

PEKING REVIEW

42

October 20, 1972

北
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周
報

29 Chinese Cities Support D.R.V.N. Cities' Appeal

Diplomatic Relations Established Between
China and F.R.G. and Between
China and Maldives

Sian — Past and Present

PEKING REVIEW

北京周报

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THE WEEK

Foreign Minister Scheel Visits China

Foreign Minister Walter Scheel of the Federal Republic of Germany and Mrs. Scheel paid an official visit to China from October 10 to 14 at the invitation of Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei. During the visit the two foreign ministers held talks on bilateral relations and the international situation; they also signed and made public a joint communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

While in Peking, Foreign Minister Scheel met Premier Chou En-lai and Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien, and they had a friendly and frank conversation. He also met Minister of Foreign Trade Pai Hsiang-kuo. Foreign Minister Scheel and his party visited the Great Wall, the Ting Ling (one of the Ming Tombs) and the arts and crafts exhibition, and attended a performance of the modern revolutionary ballet *The Red Detachment of Women*. Some members of his party also visited the Palace Museum, a cotton mill, and a people's commune on the outskirts of the capital.

At the October 11 banquet given by Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei in

honour of the distinguished guests from the F.R.G. and at the farewell banquet given by Foreign Minister Scheel in Peking on October 13, the two foreign ministers spoke of the significance of the visit and the establishment of diplomatic relations. (For texts of their speeches at the welcoming banquet see pp. 7-8.)

In his speech at the farewell banquet, Foreign Minister Scheel pointed out: "With the establishment of diplomatic relations, the relations between the peoples of our two countries have been improved and world peace consolidated. In my opinion, this is the major outcome of the pleasant and confident talks we have held here."

"The Federal Republic of Germany," he added, "has finally rejected power politics. We perseveringly pursue a policy aimed at preventing conflicts, relaxing tension and seeking balance among countries on the basis of reality."

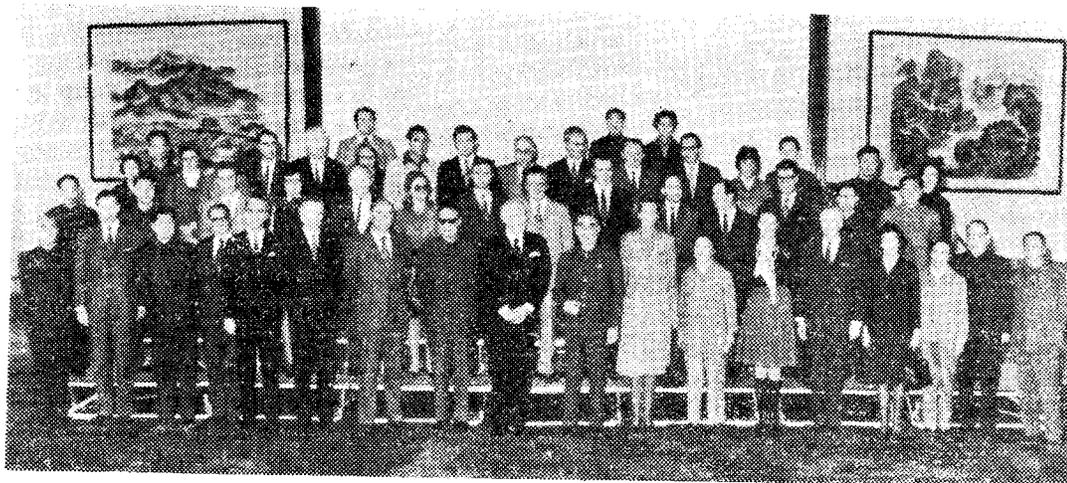
In his speech at the banquet, the Chinese Foreign Minister said:

"Through joint efforts by the two sides, the People's Republic of China and the Federal Republic of Germany have established diplomatic relations, thus realizing the aspirations the peoples of the two countries had cherished for many years. This is a big event in the annals of relations between our two countries. It will not only promote the development of relations between our two countries in all fields, but also exert positive influence on the easing of international tension."

"Our two countries have different ideologies and social systems," he went on, "but this does not hinder our ability to seek common ground. Both sides have expressed disapproval of power politics and hegemonism; both hold that relations between nations should be based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and that these principles are applicable not only to nations with different social systems but also to nations having the same social system."

Renmin Ribao published on October 13 an editorial warmly hailing the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Federal Republic of Germany. On the very day of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the editorial recalled, Chairman Mao Tsetung declared: "This Government is willing

to establish diplomatic relations with any foreign government which is willing to observe the principles of equality, mutual benefit and mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty." "Consistently following this teaching of Chairman Mao," the editorial said, "the Chinese Government and people have in the last 23 years extensively developed friendly relations with other peoples and es-



Premier Chou and Foreign Minister Chi with Foreign Minister Scheel and his party.

October 20, 1972

People's Republic of China and Federal Republic of Germany Establish Diplomatic Relations

Joint Communiqué

The Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany decided on October 11, 1972 to establish diplomatic relations and to exchange ambassadors within a short time.

Done in duplicate in Peking on October 11, 1972 in the Chinese and German languages.

For the Government of the People's Republic of China

For the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

(Signed)

Chi Peng-fei

(Signed)

Walter Scheel

Signing Ceremony

Li Hsien-nien, Vice-Premier of the State Council, attended the signing ceremony.

Present at the signing ceremony on the side of the Federal Republic of Germany were members of the official party of Minister for Foreign Affairs Walter Scheel: Ruediger

Freiherr Von Wechmar, Deputy Chief of the Press and Information Office of the Federal Government; Guenther Van Well, Director of the Third Department (Political Department) of the Foreign Ministry; Max Graf Podewils, Chief of Protocol of the Foreign Ministry; Dr. Peter Hermes, Director of the Trade Policy Department of the Foreign Ministry; Dr. Guido Brunner, Head of the Planning Staff of the Foreign Ministry; and Gerd Berendonck, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Franke, Dr. Hanspeter Hellbeck, Dr. Hans-Joachim Hallier, Hermann Huber, Dr. Wilhelm A. Thoennes and Mrs. Ute Gareis, and others.

Also present at the signing ceremony on the Chinese side were Yu Chan, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs; Chen Chieh, Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade; Chang Wen-chin and Wang Hai-jung, Assistant Foreign Ministers; Wang Shu, plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China for negotiations on the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Federal Republic of Germany; and leading members of departments concerned.

of the Office of the Foreign Ministry.

Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei gave a banquet on October 6 in honour of the distinguished guests from San Marino.

At the banquet, Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei paid high tribute to the San Marino people who ardently love independence and freedom. He said that for centuries the San Marino people have waged unremitting struggles to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of their country. They have defeated foreign aggressors time and again so that their country has stood rock-firm among the nations of the world. The history of San Marino is a vivid proof that, however small a country may be, she can surely win victory so long as she dares to persevere in struggle.

The Government of San Marino, he said, has long pursued a policy of neutrality, stood for equal rights for all countries, respected all peoples' right to self-determination and opposed encroachment on the independence and sovereignty of other countries. It is concerned about international affairs and has made valuable contributions to the relaxation of international tension and the maintenance of world peace. The Chinese Government supports the policy of neutrality pursued by the Government of San Marino and expresses appreciation of its stand of opposing aggression and upholding justice in international affairs, he declared.

The Chinese Foreign Minister also acclaimed the friendship between the peoples of China and San Marino.

In his speech, Foreign Secretary Ghironzi said that the relations between San Marino and China have, from the very beginning, been inspired with sympathy, cordiality and friendship. The Government and people of San Marino, he said, have in particular appreciated the declaration of full respect for the policy of neutrality pursued over the centuries by San Marino, neutrality which the Government of the People's Republic of China was willing to inscribe in the protocol on the establishment of official relations between the two

established diplomatic relations with a growing number of countries. This principled stand of ours has won universal sympathy and support."

The editorial also pointed out: "The German people are industrious and wise. They have made valuable contributions to mankind. Marx and Engels, the great revolutionary teachers of the proletariat and the founders of scientific communism, were born in Rhine Province of the Kingdom of Prussia. The Chinese people have always cherished profound feelings of friendship for the German people. We are deeply convinced that with the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Federal Republic of Germany,

the friendship between the two peoples will continue to grow and the friendly relations between the two countries continue to develop.

San Marino Government Delegation

Giancarlo Ghironzi, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and the Government Delegation of the Republic of San Marino led by him paid a friendship visit to China from October 5 to 13. Members of the delegation were: Emilio Della Balda, Secretary of State for Internal Affairs; Marino Benedetto Belluzzi, expert on culture and education; Emilio Amati, expert on economy, trade and industry; and Raffaele Giardi, Chancellor

China and Maldives Establish Diplomatic Relations

The People's Republic of China and the Republic of Maldives on October 14 issued a joint communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The joint communique said: "The Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Maldives in conformity with the interests of the two countries and in accordance with the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, equality and mutual benefit have agreed to the establishment of diplomatic relations effective from October 14, 1972 between the two countries and exchange diplomatic representatives at ambassadorial level.

"The Government of the Republic of Maldives recognizes that the

Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government of China and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China.

"The Government of the People's Republic of China respects the policy of neutrality pursued by the Government of the Republic of Maldives.

"The two Governments agree to develop friendly relations and co-operation between the two countries based on the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and mutual benefit."

Maldives is a country of islands in the Indian Ocean, 640 kilometres

southwest of Sri Lanka. It proclaimed its independence in 1965 and became a republic in 1968.

On October 16, *Renmin Ribao* carried an editorial warmly hailing the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Maldives. It pointed out that friendly intercourse between the peoples of China and Maldives had existed many centuries ago. The Chinese people have always sympathized with and supported the struggle of the Maldivian people for independence. The editorial expressed thanks to the Maldivian Government and people for their support to China.

The editorial said: "The Chinese Government and people have consistently maintained that all countries, big or small, should be equal and that the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence should be taken as the principles guiding the relations between countries."

countries. He pointed out that the Republic of San Marino, due to her inherent devotion to peace, strictly pursues and observes this policy of neutrality. This permits her to enthusiastically offer and receive friendship of other peoples and make a contribution in the international sphere to the promotion of peaceful coexistence and mutual co-operation among all peoples without ideological, social, religious or racial discrimination.

The Foreign Secretary expressed the attentive consideration of his country for the principles of respect for other countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-aggression, non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, equality of all states and peaceful coexistence. The application of these principles will permit all countries to play the role as they should.

On October 8, Premier Chou En-lai, Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei, Minister of Public Security Li Chen and Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade Chen Chieh met and had a friendly talk

with Foreign Secretary Ghironzi and all members of the San Marino Government Delegation.

During the delegation's stay in Peking, Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei held friendly talks with Foreign Secretary Giancarlo Ghironzi.

The distinguished guests from San Marino visited Peking, Shanghai and Hangchow. They were accorded a warm welcome wherever they went.

Comrade Chou En-lai Meets Comrade Le Duc Tho

Chou En-lai, Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Premier of the State Council, and Li Hsien-nien, Member of the Political Bureau of the C.P.C. Central Committee and Vice-Premier of the State Council, on October 15 met and feted Le Duc Tho, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and Special Adviser to Minister Xuan Thuy, Head of the Delegation of the

Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. They had a very cordial and friendly conversation.

Comrade Le Duc Tho gave an account of the excellent situation in Viet Nam's war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation and expressed the Vietnamese people's firm resolve to fight and win and their determination to achieve still greater victories on the military, political and diplomatic fronts. Premier Chou expressed very strong indignation at and severely condemned the outrageous crimes of U.S. imperialism in bombing Hanoi and ravaging 37 cities of the D.R.V.N. He pledged resolute support for the Vietnamese people's just struggle, and said that the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples would always unite, fight and win victory together.

Comrade Le Duc Tho arrived in Peking on October 15 by special plane on his way home from Paris.

(Continued on p. 17.)

Renmin Ribao

The People of Laos Are Bound to Win

October 12 this year was the 27th anniversary of the Independence Day of Laos. Premier Chou En-lai on October 11 sent a message to Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front. Following is the full text of a "Renmin Ribao" editorial published on October 12 greeting the anniversary. — Ed.

IN a new situation when tremendous victories have been won by the three Indochinese peoples, the heroic Lao people are greeting their glorious day, the 27th anniversary of the Independence Day of Laos. With profound fraternal sentiments, the Chinese people extend to the fighting Lao people their warm congratulations and deep respects.

After a protracted anti-imperialist struggle, the Lao people successfully staged an armed uprising in August 1945 and solemnly proclaimed the independence of Laos on October 12 the same year. This opened a new page in the history of Laos. Following independence, the Lao people threw out the French colonialists after nine years of anti-French war. Advancing wave upon wave in the last ten-odd years, the Lao patriotic armed forces and people have fought arduously and won brilliant victories in the struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation. The struggle and victories of the Lao people constitute an important contribution to the Indochinese peoples' cause of national liberation and the struggle of the world's people against imperialism.

Under the leadership of the Lao Patriotic Front, the Lao People's Liberation Army has rapidly grown into a mighty armed force of the people. By relying closely on the people and bringing into full play the might of people's war, it has wiped out large numbers of enemy

forces. Three quarters of Lao territory are now liberated. In the liberated zone with a population of over one million, the democratic regime is getting consolidated daily and its economy and culture are in steady progress. Fighting shoulder to shoulder and co-ordinating closely with the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples, the Lao people have attained many new victories since the beginning of this year. The Lao patriotic armed forces and people have repeatedly repulsed the "nibbling" attacks of the Lao Rightist troops on the liberated zone. They thus have dealt a heavy blow at the war "Laotianization" scheme of U.S. imperialism.

The Lao Patriotic Front has made unremitting efforts for a peaceful solution of the Lao problem. Its sincerity finds expression in a 5-point political solution which shows the correct way for peacefully settling the Lao issue and has thus won the sympathy and support of public opinion in various countries. The Lao problem was created entirely by the U.S. imperialist aggression and interference in Laos. Therefore, an end must be put to the aggression and interference in Laos by U.S. imperialism and its flunkies, and the Lao people must be left to solve their problem by themselves.

At present, the peoples of Laos, Viet Nam and Cambodia are fighting in unity and advancing triumphantly. The peoples of China and Laos are intimate brothers who have always supported and helped each other in the common struggle against imperialism. The Chinese people are resolved to provide powerful backing for the Lao people and resolutely support the peoples of Laos and other Indochinese countries in their struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation till complete victory. We are deeply convinced that final victory certainly belongs to the heroic Lao people and the other Indochinese peoples.

Vietnamese People Cannot Be Cowed by Bombing

by "Renmin Ribao" Commentator

On October 11, 1972 U.S. imperialism dispatched planes in many waves to carry out frenzied bombing on downtown Hanoi, killing and wounding many peaceful civilians. The French General Delegate in Hanoi and the Albanian Charge d'Affaires ad interim in Hanoi were injured by bombs of the U.S. aircraft. This barbarous crime of U.S. imperialism has provoked the Vietnamese people and the people of the world to the greatest indignation. The Foreign Ministry of the Dem-

ocratic Republic of Viet Nam has issued a statement expressing strong denunciation and demanding that the U.S. Government stop at once its bombing, shelling, mining and blockading of north Viet Nam, cease pursuing its war "Vietnamization" policy in south Viet Nam and negotiate seriously at the Paris Conference. The Chinese Government and people firmly support the just stand of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The U.S. Government in the last few months has sent out huge air and naval forces to conduct continuous wanton bombing raids on various parts of north Viet Nam including Hanoi and Haiphong. By bombing and shelling densely populated areas, peaceful installations and river dykes and dams in north Viet Nam, the U.S. Government is calculating to create serious difficulties for Viet Nam and force the Vietnamese people to submit so as to save the United States from defeat in its aggression against Viet Nam. In a recent appeal to cities throughout the world, chairmen of the administrative committees of 37 cities in north Viet Nam effectively exposed and denounced with numerous facts the war crimes committed by U.S. imperialism in bombing and shelling north Viet Nam. The U.S. Government has professed on the one hand that it does not bomb civilian targets and will settle the Viet Nam issue through negotiations, while on the other hand it has stepped up its bombing attacks on north Viet Nam and openly declared that the bombing "will continue." This can only enable the people of the world to see more clearly the brutality and barbarity of the U.S. aggressors.

Bombing is no solution to the question. Are the bombs the United States dropped in north Viet Nam for years and years too few in number? Napalms and laser bombs, Phantoms and B-52 strategic bombers, and what not have all been used. The United States admitted that the number of bombs it dropped in Viet Nam far surpassed that it dropped in World War II. However, the more flagrant its bombing and shelling, the heavier blows the United States will sustain on the Viet Nam battlefield. The Vietnamese people have achieved brilliant successes in new battles in the past months. Facts have proved that the U.S. bombs can in no way shake the iron will of the Vietnamese people, nor hamper their victorious advance in the war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation. The attempt of the U.S. Government to force the Vietnamese people to accept its unreasonable conditions by intensified bombing is absolutely futile. The barbarous crimes of U.S. imperialism can only arouse the Vietnamese people to more powerful resistance and land itself in more disastrous defeat.

(October 13)

29 Chinese Cities Support D.R.V.N. Cities' Appeal

The responsible members of the municipal revolutionary committees of Peking and 28 other Chinese cities on October 17 sent a message to the chairmen of the administrative committees of Hanoi and 36 other cities of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam warmly responding to their appeal issued on October 3 to the whole world. They strongly condemned U.S. imperialism for its barbarous crime of bombing and raiding the cities of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and pledged firm support for the fraternal Vietnamese people in their just struggle for independence and freedom. The message reads:

We have read with deep emotion the appeal you issued on October 3. In the appeal, you have cited massive facts and forcefully denounced U.S. imperialism for its barbarous crime of bombing and raiding the cities of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and given expression to the Vietnamese people's iron will and firm determination in resisting U.S. aggression and saving the nation. On behalf of the broad masses of revolutionary people of 29 big cities of China, we warmly respond to your appeal issued to the whole world and pledge our support to your just struggle.

In the past decade and more, U.S. imperialism has committed innumerable barbarous crimes against the Vietnamese people. It has sent hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops to savagely massacre the people in south Viet Nam. It has dispatched huge naval and air forces to carry out mining and blockading against north Viet

Nam, wantonly bomb and raid numerous cities and villages and destroy large numbers of enterprises, hospitals, schools, dykes and other economic and cultural establishments there. Of late, especially, U.S. aircraft have continuously raided Hanoi, Haiphong and other densely populated big cities, massacring in cold blood many peaceful inhabitants. The crimes of the U.S. aggressors have not only thoroughly violated the Geneva agreements and trampled on international law, but also seriously infringed the basic human rights and the rudimentary principle of humanitarianism. They constitute a provocation to the Vietnamese people as well as all the countries and people of the world that love peace and uphold justice. The Chinese people express their utmost indignation at and strongly condemn them.

As everybody knows, the Vietnamese people have not sent a single soldier to the United States to harm the interests of the American people. They are fighting the war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation for the sole purpose of opposing aggression, defending their own country and striving for the realization of their fundamental national aspirations — independence, sovereignty, reunification and territorial integrity. The Vietnamese nation is an integral whole. In supporting and assisting the just struggle of their flesh-and-blood compatriots in the south, the north Vietnamese people are exercising their sacred national rights. This is wholly in conformity with logic and reason. The United States, which is situated thousands of miles away, has no justification whatsoever to move its forces into

south Viet Nam, let alone attack and carry out mining and blockading against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and conduct wanton bombings against the peaceful cities of north Viet Nam. None of the pretexts created by the U.S. Government is tenable. The United States must immediately stop its war of aggression against Viet Nam and the other Indochinese countries, immediately stop its bombing, mining and blockading against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and withdraw all the U.S. aggressor forces and its vassal troops from south Viet Nam and the whole of Indochina so that the Vietnamese and the other Indochinese peoples may solve their own problems independently.

The Vietnamese people are a heroic people, and the Vietnamese nation is a great nation. They are not to be subjugated by any force. The United States has been bombing north Viet Nam for eight or nine years since 1964, but has failed to hold back the victorious development of the Vietnamese people's war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation or avert ever greater defeats for the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys. It is sheer wishful thinking on the part of U.S. imperialism to try by bombs to cow the Vietnamese people and save itself from defeat on the battlefield. As the Vietnamese people's great leader President Ho Chi Minh pointed out in his Appeal of July 1966, **"The war may last still 5, 10, 20 years or longer. Hanoi, Haiphong and other**

cities, and enterprises may be destroyed, but the Vietnamese people will not be intimidated!" The more bombs U.S. imperialism drops, the more vehemently the flames of the Vietnamese people's wrath will rage. The Vietnamese people will surely hold still higher the banner of **"firm resolve to fight and win"** and battle resolutely to deal even heavier blows at the aggressors. And the aggressors will certainly meet with even more resolute opposition from the people of the whole world.

We people of big cities of China, together with the people throughout the country, strongly condemn U.S. imperialism for its acts of aggression and pledge firm support for the fraternal Vietnamese people in their just struggle for independence and freedom. The Chinese people's great leader Chairman Mao Tsetung has pointed out: **"The 700 million Chinese people provide a powerful backing for the Vietnamese people; the vast expanse of China's territory is their reliable rear area."** We will for ever follow this teaching of Chairman Mao and make our contributions by the practical deeds of **"Grasping revolution, promoting production and other work and preparedness against war"** in supporting the Vietnamese and the other Indochinese peoples in their war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation. We are firmly convinced that victory will certainly belong to the heroic peoples of Viet Nam and the other Indochinese countries!

At Banquet in Honour of F.R.G. Foreign Minister Walter Scheel

Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei's Speech

Your Excellency Respected Mr. Walter Scheel and Mrs. Scheel, Distinguished Guests from the Federal Republic of Germany,
Friends and Comrades,

We are glad that Mr. Walter Scheel, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Mrs. Scheel have come to our country for a friendly visit. On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China, I extend a sincere welcome to Mr. Scheel and Mrs. Scheel and the other distinguished guests from the Federal Republic of Germany.

Germany is the native land of the great Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. The German people have made valuable contributions to the spiritual wealth of mankind in the field of culture, in sciences and arts, and won high appraisal internationally.

Unfortunately, in mid-20th century, German fascism launched a large-scale war against other countries, for which the people of many countries in Europe and elsewhere endured tremendous disasters and the German people, too, suffered a great deal. For reasons known to all, Germany was divided into two countries after World War II. The Chinese people, following Chairman Mao Tsetung's teachings, make a strict distinction between the very few fascists and the broad

masses of the people of the two German states. For the promotion of a smooth solution of the post-war German question and the interests of peace in Europe and the world, as early as 1955 Chairman Mao Tsetung issued, on behalf of the People's Republic of China, the proclamation ending the state of war with Germany. However, 27 years have elapsed since the end of World War II, a treaty of peace with Germany has not yet been concluded and the two German states are still living in an abnormal situation. We have always held that a fair and reasonable solution should be sought to the German question on the basis of respecting the interests and desires of the people of the two German states. This will be conducive to the relaxation of tension in Europe and the safeguarding of the peace and security of Europe.

There have long existed friendly ties between the peoples of China and Germany. In 1949 our country established diplomatic relations with the German Democratic Republic. Although diplomatic relations were not established between our country and the Federal Republic of Germany, over many years there have been maintained contacts between the peoples of our two countries in the economic, cultural, sports and journal-

istic fields. The development of the situation and the changes in international relations have created favourable conditions for the establishment of state relations between our two countries. Last July Mr. Gerhard Schroeder, Chairman of the Foreign Political Committee of the Bundestag of the Federal Republic of Germany, visited our country, making an important contribution in promoting the development of the relations between our two countries. Last August the representatives of the Governments of our two countries began diplomatic negotiations in Bonn, which came to a successful conclusion at the end of September. Now Mr. Walter Scheel, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic, has come to China for a friendly visit. Today, we have signed the joint communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries, thus opening a new page in the history of the relations between our two countries. The formal establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries not only conforms to the common desires and interests of our two peoples, but also will exert a positive influence for the relaxation of international tension and the safeguarding of world peace.

The People's Republic of China and the Federal Republic of Germany have different social systems. But this does not hinder our two countries from developing normal state relations on the basis of the Five Principles

of Peaceful Coexistence. The present visit to China by Mr. Scheel and Mrs. Scheel and the other distinguished guests from the Federal Republic of Germany has provided our two sides with an opportunity to exchange views on the relations between our two countries and on other questions of common concern, and this will be conducive to enhancing the mutual understanding and ties between our two countries. I wish complete success to Mr. Scheel's visit.

Now I propose a toast

to the development of the friendly relations between the People's Republic of China and the Federal Republic of Germany,

to the health of His Excellency Mr. Gustav W. Heinemann, President of the Federal Republic of Germany,

to the health of His Excellency Mr. Willy Brandt, Chancellor of the Federal Republic,

to the health of His Excellency Mr. Scheel, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic, and Mrs. Scheel,

to the health of all the other distinguished guests from the Federal Republic of Germany, and

to the health of our friends and comrades present here!

Foreign Minister Walter Scheel's Speech

Mr. Vice-Premier,
Mr. Foreign Minister,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

A new page begins today in the relations between the peoples of our two countries. Diplomatic relations have been established between our Federal Republic of Germany and the People's Republic of China. At this moment, it is my wish that this new stage will bring us happy co-operation in the interest of both our countries. And I know this is also the wish of all the citizens of the Federal Republic of Germany. The step taken by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany today is in accord with the set objectives of its policy, which is a policy of peace based on the principles of the United Nations Charter. Its purposes are to prevent conflicts throughout the world, ease tension and lay foundations for constructive exchanges between all countries of the world.

We do not pursue power politics. The people of our country have already drawn their lesson from an unfortunate past, which caused sufferings, damages and the division of our nation. We know what the threat and use of force means in international relations. The Second World War cost China and Germany painful sacrifices and has made us realize that a similar catas-

trophe should never be allowed to repeat. We are determined to prevent this together with all the countries of the world. We consider our decision of today to be a hopeful beginning in this respect.

To us the establishment of diplomatic relations is no mere formality. In this connection, we would make a purposeful and patient use of the possibilities provided to our two peoples for the various kinds of exchanges. We wish to reach a lasting understanding through continued political talks, through vigorous economic, scientific-technological and cultural interflow and through contacts between Chinese and Germans.

The People's Republic of China is situated in Eastern Asia while the Federal Republic of Germany is situated in Western Europe. But this will not diminish the importance of co-operation between our two countries. The world has become smaller. The technological age has rendered communication between people of distant continents an ordinary matter. This means at the same time that we all share a common responsibility for world peace.

The People's Republic of China has obtained the place due to her in the United Nations. We hope that the Federal Republic of Germany will join this world

(Continued on p. 12.)

Report From the U.N.

What Stands in the Way of Real Detente?

LATELY a topic of general interest in the United Nations has been the question whether international tension is really being eased. One can hear views aired on this point everywhere, in the meeting hall, in the lounge, in the corridor, by representatives and by journalists, their interest kept alive as they follow the general debate and compare the speeches of the Chinese and other delegations.

Many believe that the easing of tension is possible, basing their argument on the new trend of developments, notably among other things, the talks between China and the United States, the normalization of relations between China and Japan, the negotiations between north and south Korea. But at the same time they point to the need of a hard struggle to translate such a possibility into reality.

Guinean Foreign Minister Fily Cissoko had this to say: "Despite the easing of tension . . . the world still remains in a state of tension, with trouble spots and injustices which are arbitrarily suffered by those people who are still oppressed and subjected in the middle of the 20th century."

What actually stands in the way of a true relaxation of international tension? This was the very question round which a great debate took place at the current session.

Small and medium-sized countries are keenly aware from their own experience that the root cause of the turmoil in the world lies in imperialism, old and new, especially the superpowers. The peace of the world has been disturbed by the rivalry of the superpowers, by their unending acts of aggression, interference, subversion and control abroad. Consequently, the representatives of many small and medium-sized countries avail themselves of the U.N. platform to voice strongly and in various ways their indignation and resentment against colonialism, power politics and hegemonism.

They condemn the continuing U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam. They protest against the colonialist practice of Portugal and other colonial countries in Africa. They denounce racial discrimination and apartheid. They speak strongly against the economic plunder by a few great powers. And above all, they castigate the one or two superpowers for building bases and stationing troops on foreign soil and carving the small and medium-sized countries into their spheres of influence.

Cameroonian Foreign Minister Vincent Efon noted that the present-day world has witnessed no general detente. Many world problems today stem from great-power policies of national selfishness.

Mexican Foreign Minister Emilio O. Rabasa pointed out that the nuclear powers, ambitious for hegemony, have gone absurd lengths in trying to divide the world into their spheres of hegemony, giving a handicap to the third world. These disturbing elements should be suppressed.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Ahmed Taibi Benhima said, "Where there is aggression there is resistance."

The just stand of these small and medium-sized countries and their analyses of the current international situation have illustrated the core of the question. Their correct stand and points of view were supported by Chiao Kuan-hua, Chairman of the Chinese Delegation, in his speech at the U.N. General Assembly.

However, during the debate, the superpowers have spread absurd arguments. One of them, taking effect for cause, exaggerated the harmfulness of the adventurist acts of terrorism by a handful of people, as if these acts were the cause of tension in the world today. Its attempt to suppress the national-liberation movement under pretext of "anti-terrorism" has met with the strong opposition of many small and medium-sized countries.

The other superpower, more sophisticated, sought approval from the U.N. General Assembly of a resolution on the non-use of force in international relations and the permanent prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons. It alleged that the world would be safe once this was accomplished on paper. Ironically, the author of the "non-use of force" proposal is the very country which has time and again resorted to force and threat of force in international relations, the very country which is unscrupulously expanding its military bases and has repeatedly committed or masterminded naked armed aggression against other countries. It is this very same country which revels in monopolizing nuclear weapons and carrying out nuclear blackmail. It is again this very country which, talking glibly about "the permanent prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons," makes no mention whatsoever of complete destruction of nuclear weapons. Moreover, it feverishly develops nuclear weapons and plunges head over heels into the nuclear arms race in a bid for nuclear superiority. No wonder a large number of countries were sceptical of this proposal the moment it was put forward, calling it a mere cheap propaganda. In his speech, Chairman of the Chinese Delegation Chiao Kuan-hua has analysed the essence of the proposal. In their unofficial discussions, representatives of many countries have agreed to the Chinese points of view.

To promote mutual understanding, the delegations of China and the small and medium-sized countries had extensive exchange of views during the general debate. It is their common desire that they should work together to make the United Nations truly capable of playing a role in safeguarding international peace and promoting the cause of human progress.

(Hsinhua Correspondent)

Peking Review, No. 42

China at the U.N.

China's Principled Stand on Monetary Problem

The 12th Session of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) opened in Geneva on October 3.

Present at the session were representatives of 68 member countries of the board.

The three important problems to be discussed are: the world monetary crisis and reform of the monetary system; multilateral trade negotiations; improvement on the access of primary commodity of developing countries to the markets of "developed" countries and price policy.

On October 6, Chinese Representative Chang Chien-hua spoke at the plenary session in support of the reasonable demand of the developing countries to take part in multilateral trade negotiations and in the reform of the monetary system.

The Chinese representative also sternly pointed out that the "International Monetary Fund's" failure so far to expel from it the representative of the Chiang Kai-shek clique is a gross trampling upon the resolution adopted by the 26th U.N. General Assembly restoring to the People's Republic of China all its lawful rights in the United Nations and expelling forthwith the representatives of the Chiang Kai-shek clique from the United Nations and all the organizations related to it.

Following is a report of Chang Chien-hua's speech. — Ed.

THE 3rd Session of UNCTAD adopted a resolution on multilateral trade negotiations. The fundamental spirit of the resolution should be respected and translated into action. We always maintain that all countries, big or small, should be equal. Affairs of the world should be handled by all countries of the world. We are firmly opposed to a few "developed" countries who act in complete disregard of the interests of the third world and make decisions on vital issues of world economy and trade behind the back of the great majority of countries. The multilateral trade negotiations in 1973 should not in any way impair the interests of the developing countries. The developing countries' demand for their full and effective participation in the forthcoming negotiations is their legitimate right, which they are entitled to enjoy. We hereby offer our support.

China is a developing country and belongs to the third world. Although it is not prepared to participate in the proposed negotiations at present, it will, as always, firmly stand on the side of the third world and resolutely support the just stand and reasonable propositions of the developing countries to safeguard state sovereignty and develop national economies. We oppose a very few countries who manipulate and monopolize international affairs and trade matters to the detriment of the interests of the developing countries. We wish, together with the developing countries as well as other countries of the world, to work for the establishment of new-type international economic and trade relations based on equality and mutual benefit.

The 3rd Session of UNCTAD adopted a resolution related to the monetary problem. Since the resolution

was by no means satisfactory, the Chinese Delegation did not take part in the voting. But within a span of four months and more, this problem is now taken up again for consideration at the 12th session of the board. The Chinese Delegation deems it necessary to restate its position in this regard.

The monetary crisis with the dollar as its centre has seriously affected world trade and economy. The eruption of the monetary crisis has shown up the various contradictions inherent in the capitalist system. The worsening of the dollar crisis is the inevitable result of the policies of war and aggression pushed by the U.S. Government. In the wake of the official devaluation of the dollar, the introduction of floating the pound sterling has further aggravated the world monetary crisis. The economic and trade spheres remain in a state of chaos and unrest.

It is entirely reasonable for the developing countries to oppose the manipulation of international monetary affairs by a few countries and demand their right to fully participate in the reform of the international monetary system. We have all along supported this just and reasonable demand.

Some developing countries have made proposals to the effect that a world monetary conference should be held to consider the reform of the monetary system, in which they can participate in the discussion and decision-making process on an equal footing. These proposals reflect the aspirations of the great majority of the developing countries. However, these positive proposals have met with unfounded opposition and obstruction from a very few countries, who still insist that the "International Monetary Fund" is the decision-making body to carry out

the reform of the international monetary system, in order to secure the maintenance of its hegemonic status in financial spheres and to monopolize international monetary affairs continuously.

The reform of the international monetary system, in the opinion of the Chinese Delegation, should be conducted according to the following principles:

1) All countries of the world, big or small, should be equal. The affairs concerning all countries of the world should be handled by all of them through mutual consultation and should admit of no monopoly by a few countries. The "I.M.F." can neither represent all countries nor give effect to the principle of equality among all countries, big or small. For a long period of time the voting power in "I.M.F." has been determined by the quota of its respective fund members. The making of an important decision requires a majority of 85 per cent of the votes. It follows that nothing can be done if those fund members who have a large share in the quota say "no." Be-

sides, it must be pointed out solemnly that this organization has hitherto failed to expel the Chiang Kai-shek clique from it in pursuance of the resolution adopted by the 26th U.N. General Assembly on the restoration of all legitimate rights to the People's Republic of China, thus grossly trampling upon the resolution adopted by the United Nations.

2) We hold that a world monetary conference should be held with a view to enabling all countries, big or small, to participate in the discussions on an equal basis, jointly work out practical solutions and make decisions. Maybe it is a better modality. We are opposed to the acts of a few countries who make arbitrary decisions in complete disregard of the interests of the developing countries. The reform of the international monetary system should be carried out in such a way as to ensure that the developing countries can fully participate and their interests are fully taken into consideration and that it should be beneficial to the development of international trade.

3) We maintain that before the reform of the monetary system has been carried out, the developing countries' demand for the establishment of a "link" between "the special drawing right" and additional development finance conforms to their needs. The just demand of the developing countries should be respected.

4) The monetary crisis has inflicted great losses on the developing countries. The resolution entitled "Compensation for losses occasioned by the realignment of major currencies" adopted at the 3rd Session of UNCTAD should be implemented.

The prevailing international monetary situation in the capitalist world is seriously affecting international trade, in particular the foreign trade and economic development of the developing countries. We hope that the developing countries will unite, make concerted efforts and undertake adequate mutual consultation so as to play an active role in solving the present international monetary problem.

(Continued from p. 9.)

organization in the near future. These events will be of far-reaching historic significance in the common endeavour for stability and well-being throughout the world. All countries are called upon to make joint efforts for the establishment of a peaceful order, in which the difference between richness and poverty as well as backwardness and irrationality will be overcome. All countries, big or small, have the right to create their own future in security free from outside influence. Only a stable and just order between nations can assure them the possibility of such a development.

Our age is witnessing a profound political change. In Western Europe where our country is situated, an economic community comprising more than 300 million people is now taking shape. We are eliminating the state boundaries there. An economic community in which personnel, goods and capital can come and go freely is being formed. Before long we shall have a unified currency too in Western Europe. Together with the Governments of other European countries, our Government also seeks to realize through close political co-operation a Europe speaking with one voice. Only such a Europe can fully perform in world politics the duty for peace and progress bestowed on it by history.

For a long time our two peoples have had to strive for their own national self-knowledge. Germany now

remains divided owing to the different political, economic and ideological systems which have taken shape in Europe. In view of these circumstances, it is the policy of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to make the consequences of this painful separation more sufferable. Our policy is aimed at creating a peaceful situation in Europe, in which the German people will be ultimately reunified through free self-determination.

We arrived here only yesterday. In this short time, however, my wife, members of the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany and I myself have felt that we have been accorded such kind hospitality, for which I here express to you our heartfelt thanks.

The step we have taken today is the demand of reality and reason. At the same time, it renders possible friendly personal relationships without which relations between the peoples cannot be lasting or consolidated.

In this spirit, I raise my glass in a toast to Chairman Mao Tsetung, to Premier Chou En-lai, to you, Mr. Vice-Premier, to you, Mr. Foreign Minister, and to the friendship between the Chinese and German peoples!

An Ancient City Reborn

Sian — Past and Present

by Our Correspondents

SIAN, capital of Shensi Province, is the largest city in northwest China. Formerly called Changan, it was the capital of eleven dynasties from Western Chou (1100-771 B.C.) to Tang (618-907 A.D.), a record with which no other capital of ancient China could compare. It had its ups and downs through the centuries, but it has undergone the most rapid and most profound changes in the 23 years after liberation.

Time-Honoured Culture

A short time ago, we paid a visit to this old yet young city. The 64-metre-high seven-storeyed Big Goose Pagoda, one of its most famous historic sites, still stands on its southern outskirts. Built in 650 A.D. to keep Buddhist sutras and portraits of Buddha brought to China from India by Hsuan-tsang, a celebrated monk of the Tang Dynasty, it is a great monument to the high architectural level attained by the labouring people in ancient China. A Tang poet who had mounted the pagoda wrote these well-known lines: "Looking down, I see the birds flying high; bending my head, I hear the wind blowing hard." What meets our eyes today, however, is the thriving scene of a modern industrial city, with block after block of large buildings, a forest of tall chimney-stacks and vast tracts of fertile fields in the far background.

Sian is noted for its ancient architectural structures. Since liberation, the People's Government has repaired

and refurbished a number of them, giving them added lustre. The Bell Tower (built in 1582) and the Drum Tower (built in 1380) in the downtown district, which were used to tell the time of day, have been richly gilded and decorated in typical national style.

In the eastern suburb is the Panpo Museum — the site of a primitive society village in the neolithic age. Discovered in 1952, it became a museum in 1958 after six years of excavation with an investment of over 400,000 yuan by the state. There we saw 6,000-year-old houses, enclosures for domestic animals, grain cellars, pottery kilns and tombs as well as means of production and household utensils of that period. We could see in our mind's eye how our forefathers felled trees, drove away the wild animals, and built up the village in the wilderness.

We also visited the Shensi Provincial Museum inside the city. Arranged in chronological order, the large number of archaeological finds on display speaks volumes for the rich cultural heritage of China.

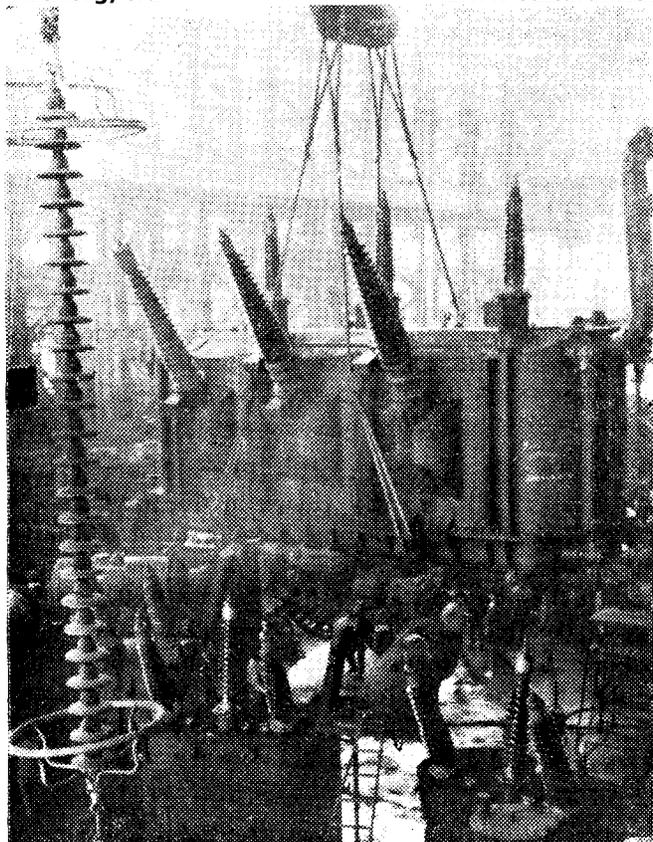
The famous Forest of Tablets, a collection of over 1,000 stone tablets dating from the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-24 A.D.), is part of the museum. Prior to the invention of wood-block printing, the Chinese people used to cut on stone tablets the scriptures and classics, calligraphy and pictures. With authentic records of ancient China's political, economic and cultural life, they provide a wealth of material for studying the history of China and her cultural exchange with foreign countries; they are also a treasure-house of calligraphy of the past.

Revolutionary Tradition

The industrious and talented labouring people created a splendid ancient culture. But for thousands of years they had been harshly exploited and oppressed. The fertile land around Sian is a rich wheat-producing area, but the inscriptions on many stone tablets recorded the people's plight in times of natural adversities when "man eats man and even dogs eat men."



The Bell Tower.



Sian Transformer and Electric Oven Factory.

Chairman Mao has pointed out: **“The ruthless economic exploitation and political oppression of the peasants by the landlord class forced them into numerous uprisings against its rule.”** Sian was a historical witness to this. In 875 A.D. in the late Tang Dynasty, Huang Chao led a peasant uprising. He stormed into Changan, drove away the emperor and established his rule there. In 1643, towards the end of the Ming Dynasty, Li Tse-cheng led the peasants in revolt and formed a government in Changan. The following year, they captured Peking, the Ming capital, and ended the rule of the Ming Dynasty. These peasant uprisings and wars gave powerful impetus to the development of history.

On the eve of the outbreak of the War of Resistance Against Japan, the well-known Sian Incident took place towards the end of 1936 when the nation was facing a crisis. Influenced by the Workers’ and Peasants’ Red Army led by the Communist Party of China and under the impact of the upsurge in the anti-Japanese national-liberation movement, Chang Hsueh-liang and Yang Hucheng, generals of the Kuomintang troops stationed in Sian, agreed to the anti-Japanese national united front proposed by the Chinese Communist Party and demanded that Chiang Kai-shek unite with the Communist Party to resist Japanese aggression. However, this was rejected by Chiang Kai-shek who pressed on with his military preparations for the “suppression of the Communists.” When he came to Sian, Chang and Yang seized the op-

portunity and took him into custody. In the interest of the nation, the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao sent Comrade Chou En-lai to Sian to persuade Chang and Yang to hold talks with Chiang, thereby bringing the incident to a peaceful end. Following this, the anti-Japanese national united front was formed.

The Sian office of the 8th Route Army of that period has been turned into a memorial hall. Comrade Tan Ping, leader of the orderly squad in the office, is now in charge. During our visit, he told us that leading comrades Chou En-lai, Chu Teh and Tung Pi-wu of the Party Central Committee used to come to the office to give guidance to its work under very difficult conditions. At that time, there were over 20 Kuomintang special agent centres around the office, and professional agents and thugs were assigned to dog those who came to the office so as to sabotage its work. Relying on the masses, the comrades in the office waged a tit-for-tat struggle against the enemy.

Following the victory of the anti-Japanese war, Chiang Kai-shek made Sian a base from where he launched attacks on Yen-an, then headquarters of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. The people of Sian stepped up their struggle against the Kuomintang reactionaries. In the first half of 1946, there erupted the student movement for democracy and against civil war. The following year witnessed a mass anti-starvation and anti-persecution struggle in which the people protested against skyrocketing prices and demanded basic rights of living. Time and again the workers downed tools and the students suspended classes. In 1949 just before liberation, workers, students and other revolutionary people took adequate measures to protect factories and schools and prevent the fleeing Kuomintang reactionaries from destroying the city.

Old City Rejuvenated

Sian was liberated in May 1949. Displaying the spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle, the people of the city (the population is now 2.5 million as against 490,000 at the time of liberation) have carried out reconstruction on a large scale and gradually transformed it from a consumer into a producer city.

In the early post-liberation years, Sian had only a small power plant, a match factory, a textile mill, several flour mills and some handicraft workshops. Today it boasts of nearly 1,000 large, medium-sized and small enterprises with the number of industrial workers and total industrial output value 33 and 45 times those of 1949 respectively. The city is now able to turn out farm machinery, various types of machine tools, chemical products, instruments and meters, iron and steel, motor cars and a variety of consumer goods, and has initially built a modern industrial system including light, machine building and instruments and meters industries.

A big modern complex of spinning, weaving, printing and dyeing factories has risen in the city’s eastern



Wu Kuei-hsien (left) passing on techniques to her apprentice.

suburb which used to be a desolate wilderness. This has also become a centre of China's textile industry. The Sian area is a major cotton producer. However, there was only one textile mill in the city before liberation. In 1934, amidst the great fanfare of "opening up the great northwest," several bureaucrats and big capitalists bought 12,000 spindles and 200 looms from England, Japan and France ostensibly for building a textile mill in Sian. But nothing materialized. At the time of liberation, there was only a chimney-stack from which no smoke had ever belched. The situation is completely different today. The city has built a dozen or so large and medium-sized textile mills, not to speak of smaller ones. All these mills are equipped with complete sets of textile machinery made in China.

During our visit to the Northwest No. 1 State Cotton Mill, Wu Kuei-hsien, a woman worker of the spinning workshop, told us her story in the old society and her happy life in the new. When she was six, she said, a famine hit her native province of Honan, and she was forced to flee barefoot with her parents to Shensi where they eked out a living by picking coal cinders and wild plants. For ten years they lived on the verge of starvation. Then came liberation. She became a worker, and has since made outstanding contributions to the country's socialist construction. The group she belongs to is a national pace-setter in the textile industry and she herself a model worker. She has met our great leader Chairman Mao on many occasions when she came to Peking to attend conferences or take part in the National Day celebrations. A delegate to the Ninth National Congress of the Chinese Communist

Party in 1969, she was elected a Member of the Ninth Central Committee of the Party. Later, she was elected a deputy secretary of the Shensi Provincial Party Committee, thereby taking a hand in administering the state and the province.

In Sian alone, thousands of ordinary workers like Wu Kuei-hsien, who is an outstanding representative of the Chinese working class, have been appointed to responsible posts at various levels.

From Bitterness to Happiness

Historically, Sian is known as a cradle of culture and a land of poetry. In the old days, however, culture belonged to the exploiting classes. With over 70 per cent of its population illiterate before 1949, Sian had only two universities with a small enrolment and a few middle and primary schools. Today it has over 1,700 universities, middle and primary schools with a total enrolment of more than 700,000, and middle school education has become universal. A dozen or so universities and colleges are on the southern outskirts of the city, where new school buildings and dormitories have sprung up on well laid-out campuses covered with trees. Since the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution began, the number of worker, peasant and soldier students studying in institutions of higher learning has increased.

In pre-liberation Sian, the labouring people lived in shanties or cave dwellings, and there were only six buses plying on rough dirt roads. After liberation,



National minority students in Sian's Chiaotung University.

houses with a total floorspace of 16 million square metres have been built, and the slums in the northern suburban districts have given way to new living quarters. Buses and trolley-buses run on asphalt roads, linking up all parts of the city.

In the city's water-works company, we learnt that water supply was a big problem in the old society. The few expensive barber shops used to put up signboards with the words "Clean Water Shampoos" to attract well-off customers. As there was no sewage system, underground water was badly polluted, and well-water both

in the city and the suburban areas was mostly bitter except for a few wells in the southwestern district of the city. The well-owners took advantage of this to raise the price of water, which the labouring people could not afford, let alone "clean water shampoos." After liberation, a water-works was built in 15 months, which supplies running water to the whole city. When talking about running water, old Sian residents always say: "The Party and Chairman Mao have opened the springs of happiness for us." Bitter water turned sweet — this is a pithy description of the past and the present of this ancient city.

Workers, Peasants and Soldiers Studying Philosophy

The Birth of a Subterranean Well

by the Party branch of the Chinchien
Brigade in Chekiang Province

OUR production brigade recently sank a new well — to be exact, a subterranean water retention basin with a shaft at one end. It is 7 metres deep, 25 metres long and 1 metre wide. Its completion was a firm rebuttal to the fallacy that there was no underground water in our area.

The well itself is quite small, and about 300 cubic metres of water are obtained from it per day. Its birth, however, involved a struggle between materialism and idealism, between dialectics and metaphysics. Its construction helped us learn more about Marxist philosophy.

Looking for Springs Under Red Sandstone

Beginning in mid-June last year, our brigade had little rain for six months running. By late August, the reservoir had practically dried up. One of our brigade members remarked: "The Party branch has told us that we must always uphold the materialist theory of reflection, that matter is primary. Now how can we combat drought without water?"

No one questioned the remark. But the point is: Was there really no other source of water besides the reservoir? To claim that it was impossible to fight the drought since surface water had dried up appeared to be consistent with the principle that matter is primary. Actually, it

regarded man's knowledge as something absolute and denied his subjective dynamic role. So when some members suggested looking for water under the ground, the Party branch gave its full support and lost no time in mobilizing everyone to do so.

But there were dissenting voices, too. The terrain of our brigade, they asserted, was like a hump and this caused the water to run off to both sides. What with the red sandy soil all around, the chances of finding underground water were extremely slim. If there was any water, it would have been discovered long ago.

Was this view correct? In *Materialism and Empirio-Criticism*, Lenin pointed out: **"The materialist affirms the existence and knowability of things-in-themselves. The agnostic does not even admit the thought of things-in-themselves and insists that we can know nothing certain about them."** **"Each one of us has observed time without number the simple and obvious transformation of the 'thing-in-itself' into phenomenon, into the 'thing-for-us.' It is precisely this transformation that is cognition."**

Whether there was underground water in our brigade, therefore, was not a matter of subjective conjecture, but had to be verified through practice. If there was, it existed whether we had discovered it or not.

We could certainly learn to know it and turn the "thing-in-itself" into the "thing-for-us," making it serve the interests of the people. The fact that no underground water was obtained here before did not at all mean that it was non-existent. If our predecessors had known everything there was to know, then there would have been no development of knowledge and no advancement of society.

We analysed the local topography. It was true that our brigade was on a height, but there were places which were not so high. The soil was mostly of a red sandy nature, indicating that it was difficult to find water underground, but there were also tracts of farmland where it might be found. Since neighbouring brigades having similar topographical and soil conditions had discovered wellsprings before, no one could rule out the same possibility for our brigade. True, underground water could not be seen or felt, but surely there must be signs on the surface which could be of help to us in finding it.

The masses have the richest practical experience. They know every inch of the brigade's land. Everyone was encouraged to give whatever information that was useful. A member of a production team told us that the soil on a certain patch was moist in winter and muddy with

cool water in summer. During dry spells, loaches tried to wriggle into the mud there. These were clues that there might be underground water. Other peasants who had worked on the same land agreed with him.

So we started digging right away. At four metres deep, water gushed out, giving timely relief to the nearby paddyfields. The myth that there was no water under red sandy soil was thus exploded, and we made a leap in our knowledge of water sources in our brigade.

Storing Underground Water

At first, we intended to dig a well with a 15-metre diameter. But the masses promptly vetoed the idea, pointing out that it would take up too much farmland, that it was likely to get silted up in the flood season, and that it would easily collapse as the site chosen was in a swampy area. But could we find another way to build a well with the maximum capacity while taking up the minimum space? Some comrades argued: "You can't catch two fish with one hand. We've got to give up some land if we want to build a well."

This was a contradiction. But surely it could be solved if the neces-

sary conditions were created. So we put the problem before the masses. After consulting experienced peasants, we finally decided on building a subterranean basin rectangular in shape. First, we would dig a ditch 25 metres long, 1 metre wide and 7 metres deep and cover it with a cement lid, on top of which there was to be a layer of soil. Then we would build a round well at one end of the ditch from which water could be drawn. In this way, the subterranean basin would retain the water, while crops could still grow on the soil above it.

We now had a fairly satisfactory plan. In the process of drawing it up, we realized that, as in doing everything else, the important thing was to rely on investigations and practice, and not on subjective opinion.

Our plan was drawn up, but we had not completed the process of cognition. Chairman Mao has taught us: "**Generally speaking, whether in the practice of changing nature or of changing society, men's original ideas, theories, plans or programmes are seldom realized without any alteration.**" Following this teaching, we constantly revised and improved

our plan in the light of new conditions and problems cropping up in the course of practice, thus making our subjective knowledge conform still better with the objective reality.

Originally, we thought that the underground water came from only one wellspring on the floor of the ditch. So the plan was to pave the sides with concrete and cover the ditch with a cement top. However, when we got to 5-6 metres deep, we discovered that water was also seeping through the crevices of the rocks on both sides. This being the case, we would block the flow if we were to pave the sides and the resulting pressure would cause the concrete walls to collapse. Paving the sides with concrete would actually weaken rather than strengthen them as we had subjectively thought. Having analysed all this, we revised the plan. We lined the sides with rocks instead of concrete, thus ensuring quality and economizing on raw materials, with the result that only half the planned amount of rocks and cement was used.

The construction of the new well not only gave us the much-needed water, but also helped change our subjective world and raised our cognitive ability.

(Continued from p. 5.)

Comrade Birch in China

Reg Birch, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), recently paid a friendly visit to China. During his stay in Peking and Shanghai, he visited places of interest. He was accorded a warm welcome by the people everywhere he went.

On October 11, Chou En-lai, Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Chiang Ching and Yao Wen-yuan, Members of the Political Bureau of the C.P.C. Central Committee, Wang Hung-wen, Member of the C.P.C. Central Committee, and Keng Piao, Member of the C.P.C. Central Committee and Head of the International Liaison Department of the C.P.C. Central Committee, met

and gave a banquet in his honour. They had a very cordial and friendly conversation.

Kwangchow Trade Fair Opens

China's 1972 Autumn Export Commodities Fair opened in Kwangchow on October 15.

To date, more than 4,000 businessmen and overseas Chinese from the five continents and compatriots from Hongkong and Macao attended the fair.

On display at the fair are accounts of advanced units that have emerged on the industrial, agricultural and other fronts, vividly reflecting the new look of vigorous upsurge in China's socialist revolution and socialist construction. The rich variety of agricultural and subsidiary rural products, new industrial products, mineral ores and art handicrafts on display reflect the excellent situation

in which China has reaped consecutive years of good harvests, made new progress in industrial production, strengthened the mining industry and obtained a steady improvement in the quality of products.

This is the 32nd fair since the first Chinese Export Commodities Fair was held in 1957. As a result of China's growing relations with other countries, friends from trading circles of more countries and regions are attending the current fair to develop trade relations on the basis of equality and mutual benefit and promote friendly exchanges. China now has trade relations with more than 130 countries and regions.

Among the guests at the fair are the Zambian Trade Delegation led by S. Tembo, Minister of State of the Ministry of Trade and Industry; the Tanzanian Purchasing Delegation led by R.S. Wambura, Tanzanian Ambas-

sador to China; the Burmese Trade Delegation led by U Thein Maung, Member of the Executive Committee of the Central Trade Committee; the Thai Trade Delegation led by Prasit Kanchanawat, Deputy Director of the Division for Economics, Finance and Industry of the National Executive Council of Thailand; and the Malaysian Trade Delegation of the State Enterprise Companies led by Mohd. Shahr bin Abdul Hamid, Manager of the State Trading Company.

Italian Industrial Exhibition

The Italian Industrial Exhibition, the first held in China since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, opened in Peking on October 10. Occupying a total floorspace of 17,000 square metres, it has on display machine tools, light industrial machines, electronic instruments and meters, building and mining equipment, farm machinery, vehicles and other exhibits — the fruits of labour and ingenuity of the Italian people and the achievements of Italian industrial science and technology. Matteo Matteotti, Minister of Foreign Trade and Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy, led a delegation to Peking to attend the opening ceremony and to pay a friendship visit to China.

Not long ago, a Chinese Economic and Trade Exhibition was held in Rome, the capital of Italy. Chou Hua-min, Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade, made a trip to Italy to attend the opening ceremony of the exhibition and for a friendship visit. More than 400,000 people in Rome and from other parts of Italy visited the exhibition; many of them paid high tribute to the achievements made by the Chinese people under the leadership of Chairman Mao. The visitors also said that the exhibition had contributed to the promotion of mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples and the new development of economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Although China and Italy are far apart geographically, the friendship between the two peoples has a long history. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations on November 6, 1970, friendly exchanges between the two Governments and peoples have

been increasing. Based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, Sino-Italian friendly relations have been strengthened, and trade and economic relations have made progress. Like the Chinese Economic and Trade Exhibition in Rome, the Italian Industrial Exhibition now being held will help enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples and promote trade relations on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and the mutual exchange of needed goods.

Chinese Medical Delegation in U.S.A.

The Medical Delegation of the Chinese Medical Association with Wu Wei-jan, Vice-President of the Surgery Society of the Chinese Medical Association and Deputy Director of the Surgical Department of the Shoutu Hospital under the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, as its leader and Fu Yi-cheng, Deputy Secretary-General of the Chinese Medical Association, as deputy leader, left Peking by plane on October 10 for friendship visits to the United States, Canada and France on invitation.

Members of the delegation are Lin Chiao-chih, Wu Hsueh-yu, Li Yensan, Liu Shih-lien, Chu Chuan-yen, Han Jui, Chou Kuan-han, Chang Shu-hsun, Hsu Chia-yu, Lu Tsung-min and Wang Lien-sheng.

The delegation arrived in New York by plane on October 12. Greeting the delegation at the airport were Dr. J. Hogness, President of the Institute of Medicine of the American National Academy of Science, Dr. C.A. Hoffman, President of the American Medical Association, and other American friends.

Drs. Hogness, Hoffman and others made brief speeches at the airport to express their welcome to the Chinese delegation.

In his speech at the airport, the delegation's leader Wu Wei-jan said that his delegation would like to take the opportunity of the visit to learn from the American people and American colleagues and contribute to the enhancement of the friendship and mutual understanding between the Chinese and American peoples.

On October 13, the delegation arrived in Washington for a friendly visit. Accompanied by Drs. Hogness, Hoffman and other American friends, the delegation visited the American National Institutes of Health where they were warmly welcomed by Dr. Robert O. Marston, Director, and other leading members of the institutes.

U.S. President Richard Nixon received the Chinese medical delegation on October 14. Accompanying President Nixon in receiving the delegation were Dr. Henry Kissinger, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs; Ronald Ziegler, Press Secretary to the President; Dr. Edward David, Science Adviser to the President; and Dr. Walter Tkach, Physician to the President. President Nixon had a brief conversation with the members of the delegation.

News Briefs

▲ Comrades Chou En-lai, Chiang Ching, Chi Teng-kuei, Kuo Mo-jo, Wang Hung-wen and Liu Hsi-yao on October 14 met and had a cordial conversation with Chinese-born American physicist Dr. Li Cheng-tao and his wife.

▲ Premier Chou En-lai and Wu Leng-hsi, leading member of *Renmin Ribao*, on October 13 met Lord Thomson of Fleet, British Conservative Party Member of the House of Lords and Joint-Chairman of the Thomson Organization Ltd., and those accompanying him on his visit.

▲ China and Canada signed a civil air transport agreement in Ottawa on October 13.

▲ The Delegation of the People's Republic of China to the 17th Session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) arrived in Paris on October 11. The delegation is led by its deputy leader Chang Wei, Vice-Chairman of the Revolutionary Committee of Tsinghua University.

Leader of the delegation Huang Chen, Chinese Ambassador to France, is already in Paris.

CORRECTION: In line 16, right-hand column, page 3 of our last issue (No. 41), for "Waldhelm" read "Waldheim."

ROUND THE WORLD

LAOS

Victories in 12 Months

The heroic Lao patriotic armed forces and people, responding to the militant call of the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front and giving full play to the might of people's war, have created an excellent revolutionary situation in Laos by repeatedly attacking enemy troops and smashing the military adventures by U.S. imperialism and its lackeys in the past year.

Incomplete statistics showed that in the 12 months after October 12 last year, the Lao patriotic armed forces and people wiped out about 20,000 men of the Vang Pao "special forces," the Thai mercenary troops and the Vientiane Rightist troops, including some 50 battalions annihilated or badly mauled. They shot down or destroyed nearly 150 U.S. aircraft, captured or wrecked over 5,000 weapons, about 130 military vehicles and a great quantity of other war equipment. They liberated over 30,000 people.

From December 6 last year to January 11, the patriotic armed forces and people in Lower Laos made many attacks on enemy strong-

holds along Highway 23, killing, wounding or capturing more than 1,900 enemy troops, liberating Saravane, Thateng, Pak Song and the Ban Nhik area and recovering the entire Boloven Plateau. In mid-May they attacked and captured for a time Khong Sedon town on Highway 13 and Vapi town to the north. They also defeated the enemy's counter-offensives against the Khong Sedon area, wiping out over 800 enemy troops there.

In four days and nights of fierce fighting starting at dawn on December 18, the patriotic armed forces and people in Upper Laos killed, wounded or captured over 3,300 enemy troops, knocked out of action or inflicted heavy losses on about 20 battalions of the Vang Pao "special forces" and the Thai mercenary troops, and recovered the Plain of Jars-Muong Soui area. Pressing on westward, they cut the enemy's ground contacts between Vientiane and Luang Prabang.

In mid-August this year after the rainy season set in, scores of battalions of the Thai mercenary troops, Vang Pao "special forces" and the Vientiane Rightist troops, massed by

U.S. imperialism and its lackeys, launched counter-attacks under cover of U.S. aircraft against the Plain of Jars from four routes in an attempt to recapture the strategic place. The patriotic armed forces and people in Xieng Khoang Province heroically repulsed the intruders and smashed the enemy's scheme of nibbling at the liberated zone, thereby victoriously defending the strategic Plain of Jars.

In these victories, the Lao patriotic armed forces and people have dealt a blow at the "Laotianization" programme of U.S. imperialism. They are growing in strength in the raging flames of the struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation.

Delegation of Patriotic Forces Arrives in Vientiane

A communique issued on October 12 by the Office of the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee said that the Standing Committee of the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front and the Standing Committee of the Alliance Committee of the Lao Patriotic Neutralist Forces have decided to send a delegation of Lao patriotic forces to hold talks with the Vientiane delegation so as to find a way to settle the Lao issue peacefully and achieve national concord.

The Delegation of the Lao Patriotic Forces led by Phoun Sipaseuth, Standing Member of the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front, left Sam Neua on October 12 and arrived in Vientiane on October 14.

At Vientiane Airport, the leader of the delegation released a statement which reads:

"In accordance with the agreement reached between the two sides, the Delegation of the Lao Patriotic Forces composed of representatives of the Lao Patriotic Front and the Lao Patriotic Neutralist Forces comes to Vientiane with its just stand and good faith in seeking appropriate means to settle the Lao problem, restore peace and achieve national concord.



A Lao P.I.A. anti-aircraft team in action in the Plain of Jars.

"The Lao issue must be settled through the way of negotiations in the spirit of equality, mutual respect and mutual understanding between the Lao parties concerned, without outside interference. The five-point political solution advanced by the Lao Patriotic Front on March 6, 1970 constitutes a correct basis for the peaceful settlement of the Lao problem. This political solution has gained wide approval and support from the entire Lao people and world public opinion. In his message of July 24, 1972, Prince Souvanna Phouma also accepted the said five-point solution as the basis for discussion.

"If the Nixon administration agrees to terminate its intervention and aggression in Laos, and if the Vientiane side puts the supreme interests of the fatherland above all, it is certain that the coming negotiations to solve the Lao question will enjoy every facility."

PAKISTAN

Stand on Situation in South Asian Subcontinent

Raja Tridiv Roy, Chairman of the Delegation of Pakistan to the 27th Session of the U.N. General Assembly, expounded the stand of the Government of Pakistan on the situation in the South Asian subcontinent at the plenary meeting of the U.N. General Assembly on October 9.

Referring to the Simla Agreement between Pakistan and India, he expressed the hope that the agreement would open a new chapter in realizing the resolution of the outstanding problems between the two countries. "It is important in this context," he stressed, "that troop withdrawals should take place forthwith. These were to be completed within 30 days of the ratification of the agreement and have already been twice delayed. The view that these withdrawals are in any manner conditional on the prior delineation of the line of control in Kashmir is not warranted by the letter and spirit of the Simla accord." He maintained that the two countries should respect the line of control resulting from the ceasefire of December 17, 1971, without prejudice to the recognized position of either side.

With regard to Kashmir, he declared: "Our position in this regard has remained unchanged. . . . The right of self-determination is sacrosanct. It is inalienable. The future of Kashmir can be decided only by the people of Kashmir. The will of the people of Kashmir is the objective reality."

Speaking of Pakistan's relations with its former eastern province, which is now called "Bangla Desh," he said: "We bear our brothers there no ill will. This has been demonstrated by the unconditional release of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. President Bhutto has taken other initiatives to facilitate the resolution of the host of problems that have arisen in the wake of the tragic events of 1971. We find it difficult to understand the precondition which is now posed that Pakistan must recognize 'Bangla Desh' before the resolution of our problems can be initiated."

He pointed out: "We cannot ignore the fact that the territory which now proclaims itself as 'Bangla Desh' was an integral part of Pakistan, and that it was sundered from Pakistan by the use of external armed force. The events of last year have already eroded the principle of territorial integrity of states, enshrined in the Charter."

Roy reaffirmed: "It is unreasonable to expect Pakistan to support the admission of 'Bangla Desh' into the United Nations while the two resolutions of the United Nations remain unimplemented." He added that "in its Resolution 307 of December 21, 1971, the Security Council called upon 'all those concerned' to observe in full the provisions of the Geneva Conventions relating to the wounded and sick, prisoners of war and civilian population."

He pointed out: "Almost 10 months after the cessation of hostilities, over 90,000 Pakistan prisoners of war and civilian detainees, including women and children, continued to be held captive in Indian camps." "The treatment of our personnel in captivity is also cause for serious concern. Apart from complaints about insult, provocation and harassment, force has been used against the prisoners on several occasions. A few

months back more than a dozen Pakistani soldiers were shot and killed at the Ranchi camp. Last week another 8 were killed and 25 wounded. It is obvious that this latest incident, like the previous one, has occurred because India continues to hold our prisoners of war in violation of the Geneva Conventions."

He continued: "The Security Council was unable to make a favourable recommendation on 'Bangla Desh's' application because certain states seemed more anxious to force China to use its veto than to facilitate 'Bangla Desh's' entry into our organization." "Unless the Assembly addresses itself to the unresolved problems organically inseparable from admission, its consideration of this question cannot advance the possibility of 'Bangla Desh's' admission into the United Nations. My delegation calls upon all member states, irrespective of the status of their bilateral relations with 'Bangla Desh,' to facilitate, during this debate, the fulfilment of the objective that must remain uppermost—the establishment of a just and durable peace in the subcontinent."

TANZANIA AND UGANDA

Hostilities Ended

On the initiative of Mohamed Siad Barre, President of the Supreme Revolutionary Council of Somalia, the Foreign Ministers of Tanzania and Uganda held talks in Mogadishu on October 4 and 5 on solving the conflict between the two countries and issued a joint communique on October 6 and a pledge on October 7.

The joint communique signed by the Foreign Ministers of Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda said that the talks were held under the chairmanship of Omer Arteh Ghalib, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Somalia. The two delegations were headed by John Malecela, Foreign Minister of Tanzania, and Wanume-Kibedi, Foreign Minister of Uganda. Nzo Ekhhah Nghaky, Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, attended the talks.

The joint communique said: "From the beginning of the talks to their

conclusion, both sides were inspired and guided by the spirit of African brotherhood and good neighbourliness. The talks were frank and sincere and demonstrated the genuine desire to find a lasting peace between the two countries and African unity. The talks which took place in a friendly atmosphere have ended successfully."

The pledge to settle the conflicts between Tanzania and Uganda declared: "The Government of the Republic of Uganda and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania have agreed to end all hostilities between them and restore peace and cement fraternal ties that have always existed among their peoples."

The two Governments pledge:

"To cease forthwith all military operations of any kind against each other's territory and to withdraw not later than nineteenth October, 1972, all their military forces to a distance not less than 10 kilometres from the common boundary. Such withdrawal shall be witnessed by observers sent from Somalia by Major-General Mohamed Siad Barre, in consultation with both Presidents Idi Amin of Uganda and Julius Nyerere of Tanzania.

"To effect an immediate cessation of hostile propaganda directed against each other through radio, television and press.

"To refrain from harbouring or allowing subversive forces to operate in the territory of one state against the other.

"To release nationals or property, if any, of the other state held by either side."

The pledge said: "This pledge will become effective at eight p.m. Saturday, October 7, 1972. It will simultaneously be announced in Dar-es-Salaam, Kampala and Mogadishu."

EGYPT

Comment on "Ornament"

Abdel Koddous, Chief Editor of the Egyptian weekly *Akhbar el-Yom*, continued to comment on Egyptian-Soviet relations in an article published on October 7.

Referring to a Soviet statement circulated in Moscow that "the

friendship with the Soviet Union is not an ornament that could be worn or replaced at will," the article said: "The nearest interpretation of the actual differences between the Soviet Union and Egypt is: None wants to be an ornament worn by the other to be displayed at international clubs or communities. This, too, was a Soviet expression published in Moscow."

The article said: "If we review the actual dealings between Egypt and the Soviet Union, we would find that many of the achievements were not ornaments to be displayed by one or the other!

"The high dam, for example, is not an ornament. The Soviet Union benefited industrially and commercially, while Egypt also benefited with regard to its future and prosperity. The same thing applies to the iron and steel project, and many others. . . ."

"However," the article pointed out, "there are other situations where the Soviet Union was more like a clever dealer, benefiting from the sales without fulfilling the demands of the client and without losing his friendship. Arms which are not sufficient for a country to fight a war imposed on it are mere ornaments. The same thing applies to international positions that are confined to mere words and slogans, without resulting in any positive movements to confirm the friendship between the two countries. These again are mere ornaments worn in international clubs and communities!

"The Soviet Union benefited as an ornament dealer without fulfilling Egypt's demands. The Soviet Union benefited from military centres in Egypt so that it became an existing power in the Mediterranean. In addition, Egyptian airfields did away with the need of building aircraft carriers which would have cost the Soviet people millions of dollars. The Soviet Union employed these airfields for its international purposes, and transported arms to India via these airfields during the war with Pakistan. Again the Soviet Union benefited since Egypt was an important factor in its rapprochement with the United States, which is based on

freezing the situation in the Middle East. On the other hand, Egypt did not benefit from this peaceful coexistence between the two super-powers. In fact, Egypt did not benefit from this friendship which did not prevent the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel!"

"The whole differences, in my opinion, are due to the fact that in some situations the Soviet Union considered itself as a mere dealer in ornaments," the article stressed.

PANAMA

Resolve to Recover Sovereign Rights Over Canal Zone

The Assembly of Representatives of the Community of Panama was held from September 11 to October 11. Apart from the election of the President and Vice-President of the Republic, it adopted a new constitution (to replace the 1946 constitution) in which Panama's sovereignty over the Canal and the Canal Zone is upheld.

Demetrio Lakas and Arturo Sucre were sworn in as President and Vice-President respectively of the Republic of Panama at a ceremony in Panama City on October 11. On the same occasion, Omar Torrijos, Commander of Panama's National Guards, formally assumed the special powers delegated to him by the Assembly of Representatives of the Community of Panama to govern the state.

In his inaugural speech, President Demetrio Lakas stressed the right of the peoples to self-determination and the respect for their sovereignty, as well as Latin American unity.

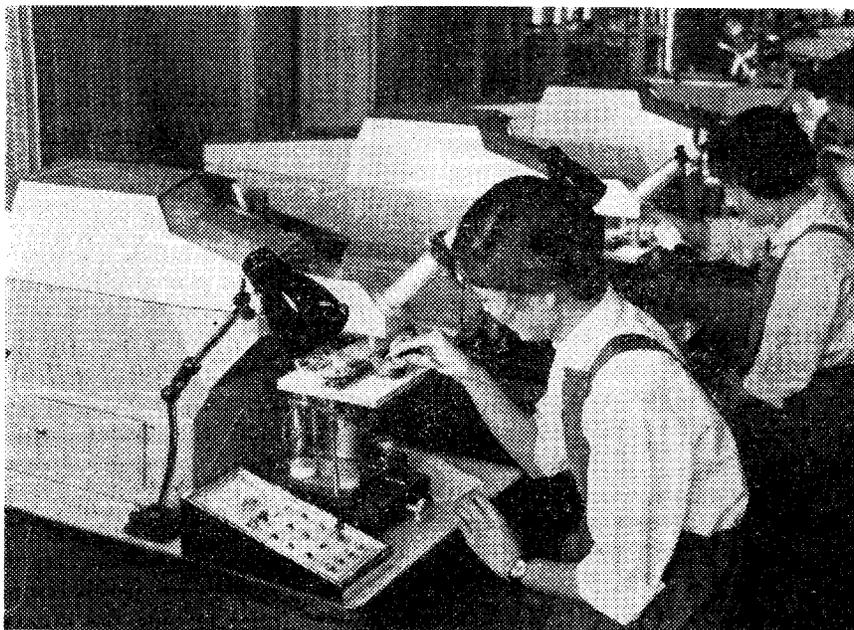
Ariel Castillo, Chairman of the Assembly of Representatives of the Community, also addressed the ceremony. He pointed out: "The era in which we are living is characterized by the struggle of the peoples for national liberation and economic independence, for the elimination of colonialism and neo-colonialism, and for the full exercise of sovereignty over the whole of their territory."

At a press conference after the ceremony, Omar Torrijos reiterated Panama's resolve to recover all sovereign rights over the Canal Zone.

ON THE HOME FRONT

Laser Technology

SCIENTIFIC research and industrial departments in Shanghai have been studying and using laser technology over the past few years with rewarding results.



Using laser-beam to bore holes in ruby bearings for watches.

A new technology introduced in the 1960s, laser can pierce the hardest substance, such as diamond. It is used widely — for instance, in drilling holes, in cutting and welding metals. When it is applied medically, delicate operations can be performed in a very short time.

An exhibition on laser technology was recently held in Shanghai. The laser equipment, instruments and meters as well as research data on display show that the city's research and industrial departments are using laser technology in scientific research and in the machine-building, instruments and meters, textile, building, metallurgical and shipbuilding industries as well as in medical and meteorological work. In the manufacture of clocks and watches, for example, it takes laser-beam only one second to bore an even and tiny hole of consistent quality on the ruby

bearings. This used to be done under a microscope in three operations lasting some 35 seconds. The Shanghai No. 6 People's Hospital has also successfully treated certain eye ailments of over 100 patients with laser.

Fairly rapid progress has been made in Shanghai in the study and production of laser equipment and elements in the past few years. A

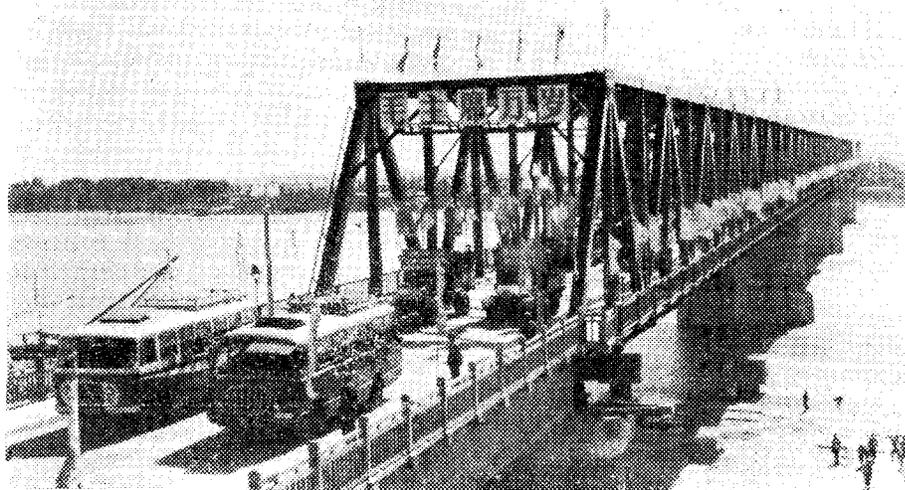
contingent of personnel specializing in this new technology has come to the fore. More than half the number now engaged in research are workers. Together with scientists and technicians, they are quickly raising their technical and theoretical level.

Two Highway Bridges

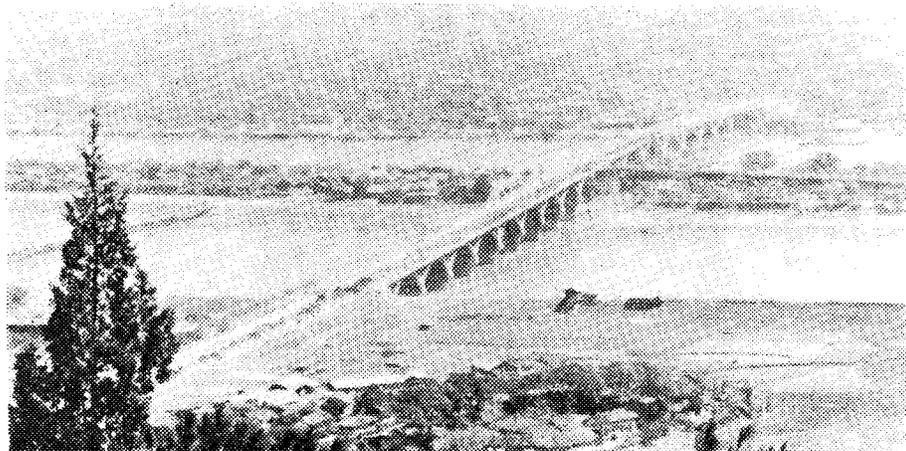
TWO highway bridges spanning the Hsiangkiang River at Changsha in Hunan and the Yellow River at Peichen in Shantung were opened to traffic at the time when the Chinese people were celebrating their 23rd National Day. Ceremonies marking the events were held by the local people and bridge builders on September 30 and October 1.

The 1,394-metre-long bridge at Peichen is the longest highway bridge over the Yellow River today. Three trucks can drive across it side by side, and on either side of the bridge there is a 1.5-metre-wide sidewalk. Its completion has linked up the highways on both banks of the river, thereby playing an important role in developing Shantung Province's industrial and agricultural production.

The Hsiangkiang River Bridge, 1,250 metres long and 20 metres wide, is a double-vaulted 17-arch bridge with many national characteristics. Four trucks can cross the bridge alongside of each other, and 2,000-ton vessels can pass under it at the highest water level. This bridge has not only joined the provincial capital of Changsha with Yuehlu Hill



The Yellow River Bridge at Peichen in Shantung Province.



The Hsiangkiang Bridge.

on the west bank but linked Changsha closely with scores of cities and counties in western Hunan. Also completed at the same time was a 282-metre-long bridge leading to the Orange Island in the middle of the river.

Thanks to the efforts of the workers, peasants, P.L.A. men, cadres and technicians and unstinted help from other parts of the country, the Hsiangkiang Bridge was completed in one year and the Yellow River Bridge in nine months. In the course of construction, large amounts of building materials and funds were saved for the state.

Mechanizing Paddy-Rice Cultivation

PADDY-RICE accounts for about one-third of China's grain acreage. Major producers in the southern parts include Kiangsu, Shanghai, Chekiang, Anhwei, Kiangsi, Fukien, Hunan, Hupeh, Kwangtung, Kwangsi, Szechuan, Yunnan and Kweichow. They are now extensively using machines and semi-mechanized implements to cultivate and thresh rice, drain and irrigate the land, protect the crops, and in transportation. In many places more than half the rice harvested is machine-threshed and the use of transplanters is becoming more and more widespread. Some places in Kwangtung, Shanghai and Kiangsu have begun trials with mechanized reapers.

In recent years the leadership at various levels in the rice-growing areas in the south has paid particular attention to mechanizing farm work.

Agricultural machinery administrative bureaus have been set up in many counties to develop in a planned way various kinds of machines suited to local conditions and requirements. Tungkuang County in Kwangtung Province, which grows grain as well as industrial crops, is using machines to make up for its shortage in labour power. The county has added 28,000 threshers and has built 230 tidal turbine-pump stations. Ploughing on 30 per cent of its cultivated acreage is mechanized, and its irrigation and drainage, threshing, transportation, plant protection and processing of side-line products have either been mechanized or semi-mechanized.

Bigger Catches

SIX per cent more sea fish were caught in the first half of 1972 than in the corresponding period of 1971, according to figures released by nine provinces and municipalities and an autonomous region along the coast. Record-breaking spring catches, accounting for more than half their 1972 quotas, were reported from the northern coastal provinces of Shantung, Hopei and Liaoning and the city of Tientsin. Frequent strong winds along China's southeastern coast in spring and summer hampered operations, lowered water temperatures and dispersed the shoals, but the fishermen put to sea in spite of the difficulties and returned with big hauls.

Freshwater fish rearing has made headway in the numerous lakes,

reservoirs, ponds and rivers. In Hunan Province, fish is reared on an additional 170,000 *mu* this year and 2,500 million fry were hatched and released. In Wuhan city on the Yangtze River, 12,000 *mu* of ponds and swamps have been transformed for breeding fish.

Pisciculture is being taken up by many provinces which in the past seldom raised fish. People in Liaoning Province, northeast China, this year built 50,000 more *mu* of fish ponds and its hatcheries produced 400 million fingerlings. Fish caught inland this year was bigger than in former years.

Increases in the output of kelp, laver and shellfish were also reported. Kelp cultivation has spread further south and laver, formerly found mostly in the warmer southern parts, is now cultivated at higher latitudes. Freshwater shellfish is being raised in some provinces with good initial results.

Light-Seining at Sea

CHINA has made progress in developing light-seining at sea. Since light attracts some kinds of fish, this is a comparatively good method of ensuring big hauls.

More light-seining vessels are in use this year than last, with the result that fish caught by this method in the first half of this year surpassed the amount for the whole of last year.

Sea fishing companies in the country used to rely solely on trawling which cannot catch the shoals in the middle and upper layers of the water. By their own efforts, workers and staff members of the Kiangsu Sea Fishing Company succeeded in 1970 in re-equipping a number of fishing vessels for light-seining. Other companies soon followed suit.

The Shanghai Sea Fishing Company has now already fulfilled the task assigned by the state to build and re-equip fishing vessels for this purpose, and has increased its catches by a wide margin for years running. By the end of August, the Luta Marine Products Company's Group 404 purse-seiners met their target for the whole of this year and set an all-time high record for catches by the same kind of fishing vessels in China.

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