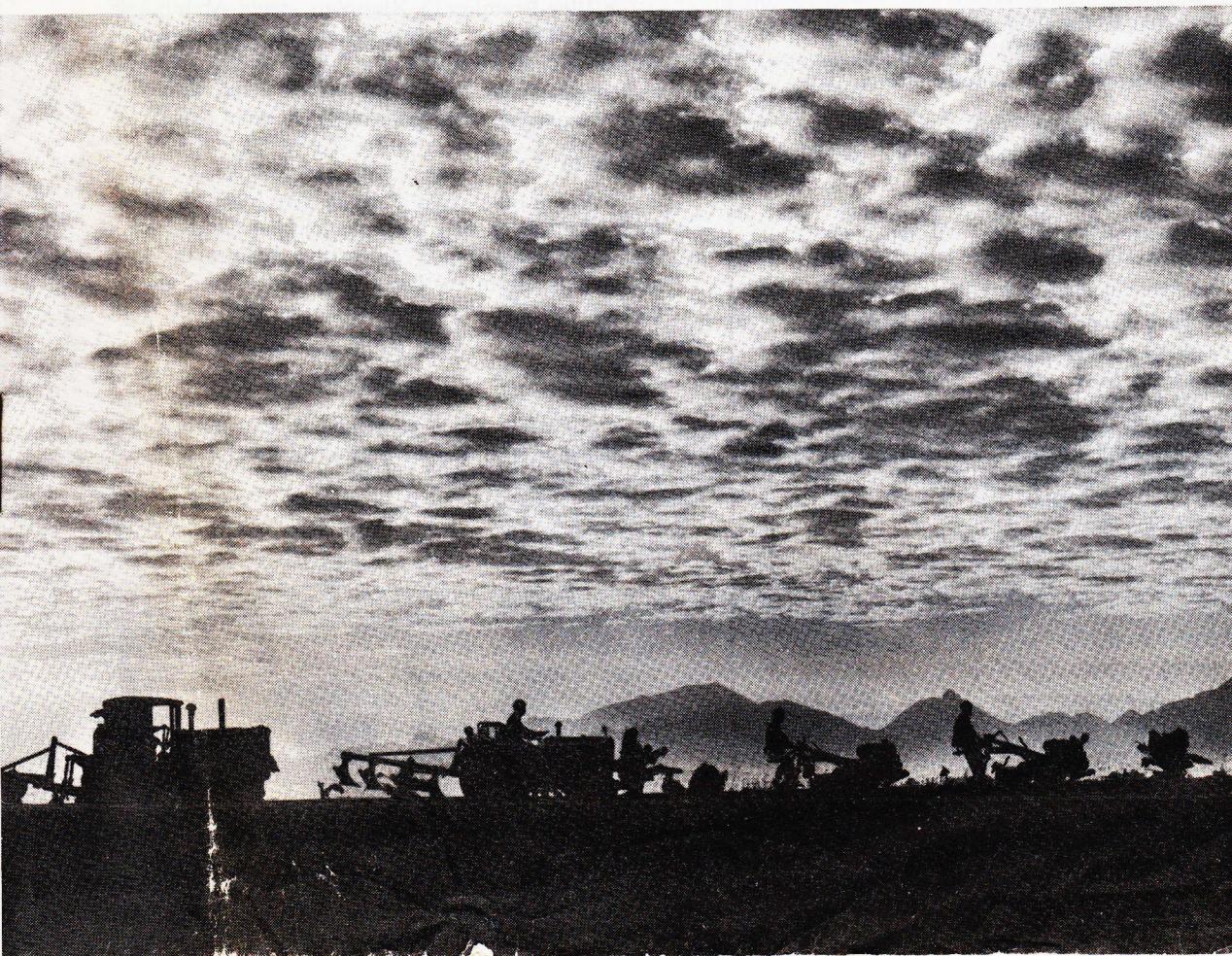


BEIJING REVIEW

- China to Speed Up Agricultural Development
- Greeting Big Victory in Self-Defensive Counterattack



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CHRONICLE

March 5

● Authorized by the Chinese Government, the Xinhua News Agency issues a statement announcing that, starting from this date, the Chinese frontier troops who were compelled to launch a self-defensive counterattack have attained the goals set for them and are withdrawing to Chinese territory.

● The National Youth Afforestation Conference closes in Yanan. The conference calls on the youth of the country to launch an emulation campaign in planting trees.

March 7

● The All-China Women's Federation sends a message of greetings to the women's organizations in Taiwan on the occasion of International Working Women's Day. The message expresses the wish to work in co-operation with them for the reunification of the motherland.

March 9

● Premier Hua Guofeng sends a message to Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdel Ghani, congratulating him on his assumption of the office of Prime Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Algeria.

● Vice-Premier Li Xiannian meets Abdul Aziz Hussein, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs of Kuwait. At the meeting, the Vice-Premier expresses the hope that the people of the Arab countries will strengthen their unity against their enemy.

March 10

● Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Han Nianlong meets with Lao Ambassador and hands him a memorandum strongly protesting against the Lao authorities for intensifying their anti-China activities by following the Soviet Union and Viet Nam (see p. 22).

March 11

● Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and Madam Sihanouk give a dinner in Beijing in honour of Vice-Premiers Deng Xiaoping and Li Xiannian, Vice-Chairman of the N.P.C. Standing Committee Deng Yingchao and others. In their speeches at the dinner, Vice-Premier Deng and Samdech Sihanouk condemn Viet Nam's aggression against Kampuchea.



Chinese Frontier Troops Return Home

The Chinese frontier troops in Guangxi and Yunnan who were forced to launch a self-defensive counterattack against the Vietnamese aggressors achieved the goals set for them and began their withdrawal into Chinese territory on March 5. When column after column of these frontier troops returned in triumph, the people of various nationalities in the border regions gave them a rousing welcome.

In front of the arches erected near Youyiguan, the inhabitants of the city of Pingxiang waited in the rain to greet their return. As the army trucks carrying the frontier troops moved slowly northward, the crowds waved multi-coloured banners and shouted slogans in welcome. They performed the lion dance amidst the sound of drums and gongs and firecrackers as their salute to these heroic soldiers who had fought in defence of the motherland.

Greeting the frontier troops with warm handshakes, leading comrades of Pingxiang said: "Like the people of the whole country, the people of various nationalities in Pingxiang are grateful to you for having given the Vietnamese aggressors due punishment and safeguarded our frontier and the socialist modernization of our motherland."

The road from Youyiguan to the city was decorated with arches and lined with welcoming crowds. On entering the

city, the troops were offered sweetened ginger beverage and steaming hot meals.

At Hekou in Yunnan, as the army trucks crossed the centre of the China-Viet Nam Bridge, the welcoming crowds cheered while the soldiers, fresh from the battlefield, stood up and waved and cheered in return.

Welcoming the frontier troops on a street in Hekou, an old woman whose kinsfolk were killed by Vietnamese gunfire could hardly hold back her tears of joy when she saw the returning troops. A soldier who saw this immediately went up and said to her: Don't worry now, granny. If the Vietnamese aggressors dare to come again, we'll give them still harder blows.

In all the towns on the border in Guangxi and Yunnan, people of all nationalities welcomed the returning troops in various ways. Fresh flower petals were showered on the soldiers

like snowflakes, while girls pinned red flowers on their tunics.

As soon as the frontier troops returned to their barracks, postmen gave them bundles of letters which, they said, had come from all parts of the country.

Counterattacking Vietnamese Provocations. During the withdrawal, Vietnamese troops continued their provocations and shelled our men. This took place after the Chinese Government had announced that Chinese frontier troops had begun to withdraw completely into Chinese territory.

On the morning of March 6 in the Dong Dang area, Vietnamese artillery on a hill opened fire on the withdrawing Chinese troops. That same afternoon in the Lang Son area, one Vietnamese tank and an armoured vehicle opened fire on the withdrawing Chinese troops.

On the morning of March 7, Vietnamese troops in the Lang



The returning frontier troops receive a rousing welcome.

Son area again attacked our withdrawing forces.

On this and the following day, Vietnamese troops on many occasions shelled Chinese Guangxi and Yunnan frontier troops who were withdrawing northward. Areas in the vicinity of Youyiguan were bombarded on three occasions.

Accordingly, our frontier troops dealt powerful blows at the enemy.

Central Task of the Trade Union

Beginning from this year, the focus of work of the whole Party and nation is shifted on to socialist modernization. What is the central task of the trade union? This was discussed recently at an enlarged meeting of the standing committee of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions in Beijing.

The meeting held that the trade union must centre its work around production. That is to say, it should often organize the workers to carry out socialist labour emulation, increase production and practise strict economy. It is necessary to conduct ideological and political education among the workers so as to encourage them to work hard for socialist modernization.

In the wake of an upsurge in production, advanced workers are sure to come to the fore in large numbers. The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and the State Council have decided to convene a national congress of model workers in September this year. Trade union organizations at all levels must co-

ordinate their efforts in doing preparatory work for the coming congress, including recommending and selecting delegates.

Centring around production, the trade union should undertake the following work:

Give Scope to Democracy. It must do a good job in convening the congress of the workers and staff members, because the congress is the organ of power in organizing the workers to take part in managerial work, exercise supervision over the cadres and practise democracy in the enterprises. The congress should hold democratic discussions before making decisions on matters concerning production plans, use of funds, management, personnel arrangement and workers' welfare. It exercises supervision over the cadres in correctly implementing the Party's policies. It has the right to appraise the work of the cadres and suggest to leading bodies at the higher level that certain cadres be rewarded, promoted or punished. The congress must do its work under the unified leadership of the factory Party committee.

The trade union represents the interests of the majority of the workers and supports their correct views and reasonable demands. At the same time, it educates and guides the workers in correctly exercising their democratic rights, maintaining order in production and observing labour discipline.

Election of workshop directors, section chiefs and group leaders is an important measure to put into practice democratic management. Since the Ninth National Congress of Trade Unions last October,

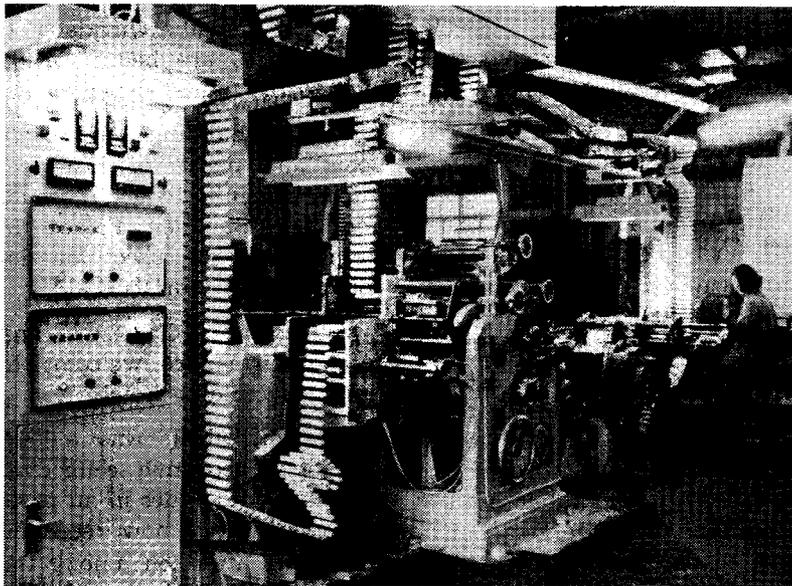
elections have been carried out with satisfactory results in a number of factories. Their experience must be summed up and applied to other enterprises.

Spare-Time Education. The trade union should organize the workers to study and master technology. Wherever possible, training courses should be set up for the workers to study on a full-time or part-time basis. By 1985, the workers in general should attain the educational level of graduates of senior middle school.

Show Concern for Workers' Life. The trade union should know the workers' difficulties and demands, and help the leadership of enterprises steadily improve the welfare of the workers, such as building new houses and allocating them to the workers, running canteens, sanatoriums, nurseries and kindergartens. Attention should be paid to the special needs of women workers. As China is still backward economically, the workers' living standard can only be gradually improved on the basis of an increase in production, especially an increase in labour productivity.

For More and Better Consumer Goods

Plans are being worked out for the production of over 300 kinds of new consumer goods before the end of 1980. They include quartz watches, high-frequency automatic double-calendar watches, multi-gear bicycles, multi-purpose electric light alloy sewing-machines and washing machines. In arts and crafts, a batch of quality products will be turned out. This



An automatic production line in the Shanghai Toothpaste Factory.

is part of the plan to speed the development of light industry decided at a national conference held recently in Shanghai and attended by responsible members of light industry bureaux throughout the country. The stress is on raising the quality, increasing the variety and trial-producing new products.

Taken as a whole, light industry is still rather backward in China. Many products remain at the 1940s and 1950s levels, and are poor in quality, design and packing.

Light industry occupies an important place in China's economy. It needs a comparatively small investment, yields quick returns, and accumulates more capital; moreover, it offers a wide range of goods for export. In 1977, for example, its accumulation accounted for 20.1 per cent of the state revenues, and the foreign exchange from the export of light industrial products accounted for 21.2 per cent of the total amount from foreign trade. The development of light in-

dustry, therefore, not only has a direct bearing on the people's livelihood, but helps promote the growth of heavy industry.

While summing up the experience of construction both at home and abroad, Chairman Mao suggested as early as in 1956 that the proportion of investment in light industry and agriculture be increased adequately. In so doing, the daily needs of the people can be met in a better way and accumulation of capital can be speeded up. With the development of light industry and agriculture, the state will have a greater amount of capital for investing in heavy industry.

During the First Five-Year Plan (1953-57), when the ratio between investment in light industry and that in heavy industry was one to eight, there was an ample supply of consumer goods on the market. But since that period, the proportion of investment in light industry has been reduced, with the result that not only was the development of light industry slowed

down, but the speed of growth of the national economy as a whole was retarded.

Now that China is undertaking the stupendous task of modernization, large amounts of capital and foreign exchange are needed, which is why the emphasis is now being laid on light industry.

To modernize China's light industry, it is imperative to transform the existing enterprises. In this regard the workers and staff must go in for technical innovations. It is necessary at the same time to import advanced technology in a planned way. In addition to buying foreign equipment, the recent conference decided to import production lines, machines and patents through such measures as processing and assembling for foreign customers who supply the raw materials, compensatory trade and manufacturing and running factories on a co-operative basis.

Back to Pastureland

Large tracts of grassland which were turned into farmland are being reverted to pastureland for sheep and cattle in Qinghai and Gansu Provinces and the Nei Monggol (Inner Mongolia) Autonomous Region. Measures have been taken and arrangements made for the speedy development of livestock breeding there. This is an important change in the policy towards the rural areas.

Because of the population growth and great demand for grain, the focus of attention in China has for many years been on the question of feeding the people. When Lin Biao and the "gang of four" were in power, the policy of "taking grain as

the key link and ensuring an all-round development" was emasculated, with the result that many places placed one-sided emphasis on growing food crops without the least regard for local conditions. In some pastoral areas, herdsmen gave up livestock breeding and turned to the cultivation of crops instead. In certain forest areas, trees were felled at random for land reclamation, and in the hilly areas terraced fields were built on the slopes which were good for planting trees and grazing. This resulted in a loss of equilibrium in ecology, serious soil erosion and water losses, and steady encroachment by drifting sands on the land. In these areas, the increase in grain output has been slow and heavy damage has been done to animal husbandry and forestry.

In the last two years, the affected places have summed up their bitter experience in this respect. Proceeding from reality, they have started developing a diversified economy suited to local conditions.

In Qinghai Province, which is one of China's major pastoral areas, 23,500 hectares of fine grassland are being restored. They were turned into farmland after 1958 when the provincial leadership unrealistically stipulated that the herdsmen of certain communes engaged in animal husbandry become self-sufficient in food grain, seeds and fodder.

Since the beginning of this year, the Gansu provincial revolutionary committee has decided to switch 552 production teams, which have been unsuccessful in growing food crops, back to raising cattle or part-time livestock breeding and

part-time farming. Stock-breeding teams are required to hand in animal husbandry tax only and no agricultural tax will be collected from them. The team members' grain supply will be guaranteed by the state.

In the Nei Monggol Autonomous Region, where there are vast expanses of grassland and widely varied natural conditions, the responsible comrades of the region have made a thorough investigation of the soil, climate and other natural conditions and worked out a plan to rearrange farm production, animal husbandry and forestry. Indiscriminate land reclamation is forbidden and measures are being taken to put the reclaimed tracts under vegetation again. Beef and mutton production bases will be set up in addition to bases for raising fine wool sheep, goats, camels and other animals.

These measures are warmly welcomed by the herdsmen of various nationalities in the region.

Expanding Tourism

To expand tourism, the Chinese Government has adopted a series of measures.

- Five hotels for tourists are being built in Zhengzhou, Nanjing, Xian, Nanning and Kunming and preparations are under way for building new hotels in Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Chengdu, Chongqing, Shenyang and Harbin. Most of these hotels will be completed by the end of 1980.

- A number of guest houses and sanatoria built by government organizations at the health

resorts of Beidaihe, Qingdao and other places are being turned over to the tourist departments.

- Some buildings in scenic spots and places of historical interest like the Palace Museum and the Summer Palace in Beijing will be used for accommodating tourists.

- Overseas Chinese and foreign firms are welcome to invest in building hotels.

Tourism, which was a fast developing economic sector over the last two decades in all parts of the world, is now receiving increasing attention among the Chinese public. Many people have written to the press making suggestions for the promotion of tourism in China. Among them is Rong Yiren, Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. He proposed that high-rise buildings should not be put up in scenic places, that helicopters be used to carry tourists from Lanzhou to the world-famous Dunhuang Grottoes, and that modern yachts be used for tourists seeing the three gorges along the Changjiang River.

China is a land of charm and beauty with a long history. It is a treasure house of ancient art and a country with numerous scenic spots, places of historical interest and revolutionary centres. All these are favourable for developing tourism. But owing to limited accommodations and other conditions, tourism in China is lagging far behind other countries. In 1978, only a little over 100,000 foreign tourists came to the country. Added to this the number of overseas Chinese and compatriots from Xianggang

(Hongkong) and Aomen (Macao) who visited the mainland, the total was only 700,000.

The development of tourism will help promote mutual understanding and friendship between the people of China and other countries and facilitate exchanges in the fields of culture, science and technology. Moreover, it will accumulate funds for China's modernization. The experience of other countries shows that tourism directly or indirectly helps promote the development of some economic sectors such as communications, commerce, service trades, light industry, arts and crafts industry and urban construction.

In the wake of expanding tourism, some new problems will inevitably crop up. But these will be properly solved so long as the government and the public pay due attention to them.

Reduce the Burden Of Students

Following Chairman Mao's policy on education, Chinese schools are now geared to helping the students develop in an all-round way — morally, intellectually and physically.

Education suffered heavily at the hands of Lin Biao and the "gang of four." Helping the students develop intellectually was regarded by them as an attempt to bring up bourgeois intellectual aristocrats; on the other hand, a student who handed in a blank examination paper was extolled as a hero and those who rebelled against their teachers were praised for their "revolutionary spirit."

Youngsters were thus misguided into thinking that it was useless to study. The consequences were alarming. The students' standard fell and since institutes of higher learning had not enrolled new students for five years, the loss in terms of college graduates and research students was at least 1 million and 20,000 respectively.

A change has taken place in the last two years. There is a general thirst for knowledge among the students. Spurred on by the call to quicken the pace of construction and modernize the country, the teachers, the parents and the society as a whole are eagerly doing what they can to help make up for the loss as quickly as possible.

With progress in work, a new problem has cropped up. Some primary and middle school students are overburdened in their studies with too many periods, too much homework and frequent examinations. Though the Ministry of Education has stipulated that for middle schools there should be no more than 29 periods a week, in some schools there are 40. In some primary schools, the pupils have to do so much homework that they cannot go to bed until after 10 o'clock at night, and many middle school students sleep only five or six hours a day. Worse still, there are no winter vacations in some places and the students have to go to school even on Sundays.

In an investigation report on conditions in Beijing, a *Renmin Ribao* correspondent pointed out that some primary school textbooks are actually designed for cramming, thereby putting too

much strain on the pupils. Though the children have a lot of homework to do every day, their overanxious parents give them extra homework. The result is that they do not have sufficient time for recreation or rest.

This is a problem that has drawn the attention of all concerned. The national newspaper *Zhongguo Qingnian Bao* (Chinese Youth) stressed in an editorial: "While the school authorities should do their best to help students in their studies, they should also give them time for recreational activities. While emphasis is placed on teaching in the class, appropriate arrangements should be made for the students to engage in social work and to take part in political, scientific, technical and sports activities and to do physical labour." The editorial urged the middle and primary school teachers in their millions to improve their method of teaching so as to achieve the best results.

The newly appointed Minister of Education Jiang Nanxiang stressed the need to judge teaching quality from all aspects — moral, intellectual and physical. He also said that the students should have at least an hour a day for physical training.



China to Speed Up Agricultural Development

The Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party held at the end of last year decided that the whole Party is to shift the focus of its work to socialist modernization. It also thoroughly discussed questions in agriculture, and adopted, in principle, the Decisions on Some Questions Concerning the Acceleration of Agricultural Development (Draft).

"Renmin Ribao" in a series of editorials explained some of the policies involved in the decisions. Excerpts from five editorials follow. — Ed.

A Major Policy Decision

In speeding up agricultural development, the system of collective ownership in the countryside must be respected, stability in the countryside be maintained, greater support be given to agriculture and the growth of forestry, animal husbandry, side-line production, fishery and other endeavours be promoted.

AGRICULTURE is the foundation of the national economy and, with the Party shifting the focus of work, one primary task confronting us today is that of concentrating our efforts on developing our backward agriculture as rapidly as possible.

Our experience in agricultural development in the last two decades demonstrates that after the completion of socialist transformation we must have a correct appraisal of and correct policies for the class struggle and we must maintain social and political stability, otherwise the productive forces and relations of production in socialist farming are upset and agriculture cannot develop rapidly. At the same time, in doing things, there must be strict observance of the objective laws of economic development.

Formerly, in some specific matters of work, we did not really take agriculture as the foundation of the national economy and some of the policies and measures adopted were not conducive to encouraging the peasants' socialist enthusiasm. The support given by the state to agricultural production was not sufficient and not very effective. Over a long period insufficient attention was paid to the technical transformation of agriculture, agricultural scientific research and agricultural education. The policy of all-round development of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, side-line production and fishery, too, was unsatisfactorily implemented. All this impaired the speedy development of agriculture.

At present, the contradiction between the state of agriculture in our country and the needs of the people and the four modernizations (modern agriculture, industry, national defence and science and technology) is acute. In the ten years of the Cultural Revolution when Lin Biao and the "gang of four" pursued an ultra-Left line, China's rural economy was gravely damaged.

In accelerating the tempo of agricultural development, it is imperative to respect the collective ownership of the peasants. In actual fact, in quite a number of places in the countryside, the system of collective ownership was not fully recognized. With regard to this, the decisions explicitly state that the law must effectively protect the people's communes, production brigades and teams in regard to their rights of ownership and management and that the manpower, funds, produce and property of the production teams cannot be requisitioned or appropriated without compensation.

To speed up the pace of agricultural development, there must be long-term stability and unity in the countryside. Stormy class struggle on a massive scale by and large has come to an end. While firm blows must be dealt to a handful of class enemies engaged in sabotage,

class struggle must never be magnified to the point of confusing the two types of contradictions which are different in nature.

It is necessary to create conditions to ensure that the peasant masses enjoy full democratic rights. Inside a people's commune, economic organizations at all levels must be run in a democratic way, with cadres being elected by popular vote and all accounts made known to the public. All these organizations must genuinely implement the socialist principle of "to each according to his work," with remunerations paid according to the amount and quality of work done, and overcome egalitarianism.

No one is allowed to arbitrarily interfere with commune members' small plots for personal needs, family side-line occupations and trade at rural fairs which make up an indispensable part of the socialist economy. There must be no arbitrary changes in the three-level system of ownership of the means of production in the people's commune, with the production team as the basic accounting unit.*

These policies guarantee the bringing of the superiority of the collective economy into full play and are a power for arousing the peasant masses' socialist enthusiasm.

Speeding up agricultural development is impossible if there is no support from the state and other sources. It is difficult to bring about agricultural mechanization and to build up a modern agriculture solely by relying on peasant initiative and their own material resources. The state has made specific stipulations for increasing investments in agricultural production, for stabilizing and appropriately reducing the delivery quota and the purchasing quota of grain, and for narrowing the price differences between industrial and agricultural products.

Apart from 1,500 million *mu* of arable farmland, China has vast expanses of grasslands, forests, uncultivated land, as well as mountain-

* At the present stage, under this three-level system, production teams are units for cost accounting, directly organizing production and distributing what they have earned.



Spring in a Yunnan commune.

ous regions suitable for afforestation and animal husbandry. There are also bodies of fresh and sea water suitable for raising aquatic products. There is much room for agricultural development. The decisions have laid down clearly the orientation for development. They have worked out corresponding measures for intensifying education in agricultural science, developing agriculture, forestry and animal husbandry on a regional scale, mechanizing agriculture and setting up modern bases for supplying marketable grain and cash crops. The decisions have also prescribed measures for developing forestry, animal husbandry, side-line production and fishery, and actively promoting industrial and side-line production in the rural communes and production brigades or teams.

The "gang of four" has been smashed and so the biggest obstacle in our way of advance has been removed. This makes it possible for us to make full use of all available favourable conditions. We have the superior socialist system; we have rich natural resources. We have millions upon millions of peasants who are industrious and brave, and also a large number of long-tested cadres working in the countryside. They all want very much to see the early realization of a modern agriculture. Our industry has already made considerable progress and it certainly can shoulder the task of equipping agriculture with modern technology in the course of its further development. We have already constructed large numbers of water conservancy projects of various sizes, built a number of high and stable yield fields, and considerably increased the output of farm machinery and chemical fertilizers. All these



A Shandong production team elects leaders.

will continue to play their part in agricultural development.

Safeguarding the Rights of the People's Communes

It is not allowed to appropriate without compensation the manpower, material resources and funds of the collectives. The right of a production team to handle its own means of production and products must be respected.

RURAL people's communes in our country are socialist economic organizations owned by the working peasants collectively. Since their establishment 20 years ago, they have made very great achievements through the hard work on the part of several hundred million peasants. Compared with the days before the founding of people's communes in 1958, China's irrigated acreage has gone up more than 60 per cent and about one-third of the cultivated acreage is now high-stable-yield farmland. Much progress has also been made in the cultivation of food crops, cash crops and in diversifying the rural economy. Enterprises run by communes and production brigades or teams, too, have mushroomed. The rural people's communes have thus made enormous contributions towards socialist construction and in meeting the needs of both the urban and rural population.

Nevertheless, our agriculture is still backward, depending mainly on manual labour. Labour productivity and the proportion of marketable produce are low. Its rate of develop-

ment is not only slow but uneven in different places.

Consequently, in order to concentrate our efforts on accelerating the development of farm production, it is necessary to correctly carry out the Party's agricultural policies and its economic policies for the countryside. Above all, the rural people's communes' rights of ownership and management must be effectively protected.

It is imperative that the relationship between units owned by the whole people and by the collective should be one of commodity exchange. This must also apply among the collective ownership units themselves. Within the guidelines set by a unified state plan, exchange must be against equal values and on the principle of free will and mutual benefit. The country's laws will give effective protection to collective ownership in regard to its manpower, material and financial resources.

Over these years, however, under the influence of the ultra-Left thinking of Lin Biao and the "gang of four," the understanding that things should be done according to law and policies has been weakened. In some places, manpower, materials and products of the people's communes were appropriated without compensation, and farm and side-line products were bought at depressed prices. On the other hand, industrial products for the countryside were low in quality and high in price so that the peasants were made to suffer.

Comrade Mao Zedong had said clearly long ago that one can expropriate exploiters, but not working people. This is a fundamental Marxist principle. If we want to raise agricultural production as quickly as possible, we must adhere to this principle.

The three-level system of ownership, with the production teams as the basic accounting units, applies in most rural people's communes. This is determined by the level of development of the rural productive forces and is in conformity with the level of the peasants' consciousness. Production teams not only have the right of ownership of their labour power, land, domestic animals, machines, funds, products and materials, but also have the right to grow what they think fit according to the different seasons of

the year and local conditions. They also have the right to decide on the measures to be taken for improving production and how to run their farms, to distribute their own products and ready cash and to ignore arbitrary orders from leading organs or leaders.

Particular attention must be paid to preventing or correcting tendencies towards egalitarianism and overconcentration. This was pointed out by Comrade Mao Zedong in the second year following the founding of people's communes. What is meant here by levelling or equalization is the trend to deny that there are differences in income between different production teams and individual commune members, and to reject the socialist principle of "to each according to his work" and more pay for more work. Overconcentration here means refusing to recognize ownership by production teams and their rights and appropriating their labour power and property by the commune authorities. Both these tendencies are manifestations of rejection of the law of value and exchange against equal values.

Administrative organs at all levels must give directives in a planned way to guide the communes' collective economy, but they must not issue administrative orders to force compliance. In helping the communes and production teams cultivate their land in a scientific way, all departments and research institutes concerned must pay attention to local conditions and follow the principle of respecting the masses' wishes and employing the method of persuasion through demonstration. When departments of the state set up enterprises or undertakings in rural areas, they must not impose any burdens on the collectives and commune members except for those provided by state law and decrees. They must not reduce the rural labour force by employing more than the number set in the state plan. Contracts have to be signed for the long-term or temporary use of rural labour force allowed by the state plan and the commune members involved must be reasonably paid.

Within the rural people's communes, the right of ownership and management of the basic accounting units must also be respected and safeguarded. There should be no appropriation without compensation and no arbitrary issuance of orders. Communes must be run democratically and frugally. There should be a system of cost accounting and all accounts must be made public at regular intervals. The cadres should be elected by commune members and may be removed by them. Support must be given to

commune members cultivating their plots for personal use and engaging in proper side-lines, and fairs must be run well so as to activate the rural economy and enable peasants to become more and more prosperous.

As long as we keep on improving socialist education among the peasants ideologically, take good care of their material benefits economically and effectively protect their democratic rights politically, the tremendous initiative of the peasants for boosting production is sure to soar.

Take Care of Peasants' Material Interests

While hard work and plain living is encouraged, personal material interests must not be made paramount. At the same time, good care must be taken of the masses' livelihood and bureaucratic neglect of the masses' well-being must be opposed.

THE Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the Party worked out many specific measures to improve the peasants' material life. Among them: Stabilizing the grain quotas to be collected and purchased by the state and prohibiting purchases in excess of planned targets; raising the purchasing prices for farm produce and



Raising poultry: a growing side-line production. Anhui commune members buying chicks.

Tax Reduction in Rural Areas

THE Ministry of Finance has decided to reduce certain taxes in the rural areas this year. This means adding some 1,000 million yuan to annual incomes in the countryside.

According to the decision, processing enterprises with an annual net profit less than 3,000 yuan run by rural people's communes will be tax-exempted. Before this, such an enterprise had to pay an income tax when its net profit exceeded 600 yuan a year. New industrial enterprises (exclusive of tobacco factories, distilleries and wineries and cotton mills) in financial difficulties can now operate tax-free for 2-3 years instead of 1-2 years. In frontier counties or national autonomous areas such enterprises can operate tax-free for five years. Areas with per-capita grain output lower than the guaranteed minimum level will be exempted from paying agricultural tax.

Since liberation in 1949 China has all along implemented a low-tax policy towards its vast farming population. In 1977, for example, taxes from the rural areas accounted for only 3.35 per cent of the countryside's gross industrial and agricultural output value.

lowering the sale prices of industrial products for agricultural purposes; increasing state investments and credits to agriculture to give firmer support to agriculture; and providing special backing and help to bring about a rapid change to backward, poverty-stricken regions, and so on. The gradual realization of these major measures is bound to bring visible material benefits to the peasants so that, after their disastrous experience at the hands of Lin Biao and the "gang of four," they have time to recover and then bring their socialist enthusiasm into play.

During the period of agricultural co-operation, farm production in our country developed fairly rapidly and life for the peasants was markedly better than in the days before liberation. Later, agricultural development slowed down and there was little improvement in the

peasants' living standards. The causes were many-sided, such as the lack of a stable political situation and the constant disruption of rural policies. One major factor for this was the neglect of the peasants' material life.

It is a fundamental task of Communists to pay attention to the material well-being of the labouring people and to seek to improve their welfare. When our Party led the peasants in carrying out the democratic revolution, our goal was to help them relieve themselves from being exploited and oppressed, become masters of the land and other means of agricultural production and live better. Leading the peasants to carry out socialist revolution and construction, our Party has the purpose of finally eliminating classes, eliminating the differences between town and country, between industry and agriculture and between physical and mental labour, and enabling all members of society gradually, to lead a materially richer life. Revolutionary platitudes and empty talk with no regard for the masses' material benefits are certainly not socialism. Any viewpoint that makes revolution incompatible with a better life for the people is sham Marxism.

Lin Biao and the "gang of four" had spread many fallacies making out that Marxism had nothing at all to do with material interests and that paying attention to material interests was revisionist. When they saw peasants earning a bit of money, they howled that it was "putting money in command." The least concern shown to the people's material well-being was branded as "resorting to material incentives." The desire of the peasants to live better was condemned as a "spontaneous force of capitalism." Lin Biao and the "gang of four" blithely claimed that "it doesn't matter if the lives of several hundred million peasants are a bit wretched."

Hard work is necessary. It means that in doing a certain job, in working for a certain cause, one must be imbued with a heroic spirit of fearing neither sacrifices nor hardship. In agriculture, when we encourage hard work, our purpose is to develop production and steadily improve the lives of the masses. Therefore, we must never regard hard work and concern for the peasants' material benefits as being two incompatible things. Lin Biao and the "gang of four" preached that the poorer one was the more glorious, that "one wants revolution only when one is poor," and that the masses must not be allowed to get rich, for "to become rich was to become revisionist." That bunch of vampires who lived off the fat of the land, who

themselves led extremely dissolute lives and who cared nothing about the masses, had the effrontery to fabricate and sell a whole set of reactionary fallacies to let the people remain poor. This was a big hoax.

Comrade Mao Zedong said: "We have always advocated plain living and hard work and opposed putting personal material benefits above everything else; at the same time we have always advocated concern for the livelihood of the masses and opposed bureaucracy, which is callous to their well-being." Our country is still economically backward and for some time to come it will be impossible to bring about many big improvements in the people's livelihood. We must continue to carry forward this fine tradition of hard work and plain living. At the same time, we must take effective measures to enable peasants in normal years to increase their personal income through higher production so that their lives are improved step by step.

To give peasants visible material benefits is not "granting small favours" as some people would think, but a big issue affecting the worker-peasant alliance. The worker-peasant alliance in our country went through several stages. The alliance founded on the basis of land reform and co-operative transformation of agriculture won great victories. Now this alliance is to be based on agricultural modernization. If no sizable material support for the peasants is forthcoming, a modern agriculture cannot come about and the worker-peasant alliance cannot possibly be consolidated.

On Farm Mechanization

Concentrate funds and materials on the farm-machinery industry; organize specialized production on a regional footing; and build up a number of marketable grain and cash crop producing centres and animal husbandry, fishery and forestry bases.

MODERN agriculture cannot do without machines. The introduction of farm machines which increased dozens of times as much as in the 1960s has had a pronounced effect on agriculture in China. With a contingent of farm-machinery technicians and some experience accumulated, we have laid a foundation for an



Disc-ploughing demonstration in Jiangxi.

agro-technical revolution, but it is still far from meeting national economic requirements whether in making, maintaining or operating farm machinery. The root cause, apart from the disastrous meddling by Lin Biao and the "gang of four," lies in the fact that we did not have an overall understanding of modern agriculture and that, handicapped by small production habits, we were not able to do things according to objective economic laws.

It is China's new policy to concentrate efforts on accelerating the mechanization and modernization of its agriculture. As China's industrial foundation is still weak, the limited funds and materials we have must be used in a well-organized and well-planned way to ensure that farm production is equipped with complete sets of sophisticated machines that are cheaply manufactured and can stand wear and tear.

China is a vast country and natural and economic conditions differ in various areas. This calls for specialized production on a regional footing. The major share of the state agricultural investments should go into the construction of a number of marketable grain and cash crop production centres and livestock-breeding, fishery and forestry bases. Among these, particular attention should be paid to building animal husbandry bases. These production bases can be built by expanding some state farms or by reclaiming virgin land. In some cases they can be run by the combined efforts of

several people's communes. These bases should have up-to-date machinery and be scientifically managed to get the highest returns with the minimum of effort. If, in the next few years, we can build a number of highly efficient and productive agro-industrial-commercial complexes in counties where agriculture is mechanized and state farms in Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang, Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and some other places, then we can count on them to progressively meet the needs of the urban population for grain and non-staple foodstuffs and thus enormously relieve the burden of peasants so that they have more surplus grain to raise poultry and livestock and develop other collective and household side-line occupations. In this way, China's rural economy will be able to quickly recover from the grave damage wrought by the "gang of four." The 700 million peasants, after a period of healing their economic wounds, will even more ardently set about building a modern agriculture.

Letting some major areas go ahead to build up modern agriculture and the people there improve their standard of living in a planned and systematic way to become examples for the rest of the country will spur others to follow suit. Then China's goal of agricultural modernization will be attained more rapidly.

When we speak of concentrating our efforts on building up a number of major bases first, we do not mean neglecting the other areas. The number of these bases is limited. If farm production stagnates in the other areas which are much greater in numbers, then it will be impossible for China to achieve high-speed agricultural development. Self-reliance should be the watch-word in these areas. The people there should make the best use of local financial re-

A rural commune fair in Sichuan.



sources, rely on the collective economy and strive for farm mechanization in the light of specific conditions.

The Party Central Committee has decided to restore the Ministry of Farm Machinery which stopped functioning during the Great Cultural Revolution. This is an important measure for bringing about farm mechanization and will facilitate the transformation of the managerial system and methods of the farm-machinery industry.

In the past, people's communes in China bought farm machinery mainly with funds they have accumulated. But relying on such funds alone will inevitably slow down the tempo of farm mechanization because the collective economy is not strong enough to provide sufficient money for the commune members to buy machines. So the Party Central Committee has decided to set up machine and tractor stations in two ways. One, communes and brigades buy the machines with their own money; and if they lack funds, they can ask for state loans. Two, the state set up machine and tractor stations to serve surrounding communes and brigades at reasonable prices. At present, China relies mainly on the first approach. This decision of the Party Central Committee will help mobilize the initiative of both the state and the collectives and speed up the rate of farm mechanization in China.

All-Round Development Of Agriculture

Farming, forestry, animal husbandry, side-line occupation and fishery should be developed in an all-round way, rather than stressing exclusively grain production. China is rich in natural resources. Its agricultural prospects are bright as long as Party agricultural principles and policies are correct.

CHINA'S stress on grain production to the neglect of the cultivation of industrial crops and the development of forestry, animal husbandry, side-line occupation and fishery in the last two decades caused great imbalances in the development of agriculture as a whole.

For years the demand for grain has been growing with the steady increase in the population, and the

comrades one-sidedly emphasized the fulfilment of grain production targets. For a while, the amount of grain produced was the sole criterion in judging the farm work of a locality. Under these circumstances, some pastoral areas changed from raising animals to growing grain, and forests were destroyed to bring more land under cultivation. Industrial crops gave way to grain and even lakes and ponds were filled in to grow grain. The ecological equilibrium of nature was destroyed as trees were wantonly felled and the grassland irresponsibly opened up for crops. With the destruction of the vegetative cover, the deserts expanded and water losses and soil erosion became serious problems.

Agriculture is an integral whole consisting of farming, forestry, animal husbandry, side-line occupation and fishery. Forests not only provide timber, but also can help retain water and soil, protect water resources, regulate the weather, give shelter against the wind, check moving sand. They play an important role in guaranteeing high and stable yields in agriculture and animal husbandry. In addition, forests protect and beautify the environment. Animal husbandry in turn provides meat, dairy and other animal products, and indispensable organic fertilizer for agriculture. The grasslands play a big part in checking the advance of deserts and protecting the environment. More than 30 per cent of the land of some agriculturally advanced countries are forested and the output value of their animal husbandry is more than 50 per cent of their agricultural total. Apart from large integral tracts of forests and pastoral areas, the croplands of these countries are interspersed among forests and pastoral areas. This provides favourable natural conditions for agricultural production. Practices at home and abroad have shown that integration of farming, forestry and animal husbandry is the basis for continued, stable agricultural production and its all-round development.

We must make full use of domestic and foreign advanced experience, make a systematic survey of our natural resources and designate different economic agricultural regions so as to ensure the all-round development of farming, forestry, animal husbandry, side-line occupation and fishery and allow grain, cotton, edible oil, jute, silk, tea, sugar, vegetable, tobacco, fruit, medicinal herbs and miscellaneous crops to be grown in suitable places. We must build up a superlative national production structure

compatible with bio-ecology. Speaking of the country as a whole, efforts should now be concentrated on setting up a number of marketable grain and industrial crop producing centres and animal husbandry, fishery and forestry bases, so that there will be reliable sources of grain, cotton, oil- and sugar-bearing crops, fruit, animal products, aquatic products and forest products.

The policy of respecting the rights of the people's communes adopted by the Third Plenary Session of the Party's 11th Central Committee is of major significance to the all-round development of agriculture. Leading organs at various levels must earnestly implement the policy for speeding up the growth of farming, forestry, animal husbandry, side-line occupation and fishery, and pay attention to the material interests of peasants, herdsmen and fishermen. The grain ration per person of those engaged in growing industrial crops, in forestry and fishery should not be less than that for peasants nearby, and herdsmen's grain ration should be adequate and guaranteed so that they do their pastoral work with their minds at ease. The supply of food grain and other materials, the purchasing of products, the tax system, transportation and the management of local markets in the non-food crop producing areas should be well organized so as not to hold up work.

In implementing the principle of "simultaneous development of farming, forestry, animal husbandry, side-line occupation and fishery," we should put special emphasis on proceeding from the reality and tailoring production to fit the locality. Whether in carrying on capital construction in agriculture, in planning farm mechanization, in financial and credit work, or in supplying materials, all the five aspects mentioned above should be taken into consideration. Grain quotas should not be one-sidedly pursued at the expense of others. While drawing up production plans, the people's communes should rely on veteran peasants and mobilize the masses to integrate state plans with the actual situation in the locality.

China's vast territory lies in the temperate and sub-tropical zones and is rich in natural resources. The prospects for our agriculture are bright so long as our principles and policies are correct and the initiative of the peasants, rural cadres, agro-scientists and agro-technicians is brought into full play.

Greeting Big Victory in Self-Defensive Counterattack

Renmin Ribao editorial

WITH a solemn mandate from the Chinese people, the frontier forces of the Chinese People's Liberation Army in Guangxi and Yunnan have concluded the glorious mission of counterattacking in self-defence the Vietnamese aggressors. Having attained their set goals, they have been ordered to pull back completely to Chinese territory starting from March 5, 1979. We hail the important victory scored by the Chinese people's heroic forces in this battle to resist aggression and defend our frontiers.

During the counterattack, the commanders and fighters of our frontier forces, displaying dauntless revolutionary heroism, showing both valour and tenacity, both wisdom and resolve, dealt telling blows to the Vietnamese aggressors and meritoriously defended the frontiers of our motherland, safeguarded the lives and property of the people in the border areas and ensured smooth progress in our socialist modernization. The militiamen, civilian workers and people of various nationalities in our border areas actively supported the frontline troops and made splendid contributions to victory. We salute and give our cordial regards to all the commanders and fighters of our heroic P.L.A. frontier forces, the militiamen and civilian workers and all other comrades who contributed to victory in this glorious battle.

China always means what it says. When the Vietnamese authorities were recklessly harassing and invading our frontiers, we repeatedly counselled and cautioned them in the hope that they would not turn a deaf ear to Chinese warnings but would stop at the brink and halt their armed incursions and provocations. The Vietnamese authorities, however, counting on backing from the Soviet Union and becoming swellheaded and extremely arrogant, simply refused to listen. When our frontier forces were compelled to hit back in self-defence, the Chinese Government again solemnly declared

to the world that the goals, scope and duration of the counterattack would be limited. We do not want a single inch of Vietnamese territory; all we want is a peaceful and stable border. We have done as we have said. Having delivered the Vietnamese aggressors the counter-blows they deserved, our frontier forces are now returning to their original positions and will stand guard on the frontiers of our motherland. The Sino-Vietnamese border can be expected to be a peaceful and stable one if the Vietnamese authorities cease their armed provocations and incursions into our border areas after our frontier forces return to Chinese territory. If, on the other hand, the Vietnamese authorities continue such armed provocations and incursions in future, our frontier forces and the people there will resolutely strike back in line with the principle: "We will not attack unless we are attacked; if we are attacked, we will certainly counterattack."

The Chinese people have neither the need nor the desire to fight with Viet Nam. The armed conflicts on the Sino-Vietnamese border were provoked entirely by the Vietnamese authorities. Abetted by the Soviet Union, they have steadily escalated their armed incursions and provocations along our frontiers in recent years, seriously threatening our country's security, encroaching on our sovereignty and territorial integrity and disrupting the tranquillity of our border areas. No independent state could have tolerated such a state of affairs. If we had let such acts of aggression pass, we would have been encouraging the aggressors. Our socialist modernization programme could hardly proceed smoothly. This is why our counterattack in self-defence is entirely just and has received unanimous and enthusiastic support from people throughout the country. The victory of our frontier forces will have an important, positive impact on the fulfilment of the general task for the new period and the

building of our country into a modern socialist power.

The just, defensive counter-blows of our frontier forces have deflated the aggressive arrogance of the Vietnamese authorities, exploded the myth of the invincibility of this "Asian Cuba" and dealt a telling blow to the Soviet Union's scheme for aggression and expansion in Southeast Asia. Neither the people of China nor those of the rest of the world will allow hegemonists, big and small, to encroach on the independence and sovereignty of other countries or to threaten and undermine world peace. No provocations or intimidations by the hegemonists can cow the great Chinese people into submission. The Chinese people are not weak-nerved. Our policy decision was made after thoroughgoing deliberation. It took account of the whole strategic situation, and proceeded from the position of upholding the norms of international relations. Both past history and present realities have eloquently proved that to resist aggression it is essential to safeguard independence and sovereignty, and that to combat hegemonism it is essential to defend peace. Well over 100,000 Vietnamese aggressor troops are still occupying Kampuchea; this is a crude trampling underfoot of the United Nations Charter and the principles of international law. The Vietnamese aggressor troops must completely pull out of Kampuchea. This is strongly demanded by all countries and peoples who cherish peace and uphold justice. Neither the people of Kampuchea nor the people of Asia and the world as a whole will allow the Vietnamese aggressor forces to hang on in Kampuchea.

The people of China and Viet Nam have a traditional revolutionary friendship. During the Vietnamese people's struggle for national independence, the Chinese people saved on food and clothing, gave them unreserved, large-scale aid in every way and turned the vast territory of China into a reliable rear area for the Vietnamese people, never hesitating to risk maximum national sacrifices. We always regarded aid to the Vietnamese people as our internationalist obligation; we never publicized it, because we sought no other end. Having gone through the tribulations of war over many years, the Vietnamese people badly need to heal the wounds of war and rebuild their country. Going against the Vietnamese people's will, however, the Vietnamese authorities embarked on building up military power for expansion and aggression abroad. Perfidiously kindling up national animosity, they treated China as

"enemy number one" and carried out outrageous anti-China and anti-Chinese activities. They became willing pawns on the chessboard of Soviet global strategy and slaved for the Soviet scheme to rig up an "Asian collective security system." They were out to set up a "greater Indochina federation" so as to lord it over Southeast Asia. Their perverse actions have brought untold sufferings to the Vietnamese people. The Chinese people feel deeply for the Vietnamese people in their present straits. History shows that Sino-Vietnamese friendship is in the interest of both peoples. We hope and are convinced that Sino-Vietnamese friendship, impaired by the Vietnamese authorities, will be restored one day. The people of China and Viet Nam must live in friendship from generation to generation.

It is the consistent position of the Chinese Government that China and Viet Nam should seek a peaceful settlement of their disputes through negotiations. We will never depart from this position. The Chinese Government proposed on February 17 this year that the two sides speedily hold negotiations. On March 1, the Chinese Government again proposed that each side appoint a vice-minister of foreign affairs as its representative to meet for talks as soon as possible. It is our sincere hope that the Vietnamese authorities will treasure the friendship between the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples and the fundamental interests of the Vietnamese people and give a positive response to the proposal of the Chinese Government.

Brimming over with enthusiasm, people of all nationalities in China are preparing a hearty welcome for our heroes and heroines upon their triumphant return. People of all our nationalities should learn from the Liberation Army and all the comrades who took part in the battle, learn from their patriotism and revolutionary heroism, from their spirit of fearing no sacrifice, their courage and loyalty, and their devotion to the motherland and the people. Comrade workers, peasants and intellectuals, let us draw inspiration from the victory of the counterattack in self-defence, rally closely round the Party Central Committee headed by Comrade Hua Guofeng, keep and develop the excellent situation of stability and unity, work hard and selflessly, be vigilant, step up preparedness against war, and strive to defend our socialist motherland and achieve the magnificent goal of the four modernizations at an early date.

(March 7)



Bombarding the fleeing Vietnamese aggressors.

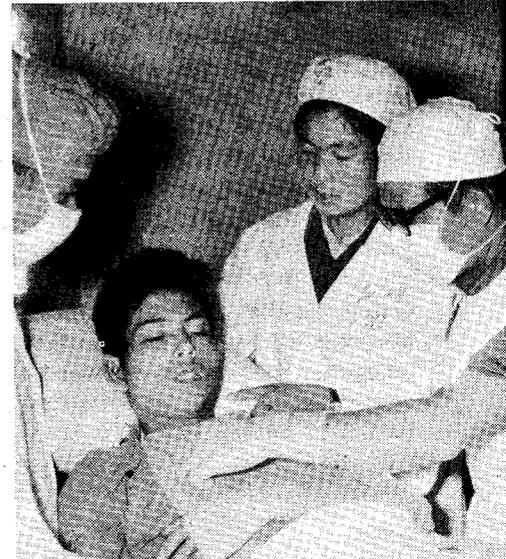


Chinese frontier troops patrolling the streets of Lang Son.

Some captured military material.



A group of captured Vietnamese soldiers, treated leniently and issued new clothes.



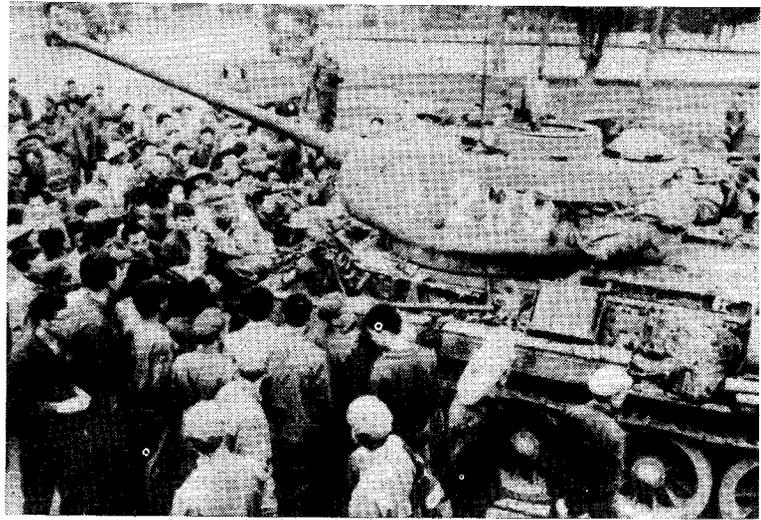


Shelling Vietnamese positions.

Citizens of China's Pingxiang City, Guangxi, inspect a captured Vietnamese tank.



Giving food to Vietnamese people.



Vietnamese border inhabitants bid farewell to the withdrawing Chinese frontier troops.



Treating a wounded Vietnamese soldier.

The "Third Strongest Military Power" Myth Exploded

AFTER the Viet Nam war ended in 1975, Hanoi's rulers secured thousands of millions of U.S. dollars' worth of arms and equipment and, with the backing of the Soviet Union, became ever more overbearing. They claimed that Viet Nam was the "third strongest military power in the world" and declared that "the strength of the Vietnamese nation is unprecedentedly strong, invincible and will always be invincible."

After the war against U.S. aggression, the Vietnamese people wanted to rehabilitate and heal their wounds of war. The leading clique in Hanoi, however, was bent on carrying out the "greater Indochina federation" programme through the use of force and proceeded to pursue hegemony in Southeast Asia and beyond. When the war ended, Hanoi had 600,000 regular troops, and a military force said to be one million strong if local armed forces were included. To serve its aggression against Kampuchea and opposition to China, Viet Nam rapidly increased the number to 1.5 million. There has also been a steady flow of military equipment from the Soviet Union over the last few years.

Viet Nam, known as an "international beggar," tries its best to establish itself militarily as a "colossus" in Southeast Asia through a show of force. Before and after the liberation of Saigon in 1975, Viet Nam sent troops to occupy six of the Nansha Islands of China and Way Island of Kampuchea.

In 1976, under the banner of "special relation," Viet Nam signed a treaty with Laos as a legal cover for stationing 50,000 troops there. In order to further its plan for a "greater Indochina federation," it engineered six coups to subvert Democratic Kampuchea from 1975 to 1978. After all this failed, it sent more than one hundred thousand troops to occupy Phnom Penh and vast areas of Kampuchea. Viet Nam is behind only the Soviet Union and the United States in the number of troops stationed abroad.

After its occupation of Kampuchea, Hanoi became delirious with joy. It declared: "A new situation has emerged on this peninsula. Our

army and people have become strong as never before, and are ready to fight..." and its army "is good at fighting and winning." Moreover, Hanoi openly clamoured for "a large-scale war" against China. "This is the task set us by the whole world," it said. At the same time it stepped up war mobilization throughout the country and escalated its provocations on the Sino-Vietnamese border. One Vietnamese officer shouted at a Chinese guardpost across the Beilun River: "We've stormed Phnom Penh. Are you Chinese not scared?" "We'll soon smash into Dongxing and have our breakfast there." Another officer claimed: "We have the support of the Soviet Union." "There is no doubt whatsoever that we'll win." In mid-February, a Vietnamese leader acting the "lord" went to Phnom Penh to sign a master-and-slave "treaty" with his lackey there. After his return to Hanoi, he bragged that Viet Nam "has just won a great victory there," adding that "in the Sino-Vietnamese border fighting," "we will win and it will be a very, very big victory." He asserted that if any lessons were to be given, "Viet Nam would do all the teaching and China would do all the learning."

The Vietnamese authorities took still less notice of the Southeast Asian countries. Although Thailand repeatedly declared that it would remain neutral in the Indochina conflicts, the Vietnamese armed forces disguised as Kampuchean puppet troops still started provocations in Thai border areas.

The whole world strongly condemns the naked aggression against Kampuchea by the Vietnamese authorities. But Hanoi turned a deaf ear to these condemnations. In the U.N. Security Council, 13 out of the 15 member states demanded the withdrawal of foreign troops from Kampuchea. But relying on the Soviet veto, Viet Nam simply ignored this demand. No principle can restrain it, not even the principle of non-aligned countries, the U.N. Charter, nor any principles governing international relations.

Those who worship armed force only understand one language — that of armed force. The Vietnamese authorities had thousands of

times flaunted their might along the Sino-Vietnamese border areas, boasting of their mythical invincibility, claiming "a hundred battles, a hundred victories," "the third strongest military power." The Chinese side had replied with words, not with the use of force, placing hopes on peaceful negotiations to settle the dispute. But the Vietnamese response was more wanton provocations and incursions into Chinese border areas. Restraint and forbearance from the Chinese side were regarded as an invitation to more bullying. Only under these circumstances,

did the Chinese frontier troops, driven beyond forbearance, launch their counterattack. The Chinese frontier troops who neither fear devils nor believe in gods went about striking back at this swashbuckling "third strongest military power." After 16 days of counterattack, this "invincibility" myth was blown sky-high.

The breaking of this myth brings only benefit to the Chinese people, to peace in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.

(A commentary by Xinhua Correspondent.)

Disruption of Sino-Lao Friendship Is Deplorable

Renmin Ribao Commentator

THE Soviet Government abruptly issued a statement on March 2 alleging that Chinese troops were concentrating on the Sino-Lao frontier in preparation for "an invasion of Laos." It has done so for an ulterior motive. Two days later, the Vietnamese authorities issued a statement, saying that "many Chinese divisions have been moved to the Chinese border area adjacent to Laos" to prepare "an aggressive war against Laos" and that Viet Nam "is resolved to fulfil the treaty of friendship and co-operation signed in 1977 to defend the independence of Laos." On the same day, echoing lies from Moscow and Hanoi, the Foreign Ministry of Mongolia issued a similar statement, charging China with starting "provocations" against Laos. Then, on March 6, the Lao Government also issued a statement replete with slanderous attacks and charges against China.

This sequence of events needs to be scrutinized. It was the Soviet Union, Viet Nam and Mongolia which were the first to say something about Sino-Lao relations. And it was not until four days after the Soviet Government issued its statement that the Lao Government came out with an anti-China statement in a tune dictated by third parties. This patent abnormality indicates that the Soviet Union and Viet Nam are criminally responsible for the deterioration of Sino-Lao relations.

Why have the Soviet and Vietnamese authorities issued these closely co-ordinated statements, giving much publicity to the myth-

ical Chinese "menace" and "aggression" against Laos?

It is well-known that the peoples of China and Laos have always been on good terms as neighbours. The border between China and Laos has always been one of peace and tranquillity, over which there has been no controversies in the past or at present. Now the Soviet and Vietnamese authorities, citing so-called "reports coming in" "from many sources," have vilified China as intending to "invade" Laos.

A probe into the source of these "reports" was very revealing. It turned out that the source of the reports was none other than Hanoi. A Western news agency on February 27 quoted a "well-informed source" in Hanoi as saying that "certain reports . . . confirmed that the Chinese army was seeking to concentrate its troops in the region where the borders of China, Laos and Viet Nam meet." The Vietnamese authorities obviously fabricated these "certain reports" and leaked them to a certain Western news agency. Then they quoted their own concocted reports to deliberately attack and slander China. This despicable trick is customary for Viet Nam. It may be recalled that not long ago Hanoi fabricated the lie that Vang Pao had made a secret visit to China and passed it to a Xianggang journal. Then it quoted the journal as part of its anti-China propaganda campaign to undermine Sino-Lao relations. Then, as now, Moscow made use of the Viet Nam-fabricated lie to raise an anti-China clamour. By spreading the rumours of the so-

Lao Fabrications Against China Protested

HAN Nianlong, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, on March 10 met with Lao Ambassador to China Thavone Sichaleun and handed him a memorandum strongly protesting against and refuting the Lao Government's fabrications and attacks against China in following the Soviet Union and Viet Nam. He earnestly advised the Lao Government to value the fundamental interests of the Chinese and Lao peoples and their traditional friendship and refrain from doing any more things detrimental to the friendship between the two peoples.

Vice-Minister Han Nianlong said: "On March 6, 1979 the Lao Government issued a statement viciously attacking China and falsely charging that China was massing troops along the Lao border, threatening Laos, smuggling commandos and spies to disturb the order and security of Laos and carry out propaganda against the line and policies pursued by the Lao Government and interfering in its internal affairs. Before that, the Director of the General Office of the Lao Foreign Ministry Soubanh met the Chinese Ambassador in Laos and made the groundless charge that China shelled Lao territory on the Laotian side of the Sino-Lao border and slanderously alleged that China helped the troops

of Kong Le to get ready to attack Laos. The Chinese Government solemnly declares that the above-mentioned charges by the Lao Government are fantastic fabrications concocted out of thin air. On March 7, the Lao Government unilaterally tore up an agreement between the two countries and compelled us to stop the construction of highways in northern Laos and withdraw Chinese experts. The Chinese Government feels great indignation at the acts of the Lao side poisoning the relations between the two countries and hereby lodges a strong protest with the Lao Government."

He said: "Owing to a set of circumstances, Laos has for some time taken a number of unfriendly actions against us, but we have always showed understanding for the difficulty it was in and exercised restraint even when Laos went so far as to attack China by innuendo in its open statements. Now, acting under pressure from certain quarters, the Lao Government has taken grave anti-China steps and blamed the Chinese side for the deterioration of relations between China and Laos. This cannot but arouse the serious concern of the Chinese Government. We earnestly counsel the Lao Government to value the fundamental interests of the Chinese and Lao peoples and their traditional friendship and refrain from doing any more things detrimental to the friendship between our two peoples."

called Chinese intention to "subvert" and "invade" Laos, Moscow and Hanoi clearly harbour a more vicious design than just opposing China.

The whole world knows that to achieve their ambition of establishing a "greater Indochina federation," the Vietnamese authorities forced Laos to sign a treaty of "friendship and co-operation" and forged a "special relationship" with them, thereby turning Laos into their vassal. The Vietnamese overlords rule through the tens of thousands of troops they have dispatched to Laos to carry out military occupation and the "advisers" they have placed in the Lao military, government and economic organs. Viet Nam's control of Laos is unreservedly supported by Soviet social-imperialism. Laos occupies a position of strategic importance,

as a next-door neighbour to China, Viet Nam, Kampuchea, Thailand and Burma. It is a place which the Soviet Union, determined to expand in Southeast Asia, covets. Taking advantage of the Vietnamese control of Laos, the Soviet Union has infiltrated and expanded into the country by sending large groups of its "advisers" and "technical personnel" there.

The Lao people have an immense love for peace, freedom and independence. They have waged a protracted struggle against colonial rule. The controlling and enslaving of the Lao people by the Vietnamese national chauvinists and the Soviet social-imperialists has evoked discontent and opposition among the broad masses of the Lao people. To clamp down on the Lao people's resistance and tighten their con-

trol of Laos, the Vietnamese authorities deliberately spread the lie that China was preparing for a "war of aggression against Laos" as a pretext for themselves to take action. Meanwhile, they tried to confuse public opinion and divert attention from their own aggression against Kampuchea. Eager to heighten the effect of the rumours already circulated by the Vietnamese, the Soviet Union took the lead in making a statement; it played up the seriousness of the fictitious situation to create public opinion for the increased control of Laos by its lackey, the Vietnamese authorities. These are the real aims of the Soviet and Vietnamese authorities in viciously distorting the Sino-Lao border situation.

Instigated and pressured by the Soviet and Vietnamese authorities, the Lao Government has taken an unfriendly attitude towards China. It not only repeated the slanders and vilifications propagated by Moscow and Hanoi and "thanked" and "highly appraised" these instigators, but also unilaterally tore up its agreements with China and demanded that China end its

aid projects and withdraw its experts. The Lao Government, by submitting to the pressure of the Soviet and Vietnamese authorities, has undermined the traditional friendship between China and Laos. These actions run counter to the will of the Lao people and, therefore, are deplorable.

A traditional friendship exists between the Chinese and Lao peoples. Our two countries have had long good-neighbourly, friendly relations. The Chinese people have all along supported the Lao people in their just struggle for upholding national independence and assisted them in rehabilitating their national economy. We have always worked to promote the traditional friendship between the peoples of our two countries. We have never committed a disservice to the Lao people. The shameless slanders of the Vietnamese and Soviet authorities only serve to further reveal their criminal schemes of intensifying their control over Laos and invite stronger opposition from the Lao people.

(March 11)

Growing Economic and Trade Relations

China and the European Communities

CHINA hopes to see a united and strong Europe. Our European friends also hope that China will be prosperous and powerful. This is our common starting point in developing relations between China and the European Communities," said Premier Hua Guofeng on February 24 when he met with Mr. Jenkins, President of the Commission of the European Communities.

Common interests and mutual goodwill have brought China and the European Communities closer together in the last few years, with increasing exchanges of visits and growing economic and trade relations. China signed a significant trade agreement with the European Economic Community (E.E.C.) last year, bringing the total volume of trade the same year to 3,200 million U.S. dollars, a 52.9 per cent increase over 1977.

During his stay in China (from February 21 to March 4), Mr. Jenkins had friendly meetings

with Premier Hua Guofeng, Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping and other Chinese leaders. The two sides had an extensive and detailed exchange of views on the present world situation, major international issues and the expansion of bilateral relations. Before ending his visit to China, he told Chinese hosts that he had achieved the objective of strengthening political and economic ties between the European Communities and China and that his visit had produced encouraging results.

China needs the European Communities' advanced technology and equipment in its drive for realizing the four modernizations, while the member states of the E.E.C., in their own interests, see China as a vast potential market.

Informed sources said that the biggest obstacle to expanding trade between the two sides lay with the imbalance in trade, the trade deficit on the Chinese side. In present circumstances, this problem cannot be solved quickly, but it is imperative that the two sides make joint efforts to reduce the imbalance as far as possible and achieve balance in the end so that their economic and trade relations can move forward smoothly and rapidly.

China will do its best to export more goods needed by Western Europe, and the E.E.C. member states, for their part, should encourage Chinese exports by easing restrictions on commodities that China is able to export. It is gratifying to note that both sides have started to give thought to the problem. While Mr. Jenkins was in China, word came that the E.E.C. had decided to relax restrictions on China's textiles during negotiations in Brussels.

Mr. Jenkins announced in Beijing that his commission was disposed to recommend to the Council of Ministers of the European Communities that China should be included in the E.E.C.'s generalized preference scheme for 1980. The measure, if implemented, will make Chinese commodities more competitive on the West European market.

During the talks, China expressed support for the E.E.C.'s efforts to establish a relatively stable monetary system, holding that such a system would be instrumental in advancing bilateral economic and trade relations.

Some friends in Western Europe are concerned about whether economic and trade relations between the E.E.C. and China will be adversely affected by the conclusion of the Sino-Japanese Peace and Friendship Treaty and the normalization of Sino-U.S. relations. It was reported that, during talks in Beijing, the Chinese side asked Mr. Jenkins to explain to friends in Western Europe that "there have been long-standing trade relations between China and the E.E.C. member states and that in doing business China will never forget its old friends."

It is worth noting that the two sides have agreed that a joint committee will start work in Beijing as of May 3, 1979 to co-ordinate and inspect the implementation of the trade agreement, solve problems that may arise and study new ways to expand trade. This step will certainly help advance economic and trade relations as well as other ties of friendship and co-operation between the two sides.

— Zhou Cipu

China and the United States

U.S. Secretary of the Treasury W. Michael Blumenthal and members of his party are the first U.S. Government Delegation to China since normalization of relations between the two countries. Both countries and world

public opinion attached great importance to Mr. Blumenthal's China visit.

This was because the two sides would exchange views on issues of common concern, expanding economic co-operation and trade and enhancing friendly relations between the two countries.

During Mr. Blumenthal's eight-day visit, the two sides held several rounds of talks on a wide range of issues in the fields of finance, trade, banking and tax and duty. The talks proceeded smoothly and the results were satisfactory.

One of the results was the settlement of the question of claims and assets, an issue left over from the past. The question was settled because the two sides had in mind a more important issue, that is, the development of bilateral relations in various fields.

The two sides had preliminary discussions on a bilateral trade agreement. A Sino-U.S. Joint Economic Committee was set up on the basis of the agreement reached between Chinese Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping and U.S. President Jimmy Carter. The committee will promote co-operation between the two countries in the economic, trade, technological, agricultural, medical and other fields.

Secretary Blumenthal invited the Bank of China to set up a branch in his country, and China agreed to do so at the earliest possible date. China has invited a delegation from the U.S. Federal Reserve System to visit China so as to establish a direct link with the Bank of China.

In their talks, the Chinese Minister of Finance and the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury reviewed the development of bilateral trade and economic co-operation in recent years. They agreed that such co-operation and friendly relations would take on a new look with the establishment of Sino-U.S. diplomatic relations.

In the seven years following the publication of the Shanghai Communiqué of 1972 which revived non-governmental trade between the two countries, the volume of Sino-American trade totalled 4 billion U.S. dollars. Reciprocal visits between Chinese commercial workers and U.S. businessmen increased. In 1973, the visits involved several hundred commercial workers, businessmen and technicians. By 1978, the number reached several thousand, including delegations and visiting groups.

Bilateral trade will show a big increase because of the presence of favourable conditions for a rapid development in Sino-U.S. economic co-operation.

In the course of realizing the four modernizations, China will, with the emphasis on self-reliance, import more up-to-date equipment and technology. There are broad prospects for co-operation between China and the United States in this field.

There is a big variety of goods for exchange between the two sides and it will increase with time. Each side needs imports from the other.

Though there are still obstacles to developing Sino-U.S. economic co-operation and trade, they can be solved so long as the two sides take a positive approach and make concerted efforts.

The American visitors' successful China visit signals a new step forward in economic co-operation and trade between the two countries.

— *Zhu Minzhi*

China and Britain

BEFORE ending his China visit, British Secretary of State for Industry Eric Varley said on March 4 to his hosts that the visit was very successful and the long-standing friendly relations and co-operation between Britain and China were being further developed and strengthened.

An agreement on economic co-operation between the Chinese Government and the Government of the United Kingdom was signed the same day calling for 14-billion-dollar bilateral trade and other economic activities between now and 1985. The two governments also exchanged letters on a 5-billion-dollar credit by the British side. This marks the beginning of a new period of economic co-operation between China and Britain.

The agreement calls for mutually beneficial multifarious economic co-operation and exchange including the transfer of technology, production equipment and products. China is rich in mineral resources, especially non-ferrous metals, while Britain possesses advanced technology and management experience. These provide favourable conditions for developing such co-operation. Sino-British co-operation in eco-

conomic construction will grow with China's economic development.

Over the past 20 years or more, trade between China and Britain has basically been on the rise. This has been particularly the case in recent years. And so have been reciprocal visits by government officials, persons in economic circles, scientists and technicians.

Accompanying Secretary of State Eric Varley on his visit were important figures in the field of industry and trade, including Lord Nelson, President of the Sino-British Trade Council. It is indicative of the British businessmen's keen interest in increasing economic co-operation with China. During their stay in China, the visitors held fruitful talks with representatives of Chinese industrial departments concerned on items of common interest. To speed up the tempo of bilateral economic co-operation China and Britain will exchange more delegations and study groups.

Foreign Trade Minister Li Qiang spoke to the visitors about the forms of trading China could accept, such as importing material for processing, joint production and joint investments. He also told them that China was ready to allow foreign companies to establish agencies and trading centres in China and that Chinese trade companies were prepared to send their representatives abroad. The visitors expressed deep interest in this.

Mr. Eric Varley expressed Britain's willingness to help China exploit its rich mineral deposits and boost exports of minerals. As to compensatory trade, the Chinese Foreign Trade Minister said China takes a positive attitude. Increased economic and technical co-operation between China and Britain will create favourable conditions for rapidly expanding trade between the two countries, he noted. It can be expected that China will soon not only be able to export agricultural and side-line products, handicrafts and chemical raw materials, but various industrial and mineral products as well, he added.

In recalling the development of economic relations between Britain and China, the British Secretary of State pointed out that Britain had met with obstacles and pressure from a third country. He reiterated that Britain and China must safeguard the existing friendship between them and not allow their principle of trade to be decided by any third country.

— *Yao Datian*

KUWAITI CONFERENCE

Unity Against Enemy

The emergency session of the Arab League Council held in Kuwait from March 4 to 6 to solve the military confrontation between North and South Yemen produced satisfactory results. The resolution adopted at the end of the session concurred with the agreement reached on March 1, 1979, by the conciliation committee composed of Syria, Iraq and Jordan. It called for the immediate implementation of the March 1 agreement, withdrawal of the armed forces of both North and South Yemen within ten days, declaring that no interference by one side in the other's internal affairs, no interference by a third party in the internal affairs should be allowed and that there should be no meddling from the outside. The resolution also called for an end to the propaganda war against each other and the adoption of measures to normalize their relations.

The meeting also decided to set up a supervision committee composed of the Foreign Ministers of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Syria, Iraq and Kuwait, the representative of Palestine and the Secretary of the Arab League to enforce the resolution.

The success of the session reflects the common desire of the Arab people to unite and fight against their common enemies and is also a result of the common efforts of the Arab states. The present situation is that the Israeli invaders still occupy the territory of Arab countries and

the superpowers which pamper and back Israel's aggression are stepping up their contention in this region. The superpower which styles itself as the "natural ally" of the Arab states, in particular, is steadily pressing forward: It is driving to the Persian Gulf and the Horn of Africa in a pincer offensive against the oil-producing Arab Peninsula. It was against this background that the armed clashes between North and South Yemen broke out, which in turn is causing great concern and anxiety among the Arab states. All these countries have called for an immediate ceasefire and the ironing out of the differences between the two sides in the interests of the Arab nation. After emergency consultations with Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, Kuwait put forward the proposal to hold an emergency session of the Arab League Council and expressed readiness to act as the host country. This proposal received prompt response. The session shows that all Arab countries are unwilling to see this region of strategic importance falling into the hands of hostile forces.

The resolution is in keeping with the fundamental interests of the people of North and South Yemen. Colonialist rule had caused the split into two Yemens, and unification is the national aspiration of the people of both North and South Yemen. Although there are differences on some issues between the two Yemens, they would not have led to armed conflict had there been no foreign intervention. Following the assassinations of the Presidents of North and South Yemen within three days last

June, world opinion was that the Soviet Union was behind the murders. The Voice of Arab in a broadcast pointed out that the Soviet Union was behind the current armed conflict.

It is reported that there are still fighting on the borders of the two countries. Outside forces are unwilling to see a reconciliation, unity and co-operation between the two Yemens. *Al-Siyasa* of Kuwait reported on March 8 that 2,850 Cuban and Soviet military personnel had been rushed to Aden, South Yemen, from Ethiopia. Implementation of the resolution will not be smooth. But so long as the two Yemens have the national interest at heart and work for the implementation of the resolution with the help of the supervision committee, they will certainly have a positive influence on the peace and stability of the region.

ITALY

Unstable Political Situation

There is still no sign of an early solution to the Italian government crisis which started in January 31. Attention is on the feverish activities of the various political parties to form a new cabinet.

The Andreotti government of the Italian Christian Democrat Party formed on March 11, 1978, was forced to resign because of differences of opinion with Italy's second largest party, the Italian Communist Party. Although the Italian Communist Party has never been in office, its influence has been growing. On the strength of this, it has been trying unsuccessfully since

1973 to form a government with the Christian Democrat Party. After the 1976 elections, it agreed to support the government by abstaining from voting in parliament. Since March last year it has joined the five major parties in parliament in supporting the government publicly. In January this year, the Italian Communist Party withdrew its support for the government because the Christian Democrat Party once again rejected its demand to participate in the government. This touched off the latest government crisis.

People are used to explaining Italy's government crises from the point of grave economic and social problems and contradictions between parties, but this is not the whole problem. Political and press circles in Rome believe that the refusal by the Christian Democrat Party to allow the Italian Communist Party to join the government is not only because of major differences over domestic and foreign policies but primarily because of its apprehensions over the Italian Communist Party's relations with the Soviet Union. In recent years, people often talk about the assertion of independence by the Italian Communist Party from the Soviet Union: its support for the union of Western Europe, its renunciation of the demand for Italy's withdrawal from NATO and its denunciation of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. However, they also have noted the C.P.I.'s various contacts with the Soviet Union. This has made the Christian Democrat and other parties wary of the Italian Communist Party joining the government.

Italy's Western allies cannot but pay more attention to the

situation in Italy at this time when the Soviet Union is stepping up its arms expansion and war preparations and looking menacingly at Western Europe. Recently the Italian Communist Party has come out publicly in favour of the Soviet-supported Vietnamese aggression in Indochina. Italian public opinion has taken note of this.

Acute differences between the Italian Communist Party and the Christian Democrat Party have made the forming of a government difficult.

On February 22 President Alessandro Pertini appointed Ugo La Malfa, Chairman of the Republican Party, the smallest of the five major parties in parliament, to form a cabinet. But because of differences between the Christian Democrat Party and the Communist Party, Ugo La Malfa on March 2 gave up his attempt to form a new government. This will precipitate an earlier general election and will have a grave effect on the country's economy and will lead to greater political turmoil.

KABUL

Who Killed the U.S. Ambassador?

The U.S. Government lodged a strong protest with Moscow over the murder of Adolph Dubs, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan, who was kidnapped and killed on February 14 in Kabul. However, the Soviet Union, the plotter, categorically denied its part in this incident. World opinion held that the incident was not an isolated one. It not only laid bare the Soviet scheme of intensified expansion abroad and driving south to the Indian Ocean but also reflected part of the Soviet plan to control the Arabian Gulf.

After the kidnapping of Dubs, the United States immediately instituted rescue measures to safeguard its ambassador. U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance requested the Afghan Government not to resort to force and to "exercise patience" in dealing with the four terrorists and to "take no action which might jeopardize the ambassador's life." However, Ambassador Dubs was killed in the presence of Soviet advisers.

Who fired the shot? *Times of Oman* on February 22 said editorially that the death of the American Ambassador in Kabul, in what has been described as a hail of bullets in which no one could survive has led to a pious propaganda exercised by the U.S.S.R. The ambassador was being held hostage for the release of prisoners opposed to the Russian-controlled government. His death came in a premature attack on the hotel in which he was held by government forces "advised" by Russians. The Russians rejected American appeals for delay and negotiations, and sent in the attackers without waiting for the kidnappers' ten-minute deadline to end. One eyewitness reports them as actually leading the shooting. The kidnappers were killed, but so was the American Ambassador.

The man killed, Adolph Dubs, was working to detach Afghanistan from total reliance on the communist U.S.S.R. That he might have been making headway gives credence to one report that the whole affair had nothing to do with Moslem dissidents, but was a put-up job by the K.G.B. to get rid of a man whom Moscow saw as a threat to its domination of Afghanistan. And we must remember that such domination is part of the plan to control the Arabian Gulf.

● *Labour Heroes*

In east China's Jiangsu Province 45 outstanding workers in the fields of industry, transport, capital construction, trade, finance and education have recently been awarded the title of "labour hero" and received certificates of merit, medals and cash bonuses. They were the first group of labour heroes honoured by the provincial authorities since liberation.

The provincial revolutionary committee has called on all workers to learn from these advanced workers and to apply their knowledge and efforts to modernizing our country.

The youngest labour hero was Ye Huiying, a 24-year-old textile worker. She had devised a series of quality-control methods for corduroy with which she had set a national record, weaving 157,000 metres of flawless fabric.

Another worker receiving this honourable title was Zhou Aqing of the Nanjing Radio Factory, who attended a national conference of outstanding workers in industry, transport, trade and finance in 1959. He has produced a total of 50 technical innovations.

Professor Dai Anbang, in his seventies, was recognized for his contributions to scientific research. He is head of the chemistry department at Nanjing University and has commanded national and international attention in scientific circles for his research on silicate. Three research projects

that he participated in received awards at the National Science Conference convened in March 1978.

Other labour heroes were primary school teachers, shop assistants and attendants in hotels.

● *Baiyunebo West Mine*

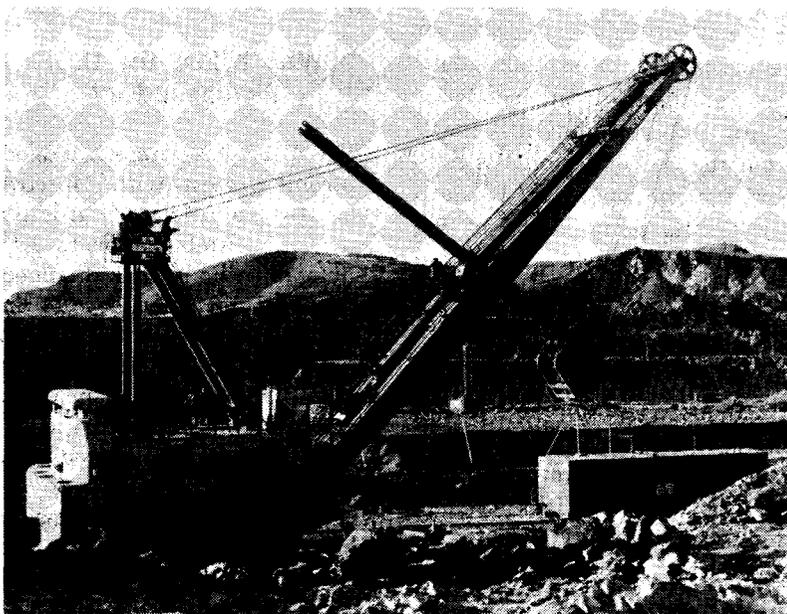
Construction of another large, open-cast iron mine — the Baiyunebo West Mine in China's Nei Monggol (Inner Mongolia) Autonomous Region is under way. The mine is important to speeding up production in the Baotou Iron and Steel Company and the multi-utilization of rare earth resources of the entire Baiyunebo Mine.

Baiyunebo in the Mongolian language means "rich mountain." The whole mine consists

of the Main Mine, East Mine and West Mine and covers a huge area. The mine produces 114 minerals and has very rich reserves of rare earth elements.

Before the construction of the West Mine, large quantities of rare earth ores from the Main and East Mines were not used because the company carried out a policy of mainly turning out iron and steel. The West Mine will give an ideal iron ore, having a lower phosphate and fluoride content. Its ore reserves are also enormous.

When completed, the West Mine will become a major raw material base for the iron and steel production of the company and the Main and East Mines will gradually be turned into a major base supplying raw materials for producing rare earth elements and rare metals.



The Baiyunebo West Mine.



LITERATURE

Lao She Commemorated

"You will be remembered,

For you are among the people."

Ai Qing, a well-known poet, wrote these lines in commemoration of the 80th birthday (which fell on February 3) of the late outstanding writer Lao She. This great man of letters died in August 1966 at the hands of the "gang of four."

When one of his plays was restaged in Beijing three months ago, all tickets for the six-day run were sold out within an hour. The new edition of *Selected Plays of Lao She* is among the best-sellers on the bookshelves. At a commemoration performance in his honour held in Beijing last month, excerpts from his plays, *Teahouse* and *Family Reunion*, written in the 1950s, and ballads and comic dialogues were used. The first play describes the changes in a Beijing teahouse in the first half of the 20th century and is an expose of the corrupt old society. The second play is about the happy reunion of members of a worker's family who were separated in pre-liberation days. The performance was a scintillating brief review of Lao She's sense of humour, mastery of language and deep understanding of his characters.

Articles honouring his memory have also appeared in newspapers and magazines. His writings, they said, enjoyed great popularity among tens of millions of Chinese readers, and also have their place in world literature. The noted playwright Cao Yu said: "The humour in Lao She's work is not to be found in other contemporary Chinese writers. Mark Twain enjoys a high reputation in the United States and elsewhere in the world as a great humorist. In my opinion, Lao She is his equal." He suggested that the complete works of Lao She be published.

Representative Work. Lao She's first work came out in 1926. In the next 40 years, he produced a dozen novels, scores of plays and operas, a large number of short stories, fairy-tales, ballads, poems and prose works. The life of urban people was the main subject matter of many of his writings.

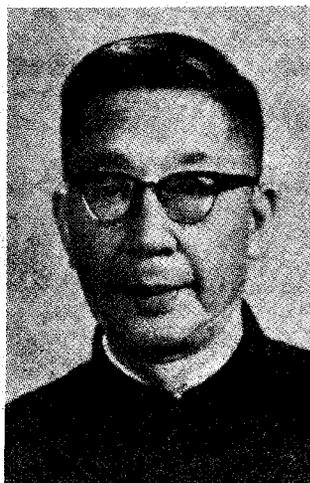
His most popular work in China and abroad is the novel *Camel Xiangzi* (formerly translated under the title of *Rickshaw Boy*) written in 1935. It is about the experiences of an

honest and industrious bankrupt peasant who went to seek his living in the city. He became a rickshaw boy. Unyielding and dauntless, like a camel, he plodded on and on, undergoing many hardships until he was finally overwhelmed by the hard, merciless society. His life was an endless chain of calamities. His hope for a beautiful life was at last extinguished.

It is not accidental that the author, in this novel and many other works, impressed the readers with the wretched life of the working people in old China. He was born into a poor family. His father, an imperial city guard of the Manchu nationality in Beijing, was killed by the invaders of eight aggressor nations in 1900 when Lao She was not yet two years old. He knew what poverty and oppression was, and he knew well different types of working people. He had a great respect and love for the honest and upright people and profound sympathy for the gentle and the kind. His successful rickshaw boy, Xiangzi, is one of them.

New progress. The founding of the People's Republic in 1949 brought immense happiness to Lao She. He returned from abroad where he had been lecturing for four years to his motherland.

The new society, new life and new understanding of things provide a new source for his writing. He combined his realism and humour with unprecedented political enthusiasm. He wrote plays and other works, depicting the new life and the new-found happiness of the formerly down-trodden citizens.



Among them are *Dragon Beard Ditch*, which is about the changes in a Beijing slum, *Willow Well*, about the emancipation of a child bride, *Fang Zhenzhu*, about the spiritual rebirth of an artist and *The Saleswomen*, about housewives joining in socialist construction. Workers, peasants, Chinese People's Volunteers fighting in Korea, policemen, children and capitalists — all were included in his works.

In the spring of 1966, this 67-year-old writer finished a play describing the changes in a village on the outskirts of Beijing and also the first chapters of a long autobiographical novel. He had plans for writing a novel about the new life the rickshaw boy Xiangzi was leading, and a novel about the anti-imperialist Yi He Tuan movement of the early 20th century. It was at this moment that Jiang Qing and company slanderously charged that New China's literature and art were dominated by the revisionist line. Lao She was among the first subjected to their attacks. His works were unjustly labeled as poisonous weeds. Lao She was made a target of vicious abuse. He was systematically humiliated, insulted and frequently manhandled and beaten right up to his death on August 24, 1966.

"I am certain Chairman Mao and Premier Zhou understand me; the people understand me, too," he said before he died.

Today, 13 years later, the Chinese people are again able to read and enjoy Lao She's imperishable works, with anguish, grief and joy. The people do remember him and understand him.

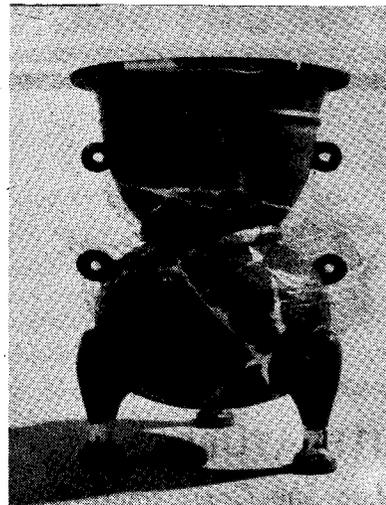
ARCHAEOLOGY

2,000-Year-Old Liquor

Two bottles containing ancient liquors are on display at Beijing's Palace Museum as part of an exhibition which opened in January.

An ambrosial greenish liquid which was originally contained in a tightly-sealed flat bronze vessel fills one bottle. The second bottle contains a dark green liquor which also emitted a pungent aroma when it was removed from its original circular bronze vessel. A chemical analysis of the liquors revealed the presence of alcohol, sugar and 15 other ingredients.

Also on display are 2,000 relics from the Zhongshan State which were unearthed from the

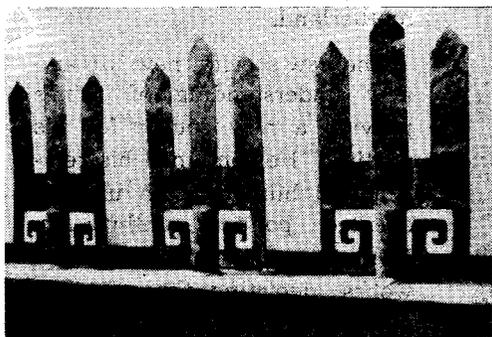


A clay pot with tiger designs.

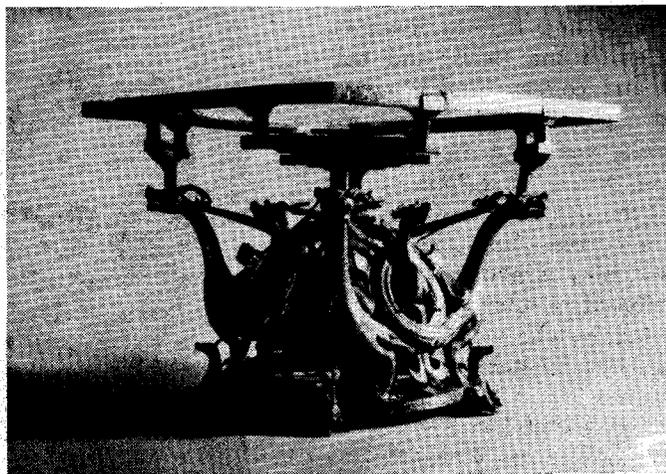
tombs of its two kings who lived between the 6th and 3rd centuries B.C. and the tomb of a royal family member. Located some 200 kilometres southwest of present-day Beijing, this state was founded by the Baidis, a minority nationality in ancient north China. Excavation of the capital of the state and the king's tombs began in 1974.

The 19,000 cultural relics which have been unearthed to date have been tremendously helpful in studying the fragmentary history and social conditions of the Zhongshan State.

A copper plate engraved with a map of the tombs, the first of



Bronze ritual objects in the shape of the Chinese ideograph for "hill."



Bronze table supported by four dragons and four phoenixes.

its kind discovered in China, shows the size, location and layout of the buildings above ground as well as the underground burial pits. The more than 400 words of description and markings on the map are inlaid in gold and silver filigree.

The exhibition also contains a collapsible frame for a canopy which could be easily put up by stretching the four poles and inserting them into bronze rings. It is 2.6 by 2.6 metres at the base and 1.69 metres high. Unearthed for the first time were several ritual objects in the shape of the Chinese character "山" (meaning hill), their height ranging from 1.1 to 1.4 metres. Archaeologists surmise that they were mounted atop poles in front of the kings' canopies as symbols of their sacrosanct power.

Many bronzes, including a *ting* (a tripod-like cauldron for cooking meat and cereals), a wine vessel and a battle-ax, are inscribed with the history of the

Zhongshan State which was proclaimed a marquisate by the emperor of the Zhou Dynasty (c. 11th century B.C.-256 B.C.).

Also unearthed from these Zhongshan tombs were gold and silver artifacts, pottery, lacquer ware and stone carvings. Several jade figurines (2.5-3.9 cm. high) with one or two bobs and dressed in narrow-sleeved blouses and checkered skirts reflect the ways and habits of the people of that marquisate.

MEDICINE

A New Contraceptive For Men

Chinese medical workers have developed a new oral contraceptive for men by extracting gossypol, a phenolic compound, from the root, stem and seeds of the cotton plant.

The pill has proved to be 99.89 per cent effective in a trial study involving some 10,000 men — half for two years and some for four years.

A daily dosage of 20 milligrammes of gossypol gradually kills off a man's sperms over a two month period. Thereafter effectiveness is maintained by a monthly dosage of 150-220 milligrammes, which is taken twice a week. A man's reproductive capacity is restored two or three months after pills are discontinued.

The contraceptive was first tested in 1971 on rats, mice, dogs and monkeys. The next year, after a systematic study of gossypol's toxicity and efficacy, it began to be used on humans.

Additional tests on rats indicate that gossypol has no effect on the second generation. When the rats are taken off gossypol, their reproductive functions are restored and the second and third generations are normal.

One possible side effect for gossypol-takers is a low blood potassium. Medical workers are now searching for solutions to this problem.

ON THE STAGE AND SCREEN

Shaoxing Opera

Spring Tide is about the world-shaking uprising of March 21, 1927, organized and led by Comrade Zhou Enlai. Shanghai workers crushed imperialist-backed warlords and occupied all Shanghai except the concessions. This opera is one of several local operas and plays dramatizing the lives and deeds of revolutionaries of the older generation.

Modern Drama

• *Thunderstorm* is the first play by Cao Yu (born 1910), one of China's outstanding playwrights. He was a 23-year-old student when he wrote this exposure of the class contradictions in China of the 1930s. It is an important work in the history of contemporary Chinese literature.

• *Song of Love* is a new six-act play by the Beijing Central Experimental Drama Troupe. Love in literature and art banned by the "gang of four" has reappeared in a series of new works since last summer. This play about various attitudes towards love extols pure and true love which inspires people to go forward.

On Screen

The tremendous changes which have occurred in the minority nationality areas are a theme filmgoers like. Such films on show include:

• *Meng Genhua*, after the name of a Mongolian girl, is about her miserable childhood and later her life in the Eighth Route Army.

• *Snow Lily of the Icy Mountain*. Born on the Long March, Jin Zhu, daughter of a Red Army

couple, is left with a Tibetan mason family as the Red Army fights its way through the ice-bound mountains.

• *Peacock Comes to the Awa Mountain*. To the Wa people, the P.L.A. who brought them a new and happier life is like their mythical peacock, symbol of happiness and prosperity. The story takes place in the early 1950s when the P.L.A. marched into Yunnan Province.





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shirts, pyjamas, trousers, overalls, pants, dresses, blouses, skirts and children's wear, etc.

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