

People's 人民中国 China

September 1

THE 1952 BUDGET MARKS A FUNDAMENTAL TURN FOR THE BETTER

Editorial

ON THE EVE OF THE PEACE CONFERENCE OF THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGIONS

Liu Ning-I

HARNESSING THE YELLOW RIVER

Chang Han-ying

A PEASANT ASSOCIATION IS BORN

Hsu Chih

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The 1952 Budget Marks a Fundamental Turn for the Better

THE 1952 budget adopted by the Central People's Government Council on August 6 is the first budget in China's history planned to balance. Together with the economic recovery and price stability already achieved, it marks a fundamental turn for the better in the country's financial and economic situation. A sound foundation has been laid for the large-scale economic construction which New China is about to launch.

In 1949, the newly established People's Republic of China took over a country bankrupted by the imperialists and their Kuomintang puppets. In 1950, New China still suffered from a small budgetary deficit. A deficit was also expected in 1951, but a budgetary surplus was actually achieved.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung in June, 1950 had, however, enumerated three conditions required to bring about a fundamental turn for the better in the sphere of finance and economy. These were: the completion of the land reform, the proper readjustment of existing industry and commerce and considerable economies by government organisations.

The rehabilitation and expansion of the national economy has in fact proceeded at an unprecedented rate in the past three years since the people took the destiny of their country into their own hands.

Agrarian reform has been basically completed throughout the country. With the labour enthusiasm of the peasants higher than ever before, the total output of agriculture in 1951 was restored to 92.8 per cent of the highest pre-war annual level. In 1952, the total production of grain will exceed the highest level in the history of China, and we shall be completely self-sufficient in cotton supply.

People's China has made a good start in her industrialisation programme. Industrial production has risen considerably. The total value of industrial output increased by 26.7 per cent in 1951 as compared with 1950, and there will be a still bigger increase this year. The production of 35 main items of industrial

goods has surpassed the highest pre-war annual level by an average of 26 per cent. Marked progress has also been made in railway transport, communications, forestry, water conservancy and state trading in the past three years.

It is on this basis that the budget of 1952 has been balanced. It shows that the conditions for a fundamental turn for the better laid down by Chairman Mao have been fulfilled a year ahead of the time estimated.

THE 1952 budget is a budget of growing prosperity. It provides for an increase in revenue of 41.66 per cent above last year's and a rise in expenditure of 55.52 per cent.

These achievements are impressive under any circumstances. They are particularly so in view of the war conditions facing New China—the American imperialists are waging a large-scale aggressive war against our neighbour Korea, they are forcibly occupying our territory of Taiwan, they are endeavouring to impose a blockade against us, while making repeated aerial attacks on our Northeast and waging bacteriological warfare against Korea and our territory.

The liberated Chinese people, however, have proved that they are capable of coping with Herculean tasks. The reasons for their successes, as pointed out by Minister of Finance Po Yi-po while recently reporting to the Central People's Government Council, are the leadership of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the correctness of the various policies adopted by the People's Government and the joint efforts of the people; democratic reforms in enterprises; the success of the patriotic campaign to raise production and practise economy and the unprecedentedly high labour enthusiasm of the workers and peasants following the various mass movements, the latest of which was the campaign against corruption, waste and bureaucratism; and the selfless help from the U.S.S.R.

THE budget mirrors the vigorous health of our national life. It shows the rapid growth of the Socialist sector of our economy.

In 1950, urban taxes took first place as a source of revenue, with the agricultural tax and the profits from state enterprises ranking second and third respectively. In 1951, the profits and depreciation tax of state enterprises already took second place to urban taxes, with the agricultural tax following. This year, the returns from state enterprises constitute the largest single item of revenue—a sign of the rapid advance of the Socialist sector, whose strengthened leadership over all other sectors of our economy assures the gradual transition from the New Democratic system of today to a Socialist tomorrow.

On the other hand, the relegation this year of the agricultural tax to fourth place as a revenue producer further eases the burden borne by the broad masses of the Chinese peasants who constitute 80 per cent of the country's population. The agricultural tax now takes up only 12 per cent of the peasant's annual gross income, as against 17 per cent in 1951. What a contrast this represents with the recent past under the reactionary Kuomintang regime when the peasants were bled white by the feudal landowners and corrupt rulers!

Coupled with this relief from exorbitant rent and taxes, the emancipated peasants now have their own land to till. Their living conditions have improved considerably. Their purchasing power has been raised, thereby expanding the home market and further facilitating the advance to industrialisation.

The 1952 budget is, above all, a budget for peaceful construction. The amount being spent on cultural and educational work in the current year is 184.83 per cent more than that allotted in 1951. In order to train an army of technicians for construction work, beginning with the autumn term, free education is already made available to all students in universities, colleges and technical, normal and worker-peasant secondary schools. Meanwhile, since July 1 this year, free medical services have been extended to all cadres in the offices of the government, democratic parties and people's organisations.

This budget increases investments in economic and cultural construction to more than half of the total budget expenditure. The construction work for this year includes further increases in the output of industrial goods, including steel, iron, coal, electricity, cotton yarn and

cotton cloth; the construction of new railways and the repair of old ones to a total length of 1,000 kilometres; the completion of such water conservancy projects as that on the Chinking section of the Yangtse river and the second stage of the Huai river project and other public works to raise the people's living standards.

IN glaring contrast to this are the budgets of the governments of the imperialist bloc, headed by the warmongers of the United States. Military expenses take up at least 50 per cent of their budget expenditures, as in the case of Britain. France is spending 59 per cent of its budget on war preparations; the United States, 85 per cent.

In the first half of the 1951-1952 fiscal year, the United States budget deficit amounted to 7,500 million dollars or one-fourth of the half yearly budget. This deficit increased to 14,400 million dollars in the budget for the 1952-1953 fiscal year, which Truman proposed last spring.

The financial situation of Britain too grows steadily worse as a result of the insupportable burden of armaments which the Attlee and Churchill governments have forced on the country at the behest of American monopoly capital. British gold and dollar reserves dwindled by 40 per cent in the latter half of 1951 alone. "If the reserves had been allowed to run out," the British Chancellor of the Exchequer openly admitted, "we in this island would, before the end of the year, have found ourselves unable to secure either our daily bread or the raw materials upon which both employment and production depend."

And Britain is financially the strongest partner of the United States in the North Atlantic aggressive bloc!

The economic advance of the People's Republic of China is a constant reminder of the superiority of the New Democratic system, which has opened wide the gates of opportunity for hundreds of millions of people while the capitalist economies plunge further into the hopeless morass of war and economic crises.

The Chinese people hail their 1952 budget which brings them continued peace and prosperity. They will exploit to the full every potentiality for the development of large-scale national construction leading to industrialisation—prelude to their Socialist future.

Premier Chou En-lai's Statement at the Central Aerodrome, Moscow, August 17, 1952

Dear Comrades!

On instructions of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, I and all members of the government delegation of the People's Republic of China have come to Moscow, which is a very great honour for us.

The *Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance* concluded in 1950 between the People's Republic of China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is a demonstration of the solid, inviolable friendship between the peoples of two great states—the People's Republic of China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Facts can convince all of the very great role which this mighty and invincible union of ours is playing in ensuring peace and security in the Far East and throughout the world.

The Chinese people wholeheartedly greet and congratulate our great ally, the Soviet Union, on the splendid victories it has attained in building Communism. The Chinese people well understand that these victories are not only a gain for the Soviet Union but also a gain for all peace-loving peoples of the world, because these victories greatly augment the forces standing for world peace.

During the three years since the overthrow of the domination of foreign imperialism and the reactionary Kuomintang clique, the People's Republic of China, thanks to the correct leadership of the Communist Party of China and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, thanks to

the efforts of the whole Chinese people as well as thanks to the ardent aid of the Soviet government and the Soviet people, has been tirelessly overcoming various difficulties both within the country and outside of it and has already attained substantial successes in all spheres of national construction.

I take the occasion to express, on behalf of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the Chinese government and people, gratitude for the fraternal, unselfish assistance which is being rendered to the People's Republic of China by the Soviet government and the Soviet people under the leadership of Generalissimo Stalin.

The government delegation of the People's Republic of China has come now to Moscow with the aim of further strengthening the friendly co-operation between the two countries and discussing various related questions. I am deeply convinced that the further development of friendly co-operation of the two great states—the People's Republic of China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics—will certainly represent a still greater contribution to the peaceful construction of the Chinese and Soviet peoples as well as to the peaceful construction of the peoples of the entire world.

Long live the friendship, alliance and co-operation between the People's Republic of China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics!

Long live the best friend of the Chinese people, the great teacher of the working people of the entire world, Comrade Stalin!

The Central People's Government Delegation Arrives in Moscow

A government delegation of the People's Republic of China headed by Chou En-lai, Premier of the Government Administration Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central People's Government, arrived in Moscow on August 17 this year. Accompanying Premier Chou En-lai were Vice-Premier of the Government Administration Council Chen Yun, Vice-Chairman of the Committee of Financial and Economic Affairs of the Government Administration Council Li Fu-chun, Deputy-Chief of the General Staff of the People's Revolutionary Military Council Su Yu, Minister of Heavy

Industry Wang Ho-shou, Minister of Fuel Industry Chen Yu, Chief of the Secretariat of the Committee of Financial and Economic Affairs Sung Shao-wen, Commander of the Air Force of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Liu Ya-lou, Deputy-Commander of the Navy of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Lo Shun-chu, Deputy-Commander of the Artillery of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Chiu Chuang-cheng, Vice-Minister of the First Machine Building Industry Wang Tao-han, Vice-Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Wang Cheng, Political Secretary of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs



Members of the delegation of the Central People's Government and members of the Soviet government who met them at the airport, inspecting the guard of honour at the Central Aerodrome, Moscow. (Left to right) P. N. Kумыкин, A. Y. Vyshinsky, A. I. Mikoyan, N. A. Bulganin, V. M. Molotov, Chou En-lai, Shih Che and Chang Wen-tien

of the People's Republic of China Shih Che, Director of the Department of the Soviet Union and Eastern European Affairs of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China Hsu I-hsin, Director of the Department of Asian Affairs of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China Chen Chia-kang.

The delegation was welcomed at the Central Aerodrome by Vice-Chairmen of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. V. M. Molotov, A. I. Mikoyan and N. A. Bulganin; Minister for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. A. Y. Vyshinsky; Minister of Foreign Trade P. N. Kумыкин; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the U.S.S.R. to the People's Republic of China A. S. Panyushkin; Chairman of the Moscow Soviet M. A. Yasnov; Deputy-Minister of Foreign Trade A. A. Pavlov; the trade representative of the U.S.S.R. to the People's Republic of China V. P. Migunov; Colonel-General M. S. Malinin; Rear-Admiral V. D. Yakovlev; Air Lieutenant-General P. I. Braiko; Commandant of Moscow Lieutenant-General K. R. Sinilov; Director of the 1st Far Eastern Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. N. T. Fedorenko; Chief of the Eastern Department of the Ministry for Foreign Trade M. I. Sladkovsky; Assistant-Director of the Protocol Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. V. V. Pastoyev.

The arrivals were also met by the staff of the embassy of the People's Republic of China in the U.S.S.R. headed by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and member of the government delegation of the People's Republic of China Chang

Wen-tien; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bulgaria S. Blagoyeva; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Mongolian People's Republic N. Idamzhab; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Hungarian People's Republic A. Szkladan; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Burma U Ohn; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Korean Democratic People's Republic Lim He; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam Nguyen Long Bang; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Rumanian People's Republic M. Dalea; Head of the Diplomatic Mission of the German Democratic Republic R. Appelt; Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Albania V. Natanaili; Charge d'Affaires ad interim of Afghanistan Muhammed Ashraf Khan; Charge d'Affaires ad interim of the Polish People's Republic L. Pogoriles; Charge d'Affaires ad interim of India E. Gandewia; Charge d'Affaires ad interim of the Czechoslovak Republic D. Eeny.

A guard of honour was mustered at the meeting, and the state anthems of the People's Republic of China and the U.S.S.R. were played.

The aerodrome was decorated with the Chinese and Soviet flags.

At the border, the delegation was met and accompanied to Moscow by the Director of the Protocol Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. A. G. Kulazhenkov.

On the Eve of the Peace Conference of The Asian and Pacific Regions

Liu Ning-I

Who, among the millions of people of goodwill in the Asian and Pacific regions, does not long for a peaceful, free, independent and happy life? We do not want to be interfered with, nor do we ever want to interfere in the lives of others. We do not tolerate aggression from others, nor do we want to invade other countries. It is our desire that all the peoples of the Asian and Pacific regions, irrespective of political system or religious belief, should live peacefully together in equality and freedom, help one another, and have economic and cultural exchange with one another. We would like the peoples of our regions to be united and friendly like one big family and live in amity with the rest of the world, to travel freely between one another's lands, and for all to exert their best efforts continuously for a prosperous and happy life.

Unfortunately, in the East as well as in the West, the aggressors headed by U.S. imperialism are stepping up their plots for aggressive war against the wishes of all decent men and women in the world. In Western Europe, in complete violation of the Potsdam Agreements, they are striving for the revival of nazi power in Western Germany, and have ordered the Bonn government to sign the so-called "General Treaty" and the "European Defence Community Pact." They are producing weapons of mass destruction—atomic, bacteriological and chemical weapons. All this has aroused the opposition of people in all countries.

In the East, the U.S. imperialists are dragging out the Korean armistice talks, massacring prisoners of war, and openly waging bacteriological warfare on a large scale in Korea and on Chinese territory. In North Korea, they are wantonly bombing peaceful civilians. In Northeast China, they continuously

invade our territorial air, carrying out provocative strafing and bombing.

In order to accelerate the revival of Japanese militarism, they have concluded an illegal and unilateral "peace treaty" with Japan, a bilateral U.S.-Japanese "security pact" and a U.S.-Japanese "administrative agreement." They have invaded and are occupying the Chinese island of Taiwan. They are resorting to military force to intervene in the liberation movements for national independence in Viet-Nam, Malaya and so on. They are forcibly building military bases around the world. The attempt to set up a "Middle East Command" is only one more instance of this.

This mad, aggressive drive on the part of the United States is seriously threatening the peace of the peoples in the Asian and Pacific countries; it has also created an extremely serious world situation. Men and women of goodwill must hesitate no longer if they want to save the peace in Asia, the Pacific and the world.

Precisely for these reasons, a preparatory conference for the Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions met successfully in Peking early in June of this year. The delegates from the various countries represented unanimously decided to convene a peace conference in Peking in the last week of September, and to call on all people of goodwill in the Asian and Pacific regions to unite to save the peace, and to find appropriate means to solve the following problems:

- (1) To safeguard the independence, freedom and peace of the peoples of the Asian and Pacific regions; to oppose the expansion of armaments and war preparations; to prohibit warmongering and propaganda encouraging racial hatred; to prohibit all suppression of propaganda for peace; to demand freedom for the peace movement; to prohibit the use of atomic, bacteriological and chemical weapons; to oppose the bombing and massacre of non-

Liu Ning-I is the secretary-general of the preparatory committee of the Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions and vice-president of the All-China Federation of Labour.

combatants and civilians; to emphasise the observance of international law.

(2) To develop equal, mutually beneficial and normal international economic relations and cultural exchange; to oppose blockades and embargoes; to improve the people's livelihood; to promote the welfare of women and children.

(3) To oppose the remilitarisation of Japan, and to oppose the use of Japan as a base for aggression, in order to eliminate the serious threat to peace in the Asian and Pacific regions.

(4) To settle peacefully the Korean question on a fair and reasonable basis and to solve reasonably all the questions relating to peace in the Asian and Pacific regions including Viet-Nam, Laos, Cambodia, Malaya and other countries.

After the preparatory conference, a broad and warm response came from the peoples in the Asian and Pacific regions. By mid-August, many cables had been received indicating acceptance of the invitation to participate. A broad and strong mass movement is under way among the peoples of thirty-two countries in the Asian and Pacific regions where meetings and discussions have been held to elect representatives to attend the conference.

The All-India Peace Council and the Indian Preparatory Committee for the Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions have mobilised all political parties, mass organisations, cultural groups, and people from all walks of life and have held meetings for full discussion on the conference. An "Asia Week" and an "Asian Day" were declared between August 3 and August 10, during which representatives were elected from all circles to attend the conference in Peking.

The people of Japan have been mobilised through meetings and discussions about the conference in factories, prefectures, counties and cities, to choose representatives on a democratic basis to participate in the conference. An intensified mass movement has in this way also been formed in Japan.

The people of Australia are working hard on the selection of a delegation that will be broadly representative in character. Burma, Indonesia, Pakistan, the United States, Canada and the countries of Latin America have been

campaigning for the conference. Many of them sent their delegates to Peking to participate in the preparatory work. In the republics of the Asian part of the Soviet Union, meetings and discussions have been held, reports have been given in factories, rural areas and schools. The people of Korea and Viet-Nam are giving especially warm support to the conference. Moving incidents of such support are too numerous to mention here.

All this indicates that after the preparatory conference for a Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions, the people inhabiting those regions have expressed their wholehearted support for the conference. A mighty movement has begun, demonstrating that the strength of the broad masses longing for peace is invincible, and that any attempt to halt or undermine this movement will be futile.

We people of China love peace. Today we need peace all the more for our work of national construction to make our independent, free and happy Motherland stronger and more prosperous, and to make the lives of the people happier. We feel indeed honoured that the conference is to be held in our capital, Peking. As Chairman Mao Tse-tung has stated: "We have friends everywhere in the world." The people of China will be very happy to meet their friends from more than thirty countries; the fighters for the peace and happiness of mankind will assemble in Peking for friendly and collective discussion of the great task before them—saving the peace. The people of China are now enthusiastically discussing the conference; people of all social strata are speeding their preparatory work in order to be ready for this great historic event.

A large assembly hall is being built in Peking. The people of all cities and villages in China are eagerly looking forward to the arrival from afar of our friends of peace.

This will be a conference for peace and unity, a conference to save the peace of the Asian and Pacific regions, to ward off the disaster of war and to enable the people to enjoy freedom and happiness. The peoples of the Asian and Pacific regions are of one heart in their desire for peace.

The determination of thousands of millions of people to build a Great Wall in defence of peace will make our peace camp as strong as steel.

Peace Conference Chronicle

The Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions

In the Soviet Union, all items on the agenda of the Asian and Pacific Peace Conference are being widely discussed in the press and broadcasts as well as at meetings. The Central Asian republics of the Soviet Union take a particular interest in these questions. In his report to the Soviet Peace Committee, Hodjaev, chairman of the Peace Committee of the Uzbek Republic, said that in his republic, meetings were held and reports made in many collective farms and factories on the Asian and Pacific Peace Conference. As a participant in the preparatory conference in Peking, he has reported on its work and outlined the tasks of the coming peace conference at scores of meetings.

* * *

The Korean National Peace Committee convened a national peace conference at the end of August to elect the Korean delegation to the Peking conference. Since June, peace committees in factories, villages, schools and other organisations have held discussions around the declaration of the preparatory conference and the report made by Pak Den Ai, who headed the Korean delegation to the conference.

* * *

A call to the Viet-Nam people to support the Peking conference has been issued by Ton Duc Thang, president of the National Committee of the Lien-Viet National United Front, and Le Dinh Tham, chairman of the Viet-Nam Peace Committee.

* * *

The Japanese people have elected more than two hundred candidates for the peace delegation to the Asian and Pacific Peace Conference. Names of candidates were submitted by peace groups, students' anti-war organisations, societies and mass organisations in Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, Kanagawa, Ibaragi, Kiogo and other parts of the country.

* * *

Trade unions, peasant organisations, student organisations, women's associations and other mass organisations are responding to and supporting with enthusiasm all the decisions and appeals of the Indian preparatory committee.

Typical of local peace activities during the nation-wide "Asia Week" was the forming of a peace committee in the Manicktola area of Calcutta on August 8 in which fifty prominent citizens of the locality participated and undertook to spread the message of the Peking peace conference to every house in that area.

* * *

The Burma Peace Committee has elected U Tun Aung Gyaw, vice-president of the Burma Peace Committee and president of the All-Burma Association of Civil Service Workers, as a delegate to assist the preparatory work in Peking. A delegation of people drawn from all walks of life will also be formed to attend the conference.

* * *

The Indonesian National Peace Committee is giving wide publicity to the significance of the peace conference and actively preparing for the election of delegates. This activity has spread even to the smallest villages where there are already peace committees. The people have expressed their determination to overcome every difficulty and send their delegates to attend the conference in Peking.

* * *

In Australia, prominent religious personalities have made public expressions of warm support for the Asian and Pacific Peace Conference. They include Dr. Booth, Archbishop of Melbourne; Dr. Crichton Barr, of the Church of Scotland; Dr. Irving Benson, of the Wesley Church; and Rev. Lyall Dixon of the Independent Congregational Church.

A special joint conference will be held by the South Coast Labour Council and the metal trades union branches to elect delegates to the conference.

The Japanese People Struggle for National Independence, Peace and Democracy

Chuang Tao

One year after the signing of the U.S.-concocted unilateral "peace treaty" at San Francisco, the movement for national independence, peace and democracy and against the U.S. occupation and its Japanese lackeys is making unprecedented and remarkable progress in Japan.

Between April and June this year, in their struggle to protect freedom of speech, publication, assembly, association and other fundamental human rights, the Japanese working class carried through five nation-wide strikes, one after the other, against the fascist laws—the Subversive Activities Prevention Bill and the Labour Legislation Revision Bill. Over a million people took part in the second strike on April 18; no less than four or five hundred thousand took part in each of the four other strikes.

Workers at war plants where weapons are manufactured and repaired for the U.S. armed forces have launched valiant struggles against war notwithstanding the close surveillance of American M.P.'s and the Japanese police. On May 27 the workers of the Mitsubishi Heavy Industry Company's Simoraruko Factory, one of the biggest war plants in Japan, struck for 24-hours and followed this action with two further strikes. American M.P.'s and Japanese armed police besieged the factory, as these strikes brought U.S. tank-repairing work to a standstill.

To Defend the Right to Live

At the same time, the Japanese workers have embarked on a struggle to defend their right to live. On June 5, fifty thousand workers of the All-Japan Railway Workers' Union went on strike to press their demand for summer subsidies. On the following day, workers at the Yokohama Dockyards, another Mitsubishi Heavy Industry Company enterprise, also launched a strike for higher wages.

The struggle of the Japanese peasants has taken many forms. Large areas of land have been enclosed by the U.S. imperialists for build-

ing airfields and for staging military manoeuvres as part of their plans to turn Japan into a military base for invading not only Korea but the whole of Asia. According to a Kyodo News Agency despatch of June 26 from Tokyo, the land to be requisitioned, at the demand of the U.S. armed forces, for military manoeuvres alone will amount to 163,000 *chobo* (a *chobo* is a little less than one hectare). This has aroused increasingly strong opposition among the Japanese peasants. The peasants of the Mount Fuji district have put up posters demanding "Give Us Back Our Land!" and "American Troops, Clear Out!" At a meeting called by the peasants of Oita county on May 16, a resolution was unanimously passed to lodge a protest against the enclosures with the county authorities and the U.S. command. This was followed by a demonstration in front of the county government building.

In addition to opposing the enclosures, the peasants also fight against feudal rule in the countryside, against the heavy taxation imposed by the Yoshida government as a result of remilitarisation and against compulsory grain deliveries at low prices. The poor peasants of the twenty-three villages of Minamisakugun, Nagano county, are united together under the slogan of "No Grain, No Taxes for Aggressive War Preparations!"

In February this year, some of the poor peasants at Naoiregun Sugaumura, Oita county, forcibly took back land illegally encroached upon by despotic landlords and proceeded with the work of farming and reclamation. The county authorities were finally forced to recognise this act of the peasants as a *fait accompli* and gave in to their demands.

Young Freedom-Fighters

The struggle of the youth and students is focussed on opposition to remilitarisation and conscription. Executing the instructions of the U.S. imperialists to expand the Police Reserve Corps of Japan to 180,000 men within this year, the Yoshida government is actively carrying

out recruitment in both town and countryside. A series of anti-recruitment struggles is being waged by Japanese youths and students who refuse to serve as cannon fodder for the aggressive U.S. war drive. On February 20 this year, students of Nagoya University launched a struggle against higher tuition fees, the remilitarisation of Japan and army recruitment, and valiantly fought back when the police intervened. On February 28, youths and students in Tokyo held a big meeting under the slogan of "Youth of the Nation, Arise! Oppose Conscription!" On April

18, when the workers of Japan were on their second nation-wide strike against the Subversive Activities Prevention Bill, the young workers passed a resolution urging strikes in opposition to the recruiting and revival of conscription being planned by the Yoshida government. The result is that the Yoshida government has encountered many difficulties in enlisting more men for its Police Reserve Corps.

Growing United Front

The anti-U.S. occupation, anti-Yoshida struggle of the broad masses of the Japanese people is a just struggle for one objective, for national independence, democracy and peace. That is why this movement is gaining increasing support among the people and growing on a broader basis day by day. A national-liberation democratic united front comprising different political parties, people of different strata, political views and religious beliefs, is gradually taking shape in Japan as a whole. Today the struggle is for the annulment of the U.S.-Japanese unilateral "peace treaty," the U.S.-Japanese "security pact" and the so-called "administrative agreement"; it is aimed against the remilitarisation of Japan, against the Subversive Activities Prevention Bill. It is for the defence of the peaceful constitution, for Sino-Japanese trade.



Police attack peaceful crowds celebrating May Day, 1952 in Tokyo

The Japanese people of various social strata want to unite for the object of safeguarding peace in Asia and the world. Their demands were manifested in the May Day celebrations which took place this year in all parts of the country and involved four million people.

It is worth noting first of all that the Japanese working class is taking preliminary steps to unite its ranks. At the 3rd National Convention of the Nihon Rodokumiai Sohyogikai (General Council of Trade Unions) held between July 22 and 24, a proposal that the G.C.T.U. should join the Right-wing International Confederation of Free Trade Unions was voted down. This serves as an illustration of how the workers of Japan foil the reactionaries in their plots to split the working class.

Along with the broad masses of the Japanese people who have broadened the movement to oust the Yoshida government and are now demanding the early dissolution of the Diet and a general election, the All-Japan State Railway Workers' Union, which is one of the main members of the G.C.T.U., has put forward a three-point election programme which demands: repeal of the Subversive Activities Prevention Bill, trade with the People's Republic of China, and opposition to the remilitarisation of Japan. Other trade unions have

made similar proposals and in addition demand that the two traitorous treaties and the "administrative agreement" be revoked. Not a single trade union has asked for remilitarisation. The election programme of the Socialist Party contains the same demands. The Left-wing of the party has declared that the remilitarisation programme of the Yoshida cabinet is a violation of the constitution and that therefore it has committed the crime of an "A" class war-criminal. They demand that the remilitarisation of Japan be opposed, that the peaceful constitution be defended and that the channels of trade between China and Japan be opened. The Right-wing Socialists on the one hand, have supported the creation of so-called defensive armed forces, but on the other, they have been forced to declare that they are opposed to remilitarisation and the revision of the constitution.

Support for Asian-Pacific Peace Conference

A movement in response to the declaration of the preparatory conference of the Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions has spread throughout the whole country, and, following on this, the national-liberation democratic united front in Japan has taken another step forward. Led by the Communist Party of Japan and warmly supported by the broad masses of the people, a "Peace Movement Month" was organised throughout Japan from June 25 to August 15. It has attracted all the peace-loving people of Japan. Even Prince Mikasa, a member of the royal family, when interviewed by Mr. Masaharu Hatanaka, a member of the Japanese Preparatory Committee for the Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions, has firmly expressed his desire for peace. "I will do my best for whatever is advantageous to the cause of peace," he said. The movement for the implementation of the Sino-Japanese trade agreement concluded in Peking this year has also gained ground among the broad masses. All the political parties including the Kaishin To (Progressive Party) are asking for trade with China. Not only the middle and small capitalists but also part of the big capitalists who are being edged out of business by the U.S. monopolists are adding their voice to this demand.

The unprecedented progress of the movement of the Japanese people for national independence, democracy and peace is the reply

of the people to a grave threat to their interests. Since the San Francisco "peace conference" last September, the U.S. imperialists have openly placed Japan under their long-term military occupation and subjected it to economic plunder and political oppression. These facts have smashed the naive illusions of those who had hoped that the U.S. might possibly grant Japan her independence. The political consciousness of the Japanese people has been heightened by recognition of these facts. Under these circumstances, a great impetus has been given to the people's movement by the correct leadership of the Communist Party of Japan and the epoch-making document of the national liberation movement, its new programme entitled "Immediate Demands of the Communist Party of Japan." The struggles of the people of various social strata have merged to form a mighty force for national liberation. They have also become an important link in the struggle of the people of the world for peace.

The Chinese people believe that the movement of the Japanese people for national independence, democracy and peace is irresistible and is bound to be victorious. They give their firm support to this great struggle of the Japanese people for national independence, democracy and peace, for the Chinese people, like those of Japan, are anxious to see the emergence of an independent, democratic, peaceful and prosperous new Japan. The emergence of a new Japan not only coincides with the demand of the Japanese people but also that of the peace-loving people of China, Asia and the world. It is just as the message of July 15 sent by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Japan on the occasion of the latter's 30th anniversary pointed out:

The Chinese people look forward to Japan's becoming independent, democratic, peaceful and prosperous, and to relations between the two peoples being those of neighbours who live in peace side by side, co-operate as equals, mutually benefit each other by trade and have respect for each other.

Let the peoples of China and Japan, the people of Asia and the people of the whole world, fight together, hand in hand, for the defence of the peace of Asia and the Pacific regions and the world!

The Harnessing of the Yellow River

Chang Han-ying

Vice-Minister of Water Conservancy

The Yellow river, traditionally regarded as a source of disaster, and difficult to bridle, has today mended its ways under the control of the immeasurable strength of the liberated Chinese people.

The old methods of control dealt only with the lower reaches of the river and then only in a defensive way—to prevent floods. Following the liberation, a unified project has been launched to control the whole length of the river and utilise its vast economic possibilities.

Much has already been achieved. Today, the main dykes of the river can be said to have stood the test of time well. In the areas of the basin liberated in 1947, some have stood firm for five years now. The people along the river now feel secure. They are carrying on their various occupations cheerfully, no longer haunted by fear of what the river might do overnight. Brought under the control of man, the Yellow river now irrigates wheat and cotton fields; its waters, flowing into the Wei river, now makes that river navigable between Hsinhsiung in Pingyuan province and Tientsin, a distance of 900 kilometres.

The main stretch of the Yellow river is 4,400 kilometres long. It lies across nine provinces and drains an area of 770,000 square kilometres (excluding the alluvial plain in the lower reaches). For many centuries, the Yellow river basin was the most developed of China's territory. But for centuries past, the adverse natural conditions and, even more, the self-interest of the ruling classes who never cared for the people, brought about repeated catastrophes. Records show that in the period between 620 B.C. and 1938 A.D. dykes on the lower reaches were breached on an average of four times every ten years, invariably resulting in serious floods. Since 2278 B.C., when the Emperor Yu attempted to control the river, up to 1938 in our times, the Yellow river has changed its course seven times, and in its inundations thousands of square miles of land have been flooded, a countless number of houses carried away, causing inestimable losses in lives and treasure.

The 1938 flood, perhaps, most vividly illustrates the criminal selfishness of the reaction-

ary ruling class which deliberately brought destruction to the people. In that year, Chiang Kai-shek, failing to stem the advance of the Japanese invaders owing to the corruption which had eaten into his army, ordered his troops to destroy the dykes at Huayuankow in Honan province, thus diverting the waters southward in the path of the invaders. The resulting flood swept over vast areas which remained inundated for nearly nine years. Half a million people were killed.

The flooding Yellow river waters paralysed the drainage system of the Huai river and thus brought damage and loss to millions of people in the Huai valley. It was not until after the liberation in 1949 and the advent of the People's Government that relief came to these suffering people. The government mobilised over two million workers and peasants to make a complete rearrangement of the system of waterways in the Huai area. Within two years, with the excavation of 400 million cubic metres of earthwork and the construction of modern dams and reservoirs, the damage caused by Chiang Kai-shek's cruel act had been repaired.

Dangers on Lower Reaches

It is the lower section of the Yellow river, the stretch 820 kilometres long from Mengtsin in Honan province to the estuary, which has been most liable to flood. According to the geologists' surveys, the whole vast plain east of Chengchow was formed by alluvial deposits of the river. This gives some idea of the huge amount of silt carried by the river.

Between 1934 and 1942, the water discharge through the Shenhsien section averaged 51,700 million metric tons a year, but the amount of silt carried averaged 1,890 million metric tons. The annual average of silt content was estimated to be 3.6 per cent. Though this is a high figure, it is nothing compared to the maximum recorded at the Shenhsien hydrographic station, which is as high as 46 per cent.

The excessive amount of sediment carried by the stream, and the flatness of the plain on the lower reaches, causes precipitation of silt and the gradual elevation of the river bed between the protecting dykes. This has caused

the channel east of Chengchow to rise higher than the neighbouring fields. At some places during the flood season, the water surface stands as much as 4-7 metres higher than the outlying land. A characteristic of the Yellow river valley is that frequent breachings of the dyke has spread river silt over the flooded territory resulting in a gentle slope upward to the river (the gradient is roughly 1/5000).

This characteristic of the Yellow river necessitated two measures: (1) dykes had to be regularly raised to keep pace with the elevation of the river bed; the higher the river bed, the more difficult it was to protect the banks; and (2) gigantic efforts had to be made to bring the river back to its original channel after it had burst its dykes.

The second characteristic of the river is the heavy volume of flow during the months of July, August, September and October. The total volume of water in these four months is 61 per cent of the annual total. In 1942, the peak flow recorded at the Shenhsien hydrographic station was 29,000 cubic metres per second; in the same year, the lowest flow was 250 cubic metres per second—a difference of 116 times. The same station has recorded a difference as high as 180 times.

The fact that the Yellow river is a large stream with violent changes in the volume of water carried explains the uncertainty of its channel: the river meanders, and its bed varies in depth. This characteristic has caused many disasters and made it difficult to render the river navigable and serviceable to the people in other ways.

The Start of Real Control

With the liberation, the People's Government not only commenced conservancy work along the lower section, but drew up a comprehensive plan to regulate the whole channel and the water system of the Yellow river basin. The objective was not simply to prevent floods but to combine the various projects with full exploitation of the basin's natural resources.

As the People's Government has been in existence only three years, much of the work on the Yellow river may be regarded as only a beginning of bigger things to come. Yet some of the achievements are well worthwhile mentioning. First, the work of dyke-fortification and bank-protection. Reckoning from the liberation war years up to now, 82,200,000 cubic

metres of earth have been used for increasing the height and thickness of the dykes; 1,740,000 cubic metres of rocks and bricks and 180,000 tons of willow branches and *kaoliang* stalks have been used for strengthening the river banks in the lower section.

Since liberation, it is estimated that the efficiency of the dyke-repair workers in repair work and tackling dangerous spots is 250 per cent higher than in KMT days. Rock and earth dykes constructed by them have stood the floods for five years without failing the test. Chih Chao, a dyke worker, has invented a wire-awl for the detection of leaks in the dykes and has thus further assured dyke protection.

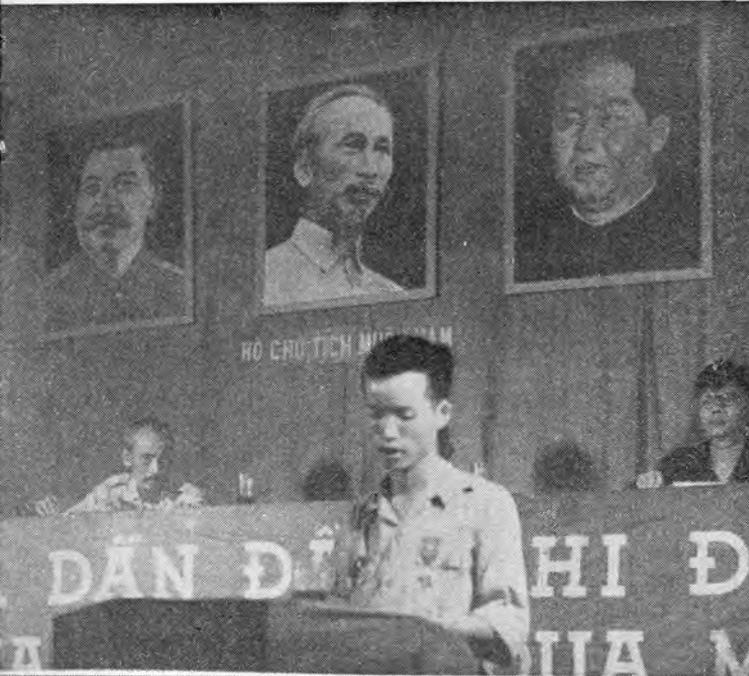
Love for the People's Government has moved the people along the river to heights of enthusiasm in their fight against the menace of flood. In 1949 the river had an unusually high flow: the level of the water in the lower section near Shaochang and Fanhsien counties surpassed the peak record flood level of 1937 by up to 1.5 metres. The surging flood lashed and pressed upon the dykes and caused 430 leaks. At this critical moment, more than 350,000 inhabitants along the threatened parts organised teams under the leadership of the government to fight the threat along a stretch of 760 kilometres. After twenty days and nights of a fierce and continuous battle, they emerged triumphant over the flood and saved the lives and property of millions from destruction.

But to rid the area of the catastrophe of floods, we could not rely only on the work of dyke reinforcement in the lower section alone; a basic solution of the problem had to be found. Before launching larger and more basic projects, the government, in 1951, as a first step, allocated funds for the construction of a spillway at Shihouchuang village on the northern bank of the river, in Pingyuan province. The spillway was completed within three months from May to August, 1951. It is 1,500 metres long with a capacity able to divert 5,400 cubic metres of water per second. Whenever the flood waters reach danger point, part of the waters will be diverted through the spillway into a flood detention basin lying between the main dykes on the northern bank and the Chin dyke. The completion of the spillway guarantees that even with a discharge as great as 23,000 cubic metres per second, the second highest to be recorded by the Shenhsien station, no flood will occur on the lower reaches of the river.

HEROIC VIET-NAM

On September 2, the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam celebrates its 7th anniversary with new victories in the struggle for liberation against the colonialists and American interventionists

Combat Hero La Van Cau reports to a National Congress of Heroes of the Patriotic Emulation Movement



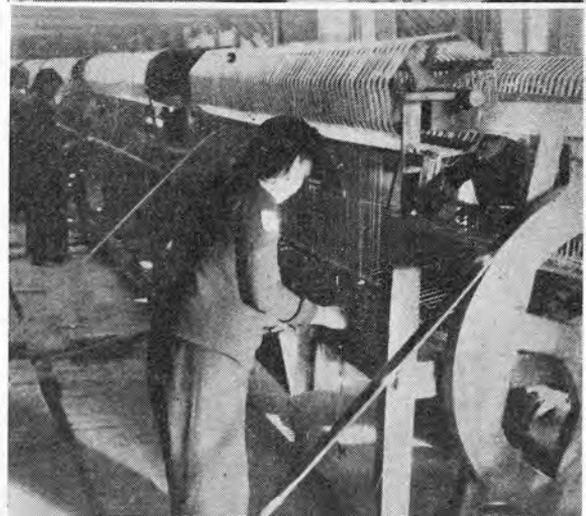
People's fighters on the way to the front

On the production front. In a weaving mill producing cloth for the Viet-Nam People's Army



President Ho Chi-minh and C-in-C Vo Nguyen Giap at a military planning conference

Signing the Appeal for a Five-Power Peace Pact





The Kuomintang reactionaries seized the Shantung apple orchard of 71-year-old Wang Hsien. Liberation restored it to him.

Fruits of New China

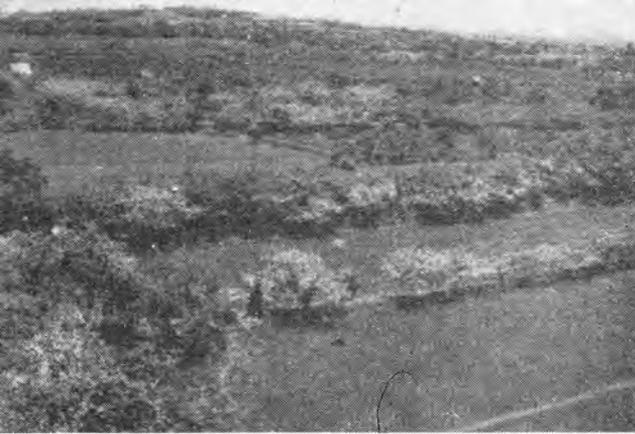
The land reform, the formation of market co-operatives and government aid in scientific methods of cultivation and transport helped to make fruit-gardening in China a valuable occupation than ever before. Rising standards are bringing more and more healthful fruit to the tables of the people. With its temperate north and its tropical south, China has an immense variety of fruit



Students at Lingnan Horticultural School, Canton, get expert instruction in papaya-growing

A government agronomist (right) gives advice to a group of members of a fruit-growing co-operative





A well-run orchard of the Kwangtung provincial people's government. It was left in a badly neglected state by its former owner, the warlord Li Fu-lin



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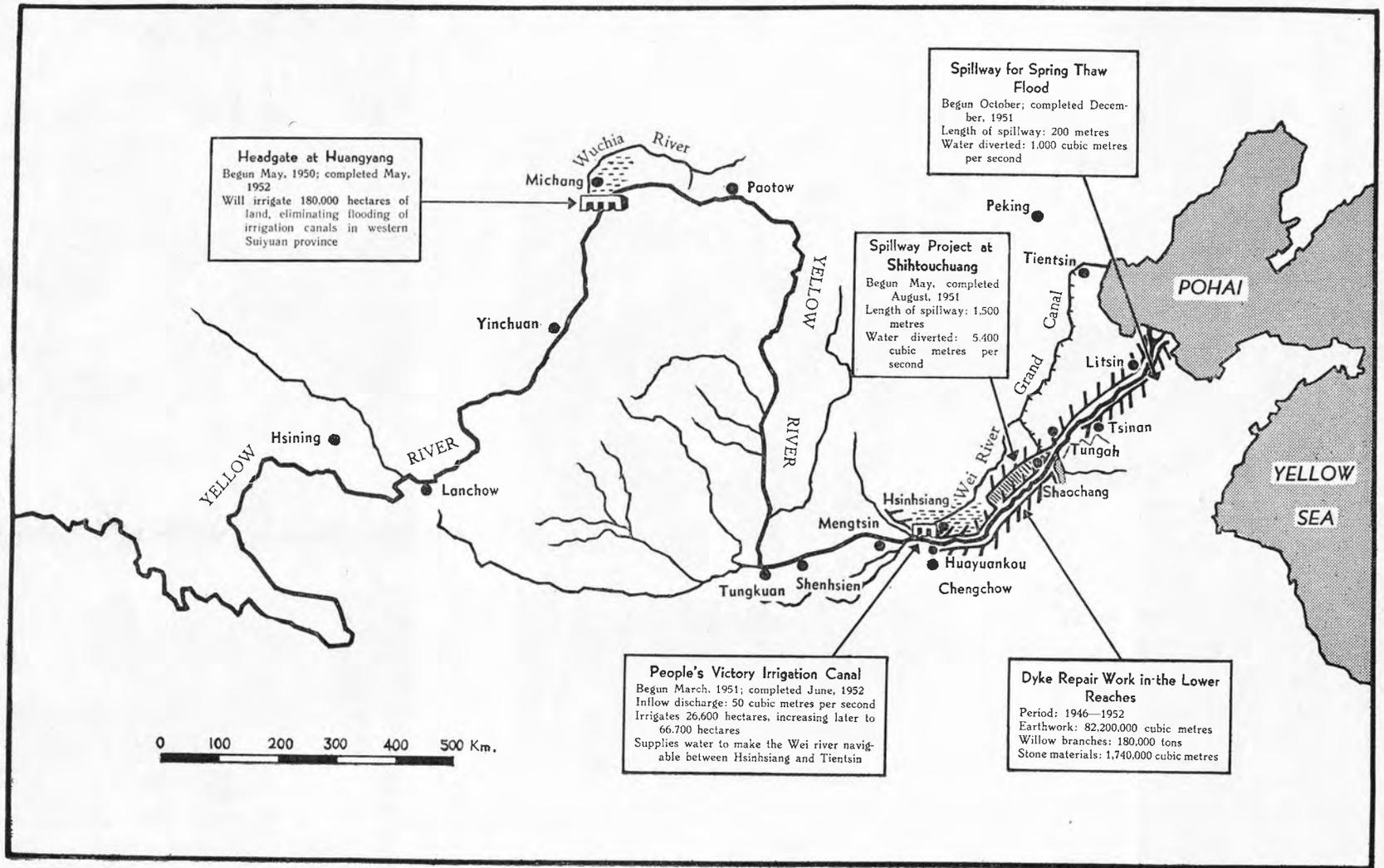
Peasants bring their bumper fruit crop into the Yentai Fruit Market, Shantung. Good marketing means more money for bigger crops

Kwangtung family harvests their litchi trees on the Pearl river. They received these trees in the land reform

There's no doubt it's tasty!



Map of the Yellow River Control Project



The lower course of the Yellow river runs northeastwards flowing across land where the climate is colder as it approaches the sea. This means that the section of the river nearer the sea melts comparatively late, so that ice floes coming from the upper reaches find their path blocked, and in turn cause an obstruction in the river. Not only this, but the colder temperature and sometimes sudden changes in the weather often cause the scattered floes to assemble and form larger blocks. At such times, the river gets choked; the level of the river rises and the water spills over the dykes and runs wildly over the neighbouring farmlands. Besides using aeroplanes to blast and break up the ice floes and blocks, the People's Government in 1951 built a spillway at Litsin county, in Shantung province. The Litsin spillway will divert the rising waters when the river is choked with ice floes during the spring thaws, at the rate of 1,000 cubic metres per second, ridding Litsin county of the menace of flood.

Another project is the People's Victory Irrigation canal, one of the first of many projects for water conservancy along the lower reaches. The headgate stands at the northern end of the Peking-Hankow railway bridge. Water can be diverted northwards at the rate of 50 cubic metres per second. In addition to bringing water to one million *mou* (66,700 hectares) of land, the irrigation canal increases the waters of the Wei river, making it navigable all the year round between Hsinhsiang and Tientsin.

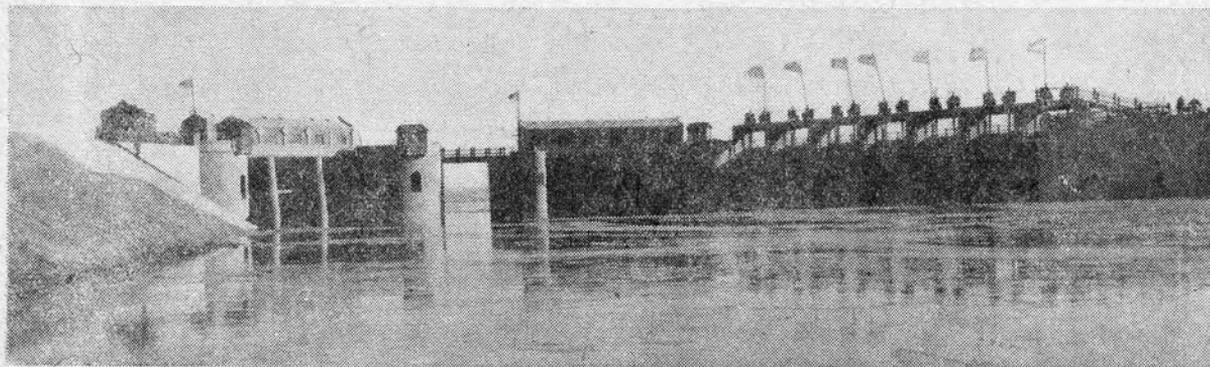
These are but the beginnings of the work to tame the Yellow river and use it for man's purposes. But already the preliminary work has banished fear of the river from the thoughts of the inhabitants. A peasant expressed it in this way: "Who would have thought the Yellow river would irrigate instead of flood

our fields! For thousands of years our people have only known calamities—who but the Communist Party and the People's Government is to be thanked for the happiness we now have!"

The People's Government is now planning to expand the irrigation schemes in Ninghsia and Suiyuan provinces. The area under irrigation in those parts is now 5 million *mou* (333,333 hectares) and this will be extended to 15 million *mou* (1 million hectares) in the future. Improvements will be made in water supply, drainage and flood prevention. The Huangyang headgate of the irrigation project in west Suiyuan province is now completed. The new project will gradually increase the area of irrigated land to 2,700,000 *mou* (180,000 hectares).

During the past three years, the People's Government has been making surveys of the main river and its tributaries in order to draw up a comprehensive project for the regulation of the whole Yellow river water system. It is thought that the key to the problem lies in building dams and reservoirs on the middle reaches of the river. Excellent sites have been located for the building of such works. When completed, these projects will not only basically eliminate the menace of flood but, by the control of the river, produce a tremendous output of electricity and irrigate vast areas of cropland.

The Yellow river, which for thousands of years has been the most disastrous river in China, is now under reasonable control. Under the leadership of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and with the support of the active and creative liberated people, and with the aid of Soviet experience, we are confident that we shall wipe out once and for all the last remnants of the river's threat and bring lasting security to the people along its banks.



The headgate at Huangyang on the Yellow river. Completed May, 1952

China Upholds the Geneva Conventions

Chen Ti-chiang

Professor of International Law, Tsinghua University

In a statement on July 13, 1952, Minister for Foreign Affairs Chou En-lai, on behalf of the Central People's Government of the Chinese People's Republic, announced the government's recognition of the four international conventions signed at Geneva, on August 12, 1949 in the name of China. They are: (1) The Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, (2) The Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea, (3) The Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, and (4) The Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. As these conventions were signed by the overthrown Kuomintang government on behalf of China, their validity is subject to examination by the Central People's Government in accordance with Article 55 of the *Common Programme* of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. The Central People's Government, having examined these conventions and having satisfied itself that they are "basically conducive to a lasting peace amongst all nations and are in conformity with humanitarian principles," has now accorded them recognition.

The recognition of these conventions by the government of the Chinese People's Republic is a step of great significance. It constitutes a concrete proof of the peaceful policy and the highly humanitarian aims of the Chinese people and their government. At this moment when imperialistic aggression is being thrust upon peace-loving peoples and elementary principles of humanity and justice are being trampled underfoot by the American imperialists, the declaration by a nation of 475 millions of its determination to stand loyally by the principles of the Geneva conventions will no doubt have a sobering effect on the evil-doers, and will, at the same time, hearten other peoples of the world in the common struggle for peace.

The principles of the Geneva conventions are principles of long standing. Most of the provisions therein can be found in the Hague conventions of 1899 and 1907. The Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field made its first appearance in 1864 and was revised in 1906 and 1929, and the Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War became a Separate Convention in 1929. The basic principles of these conventions, however, spring from the conscience of man, and have long existed as customary rules of international law even in the early chapters of human history. In view of this fact, the violation of these basic principles must be regarded not as the mere infringement of certain juridical rules but as a crime against civilisation.

The reactionary ruling class of the imperialist Powers, although they rendered lip service to the Geneva principles, have not hesitated to set them aside whenever these came into conflict with their imperialistic aims. During the First World War, the imperialist Powers vied with one another in breaking rules of warfare. During the Second World War, Hitlerite Germany and fascist Japan conducted their war of aggression with such brutality that the conscience of the world revolted against it. The people of the world realised that, unless a check was put upon such acts of barbarism, civilisation would be in danger of total ruin. It was under the pressure of such a popular sentiment that a conference was called at Geneva from April to August, 1949. As a result of the conference, the above-mentioned conventions were signed.

The conference was participated in by representatives of 63 nations, including the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies of Eastern Europe. With their characteristic zeal for peace and humanity, these latter nations played an important role in introducing progressive principles into the conventions. The conventions

were signed by 61 nations, including all the Great Powers.

A perusal of the new conventions reveals two salient features. One is the adoption of the principle of individual responsibility for violations of international law. According to traditional international law, a person who commits an offence against international law cannot be held personally responsible, if it can be shown that he has acted under superior orders or in execution of national policy. Such a rule greatly weakened the sanction of law, for violators of international law, safely hidden under the cloak of state responsibility, had no fear of personal consequences.

Emergence of the U.S.S.R.

The emergence of the Soviet Union fundamentally altered the situation. At the end of the Second World War, thanks to the vigorous efforts of the Soviet Union, international law was vindicated. Justice, though far from adequate, was done to the peace-loving people by the trial and execution of the major war criminals. The principle of personal responsibility, as established by the Nuremberg and Tokyo judgments, has given international law its new potency so that it may no longer be breached with impunity. This principle has been incorporated in Article 129 of the Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (and corresponding articles in the other conventions), which provides that every signatory Power should enact legislation for the punishment of serious offenders against the conventions, irrespective of nationality. Hence, a person who commits a serious offence against the Geneva conventions will be punishable, not only by the state injured, but also by any third state signatory to the conventions.

The second important feature of the new conventions is the extension of their application to informal wars. The provision of the Hague convention No. III of 1907 that war is commenced by a formal declaration has now fallen into obsolescence. In an attempt to evade the legal consequences of war, aggressive Powers have, since the First World War, often resorted to the legal fiction of "undeclared war." With a view to closing this gap, Article 2 of all the conventions now expressly stipulates that they apply to all forms of armed hostilities, even if one side should deny that a situation of war has arisen. It will be of no avail, therefore, for the American aggressors in Korea

to pretend that they are merely engaged in "police action," or that there is no international war insofar as the Korean Democratic People's Republic has not been "recognised" by the United States. The Foreign Minister of the Korean Democratic People's Republic, Bak Hun Yung, had announced on July 13, 1950 that the Korean People's Army would strictly adhere to the principles of the Geneva conventions. It will be impossible for the American imperialists to wriggle their way out of their criminal responsibility, whatever legal sophistry they may resort to.

Within one year of the conclusion of these conventions, the American imperialists embarked upon a war of aggression against the Korean people. The history of the two years of this war is filled with flagrant violations of these very conventions by the American aggressors, despite official assurances of the U.S. government that it would abide by them. What particularly enraged the public opinion of the world is the fact that these crimes have been perpetrated under the flag of the United Nations.

It is only possible here to give a few instances of the criminal record of the American aggressors in Korea.

Crimes of U.S. Aggressors

As early as the autumn of 1950, when they were in temporary occupation of parts of northern Korea, the American aggressors tried to terrorise the inhabitants into submission by methodical mass killings and destruction. Men, women and children were butchered in cold blood without any justification. Raping of women was blessed with official acquiescence. Torturing, imprisonment and massacre of civilians were conducted under direct official orders. These acts are in open violation of Articles 27 and 32 of the Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

In the treatment of prisoners of war, the American aggressors even surpassed their Hitlerite and Japanese predecessors in ruthlessness and barbarity. The horror of the prison camp on Koje has turned the island into a veritable hell on earth where Chinese and Korean captured personnel are being subjected to unspeakably fiendish methods of torture, intimidation and insult. The appalling conditions in this camp were admitted by General

Colson, former commandant of the camp, in his statement of May 10, 1952. American and British news agencies reported more than 700 cases of massacres and wounding during the brief interval between February and July this year. Irrefutable evidence reveals that a large number of Chinese and Korean prisoners of war have been experimented on for the development of horrible chemical and bacteriological weapons. Article 13 of the Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War stipulates:

Prisoners of war must at all times be humanely treated. Any unlawful act or omission by the Detaining Power causing death or seriously endangering the health of a prisoner of war in its custody is prohibited. In particular, no prisoner of war may be subjected to physical mutilation or to medical or scientific experiments of any kind. . . .

The American imperialists acted as if these stipulations had never existed.

In the course of the armistice talks, the American imperialists persist in flouting the clear provisions of the convention on prisoners of war. Article 118 of that convention provides that "prisoners of war shall be released and repatriated without delay after the cessation of active hostilities," and Article 7 provides that "prisoners of war may in no circumstances renounce in part or in entirety the rights secured to them by the present convention." Yet, in the face of these indisputable obligations, the American imperialists have the impertinence to put forward the preposterous demand for the so-called "voluntary repatriation" of prisoners of war, which means in fact that a large number of Chinese and Korean prisoners of war will be forcibly detained and turned over to the Chiang Kai-shek and the Syngman Rhee gangs to be used as cannon fodder.

So-called "Screening" of P.O.W's

In order to lend colour to their plainly untenable arguments, the American imperialists have resorted to the crude artifice of the so-called "screening" of the prisoners of war. Prisoners of war have been forced by the most brutal means to sign documents which purport to show that they "refused to be repatriated." They have been forcibly tattooed with anti-Communist slogans, and, they having been clubbed to unconsciousness, their finger-prints were forcibly affixed to the "refuse-to-be-repatriated" documents. Such methods have been employed in utter disregard of Article 13 of the conven-

tion which provides against "acts of violence and intimidation" against prisoners of war.

Protests against these atrocities were disregarded by the American imperialists. The United States government cowardly avoided sending an official delegation to the 18th International Red Cross Conference recently met at Toronto, in order to escape being "put on trial." To the charges brought by the Chinese and Korean delegates which are conclusively borne out by unchallengeable evidence, the American Red Cross Vice-President, J. T. Nicholson, insolently declared that he "decided not to answer" them. Evidently, they are unanswerable. The American imperialists have simply decided to carry on with their policy of force, convention or no convention.

The hideous crimes which the American imperialists have committed and are still committing against Chinese and Korean prisoners of war contrast sharply with the humane treatment which the Chinese people's volunteers and the Korean People's Army have accorded enemy prisoners of war. Even American and British newspapers are obliged to admit that their prisoners of war have been given the same food, clothing and medical care as their captors, and have been provided with such articles as candies, fruits, tobacco, soap, tooth-paste, etc. Letters sent home by the American and British prisoners of war in one accord testify to the exceedingly good treatment they receive at the hands of their captors.

Accustomed to subordinating international law to their aggressive ambitions, the reactionary rulers of the U.S. cannot reconcile themselves to the change in the substance of international law brought about by the emergence of the Soviet Union. They have yet to learn that the peace-loving people of the world no longer remain passive on-lookers at violations of international law. The fate of Hitler and Tojo is in store for all such violators. They will pay heavily for their misdeeds.

The recognition of the Geneva conventions by the Chinese People's Republic adds immeasurably to the moral force of these documents, and the determination of the Chinese people, in co-operation with other peace-loving peoples of the world, to uphold the principles embodied therein is an assurance that these principles will be realised to the fullest extent and that evil-doers will be brought to justice.

A Peasant Association Is Born

Hsu Chih

Mountain Throat village is a small cluster of homesteads in an out-of-the-way, mountainous part of Kwangsi, one of the last provinces to be liberated on China's mainland at the end of 1949. Remnants of Chiang Kai-shek's bandit troops had retreated to the area and terrorised the local peasants. In their forays, they would slaughter and plunder, stealing poultry, pigs and grain. The peasants had fled up the throat of the valley, taking refuge in the mountains which rose wave on wave to a depth of some 80 kilometres.

But one day the chatter of machine-guns reverberated through the village, and the next, the Kuomintang bandits had simply disappeared. Some had surrendered abjectly; the rest had fled. On the third day, friendly voices called up the mountain: "Countrymen, come back! Come back, countrymen!"

When our work-team came to this Kwangsi village to help in the land reform, it was wonderful to hear the peasants tell of that first meeting with the People's Army. Talking about it, Sister Tai said she would never forget those voices as long as she lived.

* * *

Mountain Throat village is one of six that compose the *hsiang* administrative centre of the same name. This covers the whole valley, the last that gives good farm land before the mountains close in finally on the plain. Several streams gush out of the mountainsides and make the valley fertile. Rice paddies cover its bottom; corn grows on the higher slopes. The hamlets are hidden by great clumps of bamboo. Above, the hills are covered with scrub and sturdy mountain trees. The scene is typical of the "mountain-and-water" landscape of Kwangsi made famous in innumerable paintings.

Sister Tai, who later became an activist in the land reform, described her own feelings as well as those of many another peasant of the village when she spoke of those first days of liberation. "The good-for-nothing landlords were overthrown. The poor could speak their mind. For the first time, we knew a peaceful life. What a year that was! The red flag flew over the village. Our people's fighters guarded us.

"But my political level was very low then. I only looked on. Then the first work-team came to our village. Comrade Fang of the team stayed at my home. She helped me see more clearly. I told her about the bitter past; how I had been sold to a landlord as a slave-girl..." Her voice trembled as she tried to continue.

The peasants had gathered in five groups, each sitting around a log fire. The early spring night was

still cold, and it was a tradition hereabouts to hold their meetings in this informal way. Light from the flames stressed the lines of toil etched deep into their faces. Sister Tai's sad voice made their hearts ache in sympathy, for they all had felt the same sorrows.

"I had to work from early morning to late at night. The night before market day, I could hardly snatch any sleep at all. Yet I was only thirteen years old then, small for my age at that, and weak because I never got enough to eat. But if I showed the least bit of tiredness after all this work, the landlord would beat me with a pair of tongs..." She was so upset by these recollections that she trembled all over.

Our land reform work-team listened, like the peasants to whom this was no new tale, with bitter indignation. Some of the villagers closed their eyes as if to shut out the picture of Sister Tai's misery; others frowned angrily. One felt the physical impact of their unyielding determination to struggle against the old system that made such cruelty possible.

Sister Tai was not done yet. She wanted her message to be clear. "In the old days, I thought that all my sufferings were fate. But now we understand why we suffered so much. Through meetings big and small throughout the past month, we've cleared all our doubts. We women, too, are liberated. No more exploitation! We must work hard together to build a better life for all. We need the peasant association to unite us and lead us. And so I ask to be admitted to the association."

Things Became Clearer

The local peasant association had been first organised soon after the arrival of the P.L.A., and it was now just one year old. But it had remained rather small. Many peasants had not realised its full importance to their life. They helped it to carry out the policy of the People's Government but had not become members. It was only now, after our land reform work-team helped to make things clearer and the preliminary work of the land reform got under way, that the peasants as a whole showed a higher level of political consciousness and were eager to join.

The meeting that night at which Sister Tai recounted her grievances against the old society had been called to enrol new members into the association. It was an important occasion because the peasant association is the chief mass organisation of the peasants. Its task is to unite the farmhands, poor and middle peasants and all the people in the countryside who are opposed to feudalism to carry out systematic social reforms, protect the peasants' interests and help organise agricultural production and

by-occupations. The peasant association, under the leadership of the Communist Party and the People's Government, carries out the land reform. It is the driving force for the organisation of mutual-aid teams and other forms of co-operation; it leads the winter study classes and the various other patriotic movements in the countryside.

Hence the care with which its members were chosen. Before being admitted, each had to give a detailed account of his or her personal history, class standing and strong and weak points. And then his qualifications for membership were publicly and frankly discussed.

So Sister Tai, after having told us her history and asked for admission, now added that her strong point was readiness to do any work in the public interest. Her weak points she gave as lack of education, a bad memory and no special training to serve, despite her willingness to do so.

Actually, the ensuing discussion brought to light that Sister Tai had been exceptionally active and successful in past months in helping many women get a better understanding of their role in the new society, and the need to end landlord oppression. The whole village had a very good opinion of her. But they had one common criticism. Several speakers pointed out that her husband strenuously objected to her "public work"—attending meetings, and classes and so on, and Sister Tai, far from opposing this feudal attitude, meekly pocketed his insults even when he roared at her like a tiger. Sister Tai admitted that such meekness on her part did not befit the role of women in the new society, and promised to take a firmer stand henceforth. Thus, there was nothing in the way of admitting her to the peasant association.

Lao Kai, who had shown himself an activist, also applied for membership in the association. He criticised himself for the fact that, though he had been one of the poorest peasants in the village, his political consciousness had remained very low for too long, and that only with the help of the work-team had he been able to realise his mistakes in the past.

Another peasant, Lao Chang, added another criticism: "You are now aware of your past lack of political consciousness, and you are willing to serve the people. But you still 'go it alone,' instead of trying to encourage others and help them to get along together with you." Lao Kai accepted this criticism in good part and promised to show a more collective spirit in future.

The peasants knew quite well what sort of members the association should receive. So, when the vote was taken on Lao Kai's application, they shouted in one voice: "Aye!"

Frank Self-criticism

Several other applications followed. The peasants, seeing the fair and understanding attitude, of the meeting, did not hesitate to criticise their own defects. Two old peasants confessed they had been forced into banditry for a time in their youth when the landlords had stripped them of all they possess-

ed. One man was severely criticised for his waywardness and ill manners towards his wife, which were notorious in the village. In face of this public censure, he promised to behave better in future in both respects. Only after that was he approved for membership.

Then Sister Tai's husband stood up to apply for membership. He declared it was quite all right with him if his wife wanted to serve the people; the only trouble was that there would be a loss in agricultural production...

He never had time to finish his speech because eight or nine women poured their scathingly hot criticism over him all at once. They right away exposed his talk about "loss in agricultural production" as merely a pretext. His real intention was to hold back his wife's rapid progress. He was reminded sharply then and there that he was living in a new society and would have to get rid of his feudalistic outlook. Under this unexpected attack, he hung his head in shame, and it took him a long while to manage to say: "I admit I have been too selfish..."

In a newly liberated village, it was necessary to give peasants who had been backward and conservative for so long a democratic education so that they would know how to act in a comradesly way to their wives and fellow villagers and to build up a new social morality. By such mutual criticism, they were made aware of their defects and induced to correct them.

So, when Sister Tai's husband had admitted having been unjust to his wife, the villagers were ready to take a lenient view, and to admit him to membership too. These meetings were held for three nights running in Mountain Throat village. All in all, fifty-three new members were admitted into the peasant association.

Only three peasants were denied membership—mostly for having shady connections with the reactionaries in the recent past.

The land reform work-team, reviewing the events leading up to the discussion of membership for the peasant association, found that the prescribed procedure had been followed correctly, and that it was now time to go on to electing peasants' representatives from among the association members, one for every fifteen, who would go to the *hsiang* peasants' representative conference, which in turn elects the committee of the peasant association and the local people's government.

Again the bonfires were lit around the meeting place. Everyone was conscious of the importance of this step of electing their representatives. "Without good representatives we won't see better days," was the prevalent feeling.

Opening the election meeting, the chairman once again stressed its importance. Several peasants spoke. Finally Lao Kai said:

"Electing representatives is like putting in stout wooden posts when we build a fence. No fence will stand up without such firm supports."

"Good!" the people chorused, "Lao Kai has progressed greatly in his thinking!"

A hired labourer, pointing to his clothes, called out: "Without good representatives, we will wear these tattered jackets for life!" and many other homely comparisons were made showing that all fully understood the issue of these elections.

Then the question of qualifications of candidates was thoroughly discussed, and seven main conditions set up; he or she should (1) have a clean political record; (2) be active in social work; (3) work consistently throughout the year, without loafing; (4) have a firm, class-conscious outlook; (5) have been poor and oppressed in the old society; (6) be upright in morality; and (7) have close ties with the masses.

After these conditions were agreed upon, the nomination of candidates began through mutual criticism and comparison. As there were eighty-seven association members in the village, six representatives had to be elected. Everybody agreed that of these six, four should be poor peasants or farm labourers, and two should be middle peasants. Of the four poor peasants and farm labourers, one must be a woman, one a youth. The peasants proceeded to nominate their candidates with great earnestness.

In all, ten candidates were named for the six seats with the chairman of the meeting, Lao Kai, and Sister Tai among them. One by one, these ten were discussed and critically compared. Lo Kwan, for instance, although he was most friendly in his attitude to fellow villagers and firm in his class consciousness, did not qualify because unfortunately he was not a full-time labourer, working as he did at times as an independent artisan. Lo Wei-yi, though among the poorest of the village who had suffered severely in the old society, did not have a clean enough record. At one time, he had served in the landlord's armed band, and at another, he had done sentry duty for the bandits. Two militiamen, Chou Kuo-chien and Wei Mo-yuan, were both found to be eligible; after close comparison, it was found that Chou was the better, because of his good relations with the people in the village. So Chou was chosen as a candidate.

Nominations were not necessarily made by a show of hands. In some cases, detailed comparison was sufficient to ensure unanimous agreement.

By the time all the rest of the ten candidates were chosen and the six representatives finally elect-



Rice Harvesting

Woodcut by Chi Tan

ed, many sticks had been consumed in the bonfires, and the cocks were announcing the dawn.

After her election as a representative, Sister Tai found it very hard indeed to persuade her husband that it was a good thing. He took it as an unbearable insult that his wife instead of himself was a *hsiang* representative. Not only did he consider this a severe loss of face in the community; he also disliked his wife meeting other men in her outside activities. So he decided to do everything possible to keep his wife from going to meetings, despite his noble promises to be "unselfish." He was deeply irritated all the more so since he had hoped to be nominated himself as a candidate for representative. But since his arrogance at the meeting had made a bad impression on everyone, he had not even been mentioned during nominations.

Comrade Fang of the work-team was astonished that immediately after her election, Sister Tai became completely inactive. When she visited her, Sister Tai sat motionless, her small son clasped tightly in her arms, staring blankly at the wall. It appeared that the husband had issued an ultimatum: "If you go to any more meetings, you need not bother about darkening my threshold again."

Sister Tai's Problem

The next morning, another stage in the process was being initiated: all peasant representatives from the whole *hsiang* were coming together in a big meeting at the Mountain Throat village school. From early morning, gongs and drums sounded, *yangko* dancers were calling the people in from the fields. The representatives were distinguished by the big red flowers which they wore on their coats. A warm send-off had been given each group as they left their own villages.

Yangko dancers greeted the representatives and people upon their arrival at the Mountain Throat

village school. The esteem shown them heightened the delegates' resolve to do all they could for their fellow villagers. But Sister Tai still sat at home, without uttering a word, the child pressed to her bosom. Her husband was sitting on the threshold, glowering. Comrade Fang had tried in vain to talk to Sister Tai, not once but several times.

Suddenly Comrade Fang understood it all in a flash. She put her mouth to Sister Tai's ear and whispered: "You are afraid because of the child—aren't you? You are afraid your husband will take your baby away, isn't that it?"

Sister Tai nodded sad assent. But Comrade Fang, overjoyed at having found the core of her troubles, reassured her:

"The new *Marriage Law* states clearly that nobody can take the child from you, he belongs to you!"

Sister Tai did not believe her ears. So Comrade Fang had to be explicit: "Article 20 of the *Marriage Law* provides for such cases, as your child is so small. Even if your husband drove you out of his home, the child is yours. Besides, your husband would not dare go to such extremes—he knows that the peasant association and the government representatives we are to elect will protect the rights of women. So won't you come to the meeting and take your place as one of the representatives?"

Sister Tai had to be assured once more that the child could not possibly be taken away from her, but once she was sure, she stood up with determination, and handed the baby to Comrade Fang. At the door, her husband tried to bar her way. But she pushed him aside, saying: "I'm not afraid of you any more. I have a right to attend the meeting!"

Elections With Beans

The members of the peasant association committee and local people's government were to be elected in the manner usual in land reform—by means of beans so that even the illiterate could participate. From a total of forty-two representatives from the six villages of the *hsiang*, thirteen were to be elected for the committee of the *hsiang* peasant association, and nine for the *hsiang* government. For the first part of the election (to the *hsiang* peasant association committee), eighteen candidates sat on benches in a row, a bowl behind each of them on a small table. The voters streamed in through a door on the left, going out on the right. Each one was given thirteen beans as he entered, and these he placed silently into the bowls behind his chosen candidates. After the rest had voted, the candidates themselves put their beans into the bowls one after the other, till their thirteen beans were dropped. Some put beans into their own bowls, signifying they were ready to serve the people.

The candidate with the highest number of beans became chairman of the peasant association. Then fourteen candidates took their places for the *hsiang* people's government elections, and out of these, nine were elected. Again, the election was carried through in the same solemn manner as for the peasant association committee. A farm labourer was elected as head of the *hsiang* government. There was prolonged clapping of hands and shouted approval at this choice. Once again, the elected

people's representatives pledged themselves to serve the people. The newly elected chairman of the peasant association said: "I'm pledging myself to work for the full completion of the land reform,—for mutual-aid teams—for tractors in our fields!"

The head of the *hsiang* government pledged to do his utmost in his new duty.

Sister Tai was chosen to head the *hsiang* government's women's department. In her acceptance speech, she said: "We, the poor people, have now really taken power into our own hands. And we women have been truly liberated. Our duty now is to exert ourselves in the completion of the land reform, in agricultural production and in educating all the people towards our new responsibilities. Our thanks to the People's Liberation Army, thanks to the work-team, but above all, thanks to our deliverer, Chairman Mao, who has brought these blessings to our sorely tried land. Long live Chairman Mao! Long live Chairman Mao!"

Tienschui-Lanchow Railway Completed

August 23 marked another big triumph of the Chinese people in economic construction—the completion of the 360-kilometre Tienschui-Lanchow railway in Northwest China, ten months ahead of schedule. The formal opening of the line to traffic will take place on October 1, China's National Day.

This work, an engineering feat that conquered the rugged Chinling and Liupan mountain ranges, was finished in just a little over two years. Rail-laying was completed in 388 days.

Lanchow in Kansu province, the western terminus of this new line, is the key economic centre of Northwest China. Through it, the abundant grain, vegetables, fruit, mineral and animal products from Sinkiang, Chinghai, Ninghsia and Kansu provinces flow to other areas in exchange for industrial and mass consumption goods. The new railway will give fresh impetus to the economic life of the Northwest and speed its trade with other areas of the country and abroad.

This new line is the westernmost section continuing the great Lunghai railway which stretches 1,746 kilometres from Shantung province's port of Haichow on the Yellow sea, running via Chengchow and Sian to Tienschui and Lanchow.

Construction of the Lunghai line started as early as 1914. By 1945, thirty-one years later, it reached as far as Tienschui in Kansu, but the western section remained merely a dotted-line on railway maps. Yet by May, 1950, only six months after the founding of the People's Republic of China, building of the new railway was already under way and scheduled to be open to traffic by June, 1953. Now the enthusiastic labour of the railway workers has cut this time by eight months.

China Plans for Full Employment

On July 25 this year, the Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government issued a decision on the provision of work for all able-bodied citizens of the country. This important measure marks another great advance in the economic and social development of New China. It means that unemployment—inherited from the old society—will finally be liquidated and that large numbers of people who formerly took no part in useful labour will now participate in the economic, social and cultural construction of the nation.

The decision points out that, in the last three years, the organs of the people's power have already achieved important successes in guaranteeing work for the people and giving aid to the unemployed. By the end of 1951, more than 1,200,000 unemployed workers and nearly 1,000,000 unemployed intellectuals received work. In addition, after the carrying through of land reform; many former loafers, paupers, etc., officers of the old army, landlords and others who had formerly never worked productively, began to participate in agricultural production. At the present time, due to the rapid expansion of production, the number of people occupied in useful labour in urban and rural areas is many times greater than ever before in China's history. This is yet another vivid proof of the superiority of the New Democratic system.

The decision of the Government Administration Council lays down a series of practical measures which are designed to prepare the way for the development of large-scale economic construction, to guarantee work for all the wholly or partially unemployed, to use in production all the available reserves of labour power in the towns and villages, and thus organise a gradual transition to unified distribution of labour power throughout the country.

These measures include the expansion and activation of all state and private productive enterprises; the drawing of more able-bodied women and the unemployed among the old intelligentsia into production or cultural and educational work, and their retraining and remoulding in the process of work; the resettling of peasants from the more thickly populated areas into other regions of the country in order to cultivate hitherto unused lands; the building of great irrigation works; the development in the countryside of by-occupations and handicraft production, etc. The realisation of these measures thus opens the way to the solution of the question of wholly liquidating unemployment in China.

A special committee has been formed by the Government Administration Council for putting this decision into effect.

PRODUCTS FOR EXPORT (III): TUNG OIL

China—the world's greatest producer and exporter of tung oil—knew how to grow tung trees and extract and use tung oil long before any other country in the world. The usefulness of tung trees was discovered during the Tang dynasty (618-907 A.D.), but it was only during the Sung dynasty (960-1276 A.D.) that China started cultivating tung trees on a large scale.

Tung oil was introduced to Europe only in the sixteenth century, and, before that time, Europeans did not even know that it existed. Marco Polo, describing his travels, wrote that "wood oil," mixed with lime and crushed hemp, could be used for caulking work in shipyards, but the Europeans had no idea what "wood oil" was. It was not until 1875, when a Frenchman, M. Cloez, discovered that Chinese tung oil could be used as a substitute for linseed oil in paints and varnishes, that Western paint-makers started using it. Tung oil reached America only in 1896 and was variously called tung oil, kiri oil or Chinese nut oil. The first tung trees to be cultivat-

ed in America were planted in California in 1905. American tung oil, however, remains more costly than the Chinese varieties.

Tung trees are tall plants which begin to shed their leaves in late autumn. They look like *Sterculia platanifolia*, and their broad leaves are white and pink in colour. They bloom towards the end of spring, and their nuts—which look like walnuts—ripen in August or September. Each nut contains several seeds which yield oil when pressed.

There are many kinds of tung trees in China, but the two main categories are:

1) *Aleurites fordii*—these grow rapidly, are resistant to cold weather and bloom and give nuts within three years after they are planted. The nut is oblate, has a smooth surface and contains three to five seeds. Most of the tung trees planted in China belong to this category.

2) *Aleurites montana*—the nuts of this species of tung tree contain three to four seeds. The trees

of this category bear nuts for as long as fifty years. This category is not so resistant to cold weather as the first-named species and is mainly cultivated in south China. The shell of the nut is uneven on the surface, and, for this reason, it is also called "wrinkled tung." The oil content of the kernel is not so rich as that of the first kind.

Tung trees adapt themselves easily to their environment. They grow sturdily even in poor soil, thriving just as well on a slope as at the foot of a hill. Nevertheless, they grow best in a damp, mild climate and are, therefore, cultivated mostly in provinces like Szechuan, Hunan, Kwangtung and Hupeh. There are some orchards in Chekiang and Kweichow, but fewer in Shensi, Anhwei, Kiangsi, Honan and Fukien.

One hundred kilogrammes of seeds of *Aleurites fordii* yield 44 kilogrammes of oil, while the same quantity of seeds of *Aleurites montana* gives only 37 kilogrammes. Chinese tung oil is excellent in quality. It is shiny, sticky and thick and dries fast. Both Japanese and American tung oil are inferior in quality as they contain less iodine.

The main ingredients of tung oil are: oleic acid (4.1%), eleomargaric (90.7%) and saturated fatty acid (4.6%).

As already mentioned, tung oil is a good, quick-drying oil. Apart from that, however, its coating lasts longer, is waterproof and resists changes of weather. In this respect, it is better than any other vegetable oil used for the same purpose.

Tung Oil's Many Uses

There are many kinds of tung oil in China, the two main ones are:

- 1) White tung oil—it is transparent and light in colour. It is known abroad as "Chinese tung oil" and is of high quality.
- 2) Dark tung oil—it is also known as red tung oil, although in reality it is dark-brown in colour. To this category also belong the *shu* oil of Szechuan and *hung* and *kuang* oil of Hunan. The colour and quality of dark tung oil are inferior to those of white tung oil.

Tung oil is much more useful than any other kind of vegetable oil. It may be used in more than 850 ways and mainly as follows:

- 1) To make ordinary paint, spray paint, varnish, aircraft paint and enamel paint,
- 2) To serve as a coating for waterproof paper, waterproof cotton cloth, artificial leather, raincoats, umbrellas, canvas tents, cellophane and cement.
- 3) To serve as a coating for aircraft, ships, automobiles, woodwork, fishing nets, either as protection against moisture or against rust,
- 4) To make quick-drying printing and drawing ink,

- 5) To make emetics and insecticides.

It is also used for manufacturing artificial ivory, synthetic rubber, rayon and nylon products. Moreover, by a certain process of distillation, it is even possible to obtain Diesel oil and gasoline from tung oil.

When burned, the ashes of the covering of the nuts serve as fertiliser and an ingredient for the manufacture of alkali. The nutshell itself may be used as fuel or in the manufacture of paper, nitre and soap. Tung oil cakes make good fertiliser for arid fields and also serve as insecticide.

China ranks first in the world in the output of tung oil. In 1936, before the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression, production reached 136,800 metric tons—the highest ever in China's history and constituting 99 per cent of the total world output. During the war, tung oil production decreased as a result of the destruction wrought by the Japanese imperialists. From 1937 to 1946, China produced on the average 78,800 metric tons annually.

Japan's capitulation did not bring relief to the peasants growing tung trees. The reactionary Kuomintang government adopted a so-called "unified buying and selling policy," which proved detrimental to the interests of the growers, because the government, disregarding the high cost of production, set extremely low buying prices. The peasants were forced to sell at a loss, and, rather than do this, they cut the trees for fuel and switched over to the cultivation of other crops. The result was that China's tung oil production fell far below the 1936 level.

With the country liberated, the output in 1951, fostered by the People's Government, surpassed the war-time level, and it is estimated that this year's production will be even higher.

China's tung oil has always been produced more for export than for home consumption. Normally, China exports between 60 and 70 per cent of its total output. The highest export figure was registered in 1937, when China supplied the world with 103,000 metric tons of tung oil. During the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression, China's tung oil exports came to a virtual standstill, but have revived and grown considerably after liberation.

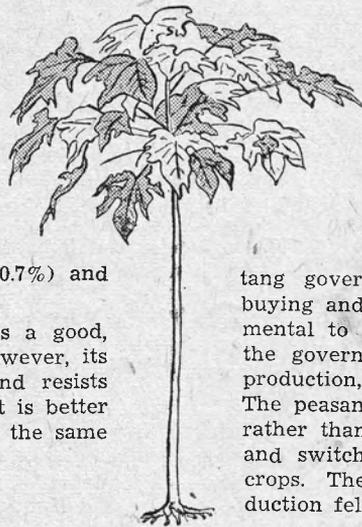
World markets require between 110,000 and 140,000 metric tons of tung oil annually, and China can meet the greater part of the demand. This was confirmed by Lei Jen-min, member of the Chinese delegation to the International Economic Conference in Moscow, who declared at the first working group meeting:

"As regards tung oil, China, who was the first to produce it, is the world's largest producer and exporter. In my view, we are able to export enough to meet all the needs of the countries represented at this conference."

—Y. K. Chu

People's China

Tung Tree



New China's Documentaries

There is an intimate connection between the growth of the people's China's flourishing documentary film art and the development of its New-Democratic, scientific, realistic outlook. The documentary cameraman and director express the enormously enhanced interest of the people in their own liberated land—its geography, resources, historical and cultural treasures, its current history—every aspect of its life.

The documentary camera is the recording eye of the people seeing things and events with all the warm humanity and keen political insight of the revolutionary masses led by the working class and its Communist Party—steeped in struggles and versed in the theory and practice of Marxism-Leninism.

These qualities of proletarian realism are allied with a greatly improved film technique—that is itself an expression of New China's advance to industrialisation, utilising the advanced experience of the U.S.S.R.

The development of the documentary has, of course, been carefully fostered by the People's Government, which attaches the greatest importance to the cinema as a medium of mass education and entertainment. Liberation in fact created, for the first time, the conditions necessary for the development of the cinema in China as a truly progressive mass art, one of the most important for the people.

Documents of the Time

In the three years from 1949 to the end of 1951, over 100 documentaries, including 26 full-length films, were released by the various state studios. They cover the most varied themes; the most outstanding undoubtedly being the Stalin Prize-winning colour film *The Victory of the Chinese People* made by a joint Chinese and Soviet team headed by S. Gerasimov. This together with *The Victorious Crossing of the Yangtse* and *The Red Flag Unfurled*, which received a prize at the 5th International Film Festival at Karlovy Vary, depicts the Chinese people in the very hour of their triumph. *People's Port Arthur and Dairen* shows the people engaged in the peaceful building of their liberated land. *The Great Unity of China's Nationalities* is one of many films showing the arts and cultures of the various peoples of China, the new relations of a great brotherhood of peoples that have been built up with the liberation. *Liberated China*, also awarded a Stalin Prize, by the Sino-Soviet team that made *The Victory of the Chinese People*, is one of the finest of the documentaries showing the new aspects of the people's land, the amazing variety of its natural scenes and beauty. Part one of *Resist American Aggression and Aid Korea*, the dramatic story of the Chinese people's volunteers and the patriotic movement to safeguard the liberation and aid the victims of the American aggressors, and *The Liberation of Tibet* carry forward the history of the liberation struggle. Each of these films is a valuable historic document.

The quality of these new films has been amply demonstrated by their enormous popularity in China and the successes they have achieved abroad. Thirty-

one documentaries released between February, 1949 and the end of 1951 were seen by more than 56,300,000 people. When *Resist American Aggression and Aid Korea* was released in 43 major Chinese cities from December 20, 1951 for a 28-day run, every showing was crowded out and nearly 9.5 million people saw it.

The Great Unity of China's Nationalities produced by the Peking Film Studio last year received a prize at the 6th International Film Festival in Karlovy Vary.

Twenty-two of these documentaries have been released in 22 countries including the U.S.S.R. and the People's Democracies. Shown in Britain, the U.S.A., Australia and other countries, they have played no insignificant role in dispersing the lies of imperialist propaganda and bringing the truth of the new China to tens of thousands.

The Frontier Fighters (Director Shih Mei) released by the Peking Film Studio is typical of the new school of Chinese documentaries. It takes a theme straight from the very midst of the life of the masses in their revolutionary transformation and treats it on a broad canvas. It is a story of the Chinese People's Liberation Army on the fronts of national defence and also of production in peace-time China. It shows how its fighters in Sinkiang rallied to Chairman Mao Tse-tung's call to develop production and turn the Gobi into a green and fertile land. It shows how they brought a million *mou* of wasteland under cultivation and built a highway over the summits of the Kunlun mountains on the march for the peaceful liberation of Tibet. Films such as this, released to a mass audience of millions, bring home with great forcefulness the vigour of the people of New China and the constructive channels into which that vigour is poured under the guidance of the working class and its great leader, Mao Tse-tung.

Close Ties With People's Life

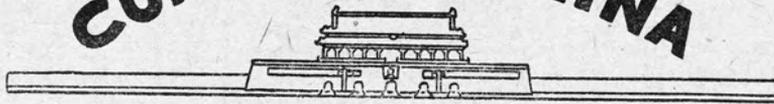
This intimate connection between the documentary film and the current and tremendous tasks undertaken by the people is one of the sources of the effectiveness of the new film art of China.

The new documentaries are of course inseparably connected in both creative method and technique with the influence of the documentary films of the Soviet Union, the People's Democracies and the masters of the documentary working in other countries. Joint work with such outstanding Soviet masters as S. Gerasimov has been a splendid school.

The 1952 cinema plans of the Peking Film Studio include 26 full-length documentaries. Among their themes are the May Day parade in Peking, the coming National Day celebrations on October 1 and American germ warfare. Sixty-three documentary and newsreel film teams are out on location. Some of them are preparing a film of the new Tibet, several are recording the great construction work in other areas. Audiences look forward confidently to the coming productions of a modern art that has come of age in the new China.

—W. Y. Shui

CURRENT CHINA



Programme for Minorities

The general programme for the development of regional autonomy for national minorities, recently issued by the Central People's Government, has been widely acclaimed by the people and especially by the minority peoples.

Under this historic legislation, China's many national minorities, totalling some 40 million, will gradually establish their own regional autonomous governments in accordance with the provisions of the general programme. To date, 130 national autonomous regions comprising 4.5 million people have already been set up.

Trade: The Miao and other nationalities in Kweichow province, the Yi people in Sikang province, the Tunghsiang people in Kansu province, the Kirghiz herdsmen at the foot of the Pamir plateau, the Kazakh herdsmen in the remote Tianshan mountains and many other minority peoples in other areas are now all enjoying an increasingly prosperous life under their own democratically formed local governments. Many have established their own trading centres.

The price of local products such as cow hides, musk and sheep's wool is 6 to 7 times as high as under the Kuomintang. The minority areas now buy 10 times as much salt, cloth and general goods as in pre-liberation days. This spring, the Tunghsiang people in Kansu province applied fertiliser to over 90% of their cultivated land.

Health: More and more of Southwest China's minority peoples can now enjoy modern medical treatment. Two hundred out of the 238 counties inhabited by national minority peoples have medical institutions and hospitals. In addition to treating the people free of charge, the mobile medical teams train large numbers of minority peoples to carry on health work after the teams leave. Thus most areas now have their own health

workers and midwives trained in modern delivery methods.

Production: Since the founding of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region five years ago, the number of livestock has doubled the pre-liberation figure. Agricultural production has already surpassed all pre-liberation levels. The people's purchasing power has greatly increased. Industrial construction has begun. The population of Inner Mongolia has ceased to decline in the nomadic areas and has begun to increase in the agricultural areas. Such are some of the brilliant achievements of the region.

"The policy for regional national autonomy is a fundamental policy arrived at by Chairman Mao Tse-tung by applying Marxist-Leninist theory on the national question to the solution of China's national question," writes the *Peking People's Daily* in its August 13 editorial, hailing the general programme. In conclusion, it states: "This declaration expresses the heartfelt joy and firm confidence of the 40 million national minority peoples of China."

Coal Industry Advances

A large new open-cast coal mine is being dug in Northeast China. This project in the Fuhsin coal field involves the excavation of 560 million cubic metres of earth, an amount of earthwork equal to digging 5 Suez canals and one Panama canal. Work began last year and is developing at a pace double that allowed for in the schedule. The new open-cast mine will supply as much coal as the total output of the three large existing collieries in this coal field, with only one-tenth of the administrative personnel.

The Shuangyashan colliery in Northeast China has begun using the first Soviet coal combine ever to be applied in China. This "Donbas" combine slices into the coal seam, cuts the coal, extracts and loads it, in a series of combined

operations requiring no manual labour.

The introduction of the combine marks a big step in the advance of China's coal industry towards all-round mechanisation. Its success over the past month is seen in the doubling of the output of the pit where it is being used.

Growing Co-operatives

There are now 106 million members of co-operatives in China. This is a 21% increase since the end of last year.

Besides bringing the peasants much needed supplies of fertiliser and farm tools, the co-operatives have brought them prosperity by constantly widening market outlets for grains, industrial crops and handicrafts. In Shantung and Hopei provinces, the co-operatives now market the bulk of the groundnut crop. In the Northeast, they market tung oil and 80% of the soya beans grown by the peasants. Co-operatives have played a big role in helping state purchases. This year, all cotton purchases will be handled through them.

By the end of June, 2.04 million tons of fertiliser had been delivered by the co-operatives as part of the fertiliser programme, and the balance of 260,000 tons will be distributed by September. This year, co-operatives supplied double the amount of fertiliser they handled last year. They have already distributed 5 times more chemical fertiliser than last year.

Co-operatives in the Northeast have mapped out a plan to create extra wealth equivalent to 1,100,000 tons of grain between the middle of July and the end of this year by expanding their business, speeding up capital turnover, and greater economies in operation. This new drive has begun on top of the steadily growing prosperity that has broadened the scope of co-operative activities through lowered prices and raised purchasing power.

New Houses for Workers

In Northeast China, blocks of workers' apartments, sanatoria, bath-houses, barber shops, creches and modernised laundries are growing up around Dairen's chemical plants, steel mills and petroleum refineries. One of the coun-

Chairman Mao's Works

The second volume of Chairman Mao Tse-tung's selected works was recently made available to the public in Rangoon. Bookshops selling the book were crowded with eager Chinese readers, while many Burmese and Indian nationals gathered outside the show windows to look at the portrait of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and his book.

The first and second volumes of Chairman Mao's selected works have been published in a Japanese edition of four volumes. They are being widely discussed in study circles in factories, colleges and among the general public.

The French translation of Chairman Mao Tse-tung's essay "On Contradiction" was carried in the August issue of "Cahiers du Communisme."

try's largest coal fields at Fushun plans to build houses for 1,400 miners' families and 3,500 single miners, 5 canteens, 16 bath-houses, 19 rest centres, 6 creches and 2 kindergartens.

In Tsingtao, Shantung's beautiful seaside resort and port, 3,000 workers have recently moved into well-appointed houses in the suburbs. These living quarters are part of the housing project for tens of thousands of workers' families for which the municipal people's government has made large appropriations.

In Shanghai, a vast housing project to accommodate 20,000 workers' families was begun in August.

In Wusih, one of the country's largest textile centres near Shanghai, a similar project to house nearly 10,000 workers and their families was started in July. Each home will have a kitchen, flush toilet, running water and electricity. Three parks will be laid out in the new residential areas next spring. Later, a hospital, co-operative, nursery, school for workers' children and recreational centres will be added.

Sino-French Trade

A contract for barter trade between China and France amounting to more than 1 million pounds

sterling was signed in Berlin on August 9.

Shih Chih-ang, representative of the China National Import-Export Corporation, signed the contract on behalf of China, and Jean Doumeng, on behalf of France, after approval was obtained from the governments of both countries.

This is the first step in the 4-million-pound trade agreement which was concluded between the Chinese and French delegations at the International Economic Conference in Moscow. According to this contract, China will export silk, tea, sausage casings, egg products, tung oil, etc. French exports will be iron, steel, other metals, chemicals, medicine, etc. Payment arrangements were also agreed upon between the two sides.

Chronicle of Events

August 11

An exhibition of gifts presented to China by the people of the German Democratic Republic opens in the Chungshan park, Peking.

August 14

The 5th anniversary of the independence of Pakistan is greeted by Chairman Mao Tse-tung, Foreign Minister Chou En-lai and Kuo Mo-jo, chairman of the China Peace Committee.

August 15

The 7th anniversary of Korea's liberation is greeted by the Chinese leader and people. Chairman Mao Tse-tung has sent greetings to Kim Du Bong, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Korean Democratic People's Republic.

The Shanghai Military Control Commission of the Chinese People's Liberation Army orders the requisition of the entire property of the British-owned Shanghai Dockyards Limited and the Mollers' Shipbuilding and Engineering Works Limited in Shanghai.

August 16

Premier Chou En-lai directs that the Government Administration Council's decision on "Regulations in Regard to Organising the Federation of Industrialists and Businessmen" be implemented.

The Central People's Government appoints Tseng Yung-chuan as its Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the People's Republic of Poland.

The Economic Planning Committee of the Northeast people's government, having completed its plans for economic construction for the first half of 1952, issues a communique stating that Northeast China has surpassed by a wide margin the economic levels reached in the corresponding period last year.

August 17

The Central People's Government delegation headed by Chou En-lai arrives in Moscow.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Foreign Minister Chou En-lai, respectively, send messages of greeting to Indonesia's President Soekarno and Foreign Minister Mukarto on the occasion of Indonesia's Independence Day.

August 19

Hsinhua reports that a contract for barter trade between China and France amounting to more than one million pounds sterling was signed in Berlin on August 9.

The 205-member Rumanian Army Song and Dance Ensemble arrives in Peking.

The last group of the Chinese delegates to the Plovdiv Fair and Leipzig Fair leaves Peking.

August 20

An exhibition on the Hungarian People's Republic is opened by the Hungarian Ambassador, E. Safranko, in the Working People's Palace of Culture in Peking in honour of the 3rd anniversary of the Hungarian constitution.

Based on the July 14 Sino-Hungarian Cultural Co-operation Agreement signed in Sofia, an agreement has been reached on a one-year programme of cultural co-operation between the two countries.

LETTERS

The New Civilisation

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

With great interest we learn about the changes going on in the ancient and interesting continent of China. The youth in our country, and particularly the members of our movement, follow with keen interest the processes of construction and development of the new China. We are glad to read about the new civilisation in the course of creation, about your struggle against the remnants of the bureaucracy and the inheritance from the reactionary past.

P. ADAN,

Organisation "Hashomer Hatzair"

Spreading the News

NEW HAMPSHIRE, U.S.A.

You are getting out a fine paper, and I like it very much. After I have read it, I send it to a friend or a neighbour as it is too good to throw away after reading, and I feel that it is better to send it to some one else rather than to keep it in files for reference.

I rejoice in your progress. At last you are on the way to a fuller and more hopeful life.

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