration of direct trade in 1985, the two countries have become important mutual trade partners. The volume of bilateral trade increased to US\$804 million in 1989 from US\$240 million in 1984. Last year the total volume of bilateral trade was US\$1.18 billion. On the occasion of restoration of relations, the two governments signed a trade agreement providing guarantee to remove the obstacles in trade activities and to promote economic and trade co-operation. In January this year China and Indonesia signed an aviation agreement regarding the building of an air bridge between Beijing and Jakarta.

Indonesia is a major country in Asia and the Indonesian people are very diligent and intelligent. Under the leadership of President Soeharto, the Indonesian people have chosen a path of development suited to their

national conditions. With its economy developing steadily, Indonesia has become one of Asia's dynamic countries.

In international affairs, the Indonesian government follows the Ten Principles adopted at the Bandung Conference in 1955 and develops friendly ties with other countries. Indonesia has made great efforts in seeking a comprehensive, just and reasonable solution to the Cambodian question along with Thailand and other ASEAN countries, winning widespread international appreciation and respect.

Thailand is a close neighbour of China. The friendly exchanges between the two peoples go back to ancient times. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1975, bilateral relations in political, economic, trade, science and technology, and cultural areas have been rapidly expanding.

Over the past 16 years, frequent exchange of visits by leaders of the two countries has laid a solid foundation for the development of co-operation.

Non-governmental exchanges between the two countries have also increased in recent years. These exchanges have deepened mutual understanding and promoted friendship between the two peoples.

In March 1978, China and Thailand signed a trade pact and an agreement on scientific and technological co-operation. They

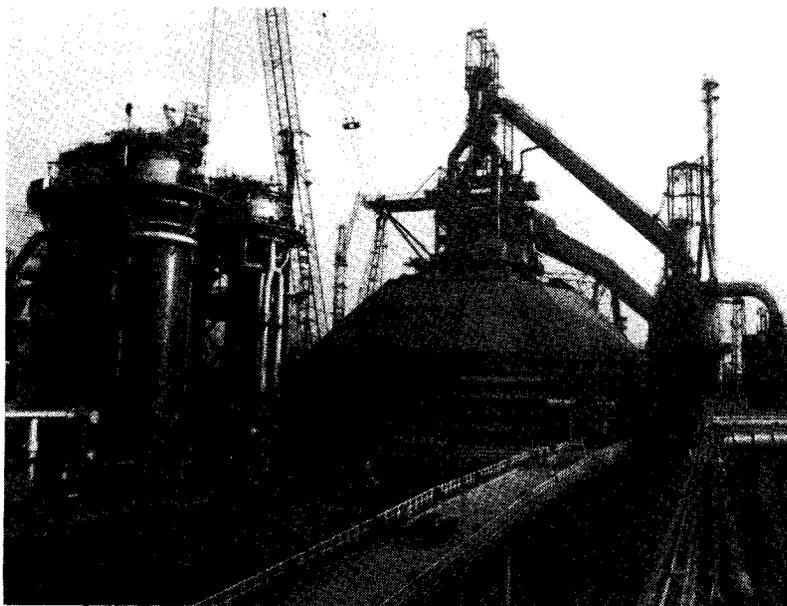
also signed a protocol agreement related to the formation of a joint trade commission. In March 1985, during President Li Xiannian's visit to Thailand, the two countries signed an agreement on establishing a joint committee on economic co-operation and another one on promoting and protecting investment. These agreements fully demonstrate the two countries' willingness to strengthen full economic co-operation, marking a new era in the history of economic co-operation between the two countries.

In the early years after China and Thailand established diplomatic relations, bilateral trade volume was in the tens of millions of US dollar. In 1982, the figure rose to US\$460 million, an increase of 20 times. In 1989, the trade volume reached a record US\$1.2 billion. China is now the sixth largest trade partner of Thailand.

Economic co-operation has expanded in recent years to include the establishment of joint ventures. In the field of science and technology, both sides have so far signed and put into action 300 co-operative projects.

In spite of the changing world political and economic situations, China and Thailand mutually respect, understand, trust and co-operate, thus always maintaining close ties. The difference in social systems has not prevented the two countries from developing friendly relations. On the contrary, the two countries set an example in establishing relations between nations with different social systems.

President Yang's visit to Indonesia and Thailand will certainly further Sino-Indonesian and Sino-Thai friendly relations and lift the mutual co-operation to a new high. ■



No.2 Blast Furnace after the 55-day overhaul.

SHOU XUAN

Blast Furnace's Repair Makes Overhaul Feat

The speedy overhaul of a blast furnace at the Capital Iron and Steel Corporation (CISC) of Beijing has been a workmen's miracle. More than 400 items in 16 systems were refitted or repaired in only 55 days, while a similar repair in the Soviet Union took 98 days. In addition, the environment was beautified at the same time.

No.2 Blast Furnace was built and put into operation on December 15, 1979. Its effective volume was 1,327 cubic metres. The designing for the overhaul began in August 1990 and the project started on March 21, 1991. The total demolished weight was 130,000 tons. All the equipment and 8,563 tons of steel structures were designed and made by the CISC itself.

The total investment in the principal part of the project was 131.48 million yuan, 70 million yuan of which was spent on repair and 61.48 million yuan used in technical reform and renovation. Judging from the fact that utilization coefficient reached 1.13 on

the seventh day after the furnace went back into operation on May 15, the total investment is expected to be recouped in six months' time.

During the overhaul, 23 items of new and advanced technology were adopted. The repaired furnace now has an effective volume of 1,726 cubic metres. The furnace uses computer software designed by the CISC itself, which covers all the control system with more than 1,000 supervision points that can be shown on the monitors.

Acting General Manager of the CISC Luo Bingsheng said of the experience: "The human factor and the contract system are our foundation. The achievements gained in the overhaul of No.2 Blast Furnace proved that we are capable of developing new technology."

by Staff Reporter Li Bin

Nuke Industry: Safety First

Radiation levels in most of the nuclear installations in China are less than one tenth of the annual average

amount of the radiation commonly found in nature from sources such as sun, air, water or soil.

This conclusion was drawn from an evaluation conducted by 600 scientists from 1981 to 1988 in an installation area of 600,000 square kilometres, with a population of 150 million.

According to Chinese experts, this evaluation of nuclear environment is similar to those issued by some foreign countries, including the United States, France and the Soviet Union, on the situation in their own countries.

The experts attribute the good nuclear environment in China to the nuclear industry's adherence to the policy of "safety first" and "prevention from the very beginning."

Essential to making up the shortfall in the country's mineral energy resources, nuclear industry has developed rapidly in China in recent years.

The impact of nuclear installations on the environment is of great concern to the public.

According to a report issued recently by the China National Nuclear Industry evaluating the quality of the environment around nuclear installations set up in the past 30 years, the amount of radiation in those areas is lower than the regulated national standard.

Safety first has been the government's watchword when the country pushes forward with its nuclear energy programme. During the past 30 years, the country has set up independent nuclear regulatory organizations and strict rules to ensure safety.

Moreover, 10 to 25 percent of the investment in a nuclear project has been spent on safety, environmental protection and scientific research.

The Qingshan Nuclear Power Station near Shanghai, the first of its kind in the country, has entered its commissioning phase and is to be loaded with fuel later this year. Installed with a 300,000-kilowatt pressurized water reactor, Qinshan will have no safety problems

because higher temperatures will lead to a lower reacting speed, unlike the Soviet-made graphite-uranium Chernobyl power plant, said Chinese nuclear experts.

To prevent any irregular construction and ensure nuclear safety, the government set up China's National Nuclear Safety Administration in 1984. It supervises every step of the construction work. ■

Bush's Decision on MFN Welcomed in Beijing

The Chinese government has expressed its appreciation for US President George Bush's announcement on May 28 that he will suggest to Congress renewal of the most favoured nation status for China.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said on the same day of the US president's announcement, "The decision is realistic and wise."

The Chinese government has always believed, the spokesman said, a proper settlement of the MFN issue between China and the United States is beneficial to both countries and will help promote restoration and growth of Sino-US relations and maintain and enhance prosperity in Hong Kong and the Asia-Pacific region at large.

He expressed his government's regret over the US statement that it will block exports of some high-tech products to China on the grounds of China's export of missiles.

"It is known to all," the spokesman said, "the Chinese government has always adopted a serious, responsible and prudent position on international arms trade."

He reiterated that the Chinese government has all along attached great importance to Sino-US relations founded on the basis of the principles established in the three joint communiques between China and the United States.

"We hope that both sides will

strictly adhere to these principles in the interest of restoration and development of the bilateral relations," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. ■

Keeping in Shape: A New-Found Obsession

When Li Zhenming took off his military uniform in 1975 and became a radio factory worker in Beijing, he looked like a "bean shoot" — 180 cm (nearly 6 ft.) in height but weighing only 54 kilogrammes (about 119 lb.). After his marriage in 1983 he grew paunchy around the waist. He continued gaining weight, reaching 93 kg (205 lb.). Then he decided to do something about it.

Last March, Li, 38, enrolled in an aerobic exercise class at Beijing's Lisheng Health Town. He lost 3 kg in the first two weeks. "I feel vigorous after several workouts here," he said, "now I can easily throw out my chest as my belly is getting flatter." It seemed he would not quit the gym anytime soon, determined as he was to rid his body of excessive fat.

Lisheng Health Town, located in a big basement of the city's Yuetan Gymnasium, opened last February as the biggest fitness training organization in the country. With a 600-square-metre gymnastic hall large enough to accommodate over 200 people and a 250-square-metre aerobic-exerciser room, the town is indeed the envy of overseas fitness trainers.

The emergence of the Lisheng Health Town fueled the capital's fitness craze. Many people, especially young and mid-aged women, were magnetized by the updated aerobic dancing the town offered. Soon the organizers found that there were more applicants than they could handle, although the annual admission fee ran as high as 444 yuan, about four



Women practise aerobic dancing in the Lisheng Health Town.

LI HAIBO

months' starting salary for a white-collar worker with a doctor's degree. Now there are 3,000 trainees here, most of them students, government functionaries, company managers from 16 to 56 years old. Entry was so competitive that some Johnrycome-latelies had to pull personal clout in order to get in.

"It is my pleasure to see so many people seeking health and beauty," said Sun Yukun, general manager of the town and vice president of the China Bodybuilding Committee. "You wouldn't expect such things to happen just a dozen years ago, when people were not as well fed, and were not yet ready to accept disco and aerobic dancing," he added. Sun believes this craze is a signal of greater material wealth and an awareness of better health standards. He is happy that he and his colleagues are undertaking a promising cause that will benefit the people and society.

China didn't introduce official bodybuilding competition and public callisthenics until the early 1980s, when the nation had just embarked on the course of modernization. Since then fitness activities have spread nationwide, especially in big cities. Now, similar health centres have been found in Shanghai, Shenyang, Shenzhen

and many other cities around the country. As many applicants in Beijing are still seeking entry, the sports authorities are planning to set up a new fitness centre in the capital, which will be larger and of a state-of-the-art design.

Most of the female gym-goers came to keep in shape as they stretch, flex and relax. As Liu Li, a 38-year-old doctor who developed obesity after giving birth two years ago, put it, "the only purpose I have here is to take the extra inches off my waist."

One middle-aged woman has other goals in mind. Besides good shape, she said she wanted to make friends and get away from "the boring household chores."

Many men, however, came in the hope of building their muscles and looking athletic. "For me, strong muscles are the most attractive and beautiful things in the world. I don't care about money and sweat, if they can help build me up," said a college student.

by Staff Reporter Li Haibo

Trans-Regional Co-operation Gears up

Trans-regional economic co-operation, which aims to lift local economic barriers and pool the strengths of various re-

gions for the sake of common prosperity, is gaining momentum in China.

To date, more than 100 co-operative projects have been launched between provinces and autonomous regions with or without common borders.

Twelve cities and counties in the bordering Shaanxi, Gansu and Sichuan provinces, covering 160,000 square kilometres and with a population of 22 million and abundant natural resources, are collaborating, but not before removing the economic barriers between them. For so long, it was not uncommon in this part of China that one province banned the sale of scarce raw materials to another, or sold them at prices much higher than within its own turf.

The area remained poor for decades owing to an underdeveloped commodity economy that make it difficult to fully tap the economic potentials.

Economic collaboration has enabled these three provinces to share their raw materials and technology. Over the past five years, they have launched 5,500 economic and technical projects, pooled nearly 600 million yuan of funds, developed 1,200 new types of products and in this way increased pre-tax revenue by 240 million yuan.

A trade fair co-sponsored by the provinces has seen 10.4 billion yuan worth of goods change hand over the past five years.

The co-operative network with Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, as the centre is yet another success story. Established in 1986, the network now encompasses 18 prefectures and cities in Jiangsu, Anhui and Jiangxi provinces. Under the network, a total of 5,000 co-operative agreements have been signed, 8 billion yuan of funds incorporated, and 300 billion yuan worth of goods traded.

To date, the trans-regional co-operation in China has extended to production, science, technology, goods distribution, resources exploration and environmental protection. ■

UN's Role in a New World Order

by Hu Yumin

People have reason to expect the United Nations to play a more extensive role in promoting security and stability in the Middle East and the world as a whole. They cherish the hope because the UN Security Council rapidly condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and imposed sanctions on Iraq in the course of the Gulf crisis and it is making new efforts for the arrangements of postwar peace in the Gulf area.

Peaceful Settlement

The Charter of the United Nations puts forth the principle that "all members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means" and they "shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force." This is a code of conduct governing state-to-state relations generally acknowledged by the interna-

tional community today.

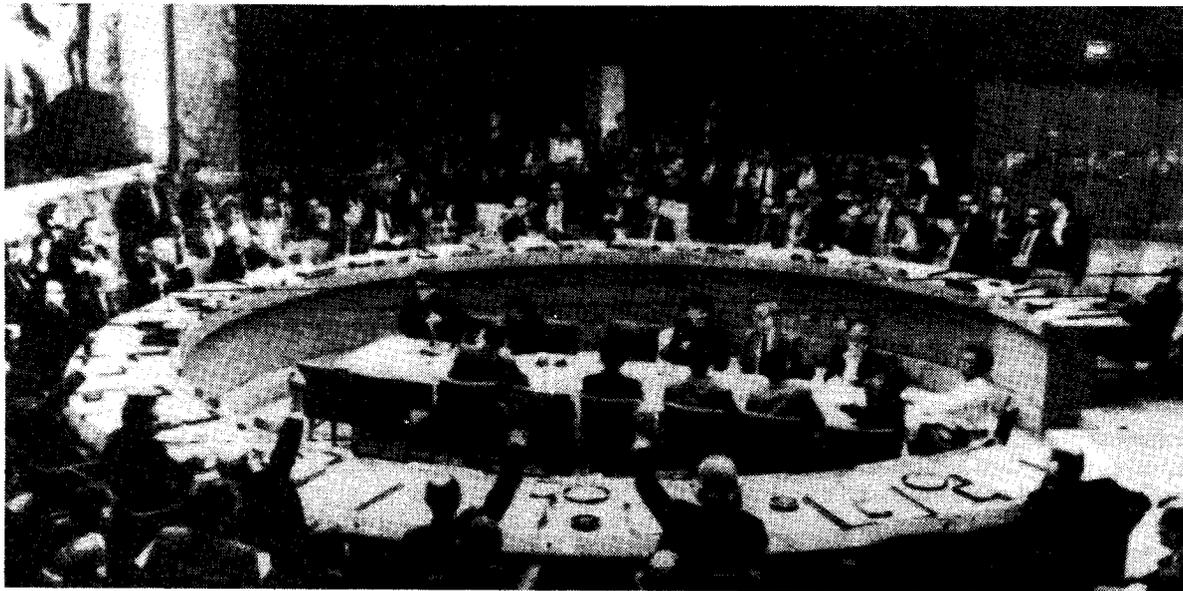
The UN Security Council adopted on August 2, 1990, the very day when Iraq invaded Kuwait, a resolution calling for Iraq to withdraw its troops. Four days later the Security Council passed another resolution imposing compulsory economic sanctions and an arms embargo on Iraq. After that, UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar made continuous personal efforts to impel Iraq to withdraw troops from Kuwait. These actions represented the will and aspiration of the international community for upholding justice and peace and enhanced the prestige of the United Nations.

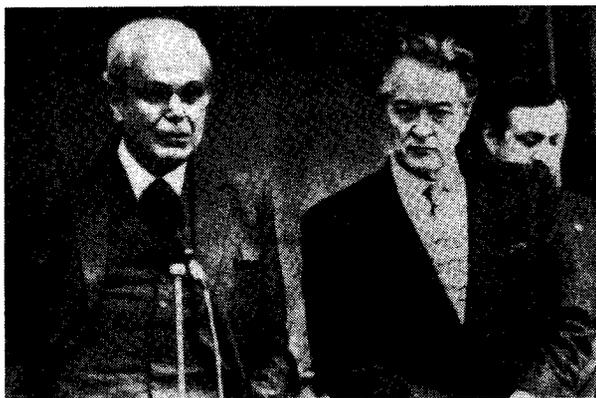
Although the Charter of the United Nations stipulates that only when the Security Council considers "measures" other than the use of force inadequate may it take such action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary

to maintain or restore international peace and security, opportunities of preventing the Gulf war from expanding before the outbreak of ground war on February 24 this year were not well explored. Here arises a question: How should the United Nations develop effective measures to ensure respect for its efforts of settling international disputes peacefully. Reality proved that the use of force in handling the Gulf conflict cannot solve all problems. To maintain a lasting peace in the Gulf region and the Middle East, it remains necessary for the United Nations to urge concerned parties to move towards a peaceful settlement after the war in the Gulf. At present the world is in transition from the old order to the establishment of a new one. On the one hand, the military confrontation between the West and the East has decreased and the dan-

The UN Security Council is adopting a resolution for the peace in the Gulf region on April 3.

GAO XUEYU





XU BU TANG SHIZENG
Left: UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar meets with French Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Roland Dumas on January 11, 1991. Right: The UN chief and former Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz answer questions at the airport in Baghdad on January 13.

ger of a nuclear war between the superpowers is reduced. On the other hand, many regional conflicts have not been resolved and new ones have come forth. Moreover, taking into consideration long-term interests, the peaceful purposes of the United Nations should be stressed and all countries should refrain from taking the Gulf war as a precedent for settling international disputes by force.

Halting the Arms Race

The arms race is one of the major causes for the intensified confrontation and incessant hostilities in the Gulf area and the Middle East. According to press reports, half of the arms purchased by the third world countries in recent years have gone to the Middle East. The majority of these arms came from the superpowers and developed countries, which are also suppliers of technology and equipment used to produce chemical weapons in this region. At the end of the Gulf war some countries, while preventing others from selling arms to the Middle East, sold large quantities of arms to this region themselves on the grounds of "maintaining balance." The concept of "maintaining balance" is abused. If this practice is

not stopped, advanced weapons may be sold to one side or some countries today on this ground, and larger quantities of more advanced weapons may be sold to the other side or some other countries tomorrow on the same ground. This spiralling trend will inevitably intensify the regional arms race and may possibly become a means of practising hegemony. The Gulf war has enhanced the sense of urgency of some countries to acquire advanced weapons to improve their defence. As an important measure for stabilizing the situation in the Middle East, it is imperative the United Nations help establish a fair and effective regime of controlling arms deal and transfer of weapons in this region. The adoption of Resolution 687 by the Security Council on April 3 this year, which sets the goal of overall arms control in this region, is a positive effort in this direction. Some major arms suppliers bear the unshirkable responsibility to halt the regional arms race and should take the lead in undertaking the obligations under the international law and supervision conducted by relevant United Nations organizations. The question of promoting the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East was also raised

in Resolution 687. At present the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East is thought to be of positive significance to the prevention of the proliferation of chemical weapons, ballistic missiles and hi-tech weapons in this region and conforms to the common interests of all countries and nations in this region.

Opposing Power Politics

The Gulf war has directed international attention to the settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute. As the Middle East is one of the regions in the present-day world where complex contradictions exist, a just settlement of this dispute is of great importance to the maintenance of peace in this region and in the world as well. In compliance with "the principle of sovereign equality of all its members" and "respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples" as stipulated in the UN Charter, the United Nations has worked unremittingly for the promotion of the settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute for more than four decades. Nevertheless, some important resolutions adopted by the United Nations have not yet been carried out. It is mainly because a certain government has

persisted stubbornly in pursuing power politics and has been backed up by the superpower who applies "double standards" in the Middle East. It should be stressed that disputes left over by history cannot be settled by threat or use of force. From a long-term point of view, practising power politics harms not only other states and people but also one's own state and people. In deciding the postwar arrangements in the Gulf area and the peace process in the Middle East, the United Nations should exercise a positive influence; the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries in this region should be respected; the interests of all countries and peoples there should be taken into consideration; support should be given to the countries there to solve problems through consultations on an equal footing; and influence of power politics should be resisted in creating more favourable conditions for solving the Arab-Israeli conflict, thus eliminating the political causes for the turbulence and conflicts in the Gulf area and the Middle East. To further this process, the United Nations may convene an international peace conference on the Middle East with participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and all parties concerned. Support is given to direct dialogues between all parties concerned in the Middle East including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel and to exploring positive measures to bring about a peaceful coexistence between the Arab and Jewish peoples.

Peace-Keeping Actions

After the end of the Gulf war, the situation in the region remains turbulent and the outbreak of potential conflicts is still likely. Resolution 687 adopted by the Security Council au-

thorized the deployment of a United Nations observer unit along the Kuwait-Iraq border which the five permanent members of the Security Council have agreed to join. UN secretary-general is stepping up consultations with the countries concerned in efforts to prevent the deterioration of the situation and promote a peaceful settlement.

The United Nations has dispatched ten military observation groups and eight peace-keeping forces to hot spots in the Middle East, Africa, South Asia and Central America since its founding. Among them was the earliest peace-keeping operation in the Middle East—the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization—which was dispatched in June 1948 and has since remained there. Generally speaking, peace-keeping operations play a useful role in easing regional conflicts and constitute an effective measure in safeguarding international peace and security. However, it is important that peace-keeping operation should be conducted in compliance with the principle of "non-interference in internal affairs" established by the United Nations, and its authorization of a time limit should be explicitly prescribed. The Charter of the United Nations contains no specific stipulations on peace-keeping operations, but it does not authorize involvement in the internal disputes of its members.

Great changes have taken place in the political situation in the Gulf since the war was over. In addition to the Arab-Israeli dispute, relations among the Arab countries and the internal political situation in some countries are extremely complicated. Conducting peace-keeping operations should be clearly and definitely authorized by the United Nations and this authorization should be strictly abided by. The

independence and sovereignty of the countries concerned should be respected; efforts should be made to win co-operation and there should be no involvement in internal political affairs. To accomplish the tasks assigned, the establishment of the peace-keeping organizations should have the consent of all parties concerned and their composition should give expression to the principle of extensive participation by the members of the United Nations. Since the United Nations is making new efforts to realize a durable peace in the Middle East and the security of both Arab nations and Israel should be safeguarded in the future, it will be essential to further the role of UN peace-keeping operation in this region in the spirit of the UN Charter.

With its foreign policy readjustments since the 1980s, China has adopted a more positive attitude towards the UN peace-keeping operation. In 1981 China clearly reaffirmed and supported peace-keeping actions conforming to the spirit of the UN Charter and started to pay funds for two UN peace-keeping forces in the Middle East. In 1988 it became the 34th member state of the Special Commission of the UN Peace-Keeping Operation. In 1989 it sent 20 non-military election supervisors to the UN Transition Assistance Group in Namibia. In 1990 it sent five military observers to the UN Truce Supervision Organization. This year it sent 20 military observers to the UN Observer Group along the Kuwait-Iraq border. China, as a permanent member of the Security Council, will support the United Nations in enhancing its peace-keeping role and will make further positive efforts for and greater contributions to the maintenance of peace and security. ■

Future of US Bases Unsure

by Zhang Xiaodong

No agreement was reached after a year of negotiations between Manila and Washington over the fate of the US military bases established in the Philippines in 1947.

The United States leased the bases for 99 years. A 1966 modified agreement shortened the tenure to 25 years beginning in 1966. That means the lease will expire on September 16, 1991.

In the talks dispute focused on rents Washington pays for use of these bases and the lease tenure. The Philippines, demanding Washington pay US\$825 million annually, only agreed to a tenure of seven years. It asked the United States to pay US\$400 million in cash and the rest in the form of favourable trade, debt reduction and supply of military equipment. The Philippines plans to regain these military bases in 1998 when the country celebrates its 100th anniversary of independence. The United States, however, hopes to extend the tenure for 10 or 12 years by paying only US\$360 million yearly.

The difference is great and seems difficult to be resolved as both sides are rigid in demands. However, there is some room to manoeuvre. Stanley Schrage, spokesman for the US negotiating team, said that although an agreement was not reached, progress has been made. Raul Manglapus, chief Philippine negotiator and secretary of foreign affairs, stated that the Philippines

was "flexible."

A preliminary agreement on the legal status of Americans in the bases was reached. The United States agreed that the Philippines wields judicial powers over US military personnel in the Philippines. Both sides reached an agreement in principle concerning the defence of the Clark Air Base. Accordingly, they can use, commonly or separately, the air base. Additionally, the United States agreed to return four small military bases to the Philippines this year.

To deal with some specific issues, a "technical commission" was formed to continue consultation.

Is it possible for Washington and Manila to settle the problems of rents and tenure before the lease expires this September?

Yes. Both sides, out of their own interests, desire a new agreement. The Subic Bay Naval Base and the Clark Air Base, two of the largest US overseas bases, are indispensable for maintaining Washington's interests in Asia. Located between the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean, the Clark Air Base is the base camp of the US 13th air unit and the Subic Bay Naval Base the major supply site of the US Seventh Fleet.

After the Gulf war, the bases' importance increased as Washington looks towards a new world order and greater potential interference in regional conflicts.

Carl Ford, the US assistant se-

cretary of defence, stressed to Congress in April that the two major military bases are of vital importance for the United States' "front defence." He revealed that the two bases did contribute greatly to the Gulf war. Ford emphasized that, to realize US national goals, continued US military presence in the Philippines should remain unchanged.

The Philippines, though aware of the damage done to the nation's sovereignty and dignity by the continued presence of US bases, finds it hard to ask the United States to immediately withdraw from the Philippines because of political, economic and military needs.

Fidel V. Ramos, Philippine secretary of defence, said that the Philippines should keep the US military bases. He warned that the Philippine economy and national defence will be damaged if the bases are suddenly shut down. The secretary stressed that it is necessary to maintain security relations with the United States for a period of time, within which the Philippines can develop its own national defence capacity.

Although the US-Philippine negotiations on military bases are matters of concern to the two countries, the position of neighbouring nations should be considered. In fact, the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations and Japan support the United States' effort to maintain military bases in the Philippines. It was reported that Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong strongly asked Philippine President Corason Aquino to keep the major US military bases in the Philippines during his visit to Manila in April.

Therefore, an agreement on the renewal of base lease is likely to be reached, provided, of course, that no abrupt incident occurs. ■

Central America Foresees Peace

by Li Zhimin

As world attention rivets on the Middle East and the Soviet Union, Central America, riddled with a history of civil strife, quietly moves towards peace.

Recently anti-government forces in El Salvador and Guatemala reached agreements with the governments of the two war-torn Central American nations, thus removing a major obstacle on the road to regional peace.

Last year, in the wake of a change of government in Nicaragua, anti-government guerrillas disbanded under international supervision. The new development in Nicaragua, as a catalyst for peace in Central America, encouraged neighbouring Honduras in its efforts to make peace. Similarly, peace efforts are going forward in El Salvador and Guatemala.

The civil war in El Salvador has been dragging on for a decade, claiming more than 70,000 lives. A year ago, through the mediation of the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the opposing parties met in Geneva. In April this year the talks moved to Mexico City, Mexico. At the end of the month the opposition guerrilla faction, the Farabundo Marti de Liberacion Nacional (FMLN), reached an agreement with the Salvadoran government on the key issue of forming a national police force independent of the armed forces and responsible for domestic security. This is a major condition that the FMLN attached to the talks.

The agreement also stated that

a new Supreme Court of Justice would be established under a new election system, making the judiciary department free from government and partisan influence.

Both sides agreed to set up a Supreme Electoral College to replace the existing Central Election Committee. No single party or party alliance would be dominant in the electoral college and all legally registered parties would have the right to supervise the elections. In a final statement the government undertook to urge the National Assembly, the nation's parliament, into passing constitutional amendments that would gain bilateral approval. Several days later, the Salvadoran parliament passed an amendment. Its 47 articles basically squared with the agreement reached between the two sides. Thereafter, the country took a turn for the better.

Simultaneously, the anti-government organization in Guatemala, the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, held talks and reached an agreement with government representatives including military leaders in Mexico City. The talks focused on a wide range of issues: the role of the military, constitutional amendments, changes in the election system, equal rights for the Indian tribes, socio-economic problems, the participation by the opposition parties in the national political life, the arrangement of a complete ceasefire, the demobilization of guerrilla forces and verification and implementation of the agreement

once peace is realized. With the agreement, opposition leaders believed that the door to peace had been opened.

It is well known that intervention by big powers exacerbated the region's persisting civil wars, though it was mainly internal political, economic and social problems that were responsible for the turbulence. Latin American countries have called on outside forces to stop interference in the region and let the Central American people to settle their own problems.

Changes in the global political climate exerted a great influence on the region's political situation. As an editorial in the *New York Times* newspaper pointed out earlier this year, the importance of Central America is falling in Washington's foreign policy and US interest in the region is shrinking.

The ebbing of outside influence has paved the way for successful Latin American mediating efforts. Mexico and Venezuela, the two countries that adjoin the Central American region, have played a key role in brokering the negotiations. The various armed factions in the region, long committed to armed struggle, changed strategy by resorting to political means to achieve reforms. The regimes in these countries demonstrated a willingness to reform the government and the society. These factors combine to bring about the new turning point in the peace process in Central America.

At present, the talks are continuing and a final ceasefire is yet to be realized. The physical and psychological wounds incurred from many years of war need time to heal. Should a formal ceasefire be achieved, it will still be a long time before domestic stability is realized in Central America. But the latest developments in El Salvador and Guatemala hold much promise of a better future for the region. ■

China—A Major Electrical Appliance Producer

by Our Staff Reporter Liu Jianjun

In the past decade, China's household electrical appliance industry has made much headway. Its production scale and output are now among the world's highest and its technology has reached the advanced world level. The achievement has allowed China to switch from an importer to an exporter of large numbers of household electrical appliances.

Since the 1970s, it has taken only a dozen or so years for China's household electrical appliance industry to extricate itself from its backward situation and turn the country into a major household electrical appliance producer.

Increase in Output

Before it introduced the policy of reform and opening to the outside world in 1979, China did not have any modern, large household electrical appliance enterprises. Production of colour television sets, refrigerators, washing machines, tape-recorders, video recorders and air conditioners was basically non-existent or still in the research stage. The country could

only produce a small amount of black-and-white televisions and electric fans with an annual output value of several hundred million yuan.

Since 1979, the government has spent several dozen billion yuan on introducing advanced technology from abroad and building many large and medium-sized household electrical appliance enterprises. As a result, China's household electrical appliance industry with its complete array of industrial systems took shape.

According to the State Statistical Bureau, China now boasts more than 1,000 household electrical appliance enterprises, including more than 20 colour TV producers, 51 refrigerator plants, 42 washing machine fac-

ories and over 100 cassette tape-recorder manufacturers, as well as several hundred enterprises turning out small household electrical appliances. Several scores of comprehensive and large household electrical appliances production conglomerates have been set up, including the Wanbao Electrical Appliances Group in Guangdong, the Jinxing Electrical Appliances Group in Shanghai, the Panda Electrical Appliances Group in Jiangsu and the Peony Electrical Appliances Group in Beijing. In 1990, the output value of China's household electrical appliance industry totalled 24 billion yuan, and the output of some products such as black-and-white televisions, refrigerators, washing machines, electric fans and irons has become the world's highest.

According to statistics, the nation's refrigerator output in 1990 amounted to 4.754 million, 40 times more than the accumulated total produced in the 23 years preceding 1978.

In 1989, the output of washing machines came to 6.526 million, compared with 245,000 in 1980.

The growth of television output has been even more remarkable. In 1958, China could only produce 200 black-and-white televisions. The figure was 500,000 in 1978, including 3,000 colour televisions produced on a

trial basis. By 1990, China's television output reached 26.62 million, including 10.23 million colour ones.

The Guangzhou Wanbao Electrical Appliances Group, a small plant heavily in debt with 300 employees a decade ago, leads the nation in refrigerator production. In 1981, it conducted enterprise reform and introduced advanced equipment and technology from abroad, and become the nation's biggest refrigerator production base in less than three years. Currently, the comprehensive household electrical appliances group has several dozen enterprises and 10,000 workers and staff members on its pay-roll. With its annual output of refrigerators exceeding 1 million and its annual output value 3 billion yuan, the group has become one of the eight largest refrigerator manufacturers in the world.

According to a responsible member of the China Household Electrical Appliances Association, China's household electrical appliance industry has reached or approached the 1980s technical level of devel-

oped countries.

Variety of Products

According to the State Statistical Bureau, when New China was found in 1949, its household electrical appliance industry could only turn out three varieties and, by 1979, only a dozen or so varieties. By 1990, the figure soared to more than 200 and, moreover, each variety has many specifications and models.

Take refrigerators for example. In 1979, China was only able to produce direct cooling compressor refrigerators with a single chamber. Today, however, it can manufacture refrigerators with two or three chambers in more than 20 specifications and with a capacity from 50 to 200 litres. The country can also produce the most up-to-date refrigerators with three chambers and three temperature settings.

China's televisions have developed from only small black-and-white versions to both black-and-white and colour televisions ranging in size from 14

to 21 inches, including flat screen and right-angled remote-controlled televisions, televisions with multi-screens, high articulation, stereoscopic and memorial functions, as well as colour televisions with extra large screens produced especially for the Asian Games.

China's washing machines have expanded from single to twin tubs and from semi-automatic to fully automatic models with more than ten varieties.

Electric fans have developed from table and suspension to electronically sensitive and computer remote-controlled ones in several dozen varieties, meeting the need of both specialized and public locations.

Audio and video products have widened from single-product to product lines with multi-functions and multi-specifications.

In addition, to meet increasing public demands, China has developed over 100 new products, such as rice-cookers, electric-heating blankets, hair styling sets, smoke exhausters, microwave ovens, electronic massage devices, music door bells, dust collectors, electric ovens and thermos devices. Each new product has a wide product line. Nowadays, customers do not have to queue up to shop as was common a decade ago, but, instead, they meticulously compare and choose from among a dazzling array of household electrical appliances on the counters. Moreover, new products are constantly coming on to the market.

Advanced World Level

China's household electrical appliances have not only increased in quantity and variety, their technical performance and

The picture tubes for 21-inch flat and plane colour TV sets produced by the Beijing-Matsushita Kinescope Co. Ltd. have UL approval. YU HUIRU



quality are also on the rise. Major products have reached the advanced world level of the 1980s with some products of the best quality available worldwide.

According to the China Household Electrical Appliances Association, in recent years, China's household electrical appliances won many prizes at international fairs and special exhibitions. For instance, they won 26 gold medals at the noted international fairs held in Leipzig, Vancouver, Hawaii, Singapore, Jamaica and Paris. Some products, such as Guangzhou's Wanbao refrigerators and Qingdao's Qindao-Liebherr refrigerators have become world name-brand products. China's stereoscopic colour televisions with multiple screens are also among the world's best.

According to the bulletin report on the quality of household electrical appliances which was released by the State Technology Monitoring Bureau in July 1990, the selective quality examination of 45 colour TV producers and 45 washing machine factories showed that the quality of their products was up to standard in every regard and that their safety performance was up to international standard.

The quality of the 40 products made by the Wanbao Electrical Appliances Group, for example, has reached state Grade A standard and their technical indexes conform to the standards published by the International Electrical Appliances Organization. Wanbao refrigerators have been awarded certificates of quality by the US Electrical Association and the product can now enter the US market without inspection.

Thanks to their reliable quality, China's electrical products



XUE CHAO

A workshop of the Nanjing Radio Plant which produces Panda brand tape-recorders.

have not only won the trust of domestic customers, their producers have also won many international bids. Qindao-Liebherr refrigerators produced by the Qingdao Refrigerators Plant were the winner at a bidding organized by the World Health Organization in 1987 and chosen best product at two refrigerator competitions sponsored by the UN Children's Fund in 1988.

Imports and Exports

Important factors for the rapid development of China's household electrical appliance industry and the high quality of its products are that the industry has introduced a large amount of advanced technology and purchased complete sets of equipment and production lines from abroad, improved on the imported technology and stepped up the process of the Chinese-made components and parts.

Incomplete statistics show that since 1978, China's household electrical appliance industry has conducted extensive exchanges and co-operation in many ways with several dozen

countries and regions, including Japan, the United States, Italy, Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Australia, the Soviet Union, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Technical Exchanges. According to officials in charge of the production of household electrical appliances from the Ministry of Light Industry and the Ministry of Machine-Building and Electronics, over the past decade, China has sent out several hundred technical inspection groups to conduct technical inspections and exchange production and managerial information to the above-mentioned countries and regions. At the same time, China has also received inspection groups from many countries and invited foreign experts to undertake on-site management.

Import of Complete Sets of Equipment and Technology. In the past ten years, China has introduced several hundred complete sets of equipment and production lines from a dozen or so countries, including Japan, the United States, Italy, the Netherlands and Germany. The number of colour television production lines alone tops 100.

China's household electrical appliance industry has also introduced and absorbed single-item production techniques and technology so as to promote and enhance the industry's capacity.

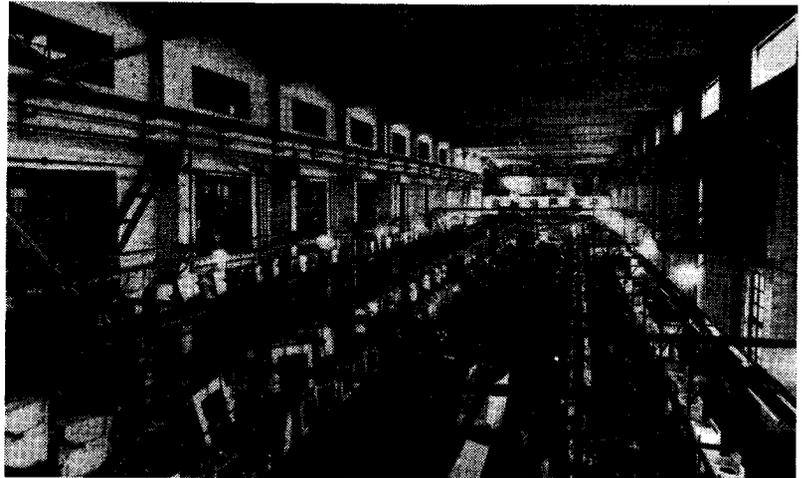
Statistics show that in the past decade China has imported 3,530 complete sets of equipment and technological items, valued at US\$20.5 billion.

Joint Ventures and Co-operative Production. In addition to the introduction of complete sets of equipment and technology from abroad and domestic production of household electrical appliances, China's household electrical appliance industry has also absorbed foreign capital for co-operative production and management. Examples are the colour television joint venture financed by Fujian Province and the Hitachi Co. of Japan, the fan production enterprise set up with funds from Guangdong's Foshan and a foreign business and the air conditioning plant jointly funded by Shijiazhuang City, Hebei Province, and an overseas business.

While vigorously introducing equipment and technology from abroad, China's household electrical appliance industry has exported its products in mass quantities, eliminated the reliance on imports and played an important role in the world household electrical appliance market.

Statistics show that in 1990, China's household electrical appliances directly exported to other countries were valued at US\$200 million. Of this, the amount of televisions was more than 1,000 times higher than in 1981, and exceeded 200 percent of the imported figure (1.296 million) that year.

The export varieties have increased from a dozen or so a



XU XIANGJUN

A fully automatic assembly line at the Yingkou Washing Machine Plant.

decade ago to several dozen and the product composition switched from low-tech to high-tech products. The export scope has expanded from Southeast Asian and African countries to North American, and West European and East European countries, totalling more than 100 countries and regions. The volume of export has risen from just several thousand sets in a single transaction to several hundred thousand pieces. In 1988, for example, the country exported 800,000 electric fans to North American countries.

To date, China has set up 50 household electrical appliance export bases, including 20 colour TV, 13 refrigerator, six washing machine, 15 electric fan and five air conditioning unit export bases. Most of the country's electrical appliance enterprises sell part of their products on the world market each year.

Problems and Prospects

While China's household electrical appliance industry has made rapid progress, it has also met with some problems, particularly in the past two

years.

According to the China Household Electrical Appliances Association, the main problems are decontrol of the production scale of some products and overlapping imports. For instance, China's colour television production capacity has already exceeded 15 million, greatly outpacing the market demand, and, since 1988, there has been large stocks of colour televisions, reaching as high as 3 million. The Beijing TV Plant alone has 200,000 televisions in stock.

The market is glutted with some electrical appliances and the sales volume in some large department stores have dropped enormously, from several hundred to just a dozen sets daily in some locations. While the market is saturated with household refrigerators, washing machines and electric fans, the production lines in several dozen enterprises have stopped operation.

Another major problem is that China's videocorder market has been seriously affected by illegal imports.

In addition, China still has a long way to go in increasing

Chinese-made parts, improving the quality of products and the development of new products. It has to spend large amounts of foreign exchange on the purchase of foreign components each year, and the amount has exceeded the total volume of China's export. In addition to overproduction, another reason for the sluggish market is that China lacks new products which are routinely updated and upgraded.

With these problems in mind, the responsible government department has since 1989 begun a rectification programme. Emphasis has been placed on readjusting the industrial structure, rigorously controlling overlapping imports, retrenching overproduction, lowering prices, opening the rural markets, producing marketable products

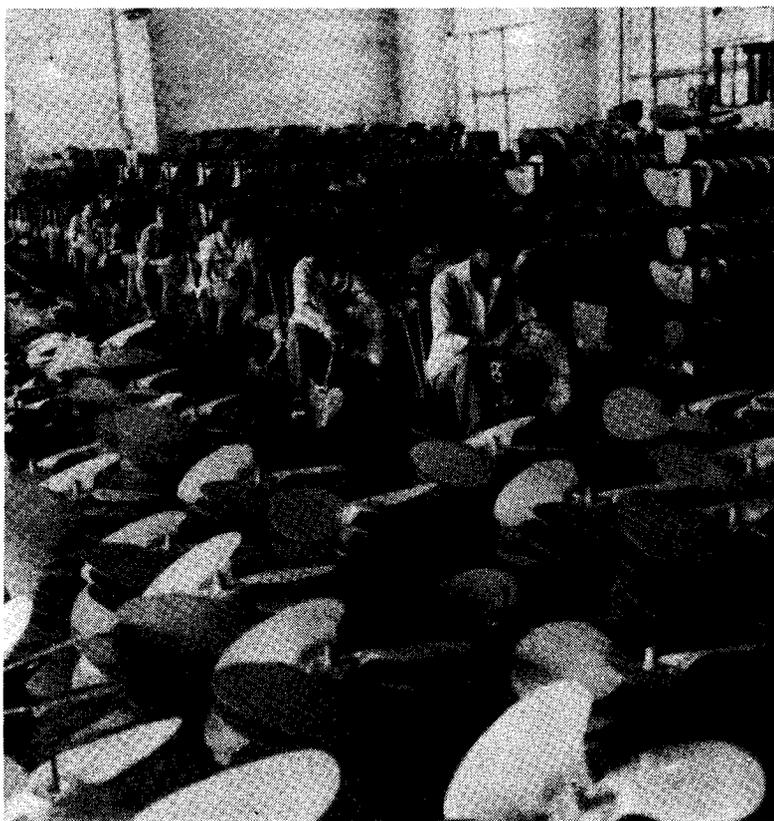
and putting a halt to smuggling activities. As of now, there have been good results. After reducing the output of major household electrical appliances (colour TV sets, refrigerators and washing machines) in 1990, their output and the market demand were basically balanced and the prices went down by 40 percent. The amount of products in stock is coming down and the sales volume growing in rural areas. Some newly developed products, such as computer remote-controlled colour televisions with large screens, automatic household smoke exhaust ventilators, washing machines suitable for rural areas, and multi-functional videocorders have enjoyed brisk sales. According to an official from the Ministry of Commerce, the sales volume of

household electrical appliances has picked up. In regards to smuggling, the Customs House and the State Administration of Industry and Commerce have jointly set up law-enforcement organizations to put a halt to smuggled goods and protect the national industry.

After readjustment and rectification, it is estimated that China's household electrical appliance industry will overcome the difficulties of overproduction and the transient market sluggishness and enter a new period of development. This is because China's household electrical appliance industry is still at the growing stage and has great potential for development. From a long-term point of view, prospects are bright as the owing rate of household electrical appliances is fairly low in the vast countryside and remote areas. Take videocorders for example. Currently there are 250 million families in China. If the owing rate is 15 percent, over 30 million videocorders will be needed. All kinds of household electrical appliances will enjoy brisk sales as long as they meet public demand and their prices are reasonable. China's household electrical appliance supply will fall short of demand for a long period of time.

Given this situation, China's household electrical appliance industry will continue to introduce advanced technology and equipment badly needed in the country, expand its co-operative scope and, on the basis of the existing scale, readjust the industrial structure. Top priority will be given to raising the technical level and quality, developing new marketable products, increasing exports and trying to get a bigger share in the world market. ■

The assembly shop of the Liuzhou Electric Fan Plant in Guangxi. XU XIANGJUN



'My Hometown Is Nicer!'

—A Visit to the Returned Tibetan Compatriot Tuomei Namca

by Namgyai and Liu Qizhong

Tuomei Namca left his hometown, Nyainrong County in Tibet, at the age of 16. After three visits, Tuomei, a former follower of the Dalai Lama, finally decided to settle down in his native home. "My hometown," he exclaims to us, "is nicer!"

Tuomei Namca, 42, went abroad together with his father, a former herdsowner, in the 1960s. He first studied at a night school for adults in New Delhi.

After his graduation from the school, he became involved in political activities, following others to work for "Tibet's independence."

"I was quite active at that time," he said. "Later, I was appointed the head of a reception agency in Nepal for the 'exiled Tibetan government'."

On the tenth day of the third month according to Tibetan calendar each year, or the so-called "uprising day," senior leaders stationed in various countries by the "exiled government" meet in India.

"I attended nearly every meeting in those years. We discussed how to bring about an independent Tibet," he said. "I gradually grew weary of the activities as time went on, however. Although we had initiated many political activities outside China, no country recognized Tibet as an independent country."

In 1979, the Tibet autonomous regional government announced that it

welcomed overseas Tibetans to visit their friends and relatives, go sightseeing or settle down in their homeland, forgiving them for any misdeeds abroad.

"I half believed and half doubted what I heard on the radio," he said. "But I missed my hometown so much that before long I set out, with rather mixed feelings, for Tibet."

It just so happened that when he returned to Nyainrong County, his hometown, local residents were facing severe hardships and the central government was sending a lot of relief material.

"Though the local people were not well-off, they did not blame the government. On the contrary, they all thanked the Communist Party for having done so much for them," he noted.

"The situation made me even

more confused, and since life in my hometown was not very good, I left again," he continued.

Tuomei didn't return for five years. During his stay abroad, however, he followed developments in Tibet on the radio. "I felt curious about the state's preferential policies and, to tell you the truth, nearly everything I heard. Nyainrong was always on my mind. I missed my homeland very much."

Tuomei returned to his native place for the second time in 1983, curious about what was happening following the reform. "I decided to learn why people supported the Communist Party and the village cadres so much," he said.

Tuomei saw a lot of his hometown and visited many people there. Later, he went deep into the grazing area in northern Tibet and called on herdsmen. After that, he travelled to Beijing and Shanghai where he saw the bustling cities and the remarkable changes which had taken place.

"Seeing is believing," Tuomei said. "The policy of the Communist Party is good. My fellow villagers all had enough food and clothing and even TV sets in their homes."

"At the time of my visit, I made up my mind to return and settle," Tuomei said. "Of course, I went back to discuss the idea with my wife and children."

Tuomei returned to his hometown in the summer

Zhaba (second right), a Tibetan compatriot who returned in 1982, has bought a walking tractor.

MA HINGQU



An Ancient Monastery by the Riverside.

Li Ying



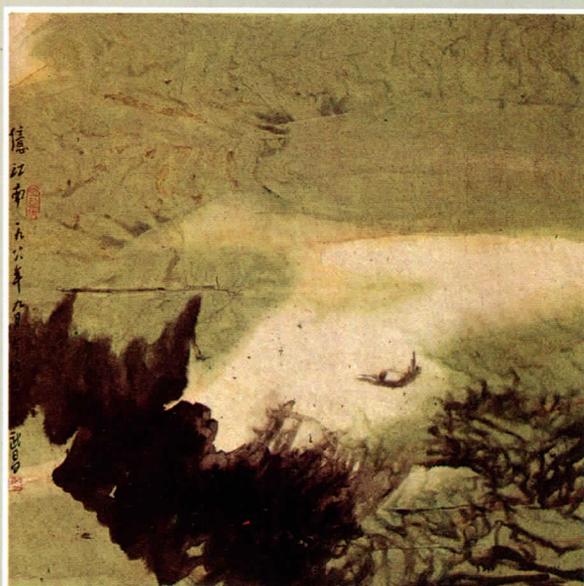
Charging Bulls.

Wu Zuoren



A Tibetan Girl.

Shi Qi



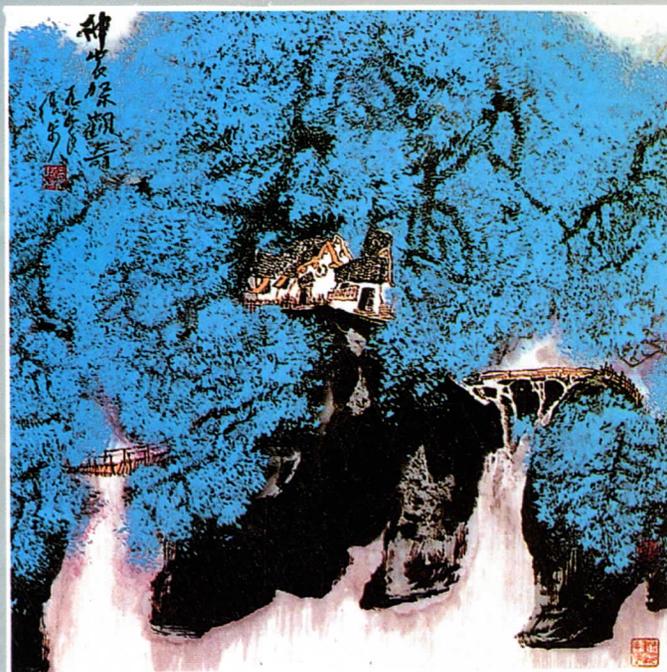
South of the Yangtze River.

Feng Jinsong



Gallop Horses.

Liu Boshu



Village Landscape.

Zhang Bu



Beauties on a Journey.

Peng Xiancheng



Boating at Dusk.

Sun Ying

Traditional Chinese Paintings

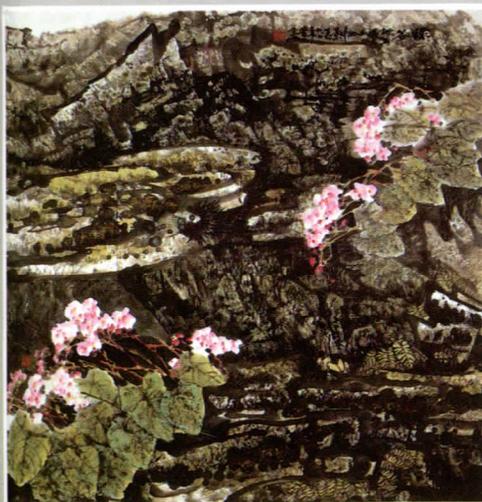


Guilin Landscape.

Bai Xueshi

Lush Green Hills.

Zhang Zhenxue



A Mountain in Bloom.

Wang Jinyuan



Landscape.

He Haixia



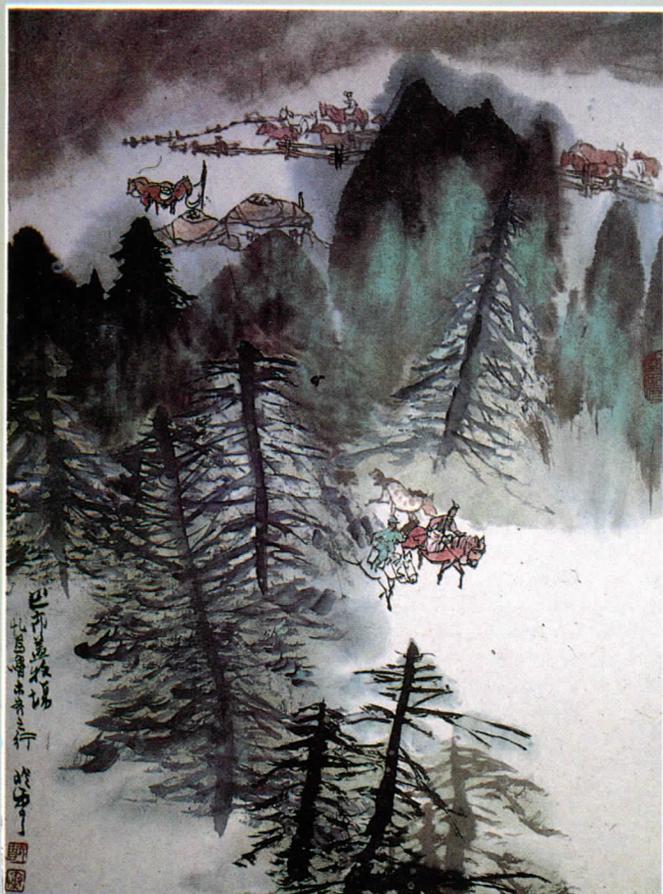
Autumn.

Zhang Renzhi



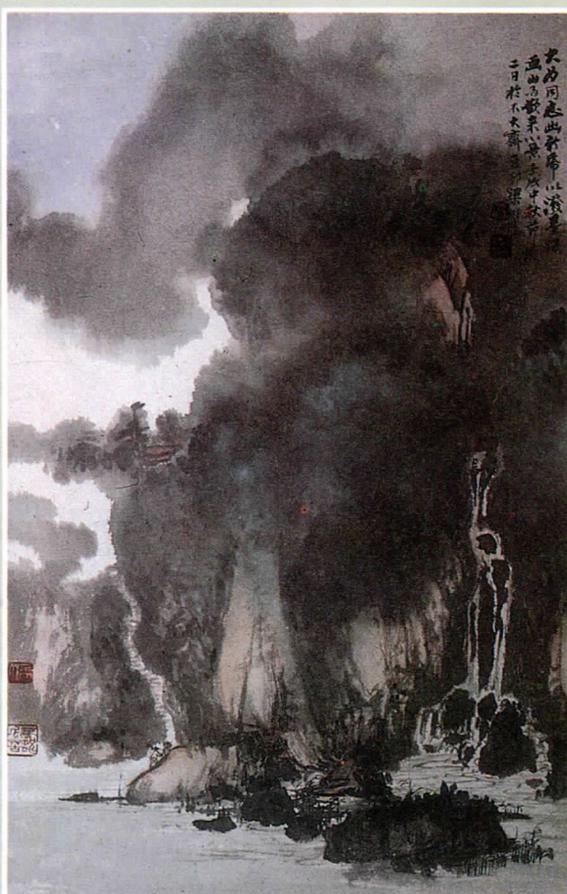
Sea Breeze.

Wu Guanzhong



Pastureland.

Qin Lingyun



A Rising Mountain Storm.

Liang Shunian

of 1985. The local government offered them a two-bedroom apartment complete with a sitting room. They were also given a piece of land in downtown Nagqu for the building of a house so that Tuomei's wife could start a business.

Soon Tuomei Namca was elected a member of the Standing Committee of the Nagqu Prefectural Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. The position carries a 300 yuan monthly salary.

Last year, Tuomei's two daughters, Cezha Zholeceng aged 14 and Cedan Qunbei aged 12, were enrolled in the Tibetan class of the Hongguang Middle School in Tianjin. The state covers all school and living expenses.

"The more the government cares for us, the more I want to support its efforts," Tuomei said. "I try to do more for the country and the people in order to return the government's kindness."

From late 1989 to early 1990, the Nagqu Prefecture was struck by the worst blizzard in a century. Acting on his own, Tuomei Namca asked to help with the disaster relief work. He was ap-



XU PENG
Gelong Lobsang Danzin (second left), who returned to Tibet in 1980, is now a member of the Standing Committee of the Lhasa People's Political Consultative Conference.

pointed by the local government to lead a relief work group and help blizzard victims in the worst hit county of Jiali, rearrange their lives and restore production.

As the heavy snow continued for nearly half a year and reached 150 cm in depth, the existence of the local herdsmen was endangered. Tuomei Namca was at a loss. He doubted whether

people there could begin a new life.

A few days later, however, the central government used helicopters to ship large quantities of relief material such as food, medicine and woollen blankets into the region. The shipments ensured that the basic needs of the local people would be met.

Although the calamity lasted half a year, no one froze or starved to death. "It was really a miracle," Tuomei Namca emphasized.

Tuomei has a picture which he keeps in a Tibetan-style cabinet. Taken after the blizzard, the picture shows an old herdsman and a yak which the government gave him.

"The old man," Tuomei said, "with tears in his eyes and holding my hands in his, said repeatedly: The Communist Party is really good to us!"

When he spoke to us, tears also welled up in Tuomei's eyes. At such times, it is easy to understand why the Tibetan people love the Communist Party of China so much. ■

Lhaba Cering (first left), who returned to Tibet in 1986, is an interpreter with the Tibet International Sports Tourism Co. Picture shows him teaching his colleagues English. *XU PENG*



Over the past 12 years, the Chinese government has sent about 100,000 people to study or conduct research abroad. To date, nearly half have returned and are playing important roles in a variety of positions.

Returning Students Glad to Be Back

by Our Staff Reporter Cui Lili

Cai Fengxian, 32, associate professor at the Dalian University of Science and Technology and a specialist in physical chemistry, won commendations by the Chinese government for her remarkable contributions to teaching and scientific research. Cai, who went to France to complete a post-Ph.D course in the mid-1980s, developed a high-active and high-selective catalyst there which was awarded a patent in France and other European countries. After she returned to China in 1987, she continued her research in the field, making a number of achievements which attracted the attention of colleagues at home and abroad.

Another 409 returned students won the commendation together with Cai. Having achieved the title of associate professor or associate research fellow, these specialists, most around 40 years of age, some about 30, have become the backbone in their respective fields of study. Some have achieved scientific research results of advanced world levels.

According to Yang Changchun, head of the propaganda section of the Returned Students Department of the State Educational Commission, about 100,000 people (both

government-funded and self-supporting) studied or conducted research in 76 countries over the past 12 years, nearly half of whom have completed their studies and returned to China. Working in government organizations, institutions of higher learning, research institutes, companies, enterprises and other units under the central and provincial authorities, the returned students have played an increasingly important role in China's economic development.

Most of the students were sent abroad by the government. Eager to help their motherland, they bring back the most advanced scientific, technological, management expertise in the world. Yang said that the government will continue to send at least several thousand students abroad annually.

Selection of Applicants

Since 1978, the Chinese Academy of Science has sent more than 7,300 visiting scholars, graduate students and other researchers to take degree courses abroad, about one-tenth of all state-funded overseas students.

The policy of sending staff to study abroad is based on a realistic assessment of the academy's

actual conditions. According to Yan Yongping, director of the Overseas Students Section of the academy's Educational Department, many of the people who form the backbone of the various branches of studies under the academy will retire within five to ten years. If the academy fails to bring forth qualified successors in time, the country's scientific research will undoubtedly be adversely affected in the future.

Given this situation, the study plan has a clear objective. In general, the authorities of the academy will first determine which research projects have priority, followed by publication of a guide to the projects and the competition and selection of academy applicants. The candidates are chosen according to the need of different institutes under the academy and their own academic qualifications. A 1990 survey found that 80 percent of the more than 3,600 returned students had acquired a technical title above associate research fellow, 30 percent held the position of director of research office or above, and almost 50 percent had won state or ministerial rewards for outstanding scientific results.

An important aim in sending scientists and technicians abroad

is to encourage them to keep abreast of advanced world science and technology by their direct involvement in up-to-date research and to help raise China's scientific research level when they return to the country. Since 1985, the academy has introduced, on a trial basis, a special policy towards top-notch scholars. According to this policy, staff who have achieved creative scientific research results, published important academic theses in influential international academic publications, or won significant international academic awards during their study abroad will be listed among the academy's outstanding intellectuals. The academy will finance their participation in academic symposiums in China and may apply for funding to purchase reference materials, apparatus, reagents and other necessities for scientific research before they return to China. They will also be given preferential treatment in promotions and in the resolution of housing and other problems.

Ma Songde, one of the academy's top intellectuals, went to study image processing at the Paris No. 6 University in 1978 and acquired a French doctorate in 1986. Extremely diligent, Ma continued to display remarkable talent. In September 1985, he attended the EURO Graphic 85' and captured two of the meeting's three prizes for excellent academic papers, eliciting the admiration of all his foreign colleagues. After he returned to China in 1986, the academy appointed him a research fellow and provided him with housing. Today, as a member of the State Hi-Tech Plan Experts Committee, he is the head of the model recognition laboratory of the academy's Institute of Automation, a key state project.

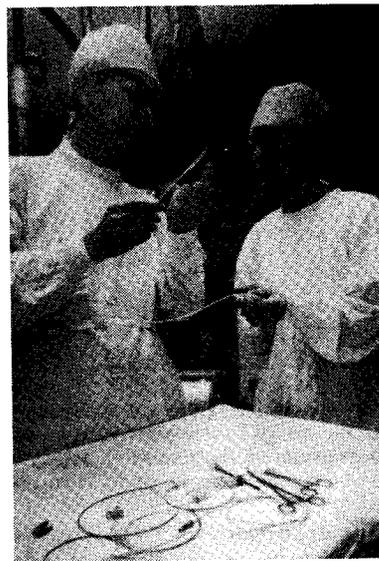
Yuan Yaxiang, in his early 30s, is the academy's youngest research fellow. In 1982, he was

sent by the academy's Computer Centre to study applied mathematics and theoretical physics for a doctor's degree at Cambridge University of Britain. During his study, he completed more than a dozen influential academic theses and was invited to attend international conferences on five occasions. He won the first mathematics prize at a competition of post-graduate academic papers at Cambridge University and a second prize at an all-England mathematics competition. He was also elected a research fellow of a college at Cambridge University, a title which no one had previously been able to acquire before being awarded a doctor's degree. Although Yuan has yet to complete his studies, he returns to China every year for six months in order to link research result with scientific research at home. The academy supports his work by providing him with special funds for his domestic research work.

The academy plans, in the next five years, to train 200 top intellectuals like Ma and Yuan, as the nucleus and backbone of the academy's future development.

Exchanging Results

When Zhao Nanming, 51, currently a professor of biophysics and director of the Biological Science and Technology Department of Qinghua University, studied at the University of California of the United States in 1978, he was among the first batch of Chinese students sent abroad after the country opened its door to the outside world. At the time, Qinghua University had no department of biology. After he completed his studies in 1981, he returned to the university and set up the department in 1984. After six years of efforts, his department became a first-rate teaching and scientific research institute in China and has trained a



WANG ZIJIN
Lin Gui (left), president of the Zhongshan Hospital attached to the Shanghai Medical University who earned a doctorate in medical science in Sweden, examines apparatus before an operation.

large number of undergraduates, post-graduates and doctorates. It has established a key state laboratory, the facilities and equipment of which compare favourably with the laboratories of some developed countries. Many of its scientific results have filled in technological gaps previously hampering the field's development in China and some results have reached advanced world levels.

Zhao attributed such achievements to China's open policy which enabled him to make up for the time lost during the "cultural revolution" (1966-76) and which allowed him to keep abreast of the rapidly changing situation in the world's science and technology. "The aim of establishing the biological science and technology department was to let China in the near future occupy a place in the new scientific arena," Zhao said.

Today, more than 70 percent of the 60 staff members in Zhao's department are intellectually vibrant returned students who are



WANG ZHEN

Zhang Shensheng (right) of the Shanghai Communications University returned to China after receiving a doctorate in the United States. He dedicates himself to computer research and development; Zheng Wanlie, associate professor of the Mechanical Department of the Shanghai Tongji University, has researched refrigeration technology after receiving his doctorate in the Soviet Union. Here, he shows local residents how to use a household gas water heater and radiator.

able to keep up with world development of science and technology and have a solid scientific research foundation.

In Zhao's department, the selection and priority given to the development of research projects are based on China's actual conditions and on world development trends. International exchanges are also encouraged to ensure the free flow of information and help his staff constantly tap their own potential and catch up with or surpass their foreign colleagues.

According to this policy, each staff member of the department can attend international academic meetings or other exchange programmes for three months each year. Those with outstanding achievements in teaching and academic research are allowed to work abroad for one year out of five. To fulfil its long-term exchange plan, the department sends five people abroad and expects five already abroad to return each year. So far, all of the returned scholars have rendered excellent service. Sui Senfang, a Ph.D professor of the Biogeophysical Department of the Munich University of Technology, headed key project research after he returned to China in 1989. Zhao provided him with a laboratory and funds for re-

search, as well as fully capable partners and assistants. In the last two years, Sui was able to bring his research results to three international academic exchange conferences and has been quite satisfied with his work environment and the progress he has made.

Adaptable to Changes

Lu Junqin was sent by the Beijing Electro-Optical Source Research Institute to further his studies in Federal Germany in 1979, returned a doctorate degree holder and was posted deputy general engineer at the research institute in 1983. In 1985, because of his achievements in optical research, Lu was listed in the World's Who's Who of Optical Science and Engineering by the United States. With such a background, Lu never imagined he would quit his research area and turn to another career one year later.

Lu, now deputy general manager of the Xingye Co. of the China International Trust and Investment Corp., is in charge of a mountain of business routines: holding discussions with foreigners on the import of funds, technologies and managerial expertise, probing ways to expand exports, and arranging economic

co-operation with foreign businessmen. All of this has virtually nothing to do with Lu's speciality.

His new job, however, has not left him frustrated. On the contrary, he always keeps himself busy and happy. He quit his career because, among others, the research institute he once worked for had neither the funds nor the working conditions he needed to continue his research. Such a situation was common that a returned student could not find a job suited to his/her special training. This has been partly because the state could not afford to pay for facilities and partly because some people failed to tailor themselves to the changing circumstances. Lu Junqin is a case in point. Although some students had the same experiences as Lu once had, complaining that they could not follow through on their training, Lu had a different opinion. "I take it for granted," Lu said, "that since I was sent abroad by the state, I came back to serve the country." Though he could not pursue his academic speciality because the state lacked the resources he needed, he has generated as much interest in his new job as in his old. Now, he still makes use of his expertise in foreign language and electronic engineer-



WU ZUZHENG

Xu Qingyao, deputy director of the Foreign Languages Department of Sichuan Polytechnic College and a student who returned from the United States, makes preparations for the new academic year; Hong Ziliang (centre), associate professor of the Electronics Engineering Department of the Shanghai Fudan University who received a doctorate in Switzerland, discusses an electric circuit design with his colleagues.



WANG ZIJIN

ing.

Ye Yanlin, 35, once studied in France and Canada and returned a Ph.D to the Technical Physics Department of Beijing University early in 1989. Later that year he was appointed an associate professor with his research focused on the basic theory of nuclear physics. "In other countries," he said, "there are more specialists than are needed in my research area. It is common for two or three post-Ph.D to apply for one job. Moreover, even though one gets the job, it will take him a long time to get a research project and organize a research group of, say, ten members." Many have to turn to other areas, for example, radiation therapy in hospitals or sterilization of foodstuffs by nuclear radiation, after graduation.

Ye said he hoped to make some accomplishments in his field. He returned to Beijing University after finishing his studies abroad. As he expected, his research project was approved soon after he made an application and his department organized a research group of four full and associate professors and some aides and provided some research funds.

Nevertheless, Ye's research was not plain sailing and he met with more difficulties than ex-

pected. For example, the equipment of the Technical Physics Department was outdated, and there were no funds for new equipment. To top it all, in order to do experiments, Ye sometimes had to travel thousands of miles to Lanzhou, Gansu Province, to use the heavy-ion cyclotron installed there.

"Of course," Ye said, "I will still hold on to my job and strive to do something good for the country."

Compared with Lu and Ye, Liu Jin, a Ph.D from Japan, is lucky. In 1988, Liu, then 29 years old, completed his doctoral programme in Japan's Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology and came back to continue his post-Ph.D studies at the Biology Department of Beijing University. In 1989, Liu took up the plant genetic engineering for obtaining transgenic plants that resist infection of plant pathogens. He is trying to screen resistance genes from a myriad of microbes and create a disease-resistant transgenic plant, thus blazing a new trail in the world's biological research. Liu has since screened a group of microbes (antagonist microbes) that can resist or inhibit plant pathogens, wherein he separated four antimicrobial proteins. By comparing the four antimicrobi-

al proteins with the amino acid sequence of more than 20,000 types of proteins so far identified worldwide with the help of computers, he has concluded that they are the latest functional proteins ever discovered. The four proteins will be included in the international protein bank of European molecular biology. His research is still in full swing.

In the past year, Liu and his colleagues have presented their research papers at three international conferences and had them published in Chinese and foreign publications, drawing the attention of counterparts abroad. Since Liu's research has much to do with the leaf blight of rice, a widespread and serious disease in China, it will, in experts's words, prove to be very rewarding if Liu succeeds and his findings are applied to agricultural production.

Associate Professor Liu is now in charge of laboratory protein engineering and plant genetic engineering, a key state project, in co-operation with Chen Zhan-giang, the youngest professor with international recognition at Beijing University, and 31-year-old Associate Professor Gu Hong-gya, both of whom returned from the United States with a doctoral degree. The state has invested more than 500,000 yuan every year, altogether several

millions, in their research. "If your research area is not only needed by the state, which will then fund it, but is also competitive internationally, you half-way home," Liu said.

Because of the housing shortage, the Liu family of three is still packed into a single room and lives on a monthly salary of less than 200 yuan. However, Liu feels he is leading a full life, sitting in his spacious laboratory on the top floor of a four-storeyed building by the Unknown Lake on campus. "I'm a Chinese. I'm content because I'm working to my fullest for my own country. I believe there are many others who share my view."

Service and Problems

Last year Shi Gang returned from Japan with a Master's degree in business. Learning that Shi hoped to work in Beijing and has his wife transferred from Xian to the capital, the China Service Centre for Returned Overseas Students recommended him to the China International Trust and Investment Corp. They needed a well-educated manager and so quickly decided to hire Shi and his wife. Shi was very pleased because in China it is often difficult to have one's spouse transferred into Beijing from outside.

The service centre based in the Beijing Languages Institute has been able to help many returned students in similar ways since it was established in 1987. From the beginning, the centre offered services to students who wanted to study abroad and to those who have returned. Its services included applying for exit visas, purchasing air tickets and seeing students off at the airport.

Liu Lihe, the centre's deputy director, said that his centre has established regular ties with nearly 100 universities and research institutes in the United

States, Canada, Japan, Australia, France, Germany and New Zealand so as to be in the best position to help students find jobs when they come back. Adhering to the principle of "rational competition and two-way choice," the centre sends employers to go abroad annually to hire students about to graduate and organizes students to come back on an inspection tour, thus helping them know better China's current situation.

However, the centre's attempts at good services and high efficiency for overseas students are often handicapped by administrative dilly-dallying and red tape. For example, the state has made it clear that a Ph.D, whether he/she is trained at home or broad, is entitled to have his/her spouse and dependents transferred to his or her place of work. Over-elaborate personnel transfer procedures often prevent this from happening.

One of the centre's most important tasks is to promote personnel flow. The resistance to this work comes mainly from the organization which once employed the students. Take the case of She Fu for example. He was sent to study in Germany by the Shanghai Tongji Medical University and given the title of professor by the university upon his return. But She was willing to work for Zhejiang University even though he was offered a post of an associate professor. This is because Zhejiang University's working conditions were more suitable for She's research project. She's persistence in working for Zhejiang University irritated Tongji University which refused to let him go. The centre had to untie the knot. Although, after much persuasion by the centre, Tongji University eventually let She go, Liu still feels powerless and ineffective in dealing with such cases as She's.

One unidentified foreign-trained student related his experience. At his request, the service centre recommended him to the personnel department of a university in south China. The university turned him down, on the grounds that it did not need a person of his speciality. Soon after that, however, a professor of the same university who worked in the same field as the student learned of the student when he read the Job Wanted column for foreign-trained students in a newspaper published by the service centre. The professor immediately wrote to the centre, inviting the student to be his aide. The student got the job he wanted, but the story indicates that sometimes departments of the same organization do not work hand in hand.

Outdated personnel management system, and shortages of funds and housing are the problems which often plague foreign-trained students. To solve these problems, the state has done a lot. For example, it has established a natural science foundation, a special fund for promising young teachers and subsidies to assist foreign-trained students on their return to work in China. Such government departments as the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Agriculture have earmarked special funds to help foreign-trained students get their research programmes off the ground. The Chinese Academy of Science established a special fund under the authority of the president which can only be used for foreign-trained students. Recently, the state set aside 5 million yuan to build apartment houses for foreign-trained students, a step that will also be taken by the State Education Commission. In addition, a more flexible and effective personnel management system, set up especially for foreign-trained students, is now under consideration. ■

Spring Everywhere

—*Development in Traditional Chinese Painting*

by Liu Boshu

The policy of "letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend" has been thoroughly carried out since China's reform and opening to the outside world in 1979. Art is respected and individuality of art recognized. A lively and new aspect in traditional Chinese painting has emerged during the past few years.

After several thousand years of development, especially during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911), traditional Chinese painting attained a high artistic level in approach, subject matter, brush skill and composition, but subjects gradually became restricted. Figure paintings only depicted historical figures; landscape painters expressed an ideal paradise of mountains and rivers, no human activities; bird and flower paintings concentrated exclusively on plum blossoms, orchids, bamboo, chrysanthemums, cranes, magpies, fish and roosters.

But during the ten years of turmoil under the slogan of "everything for politics," traditional painting almost came to a dead end with respect to subject. However, in the last few years, traditional painting has made a breakthrough, and creation by enriching traditional subjects with the idea of the times has broadened and increased the scope and subject matter. In figure paintings, painters with superb skill are making efforts to reflect human activities from different angles and in three di-

mensions. Various aspects of modern life from the heroic deeds of outstanding persons from various generations to the customs and lifestyles of ordinary people are depicted, reflecting their joy, anger, sorrow and happiness. Landscape painters continue to praise their country's magnificent mountains and rivers, and boldly illustrate the loess plateau and other scenery of distinct local features which have never or rarely been painted before. A large number of excellent works rich in local detail and flavour have been created. Art-lovers can feast their eyes on beautiful masterpieces of birds and flowers, which show a real picture of "a hundred flowers in blossom." Many subjects which in the past were never or rarely used, have been created. In the past few years, the scope and depth of the rich new subjects of traditional Chinese painting have seldom been seen in its previous history.

The "newness" of Chinese painting has been prominently shown through a variety of technique of expression. While modern painters study and adopt traditional Chinese painting techniques, they have blazed their own trails and developed their own styles of their desire to free themselves from the shackles of the old painting formulae. Some study in depth of the legacy of traditional Chinese painting, some explore other art forms, and others learn from foreign art, including Western contemporary art, thereby greatly enriching the expression of tradi-

tional Chinese painting.

In the art world, traditional Chinese painting has always cultivated a unique art style of its own. It has inspired many painting styles and formed many schools. Contemporary traditional Chinese painting has inherited this excellent national tradition and different schools have been formed according to the different cultural backgrounds, geography, environment, time and aesthetic demands. In the last few years, various styles of Chinese traditional painting have appeared which are prominent in local character. As for mountains and rivers, Beijing painters pursue the beauty of "grand and large." They use large brush strokes or a sharp black and white contrast to show earth-shaking power; as for the loess plateau, the use of colour and ink together or a splash of the brush to show a cold, desolate, boundless plateau, is both primitive yet extremely modern. Northeastern painters paint white mountains and black rivers, which, although bulky, have a charming and gentle effect. Those in the Jiangsu and Zhejiang area use graceful and free-style brushwork to express their unexplainable passion for water villages. Apart from the different styles of the different regions, China's painters have their own unique ways of painting that are so rich that one feels overwhelmed and unable to absorb it all.

The author, Liu Boshu, was born in Yongxiu County, Jiangxi Province, in 1935 and graduated from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in 1953 where he studied painting under the guidance of Xu Beihong, a famous painter and educator. Liu has been head of the department of traditional Chinese painting and deputy president of the Central Academy of Fine Arts. He is now deputy chief executive of the Traditional Chinese Painting Research Institute and executive director of the Chinese Artists' Association. ■

Characteristics of Traditional Chinese Painting

by Luo Haipo

Paintings in the world can basically be divided into two large categories, that is, Oriental and Western. Oriental painting includes mainly traditional Chinese painting, while Western is mainly oil painting. Traditional Chinese painting is distinct in its expression and forms its own unique style in the East and even in the world.

In its early period of development, religious figures were the subject of traditional Chinese painting. Mountains, rivers, flowers and birds appeared only in the background and did not occupy much space. They were later enlarged and gradually developed into independent styles.

The traditional Chinese painting is distinguished with its special painting tools and mounting methods. It is also unique in implication. For example, artists may "draw fish and no water, but still there are ripples." Qi Baishi painted his shrimps without water, yet one can still feel water from the movement of the shrimps. In some instances when Chinese painters have held exhibitions in Europe, some foreign friends have mistaken the empty space in their works as being unfinished; in fact, this is an important artistic characteristic of traditional Chinese painting.

Ink outlines are chiefly used in Chinese painting, then

the shapes are filled in with colour. This makes the shapes clear and precise. An outstanding painter skillfully expresses a certain feeling through his figurative and vigorous outlines. The colour is simple and generalized and is applied to give liveliness and vividness.

In composition, Chinese painting adopts "random perspectives" or "moving perspectives." This is more flexible than "focus perspective" in that it puts subjects of varying time and space together perfectly. For example, in the grand landscape painting *How Beautiful the Mountains and Rivers Are*, contemporary painters Fu Baoshi and Guan Shanyue combine all four seasons from the point of view of time, and, from the point of view of space, they combine scenes from the south of the Yangtze River, north China, the red sun over the East China Sea, and snow on the western border. This cannot be done by "focus perspective."

Paintings are based on a subject. Whereas in Western painting, only the signature of the artist and date are put in the corner, in Chinese painting, they are often not only written in a conspicuous place. The painting may include subject title, poems and seals. Poem, calligraphy and painting are merged to enrich the scope and depth of the art

work.

As for calligraphy and painting during the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and the Song Dynasty (960-1279), a number of scholars and officials in feudal China always expressed their personal ambitions by using symbols of mountains, rivers, flowers and birds. They paid great attention to the cultivation of literature, calligraphy and the creation of ideas in painting which was then called "scholar painting." During the development of scholar painting, calligraphy was considered painting, and painting bamboo was called "writing bamboo," and painting plum was "writing plum." Contemporary painters Wu Changshuo, Qi Baishi and Huang Binhong added beauty to their paintings with their outstanding calligraphy.

These are not the only art features of traditional Chinese painting. In addition, there are 32 methods of using the brush and 18 methods of using ink. By lending brush and ink to *xuan* paper, a high quality absorbent paper made in Xuancheng, Anhui Province, skillful painters of traditional Chinese painting and calligraphy can achieve endless techniques.

Chinese painting has been splendidly cultivated over several thousands of years. It is also the crystallization of the endless dedication of painters from past dynasties. ■



General Manager Gao Wenzhong



Liaoning Phoenix Hotel

A three-star tourist hotel, the Phoenix Hotel of Liaoning Province is located in the beautiful Beiling area of Shenyang, Liaoning Province. Equipped with advanced facilities, the hotel has 260 elegantly decorated guest rooms. The seven dining halls serve Cantonese, Liaoning and Shandong delicacies as well as the Western-style food. Service facilities include a tourist company, taxicab team attached to the hotel, booking ticket agent, foreign currencies exchange, credit card services, IDD telephone, business centre, satellite TV, conference facilities, market, laundry, medical massage, sauna, billiards and tennis court, dancing hall. They provide convenience and comfort for tourists and businessmen. The well-trained hotel personnel offer courteous, high-quality services.

The phoenix is a symbol of luck and beauty, and, likewise, Phoenix Hotel Liaoning is certain to please you.

Address: 109 South
Huanghe Street,
Shenyang, China
Postcode: 110031
Tel: 466500-466509
Telex: 80045 FHFD CN
Fax: 665207

Tianlun Dynasty—A Unique Hotel

Under soft lights, a small Philippino musical band of three males and one female sing and play world-famous songs on request. Under a tea-coloured Arabian patterned canopy, young girls dressed in Arabian clothes half-kneel as they serve guests around the dining hall. Here guests can enjoy local Moroccan delicacies. There are large golden yellow Aladdin coffee pots and a scene out of *A Thousand and One Nights*. This is the enchanting atmosphere one discovers in the Magic Lamp Cocktail Lounge at the Tianlun Dynasty Hotel in Beijing.

The hotel is situated at the northern end of Wangfujing Avenue in the centre of Beijing's busiest commercial area. Guests staying in the upper rooms can gaze down onto the golden vermilion-roofed buildings of the Forbidden City. Managed by the Hong Kong Dynasty Management Group, this joint venture hotel is one of the

many high-class hotels that have sprouted up in Beijing recently. Despite the strong competition, however, the Tianlun Dynasty Hotel has attracted overseas tourists with its unique style.

Ms Anna Fang, manager of its public relations department, said that the hotel is presently in trial operation. There are still some restaurants, gymnasium, shopping and recreation facilities being furnished, and if all goes according to schedule, they should be ready for use later this summer. The underground, ground and first floors are mainly for recreation, shopping, food and drinks. The second floor has the largest glass-ceilinged central lounge in Asia, providing a setting and style similar to the square in Rome.

For the convenience of business tourists, Ms Fang said the hotel has a commercial centre complete with a wide range of services for guests. In the centre is an exhibition and sales hall, the largest

among Beijing's elite hotels, where one can purchase fine imitation Chinese porcelain. In addition to a gymnasium, the health centre includes also a swimming pool, a tennis court, solarium, sauna bath, squash and bowling. Ms Fang went on to say that such complete health facilities are not common in other Beijing hotels. The hotel service is not only convenient for tourists, but also an ideal health and recreational spot for foreign guests living in the capital.

by Han Baocheng

Hotel staff wish guests a Happy New Year at Spring Festival during a performance of the traditional Chinese lion dance in the central hall.

HAN BAOCHENG



The Chinese Dialects

HUBEI RIBAO
(Hubei Daily)

The Northern Dialect of Beijing is the predominant speech spoken by 70 percent of the Chinese population.

The remaining speech patterns predominant in the country include Wu spoken by people in Shanghai and Kejia, which originated in Meixian and is spoken by residents of Guangdong.

Among Chinese dialects eight are major ones. They are:

1. Northern: Predominant in Beijing, this dialect is the colourful speech heard north of Yangtze River, upper coastal area of Zhenjiang, lower coastal area of Jiujiang, Sichuan, Yunnan and Guizhou provinces, the northwestern Hubei and Hunan provinces and northern part of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. More than 70 percent of the Han people use this form of verbal communication.

2. Wu: About 8.4 percent of the Chinese people speak Wu, originated from the Shanghai dialect. It is also spoken in areas south of the Yangtze River in Jiangsu Province and most of Zhejiang Province.

3. Hunan: Identified by similarity to Changsha dialect, spoken in Hunan Province by about 5 percent of the population.

4. Jiangxi: Used by 2.4 percent of the Chinese population living in Jiangxi Province and in southeastern part of Hubei Province.

5. Kejia: Originated in Meixian, it is spoken by residents of the eastern, southern and northern parts of Guangdong Province, the southeastern Guangxi Zhuang Auton-

omous Region, the western part of Fujian Province, the southern Jiangxi Province, and in some areas of Hunan and Sichuan provinces. About 4 percent of the Chinese people use it.

6. Guangdong: Originating in Guangzhou City and spoken by 5 percent of China's population in Guangdong Province. The dialect is heard in most parts of Guangdong and southeastern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

7. Northern Fujian: Identified as an offshoot of Fuzhou dialect of Fujian Province, it is spoken by about 1.2 percent of China's population in Fujian.

8. Southern Fujian: Originated in Xiamen and is used by about three percent of Han population in Fujian and many overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia.

(No. 14892)

The Bustling Taklimakan Desert

JINGJI CANKAO BAO
(Economic Reference)

At the end of the 19th century, a Swedish explorer braved the journey to the Taklimakan desert in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to unearth relics silent for thousands of years along the Silk Road. He almost lost his life there. Recalling his adventure there, he wrote afterwards that the Taklimakan desert was the sea of death which fell short of merely a tombstone.

Today, however, the desert area of 330,700 square km is very much alive. In the summer of 1983, some 300 oil explorers of the Bureau of Oil Exploration under the original Ministry of Petroleum Indus-

try entered that desolate land using special vehicles. Their living and working there was the first time human beings had lived and worked in that desert for any sustained length of time.

In November 1987 a drilling crew of the Oil and Natural Gas Corp. built a derrick in the desert's center. In the vicinity, a meteorological observatory station was set up by a comprehensive desert inspecting group under the Chinese Academy of Sciences to collect and record the weather information for the vast wasteland—the second largest mobile desert in the world.

Today one can see and feel the bustling desert by explosions, noisy machines, and shuttling cargo vehicles.

Living in special sand-proof coaches, the workers have all materials needed for daily use. They watch China Central Television Station's programmes transmitted by satellite, and ordinary illness are treated there. The abundant water beneath the sand provides them drink and bath. The workers named their residency "the desert guesthouse."

The explorers often play football and badminton barefoot in the soft sand in their spare time. During holidays they hold dancing parties in the open air. The noisy fireworks at New Year's Eve celebrations makes the "sea of death" lively.

The gradual expansion of the oil development and exploration will bring more changes in Taklimakan desert. The Chinese scientists plan to build a solar energy power station covering an area of 30,000 square km, adding a new dimension to the desert's usefulness.

(February 3, 1991)

Tianjin Lures More Foreign Investment

The Economic and Technological Development Zone in Tianjin, north China, has obtained additional foreign investment for 1991.

Tian Guiming, an official in charge of the zone's public relations, noted that in the first four months of this year 37 foreign firms have been approved to set up projects in the zone, a two-fold increase over the same period of last year. These projects have a total investment of US\$80 million. For example, the M.G.M Co. of the United States invested US\$500,000 to purchase the right to use 1 square km of land in the zone. It plans to erect a trade mansion on the land and invite other foreign firms to construct textile, light industries and chemical projects. Japan has built earlier this year a foodstuffs enterprise company with a total investment of US\$6 million.

Tian said that Taiwan and South Korea are eager to invest in Tianjin.

The zone, built by the Tianjin authorities in 1984, provides foreign businessmen with preferential policies. Foreign businessmen may invest in the zone in a flexible form and enjoy a certain reduction and exemption from import duties, enterprise income taxes and industrial and commercial consolidated tax. With good transport facilities, the zone is about 3 km from the Tianjin Xingang Harbour, north China's largest harbour with advanced container wharves. Since December 1989, the development zone has invested nearly 500 million yuan in the development of infrastructure facilities to improve its investment climate.

So far, enterprises from 22 countries and regions have set up 253 investment projects with a total investment of US\$500 mil-

lion in the zone. Of this sum, 20 percent were contributed by the United States, followed by Hong Kong and Macao. The foreign investment is made in such fields as machinery and electronics, new building materials, textile and light industries, foodstuffs and medicine. In the coming few years, he said, his zone will encourage foreign investment in the fields of marine biology, machinery and electronic industries.

by **Huang Wei**

New Foreign-Funded Projects in Hainan

Hainan Province plans to set up 60 key projects for the use of foreign investment.

According to the plan, 26 projects which are now under way will use US\$232.5 million of direct foreign investment, of which about US\$86 million will be invested within the year. They include a cement works, tourist facilities, aquatic breeding, the production of stockings, essence and spices and the construction of a shopping centre.

Preparatory work is being made for another 22 directly foreign-funded projects involving a total investment of US\$1.58 billion, and over US\$40 million will be invested within the year. The main projects include the Yangpu Development Zone, the Guilinyang Development Zone, a tyre factory, a cement works, a polyamide fibre factory, a tyre fabric factory, the Gourmet Powder Co. Ltd. and the Sanya 10,000-ton finished oil dock.

Six were listed among projects to use foreign government loans totalling US\$520 million, and US\$40 million of which will be invested within the year. The key construction projects include an express way, a civilian airport, programme-controlled telephone

networks, numerical microwave telecommunications facilities, optical cable installation, and the first-stage expansion of the Haikou Port.

Another six were listed among the key projects to use foreign government loans with available allocation. They include a paper mill, the disposal of polluted water and garbage, the second-stage construction of the Yangpu Port, a compound feed plant and a fruit processing plant using a total investment of US\$243 million and negotiated loans of US\$163 million.

by **Zhang Zhiping**

Five New Air Routes

Ke Deming, deputy director of the Civil Aviation Administration of China, noted in late May that his administration plans to open five new international lines: Beijing-Xiamen-Djakarta (Indonesia), Guangzhou-Djakarta, Beijing-Cairo (Egypt), Xiamen-Pinang (Malaysia) and Shenyang-Irkutsk (the Soviet Union).

China also plans to open air routes or chartered air lines for flights to Mongolia, Laos and Chiang Mai (Thailand).

CAAC announced that it will purchase three Boeing-757, four Boeing-737-300, two MD-11, five MD-82, eight Yak-42 and two Y-7 in order to satisfy the needs of newly opened international air lines.

By the end of last year, CAAC had opened 45 international air routes to 35 cities in 28 countries in addition to its eight regional air routes. There are also fixed chartered air routes from 17 cities to Hong Kong. So far, CAAC has 206 transport aircraft, including 127 large and medium-sized airplanes.

by **Li Ning**

Yunnan Attracts Overseas Investors

The Stipulations of Yunnan Province Concerning the Encouragement of Investment by Overseas Chinese, Hong Kong and Macao Compatriots and the Stipulations of Yunnan Province Concerning the Encouragement of Investment by Taiwan Compatriots were promulgated and implemented in late March.

The two stipulations can be boiled down as follows:

—Enterprises scheduled to operate for a period of more than ten years are to pay the minimum land-use fees as prescribed in the regulations. The development fees may be paid in a lump. Enterprises which develop sites on their own are to be exempt from development fees for five years beginning from the date of operation except for two Kunming districts, the downtown districts of Dongchuan, Yuxi, Qujiang, Chuxiong, Dali and Gejiu cities. Technologically advanced and export-oriented enterprises that are scheduled to operate for a period of more than ten years are to be exempt from development fees for eight years.

—Technologically advanced or export-oriented enterprises (joint ventures, co-operative and foreign-owned enterprises) scheduled to operate for a period of more than ten years in the phosphate chemicals, rubber processing, iron and steel, nonferrous industries, paper processing industry and high-tech industry are to be exempt from local income tax for eight to ten years beginning from the first profit-making year. Enterprises as such are to be exempt from land-use fees for 8 to 13 years except those to be built in the busy sections of Kunming's Panlong and Wuhua districts.

—Enterprises scheduled to operate for a period of more than 15

years in agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, aquatic products, energy, transportation and infrastructure facilities will be exempt from local income tax for ten to 20 years and land-use fees for ten to 13 years beginning from the first profit-making year.

These preferential terms are applicable to productive enterprises with an operation period of more than ten years to be built in counties that are related as poverty-stricken by the state or the province.

—Enterprises engaged in energy, transportation, and infrastructure facilities, when it is difficult for them to balance foreign exchange receipts and disbursements, may find relief through the state foreign exchange market.

—Enterprises mentioned above enjoy priority in the supply of water, electricity, gas, coal, means of transport and communications facilities needed for production and at the same prices as are charged on local state-owned enterprises. In addition, they also enjoy priority in the supplying of personnel, labour force and raw materials.

In addition, the Investment Service Centre for Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao Compatriots and Overseas Chinese established by Yunnan Province and the materials and Equipment Service Centre for Foreign-Funded Enterprises will provide investors with consultancy service regarding laws, policies and the supply of raw materials. ■

China to Hold Its 3rd Technology Fair

The Third National New Technology and New Products Fair will be held between November 8-14 this year in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province.

Liu Nianzu, deputy mayor of Guangzhou, announced that the items on display will emphasize technologies and products which are newly developed, have practical value, a ready market and export potential. Also on display are technological items suitable to Southeast Asian countries, including machines, small farm machines and tools, environmental protection technologies and equipment, medicine and building materials. Experts and businessmen from scientific, technological and economic circles, and foreign enterprises are welcome to come to China and negotiate technological co-operation and product exchanges.

At last year's fair, Chinese businesses signed 24 contracts and letters of intent valued at 1.1 billion yuan with more than 100 foreign clients, of which US\$100 million was in foreign currency.

Liu said the Hong Kong Yuexiu Science and Technology Development Co. will contact businessmen from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan about their participation in the fair.

Medicine Producer Seeks Co-operation

Shen Jiaqiu, director of the Hengyang Traditional Chinese Medicine Factory in Hunan Province, recently announced its eagerness to seek clients co-operation both at home and abroad to add more investment and expand the production scale of its product, the Ancient Chinese Medicine for Health, in order to meet the growing domestic and international demand.

Shen said that, due to the special function and popularity of the medicine, he hoped his partners will be financially strong enough to market the product well.

The medicine was developed

by the Hunan Traditional Chinese Medicinal Research Academy according to a prescription from a medical work unearthed in the Mawangdui Tomb of the Han Dynasty (206BC-220AD), by using modern technology for producing anti-senility ready-made Chinese medicine. Clients from the countries and regions including the United States, Japan, Sweden, Hong Kong and Taiwan wrote letters and sent agents for the product soon after it was put on the market. At present, the product has been exported to many countries and regions including Singapore and Canada.

by Chen Dian

Best-Selling World Clocks

Jinda-brand world clock, made with advanced quartz electronic technology and integrated circuits, was a hit with foreign businessmen at the Guangzhou Export Commodities Fair held this spring. Japanese and US businessmen signed contracts for the products worth US\$1 million.

The Jinda-brand clocks were produced by the Ruzhou Municipal Electronics Factory, Henan

Province. Compared with other foreign-made clocks, their advantage is that the same machine core turns the compass and turnwheel simultaneously, even as the graduation of the compass and the turnwheel is corresponding to the trapeze bottomwheel. Such a clock displays the standard time of 31 countries. Convenient to use, the products will be of wide use in tourism, navigation and post and telecommunications. The technology was patented in China last year.

The world clocks were designated as product symbols for the 11th Asian Games held in Beijing in autumn last year, and are widely used in various gymnasiums and sports grounds.

At present, Jinda-brand clocks include wall clocks, desk clocks and arts and crafts clocks carved in wood with an annual output of 30,000 clocks. They are exported to Japan, the United States, the Soviet Union, Western Europe and Southeast Asia.

The factory's director Xue Yin said that a world clock noting the time and alarm will be sold this autumn on the market.

The factory, built in 1987, produces various kinds of other quartz products in addition to the above-mentioned items. Products such as sound-controlled illumi-

nation, programme-controlled time and light-controlled time are patented in China.

by Feng Jing

Lyophilized Royal Jelly Powder Exported

The Lyophilized Royal Jelly Powder produced by the Laoshan Pharmaceutical Factory in Nanjing recently won a gold medal for excellent Chinese health products. The product also won the gold medal at the 32nd International Beekeeping Conference held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1989.

The new-type health medicine was first developed by the factory in 1984 and passed technological appraisal of the state medicinal department. Over recent years, its sales have soared drastically. Last year about three tons of the product were exported to Japan, Southeast Asia and Western Europe, making up 60 percent of its output.

Tong Zhengzhong, director of the factory, said the jelly powder, produced by using the desiccating technology of vacuum freezing, keeps the ingredients effective and is convenient for carrying, has a long preservation period and can be easily taken. One gram of jelly powder equals to ten bottles of royal jelly taken orally.

Tong said that as a good nutritive substance, royal jelly powder has been widely recognized both at home and abroad. China has a long history in bee breeding and abundant resources in the industry. The factory, one of the largest of the trade in the country, hopes to co-operate with foreign clients in funding and technology to develop its lyophilized royal jelly powder.

by Han Baocheng

Women check the quality of a world clock.

ZHOU GUANGZHONG



China Supremacy Topples in Table Tennis

The Chinese table tennis teams won a "tragic" victory at the Chida World Table Tennis Championships which finished on May 8. Although China won three titles for women's singles, women's doubles and mixed doubles, it failed to regain the Swaythling Cup and to defend the Marcel Corbillon Cup, two of the most important events in table tennis competition. China ranked first in total medals with three golds, four silvers and 2 bronzes, outshining the powerful Swedish team and the unified Korean team. However, the results cannot conceal the fact that China is losing its supremacy in table tennis.

The Chinese women's team has kept the Marcel Corbillon Cup for 16 consecutive years. But this time, it was taken away by the unified Korean team. The defeat was a big blow for the Chinese women's team which has been considered No.1 in the world. "What's the use of being first in total medals when we have lost the team title?" asked Zhang Xielin, coach of the Chinese women's team.

No one thinks more highly of the Marcel Corbillon Cup than Zhang. Since 1975, Zhang has successfully led his team in capturing the title nine consecutive times, including eight Marcel Corbillon Cups and the gold medal at the First World Cup Table Tennis Competition held last year.

The women's teams of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea were world forces even before they joined hands. This time, the combined team

posed the strongest threat to the Chinese women team.

April 29 was a black Monday for the Chinese teams. In the morning, Czechoslovakia edged China out of the finals in the men's team event with a score of 3-2, and China only finished seventh. It was the first time that the Chinese men's team was kicked out of the final competition since 1957. In the afternoon, adding insult to injury, the Chinese women's team failed to defend the Marcel Corbillon Cup.

Speaking about the defeat of the Chinese men's team, Xi Enting, coach of the team, said that he had considered Czechoslovakia as the No.1 opponent in preparing for the event, and his worry became a reality when his players were downed by Czechoslovakia. Xie said that the

lack of experience and poor performance of the players accounted for the defeat. Xi added that the new playing format, four singles and one doubles, instead of the previous nine singles, had also contributed to his team's fall from grace.

Since 1954, Asian men's teams (China and Japan) have taken 17 titles out of the 20 world table tennis competitions, and European countries (Sweden and Hungary) have only won two. The Asian players had held absolute supremacy in this event. However, in recent years, European players began to outdo Asian competitors with superior playing technique.

In mixed doubles, Wang Tao and Liu Wei beat their teammates Xie Chaojie and Chen Zihe who had defeated Yoo Nam-kyu and Hyun Jung-hwa of the unified Korean team. It is China's eighth time to win the title since Zhang Xielin and Lin Huiqing took it in China in 1971.

Deng Yaping, champion of women's singles at the 41st World Table Tennis Championships.

LAN HONGGUANG



18-year-old Deng Yaping demolished Li Bun-hui of Korea in under 36 minutes. The win wiped out the memory of her defeat to Li in the 1989 World Championships in Dortmund, Germany. It is the ninth time that China has won the title for women's singles.

One of the most notable features of the 41st World table Tennis Championships was that many Chinese veteran players were employed by foreign teams as coaches or players. This has contributed to the development of world table tennis. Although the Chinese team has been toppled from their supremacy now, the large number of Chinese players employed by more and more foreign countries is a good reminder of China's table tennis power.

by Lou Linwei

China Goes Ahead in Optics Research

In 1980, the Photoelectric Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), located in Chengdu in southwest China's Sichuan Province, established the Adaptive Optics Research Section, the only one of its kind in China. Although it has come ten years later than in foreign countries, it has made a series of outstanding achievements over the past decade.

When one observes a remote object beyond the atmosphere with an astronomical telescope, the image of the object is fuzzy. This problem, caused by interference from atmospheric turbulence, has long posed difficulties in traditional optic technology and puzzled scientists.

Since the 1970s, some countries have made efforts to measure the dynamic interference of turbulence flow by combining electronic technology with optical technology and make real-time corrections with high-speed control. In this way, the optical system is able to adapt to the changing outside conditions and maintain a clear image. Adaptable optics can improve laser beam quality in high-resolution optical observation. This new technology, which requires a fine combination of optical and electronic techniques, has attracted worldwide attention.

In 1986, the Chengdu Photoelectric Research Institute succeeded in developing the technology of multidictor wavefront error correction, which has been successfully used in the error correction of

the light path of the LF12 laser fusion device in the Shanghai Photomechanical Research Institute. With the correction, the energy concentration of the static focus spot is three times greater. The multidictor wavefront error correction is one of the few practical adaptable optical systems in the world. It was rated as one of China's three distinguished technologies at a state-level appraising meeting. It won the CAS' top award for scientific and technological progress.

In 1987, the Chengdu institute, for the first time in China, made a real-time correction of error caused by atmospheric turbulence flow with its 21-unit adaptable optical telescope. It achieved good results in correcting the wavefront error caused by a 340-metre-long horizontal atmospheric turbulence.

In 1988, at a technical appraisal meeting presided over by Wang Daheng, China's leading optical expert, many participants pointed out the Chengdu institute's experimentation had produced one of the few dynamic wavefront correcting systems that work successfully in a closed way, indicating that China has mastered the key technique in adaptable optics. The device was awarded CAS' prize for outstanding scientific and technological achievement.

In 1989, the institute achieved real-time correction in laser beaming atmospheric turbulence. Using a weak wavefront probe with photon counting capacity, real-time correction of turbulence flow

of a celestial body was achieved at the Yunnan Observatory during September and October 1990. The double stars of 1.94-2.92 magnitude was successfully resolved; that is, the obscure chart of two stars was distinguished after correction. China became the fourth country capable of resolving double stars, after the United States, Germany and France.

During the Seventh Five-Year Plan period (1986-90), the institute made a breakthrough in developing the technology of adaptable optics, some of which surpasses that of Western Europe and the Soviet Union. It developed the 37-unit and 69-unit deformable mirrors, the high speed tilt mirror, the special 40 million times per second high speed digital processor used for wavefront control, and the 37-unit digital high speed wavefront control system.

The Chengdu institute also pays attention to the intermediate application of high technologies. It developed a system of high-speed micro-driven locating technology which has a high resolution and a response time of less than one millisecond. This technology plays an important role in manufacturing integrated circuits, in biological engineering, laser, and precision machining, and large-scale radar.

In addition, the newly developed precision optical translation device, among other products, has been patented by the state and is used by dozens of domestic consumers.

by Lou Linwei

Dinosaur Research Makes New Achievements

The Zigong Dinosaur Museum in Zigong City, Sichuan Province, the largest natural museum in China, has received more than 2 million visitors since it was built in 1984.

The museum, covering an area of over 25,000 square metres, was built on the large dinosaur fossil excavation site. At present the museum has more than 200 dinosaur fossils, including 30 complete and near-complete dinosaur skeletons and seven dinosaur skulls.

The dinosaur was an extinct land reptile of the mesozoic era, a period dating about 250 million to 65 million years ago. The dinosaur group contains two distinct types, the lizard-hipped dinosaurs and bird-hipped dinosaurs according to the difference in their pelvises.

In the Underground Fossil Revelation Hall of the museum, dinosaur fossils are buried in their original places. A dozen dinosaur skeletons are on display in the exhibition hall, including the lizard-footed dinosaur, bird-footed dinosaur, winged dinosaur and the snake-necked dinosaur. Visitors can get some idea about the dinosaur and its living environment through the pictures, explanations and artificial settings in the knowledge hall.

According to expert analysis, during the mesozoic era, Zigong, in the southern part of the Sichuan Basin, was a low swamp land dotted by lakes and rivers and covered with dense vegetations including pines and ginkgo trees,

which was an ideal home for dinosaurs and other reptiles. The first piece of dinosaur fossil was discovered in Zigong in 1915. Since then, a large number of dinosaur and vertebrate fossils have been located in over 80 places. The dinosaur fossils of the Jurassic Period, which dates back to 210 million to 135 million years ago, were the first of their kind found in the world.

Palaeontologists Yang Zhongjian and Dong Zhiming from the Institute of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Palaeoanthropology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Cai Kaiji from the Chengdu Geological Institute, and other Chinese scientists began to make comprehensive investigations and research into the living conditions, ecological conditions and the causes of death of the dinosaurs. They have concluded that the dinosaurs in Dashanpu, Zigong, lived on shallow lake beaches and that Asia was the birthplace of stegosauria. They also gave explanations concerning

the dinosaur and its relation to other animal groups. They also put forth several new suggestions to account for the extinction of the dinosaur including "change of climate," "collision of minor planets" and "sudden change in hereditary information system."

However, other palaeontologists do not believe that the dinosaur is extinct in the world today. They say that dinosaur was a homiothermal animal, and today's birds were transformed from the two-footed dinosaurs which were small, nimble, and adept at running.

Some foreign dinosaur specialists, after visiting the museum, said that China should become an authority on the dinosaur, for the dinosaur fossils in the museum are the best preserved in the world.

Gao Renyan, vice-director of the Zigong Dinosaur Museum, said that the achievements of the museum in dinosaur study owe to its rich variety of fossils and extensive research by the experts. However, the museum has not yet been used to its full potential, and the study of the collection is still at its primary stage, added Gao. ■

Wushu Show in Henan

The 1991 International Tourism and Traditional Wushu Festival will be held in Puyang, Henan Province from June 18 to June 23. Wushu groups from a dozen of countries and regions, such as Japan, Singapore,

South Korea, Sweden and the Philippines, have been invited to participate. There will be a three-day trip to Puyang, Dengfeng and Luoyang, and theatrical performances characteristic of central China. ■



A Tiger.

ART PAGE



Drying Fish.



Spring Ploughing.

Papercuts by Wang Siyu

Wang Siyu, born in Leqing County, Zhejiang Province in 1923, is now an administrator with the Zhejiang Provincial Research Institute of Culture and History. Rich in folk art characteristics, his papercuts are bold yet simple and display the strength of his special techniques.



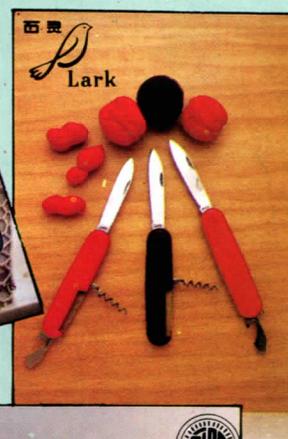
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