

No. 47 November 23, 1981

# BEIJING REVIEW

北京周報

A CHINESE WEEKLY  
OF  
NEWS AND VIEWS



Community Mediation  
Committees



Did the "Cultural Revolution"  
Have Mass Support?



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

### Chinese Women's Team Wins World Title

With seven straight wins, the Chinese women's volleyball team trounced strong opponents to capture the World Cup (p. 12).

### Concerning the Party Resolution

Did the "cultural revolution" have real mass support? If not, why did it attract so many people and how could it last a whole decade? Our guest writer answers these questions (p. 20).

### Mediation Committees

An important component in China's legal system, community mediation committees which have their roots in ancient traditions have become an effective means in resolving civil disputes and minor criminal cases. A special feature in this issue tells how these committees work (p. 23).

### The UN Secretary-General Issue

Manipulation of UN affairs

by the two superpowers should be put to an end. The reasonable demand of the third world countries should be respected (p. 11).

### Soviet Threat to Northern Europe

The Soviet Union professes "friendship" and "good neighbouring relations" with the Nordic countries. But it does not match its words with deeds. Soviet military threat to that region is increasing (p. 10).

### Economic Development in Africa

Though rich in natural resources, most African countries, exploited and plundered by imperialist countries for centuries, are far from developed in their economy. An article in this issue gives the facts and figures to show why a change to this unreasonable situation is long overdue (p. 15).

### Impressions of China

Nilde Jotti, President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies,

spent 10 days touring major Chinese cities. Her China impressions are briefly recounted in an article by our Special Correspondent (p. 18).



The Chinese Women's Volleyball Team—victors of the World Cup Tournament held earlier this month in Japan.

Photo by Li Qirong

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### Economic Situation

**It's now almost a year since you started readjusting the national economy. What are the results?**

The policy of readjusting the national economy was laid down in December 1978. Since the beginning of 1981 readjustments have been made on a much larger scale than before. On the whole, the situation is better than anticipated.

In the two years 1979-80, in line with this readjustment policy, the purchasing prices for farm and sideline products have been raised by a big margin, more employment opportunities have been created for those waiting for jobs in the urban areas, the wages of workers and government employees have been increased and a system of awards and bonuses have been instituted. All this has played a tremendous role in enhancing the enthusiasm of the people in both the cities and countryside for production and given a fillip to industrial and agricultural development. It must be said, however, that a number of problems have also cropped up.

There has been a financial deficit for years running. This is because: (1) investments in the production of consumer goods have been increased by a large amount; (2) though there has been a cutback on funds for capital construction, the amount reduced is not large enough; (3) administrative spending and expenditures on national defence continue to rise. In 1979, the deficit amounted to 12,000 million yuan and it rose to 17,000 million a year later. There

would be a big deficit this year if effective preventive measures had not been taken. The issuance of an excessive amount of banknotes and the continual rise in prices would inevitably bring serious consequences.

To eliminate the deficit, further readjustments have been made since the beginning of this year and appropriations for capital construction curtailed. The purpose of all this is not only to solve the existing problems of this year but also to end the practice of undue haste for success in economic work, bring about a reasonable ratio between the various sectors of the national economy, raise economic results and dovetail economic development with improvement in the people's livelihood. It is expected that after several years' persistent efforts, socialist modernization will proceed in a harmonious and sound way.

Good results have been achieved over the past 12 months. This year, revenue and expenditure will be basically balanced, with a slight deficit, and prices will be stabilized across the land. Last year the price indices rose by 6 per cent; this year it will be less than 2 per cent.

The series of new policies adopted in the countryside have aroused the peasants' zest for socialist construction. Total grain output this year is expected to reach or to be close to the 1979 level, which was a record high, despite serious floods and long dry spells in many parts of the country. Output of cotton, oil-bearing

crops, sugar and other cash crops will also increase by a big margin.

After being restructured, the various industrial departments have begun to develop in a rational, well co-ordinated way. In the last two years investments and loans for expanding light industry, which enjoys high priority in the supply of raw materials and power, have increased. As a result, its rate of growth has surpassed that of heavy industry and its proportion in the nation's total industrial output value has increased too. Since the beginning of this year, it has maintained a steady rate of growth. Its output value in the January-August period was 12 per cent more than that of the corresponding period of last year. This has gone a long way to ensuring a thriving market and meeting the people's daily needs.

The expansion of industry as a whole is rather slow this year. The growth rate is only 3 per cent. This is because the scale of capital construction has been reduced and the production of heavy industry has dropped by a big margin. Nevertheless, the situation in the third quarter was better than the first six months. Total industrial output value in October was 10.6 per cent more than that of the same period of last year. Of this the output value of heavy industry increased by 1.8 per cent. The situation in the last quarter will be even better and the rate of industrial growth will not be less than 3 per cent in the future.

—Economic Editor Wang Dacheng

# LETTERS

## Service Trades

With regard to the column "Special Feature," I would be very interested in one about handicrafts, or the service trades you often talk about. When I toured the East European socialist countries and the Soviet Union, I was often told about big enterprises and new integrated enterprises which could turn out various kinds of products. But, when I asked where the residents would have their shoes and clothes mended and their radios repaired, the voice of those talking with me became fainter and fainter. In my opinion, to serve the people also means enabling them to buy things they are entitled to get according to stipulations, and to have their clothes mended somewhere. Otherwise, all is empty talk. I would like to know the situation in China.

**Peter Romen**  
Lochan, Austria

*You have raised a question in which many people show great interest. As there is a close relationship between service trades and the everyday life of each family, our Party and government have attached great importance to improving this work in recent years. As for the current situation, we published "A Questionnaire" on p. 7 of issue No. 45, 1980 and a special feature "Commercial Reforms: Smooth Circulation of Goods" in issue No. 22, 1981.*  
—Ed.

## Inflation in the West

I have read Wang Huaining's article "Inflation in the West" in issue No. 41 (English edition, issue No. 33). The article is a very good description of the sources and the grievous results of inflation in capitalist countries.

Wang Huaining pointed out that US workers' wages formed 38.5 per cent of the net value of output of enterprises in 1954 and fell to 29.2 per cent in 1973. I think these figures correspond to reality. It should be pointed out that during this period engineers and technicians invented some advanced machines for the purpose of reducing manual labour in enterprises. Though the machines replaced the workers, the profit of the enter-

prises did not decrease, but on the contrary, increased.

Wang Huaining said that inflation could stimulate the development of economy in a certain period. This is right. The workers can buy things first and pay later. The case is also true today. All advertisements, especially those by the radio stations, ask people to buy goods and begin paying for them from the first month of the next year. Who can refuse the temptation of such nice promises? The buyers always think that payment will be insignificant compared with their future income. In other words, they hope to be benefited through inflation.

Unfortunately, the writer was right when he said that inflation is an incurable malady for Western countries and that the bourgeoisie has told itself: "We'll have to learn to live with inflation."

There is one more thing, however. This terrible malady will certainly some day reach its extreme limit. By then there will be two possibilities: violent revolts leading to the establishment of a fascist system, or war. If all the Western countries reach the limit, war will become a worldwide danger.

**Pierre Bellanger**  
Paris, France

## China Belongs to the Third World

As far as *Beijing Review* is concerned, I would like to say that it is the best magazine I have ever read, because it includes many interesting topics dealing with current events.

I really appreciate it because it clarifies many complicated questions. And, moreover, I was most impressed by the article "China Belongs For Ever to the Third World" in issue No. 39 about China's position regarding the third world.

**Mohadi Farid**  
Tiaret, Algeria

## Criticism — Not Enough

There is not enough criticism in your articles concerning international affairs, especially reports about events in Western imperialist countries (e.g., the disturbances in the United Kingdom). Because of this, people will think that the People's Republic of China keeps silent about the crimes committed

by the Western imperialists against the people in the various third world countries. Even if you say that Western imperialism is not an immediate danger to the Chinese people, it is not the same for people in other parts of the world, especially for the people in African and Latin American countries.

**N. H. Assy**  
Coromanael, Mauritius

## The Economy

I like articles about the economy of China; they enlighten us. Many of us here in Finland and in Western Europe don't know much about China and your economy.

**Mika Hissa**  
Vaasa, Finland

## Young Generation

An article which has interested me is the special feature "How to View the Young Generation" by Gao Zhanxiang in issue No. 30. We young men read this charming article and can learn a lot from it.

**Kasawa Kingford**  
Mabel Shaw, Zambia

## "Events and Trends"

I like the column "Events and Trends" best because it tells about the actual situation in China, China's determination never to seek hegemonism, and achievements in your efforts to realize socialism. Can the reports in this column be clearer and more definite in these respects, especially about the relations between nations, about the African continent and about China's stand toward Libya, Uganda and, in particular, South Africa?

**Jairo Escobar Morales**  
Santa Marta, Colombia



## ECONOMIC

For the Expansion of  
Agriculture

In order to sum up experiences gained in the past few years in developing agricultural production and map out plans for further expansion, the Ministry of Agriculture recently held a 16-day conference in Beijing. Leading cadres in charge of agriculture from various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions attended.

The nation has reaped good harvests for years running, thanks to the Party's policies of readjusting the distribution of areas under the various crops, diversifying the rural economy and instituting various forms of responsibility in farm production. In the years 1977 to 1980, cotton output increased on an average of 7 per cent a year; oil-bearing crops, 17.7 per cent; and sugar crops, 10.4 per cent. The increase in the output of pork, beef and mutton was 11.5 per cent. Though the total area under the food crops had been reduced by 670,000 hectares, grain output increased from 304.75 million tons in 1978 to 318.2 million tons in 1980, an average annual increase of 2.7 per cent. And despite severe drought in north China and floods in southwest and northwest China and some parts in northeast China, grain output this year is expected to surpass that of last year and will be close to that of 1979, which was an all-time high. Compared with last year, the output of cash crops will also increase notably. Political stability and a thriving economy are the two major features of the current

rural situation. Facts show that the policy of readjustment has proved effective in agriculture and animal husbandry.

At the recent conference, Minister of Agriculture Lin Hujia said in his summary report that, in order to quicken the tempo of agricultural development, the following must be stressed:

—Further improve the various forms of responsibility system in farm production with remuneration based on output, since they are welcomed by the peasants. While upholding the principle of collectivization, the system of responsibility in production will not be changed for a long time to come.

—Strive for an all-round development of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, sideline occupations and fishery. Efforts must be made to increase the per-hectare yield of food and industrial crops and improve the quality. Next year there should be a marked increase in the output of peas and beans, soybean in particular.

—Raise the proportion of animal husbandry in the national economy. In 1980, the output value of animal husbandry accounted for only 14.2 per cent of the total agricultural output value. In developing animal husbandry, attention must be given to both pastoral and farming areas, and the state, the collective and the individual peasants should all raise animals. Households specializing in stock-breeding should be supported and encouraged.

—Actively develop rural collective enterprises. At present, the total output value, income and fixed assets of enterprises

run by people's communes and production brigades account in each case for one-third of the rural collective economy. While developing agriculture and animal husbandry, attention will be paid to enterprises for processing farm and sideline products, the building industry, commerce, catering trades, culture and recreation so as to gradually change the face of the rural areas.

Animal Husbandry in  
Inner Mongolia

In the stock-breeding year ending in June 1981, live-stock raised by the communes and production brigades in Inner Mongolia, China's largest animal husbandry base, totalled 20.38 million head. This was a net increase of 8.58 per cent over the preceding year. This year, the autonomous region has sold to the state 5.61 million head, twice as many as in the same period of last year. The herdsman themselves eat more mutton and beef, and animal products, such as hide and wool, have also increased notably. In the first eight months of this year, the region sold 5.9 per cent more wool to the state than in the whole of 1980.

Beginning from last year, with more consideration for the interests of the people, various forms of responsibility system in production have been introduced, with remuneration linked to economic results. This has raised the enthusiasm of the herdsman for production. For instance, the number of animals owned by the collective in the Xilin Gol League in the northeastern part of the region has



The sheep of a mutual-aid team in the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region.

increased by 33 per cent in the last two years. As increased production means also more animals for the herdsmen themselves, the whole league now has 782,000 head of privately owned animals, an average of 4.9 head for each person.

Inner Mongolia has a continental climate, with little rainfall and only a short frostless period. Moreover, its ground water resources are poor. Most parts of the region, therefore, are not suitable for crop cultivation. But for a long time in the past, undue emphasis was given to grain production and large tracts of forests and grassland were destroyed for growing crops. The result was quite serious. One-third of the grassland degenerated and turned sandy. While the problem of grain shortage remained unsolved, animal husbandry suffered heavy losses and the ecological equilibrium was destroyed.

In 1979, the autonomous region's Party committee adopted the policy of all-round development of animal husbandry, agriculture and forestry, with the stress on animal husbandry. Zhou Hui, its first secretary, made an inspection tour of the

grass-roots units in both the agricultural and pastoral areas to solicit the opinions of the peasants and herdsmen on improving the Party's work.

Though the region was hit by severe natural calamities in the past two years, agricultural and animal husbandry production achieved an all-round development thanks to the implementation of these policies. This year, despite a reduction of the grain-growing area by 86,000 hectares, total grain output will hit an all-time high. The output of sugar beets and oil-bearing crops, which are traditional cash crops in the region, will also increase by more than 20 per cent over that of last year when a rich harvest was reaped.

## POLITICAL

### Xinhua: Fifty Militant Years

The Xinhua News Agency celebrated its 50th anniversary at a tea party on November 10. Party and state leaders who attended spoke at the function. Also present were leading members of the Beijing press circles, old comrades who had

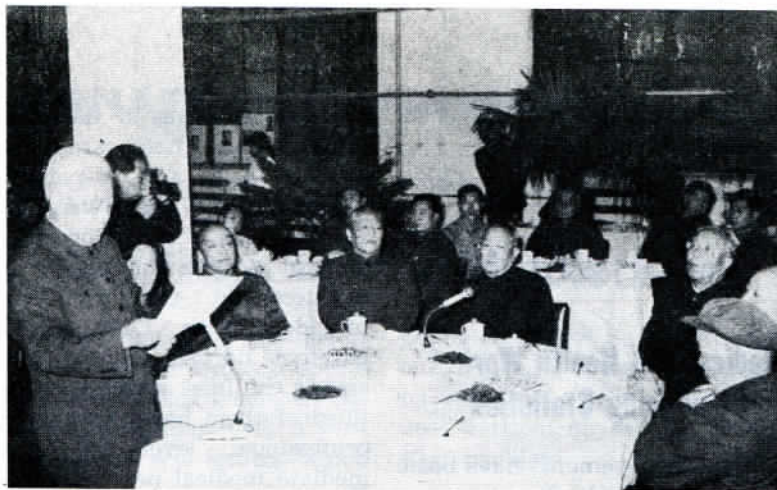
worked with the agency during the various periods as well as foreign specialists now helping in its work.

Xinhua which is a state news agency has branch offices all over the country with the exception of Taiwan, and it has 82 bureaus in various parts of the world. Every day it transmits 50,000 words to the Chinese press, radio and TV stations and about 60,000 words in Chinese, English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian to other countries. It sends telephotos to both domestic and foreign media. Feature articles in four foreign languages are also sent at regular intervals to over 100 countries. In addition it has agreements with 47 foreign wire services for the exchange of news.

The news agency was set up during the years of revolutionary wars at a revolutionary base area in east China's Jiangxi Province under the name of the Red China News Agency. When the Red Army reached northern Shaanxi Province after the Long March, it moved to Yanan, the seat of the CPC Central Committee. In 1937 it was renamed the Xinhua News Agency.

Conditions were extremely difficult during those years. Its staff members often had to work late into the night in caves or adobe houses under oil lamps, despite the fatigue of marches during the day. And they had to crank or pedal a generator to transmit news. Like everyone else in the liberated areas, they grew their own grain and spun their own yarn to make socks and sweaters.

Over the past 50 years, the Xinhua people have done a great deal of work and played an important role in the Chinese revolution and construction.



Li Xiannian (4th from right), Xi Zhongxun (5th from right), Wan Li (3rd from right) and Yang Shangkun (sixth from right) at the tea party.

In covering world news, Xinhua has attached importance to reporting the struggle of the world's people for development and progress and their fight against hegemonism, and news about the third world countries' achievements in developing their national economy and their role in international affairs.

## Professor Ma Bi Returns to Settle On the Mainland

Professor Ma Bi (Maa Bih), director of the monthly magazine *Political Review* of Taiwan, has returned to settle on the mainland.

On October 12, Professor Ma took part in the activities in Beijing commemorating the 115th anniversary of Dr. Sun Yat-sen's birthday.

Professor Ma Bi said that he had returned to the mainland in response to the call issued by Ye Jianying, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (see issue No. 40). He pledged that he would contribute to the peaceful reunification of the motherland.

Professor Ma Bi is also a special research fellow at the

general political operation department of the Taiwan armed forces, adviser to the Taiwan garrison command and permanent council member and secretary-general of the Sun Yat-sen doctrine research society.

As a noted researcher in Taiwan of *Sanmin Zhuyi* (Three People's Principles) and the doctrines of Sun Yat-sen, Professor Ma had taught in the political operation school in Taiwan for 24 years, and he had been the editor of *Political Review* for more than 10 years.

After his arrival in Beijing, he was greeted warmly by officials of the United Front Work Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. He is now reunited with his wife and children after 31 years of separation.

## FOREIGN RELATIONS

### The Fuss Over Li Shuang's Case

French newspapers, radio and television broadcasts have recently raised an uproar over the case of a Chinese woman named Li Shuang.

A former diplomat of the French Embassy in Beijing, Emmanuel Bellefroid, has more than once talked to French newspapers, radio and television stations, distorting the facts and attacking Chinese policy.

What are the facts?

Since last July Bellefroid, taking advantage of his diplomatic status, had hidden Li Shuang whom he claimed as his "fiancee" in his residence for two months. Li Shuang was detained last September because she had violated Chinese law and she was sent to be re-educated through labour for two years in accordance with the first article of the State Council's decree on re-education through labour.

This is a measure taken by the Chinese Government to re-educate and save delinquents and this case is entirely China's internal affair.

The regrettable fact is that Bellefroid and some other French people have distorted the facts and allege that China is standing in the way of Bellefroid marrying Li Shuang, that China "has made a mockery of human rights" and that China "has changed its policy" and "stifled liberalization." They even claimed that Li Shuang's case "has impaired the relations between China and France."

But Li Shuang's case has nothing to do with the issue of marriage. The Chinese Government has no objections to legitimate marriages between Chinese citizens and foreigners. In fact, a number of Chinese citizens have married foreign nationals over the past several years, and a member of French embassy staff, Christian Galliano, married a Chinese girl named Zhao Jiang last

month. The attacks by Bellefroid and others on China's handling of Li Shuang's case as an act of bringing intellectuals under "control" and "cracking down" on them are quite unwarranted.

China is committed to the socialist system, and adheres to an open policy towards foreign countries. The allegation that there is "a change of policy" and "a crackdown on liberalization" is obviously intended to create confusion.

Why should Bellefroid go to great lengths to describe the handling of a delinquent as "a change of policy"? Isn't this intended to distract attention from his own activities which are incompatible with his diplomatic status?

The Chinese Government and people treasure the friendship between the two peoples and the two countries. This is why the Chinese authorities have refrained from taking strong actions towards Bellefroid who has behaved in a way that is incompatible with his diplomatic status. And that is why the Chinese authorities have decided not to make public the facts about his activities. It is the hope of the Chinese authorities that such a need will not arise.

The Chinese media note that seldom has there been such a large-scale propaganda offensive since China and France established diplomatic relations in 1964.

Prior to the reports, not a word has been said in the Chinese press about the misinformation and comments which some French newspapers and radio broadcasts have made since last September. To use this case and try to stir up trouble is certainly against the

wish of the Chinese and French peoples.

## SOCIAL

### Medical and Health Work: Convincing Statistics

Great achievements have been obtained in medical and health work since liberation in 1949. This is particularly so in the rural areas. By the end of last year a comprehensive medical and health network had been set up in the more than 2,000 counties, 50,000 communes and most of the production brigades across the nation, serving the peasants who were deprived of medical service in the old society.

At present, there are 2,377 hospitals, 2,093 epidemic prevention stations and 1,885 maternity and child-care centres at the county level and 55,413 clinics at the commune level. About 1.485 million qualified doctors, nurses and pharmacists

are now working in the countryside and there are 1.214 million beds for in-patients, whereas in 1947 there were only 11,000 beds. A co-operative medical service has been introduced in the production brigades, with 1.463 million barefoot doctors trained from among the local peasants. One-third of them have reached the professional level of intermediate medical personnel. The service is financed for the most part by the brigades with money from the public welfare funds, and the peasants have only to pay a little sum for the medicines.

The pattern of diseases has changed in the past 32 years. Smallpox has been wiped out and bubonic plague, venereal diseases, kala-azar, relapsing fever and typhus have in the main been eliminated. Cases of schistosomiasis have dropped from over 10 million to 2.5 million and malaria from 30 million to several million.

Scientific research in the field of medicine and health has also made great progress.

**Table Showing Increase of Medical and Health Organizations and Staff in Urban and Rural Areas**

	1949	1980
Medical Network	Health organizations	3,670 180,553
	Hospital beds	80,000 1,982,000
	Professional medical and health personnel	505,000 2,798,000
	Children's hospitals	5 24
Maternity and Child-Care	Maternity and child-care hospitals	80 135
	Maternity and child-care centres	9 2,610
	Gynaecologists and pediatricians	no actual figures 50,000

*Gulf Summit***For Peace in the Middle East**

**A**FTER the second summit of the six-state Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) held in Riyadh on November 10-11, a joint communique was issued, which pointed out that the heads of the six states unanimously approved the Saudi eight-point Middle East proposal and asked Saudi Arabia to submit the proposal to the November 25 Arab League summit in Fez, Morocco. The meeting also worked out a joint plan for economic co-operation and security in the Gulf region. This meeting not only helps to promote peace and stability in the Middle East but also is of positive significance for strengthening unity and co-operation and economic development among the Gulf states.

This summit was held when there was a slight change in the situation in the Middle East. The Saudi eight-point proposal has won general support internationally, but the Israeli authorities are adamantly opposed to it, dispatching planes to violate the airspace of Saudi Arabia, threatening to invade Lebanon, refusing to return the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt and engaging in other provocative activities. They are bringing pressure to bear on the Arab countries and forcing the United States to dither about the Saudi proposal. It was against this background that the six Gulf states came out firmly in support of the Saudi proposal and decided to submit it to the Arab League summit as their proposal. This has set an example for the other Arab countries. It has upgraded the im-

portance of the Saudi proposal and will have a major influence on reaching a just and reasonable settlement of the Middle East problem.

The summit also approved one major economic agreement, which includes removing tariffs from among the GCC countries, co-ordinating their trade policies and working out a policy for joint investments. This is evidence of the Gulf Co-operation Council taking a big step towards the establishment of a common economic community in the region. The six Gulf countries are oil rich and have immense funds. Improved co-

operation and greater economic prosperity in this region will be of great importance to safeguarding the political independence of the Gulf countries.

The aims of the Gulf Co-operation Council are defence of the peace and stability in the Gulf region, stopping super-power interference in the internal affairs of countries in this region and promoting the economic development of GCC states through their joint efforts. The achievements attained by the recent summit once again prove that unity and co-operation are of immense value to the Arab countries' fight against hegemonism and Israeli expansionism.

— "Renmin Ribao" commentary (Nov. 13)

**Aggressors Turn People Off**

**B**BRIGADIER Shabzad Ahmed Wazir and 20 soldiers of the Afghan army defected on November 9 and asked Pakistan for political asylum. They said they were unwilling to kill their own people and that they would rather join the Afghan resistance guerrillas to fight the Soviet invaders. Some days earlier, troops of the Phnom Penh puppet regime in Kompong Thom mutinied and for two days they fought with tanks and artillery against the Vietnamese aggressors.

These are two events proving that aggression does not win popular support. Soviet aggression against Afghanistan and Vietnamese aggression against Kampuchea have brought untold suffering to the peoples of these two countries. Everywhere the aggressors went, they slaugh-

tered and they plundered. The aggressors have used biochemical weapons as well in their genocidal wars. No one with a shred of patriotism, a sense of justice, or who cares for his own people one little bit would serve these would-be exterminators of their nation. All patriots will sooner or later join together to fight the aggressors.

Aggression does not win hearts and minds, neither in the countries aggressed against nor in the aggressors' own countries. Many Soviet officers and soldiers have come to see that they have been deceived and are fighting for an unjust cause, which accounts for the low morale of the aggressors. Many have taken to drugs after being sent to Afghanistan. The Soviet Government has yet not

dared to let its people know what is really happening in Afghanistan. Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea has made the Vietnamese people dismayed and dissatisfied. The defection of Vietnamese air

force second lieutenant Kieu Thanh Luc and nine others to China in a military UH-1H helicopter is eloquent proof of this rising popular disapproval and dissatisfaction in Viet Nam.

—Duan Ping

## Soviet Military Threat to N. Europe

THE Soviet submarine with nuclear weapons aboard which violated Swedish territorial waters drew strong condemnation from the world. But the Soviet Government declared in its statement of November 11 that the incident occurred "owing to the malfunction of its navigational instruments" and had "absolutely nothing to do with Sweden's security and interest." Moscow ignored the Swedish Government's reasonable demand that the Soviet Government see to it that such gross violations of Swedish sovereignty do not occur again. It shows once again the ugly features of Soviet hegemonism.

As a matter of fact, the Soviet sub incident is just another case of Soviet military expansion into Northern Europe. Over many years, the Soviet Union has stepped up its military deployment in the area, enlarging military bases, dredging strategic channels and canals, building up its troop strengths and stockpiles of sophisticated military equipment. This poses a great threat to the security of the area. These Soviet military activities in Northern Europe are complemented by military expansion and infiltration in the southern flank of Europe, the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, and have the aim of exerting pressure on Europe from the south and the north, to attain domination in Europe.

### Formidable Military Deployment

The Soviet Union has built up massive forces and deployed a great number of guided missiles in the area around Northern Europe. Its military bases on the Kola Peninsula serving its navy, army and air force are the largest in the world. Its Northern Fleet, the Soviet Union's largest, operates out from Murmansk. The fleet is reported to have more than 170 submarines — two-thirds of the Soviet ICBM armed submarines — the 32,000-tons aircraft carrier *Kiev*, nuclear-powered cruisers of a new type and hundreds of combat ships. This blue-water fleet is receiving two to three new, modern vessels a year. Murmansk is ringed by Backfire bomber bases and SS-20 missiles that can hit all the North European countries and Western Europe as well. In the Baltic Sea, Warsaw Pact countries have more than 560 fighting vessels, including 6 nuclear missile launching G-class submarines as well as 14 ground and one airborne divisions (150,000 men in all). There are some 700 attack planes in the coastal areas of the Baltic Sea. Swedish defensive specialists stated not long ago that they have identified nuclear weapons aboard other Soviet ships in the Baltic Sea, a sea the Soviet Union has been advocating to turn into "a sea of peace."

Yes, it does need turning back into "a sea of peace," with the Soviets sending their warships impudently into the territorial waters of the Nordic countries and almost turning the Barents and the Norwegian Sea into Soviet "inland seas" and the Baltic into a "Russian lake." A British newspaper has pointed out that once war breaks out, the Soviet Northern Fleet would join the Soviet Baltic fleet to seize control of Norwegian ports in a two-pronged attack. Soviet forces would also move through the three passages between Greenland, Iceland, the Faeroes and the Shetlands to dominate the east Atlantic to thwart US endeavours to reinforce Europe by sea.

### Aggression and Expansion

Relying on its increasingly growing military power, the Soviet Union is constantly violating the territory, airspace and sovereignty of the Nordic countries. An estimated 150 sorties were flown by Soviet aircraft over the air defence area of Iceland in 1979, and 160 sorties in 1980. Soviet military planes also overfly the Baltic region westward in practice runs close to Copenhagen, capital of Denmark. North European countries have often discovered unidentified submarines in their waters, 17 times by Sweden alone since last year. Soviet military exercises with North European countries as the imagined enemy grow in frequency and in scale. Incomplete statistics show that there have been six such exercises since June last year. The latest combined sea, land and air manoeuvre was the largest held by the Soviet Union in Northern Europe since World War II. Some 100,000 troops and 140 ships were involved. The Soviet Union also infiltrates large

numbers of agents into the North European countries to collect military intelligence and carry out subversion and sabotage. It resorts to various underhanded means to try and nibble away territories and territorial waters of the North European countries. The Soviet Union obdurately lays claim to 150,000 square kilometres of the continental shelf of the Barents Sea which Norway challenges. In negotiations with Sweden, the Soviet Union has tried to push its continental shelf right up to the coast of Gotland. The Soviet Union has even carried out missile tests in "disputed waters" north of Norway. Like the colonialists of old the Soviet Union has tried to push out and grab others' territory. It has tried to annex the Spitsbergen Islands of Norway.

### Hypocritical

The Soviet Union has tried for many years and in many ways to make itself out to be the defender of European peace, repeatedly declaring that it is concerned about the "peace" and "security" of Northern Europe and that it wants to develop "friendship" and "good neighbourly relations" with these countries. Not long ago, the Soviet Union expressed once again its willingness to "guarantee" the security of these non-nuclear countries in the capacity of a nuclear power. But Soviet activities in Northern Europe, including the recent Soviet submarine incident in Sweden, have shown to the people of Northern Europe and the rest of the world that what the Soviet Union professes is never what it does.

— Wu Yingchun

## Who Should Be UN Secretary-General?

### Report From the United Nations

THE selection of a new United Nations Secretary-General is by no means, as it seems to be, only a contest between Tanzanian Foreign Minister Ahmed Salim and the incumbent UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim. It is in fact a political struggle waged by third world countries against the manipulation of UN affairs by two superpowers and for equal rights.

The election of the Secretary-General beginning October 27 has been deadlocked after eight rounds of voting, with each of the two candidates vetoed by one Permanent Member of the Security Council.

Many people predicted before the election a victory for Wald-

heim, since he has secure backing from both the United States and the Soviet Union. As a rule in the history of the Secretary-General's election, anyone who was favoured by the two superpowers would be eventually elected, even though lesser member countries felt dissatisfied.

However, such practices no longer suit today's changed situation, nor can the third world countries tolerate the manipulation of the election.

As early as last June, a summit meeting of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which consists of more than 50 member countries, decided to recommend Salim as a candidate for the Secretary-Generalship. Last September, nearly 100 non-

aligned countries adopted a resolution at a meeting in New York to support Salim. When Salim met setbacks in the competition, the African countries and many other third world countries reaffirmed their support for him. Some have indicated that they will not recommend their own candidates so long as Salim stands for election.

The non-aligned countries account for nearly two-thirds of the 157 UN member countries and the African countries one-third. No one can neglect this reality or deny the significant role these countries are playing in the UN and other international affairs.

In contrast to this significant role, only one of the four UN Secretaries-General since the founding of the organization was from Asia and the remaining three were all Europeans. Therefore, the third world countries, African and Latin American countries in particular, long for their candidate to be chosen as the Secretary-General.

It is to be regretted that their aspiration has met with opposition from the two superpowers.

The United States has consistently cast its veto against Salim. The Soviet Union has profited from the US approach and thus abstained. Its shift has revealed the true colours of the self-styled "natural ally" of the third world. One of the African countries' representatives said that he did not think the Soviet Union a true friend, despite his country's good relations with the Soviet Union, because it did not stand by African countries on the selection of the Secretary-General. One leader of an

(Continued on p. 31.)

## World Volleyball Tournament

# Chinese Women's Volleyball Team Wins World Cup Championship

**T**HE Chinese women's volleyball team captured the World Cup by winning all seven of its matches at the world volleyball tournament held in Japan. The State Council on November 16 sent a message congratulating the team on its victory.

Yuan Weimin, coach of the Chinese team, was awarded the "Best Coach" trophy. Sun Jin-fang, captain of the Chinese team, was awarded the "Best Player," "Outstanding Player" and "Best Setter" trophies. The main spiker Lang Ping was awarded the "Outstanding Player" trophy.

The Japanese women's volleyball team was the runner-up and the Soviet team placed third. The tournament, which took place from November 6 to 16, culminated in an extraordinarily tense match between the Chinese and Japanese teams.

Several countries entered strong teams in the tournament. The Chinese team's stirring

championship was its first in the World Cup series.

The Chinese team won its first victory on November 7 by defeating Brazil, the South American champion, 3:0. On the following day, the Chinese team met the Soviet team, which has been a world gold medallist eight times. Using "fast play" tactics, the Chinese team took the first game 15:4 in nine minutes. In the thrill-packed second game, the Chinese players came from behind to win 16:14. The Chinese players displayed splendid form and won the third game 15:0.

The Chinese team continued its winning streak during the next two days by defeating south Korea and Bulgaria, the European champion, in straight games.

On November 13, the Chinese women's team took on the Cuban team — the 1978 World Champion. They were immediately locked in an intense net contest. The Chinese team outspiked the Cuban team in three straight games and scored its fifth victory without conceding a game.

### Defeating the US Team

On November 15, the Chinese were matched against the American team, champion of Central and North America. The US team is noted for its "powerful attack, high percentage of point-scoring services, spiking, net blocking and a solid defence at the backlines." Moreover, it has made rapid progress in recent years

The coach and the players congratulating each other after the prize-awarding ceremony.



and beat the Japanese team 3:2. The US team obviously posed a great threat to the Chinese team. The match was, therefore, a showdown clash to determine which team would advance to capture the much-coveted title.

Both teams went all out in their efforts to take the initiative at the very outset. In the opening game, the US team made a good start by holding the Chinese squad under pressure. The US spikers Flora Hyman and Rita Crockett helped the US establish an early 8:4 lead. At this juncture, the Chinese coach requested a time-out to give Lang Ping and Cao Huiying instructions on how to block Hyman's powerful attacks. The Chinese team then proceeded to score one point after another and eventually stormed back to take the first game 15:8.

The US team won the second game 15:13. The third game was taken by the Chinese squad 15:11. But the US team evened the score by taking the fourth game. The court-side atmosphere was tense.

## China's Volleyball Teams

THE Chinese women's and men's volleyball teams have achieved remarkable success in world-class competitions during recent years.

Their success has not come easy. It results from long years of hard work and dedication.

The sport, which originated in the United States in 1895, was introduced into China as early as 1905, but it did not begin to catch on in a big way until the 1950s.

Since that time, China's national teams have contributed a number of important changes to the art and tactics of the game. These include the "fast play" tactics of the 50s and the blocking and "spike after delayed take-offs" and "feint spikes" of the 60s.

The fast tactical game used by Chinese national teams during recent years has attracted much favourable comment.

### The Women's Team

The women's team is composed of 12 players who average 23 years in age and 1.78m in height. It is Asia's tallest women's team and

In the decisive fifth game, the Chinese team took the initiative with a powerful attack and net blocking. The US squad began to slump and was soon without any hope of regaining its initial brilliance. The final game ended 15:6 in favour of the Chinese team.

### Gruelling Final Match

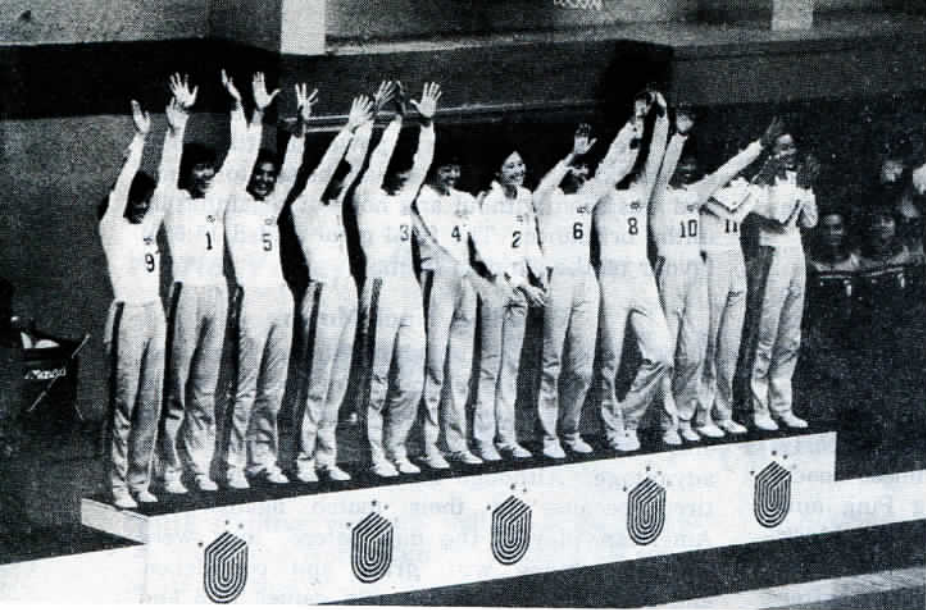
On November 16, the Chinese team met the Japanese squad, champion of the last World Cup. The Japanese players are very talented and experienced. They also had the home court advantage. Although the Chinese players were tired because of their match against the American players the day before, they were spirited playing with grace and confidence, and took the first and second games 15:8 and 15:7. Many onlookers assumed at that point that they would take the match with little difficulty. But the tenacious Japanese squad evened the score at two-all by winning the third and fourth games 15:12 and 15:7. The decisive fifth game proved to be a gruelling test of will. The score stood at 13:13, 14:14 and 15:15 before the Chinese players prevailed and won 17:15. □

has a reputation for being balanced, skilful and strong.

Each player is skilled at both defence and offence. In the past, the team was rather weak in defence, but this shortcoming has in the main been eliminated.

Sun Jinfang, the team's captain, has been called its "soul." She is an all-round player, good at both offence and defence. She also has a strong sense of tactics, is cool-headed on the court and consistently makes correct judgments during the heat of competitions. She also possesses the unique ability to pass the ball to different heights and positions so that spikers can smash it with high proficiency. Last March, she was cited as the "Best Player" at the Xianggang (Hongkong) Asian Zone Volleyball preliminaries.

Lang Ping, the team's chief spiker, also received a "Best Player" award. She is quite tall (1.84m) and her spikes are characterized by quick, well-placed and powerful punches. Her straight or diagonal smashes are high scoring and often leave her opponents powerless. At the Second Asian Women's Volleyball Championship in 1979, where the Chinese women's team played the Japanese and south Korean



The Chinese women's volleyball team captured the championship at the 11th World University Games.

teams, Lang Ping's percentage of hits reached 70 per cent. She was called a "new weapon of the Chinese women's volleyball team." Last year she was voted one of the 10 best players in China. In January 1981 she was awarded the "Best Offensive Player Trophy" at the Second Bremen International Women's Volleyball Invitational Tournament in West Germany.

The Chinese women's team also has Zhou Xiaolan, who is good at both offence and defence, Zhang Rongfang, who has been called an "awe-inspiring player," and some other excellent members.

Yuan Weimin, head coach of the women's team and one-time captain of the Chinese men's team, participated in over 200 international matches during the 16 years before he became coach in 1976. Yuan knows that modern volleyball requires a perfect combination of skill, physical fitness, body height and speed. He and his team have been working hard to attain these goals and to create a unique style of their own. During the practice sessions, he sees to it that every player develops her own tour de force so as to give variety to the team's tactics.

Since the 1970s, the Chinese women's team has excelled in a number of international tournaments and bilateral events. In November 1977, the Chinese women's team placed fourth at the World Cup Volleyball Tournament held in Japan. At the Second Asian Women's Volleyball Championship held in Xianggang in October 1979, the Chinese women's team won six straight matches, defeating the Japanese, six times world champions, and the south Koreans, who finished third in the 1977 World

Cup, qualifying for the finals of the 22nd Olympic Games.

Since the 1980s, the team has improved both on attack and defence. In March 1980, it visited the United States and won six of the seven matches. In May the same year, the team defeated the United States and Japan in Nanjing to win the International Women's Volleyball Invitational Tournament. During its trip to Japan last November, the team won all the seven matches played, including two against the Japanese national team.

The Chinese women's team got off to a very

good start in 1981, winning the Bremen International Tournament by defeating Cuba, Brazil, Belgium and their West German hosts. The team went on to capture the crown at the Asian Zone World Cup preliminaries last March in Xianggang and qualified for the finals in Tokyo this November. Now the team is one of the five big powers in the world, the others being the US, Japanese, Soviet and Cuban teams.

### The Men's Team

The Chinese men's team is known for its fast attacking tactics. In recent years the team has devised "forward or backward flight" and spike after an "extra step" or "delayed take-off" to upset opponent's timing.

The team boasts the world's outstanding spikers, Wang Jiawei and Cao Ping. Shen Fulin is one of the world's best setters. The team averages 24 years in age and 1.92 m in height.

Dai Tingbin, the head coach, and Rong Zhicong, the assistant coach, have mastered volleyball theory and they are daring to break new ground. Under their guidance, the Chinese men's team has rapidly improved its strength and achieved success. For example, after coming in fifth at the World Cup Volleyball Tournament in 1977 and seventh at the World Men's Volleyball Championships in 1978, the team won the Asian Volleyball Championship in 1979, defeating such world-class teams as the Japanese and south Koreans. Last March, the team won the World Cup Asian Zone Volleyball preliminaries in Xianggang to represent Asia in the Tokyo finals.

**Two Favourable Factors.** The Chinese men's and women's teams have joined the ranks of the world's most advanced teams in just a few years. Apart from the hard work of the coaches and players, two factors are responsible.

First, the popularization of volleyball in China. During the past three decades, volleyball has become a nationwide sport. It is now played not only in big cities, but also in the countryside, and offshore islands.

Each year the government spends a lot of money on volleyball tournaments and new facilities. Volleyball training courses are provided for teenagers as well as students at physical culture institutes. The government devotes special attention to the training of young players. There are some 360,000 junior volleyballers receiving training in the nation's spare-time sports schools.

Second, Chinese players have had wide contacts with volleyball teams from various regions of the world. The Chinese Volleyball Association,



The Chinese men's volleyball team finished first at the Fourth World Cup Asian Zone volleyball preliminaries.

tion, which was founded in 1953, is a member of the International Volleyball Federation and the Asian Volleyball Confederation. Under its auspices, Chinese players have had wide contacts with sportsmen and sportswomen from over 100 countries and regions. These contacts have helped Chinese players learn the strong points of volleyball teams from various countries and acquire valuable practical experience. □

## Economic Development Problems Facing African Countries

by Li Qiling

*The African continent is rich, its peoples are intelligent and hard working and flourishing civilizations have existed, but in the last few centuries imperialist aggression and colonialist plunder have reduced the people on this continent to a state of poverty and backwardness.*

*Most African countries today have regained their independence and some of their economic rights, but the forces of colonialism and racism still have a grip on this huge continent. African countries are still the victims of various forms of economic exploitation; the unequal economic relationship between the developing countries of Africa and the developed countries still exists.*

*This is the principal obstacle holding back the economic development of the African countries and also the main obstacle to these countries attaining genuine independence. The following article explains why it is imperative that the unequal North-South relations must be changed and the establishment of a new international economic order has become an outstanding and pressing issue in the struggle of the people of the world today. — Ed.*

*The author is Assistant Research Fellow of the Institute of West Asian and African Studies of the Academy of Social Sciences*

**A**FRICAN countries<sup>1</sup> have made good progress in developing their economies since their independence. They have basically got rid of imperialist political control, weakened to varying degrees imperialism's hold and recovered some or most of their economic rights. At the same time, they have been actively building up their national economies, gradually raised productivity as well as the share of national capital in the national economy. The number of African technical and managerial personnel has grown. Economic co-operation and trade relations between African countries and foreign countries have also developed. However, these developing African countries have run into difficulties and are facing many problems.

### **I. Slow Rate of Economic Development And Low Per-Capita Income**

As a result of the long years of plunder and exploitation by the colonial powers, the economic foundations of the African countries are extremely weak. After winning independence their economies remained to some degree under the control of their former rulers, and are very susceptible to the periodic economic crises of the Western developed countries. Various intrinsic causes within the African countries themselves also have contributed to their rather slow economic development.

At the Organization of African Unity Summit held in Monrovia in 1979, Edem Kodjo, Secretary-General of the OAU, said that from 1960 to 1975, the annual economic growth rate of the oil-importing countries of Africa was at an average of 4 per cent, dropping in recent years to 2.2 per cent. According to a study by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa of the 1960-75 period, nine African countries achieved relatively high economic growth rates. The annual average growth rates of these nine were between 5.8 per cent and 6.9 per cent. They include the four petroleum-exporting countries of Algeria, Gabon, Libya and Nigeria and five others, the Congo, Ivory Coast, Sao Tome and Principe, Tunisia, and Zambia. During this period, the per-capita income for these countries was above 300 U.S. dollars. According to 1979 World Bank figures, the per-capita income in 1977 for these countries had risen to over 400 US dollars. During the 1960-



Tanzanian-made matlocks.

75 period, the annual economic growth rate for 22 other African countries was about 1.4 per cent; the per-capita income was only between 100 and 300 US dollars. During the 1960-70 period, the annual growth rate of per-capita real income for the African countries was 2 per cent, and 2.5 per cent between 1970 and 1974. This was lower than the world average growth rate.

So, except for the oil-exporting countries and a few other countries, the economic growth rate and the growth rate of per-capita income in the African countries went up very little and a downturn was discernible in the 1970s.

### **II. Industrial Development Level Very Low**

For centuries the African countries have seen their natural resources and raw materials plundered by colonial powers. African countries are poor and backward and engage mainly in agriculture. The industries of African countries are extremely backward and generally enterprises and mines are set up by imperialist countries to produce primary products and to process agricultural products for the imperialist powers. Although African countries have established some industries to build up their national economies after independence, the industrial output value contributes very little to the national gross output value.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization defines countries as industrialized if their manufacturing industries contribute 30 per cent or more to their domestic gross output value, semi-industrialized if the share is 20 to 30 per cent, industrializing if it is 10 to 20 per cent, and non-industrialized if the manufacturing industries contribute less than 10 per cent. By this standard, most African countries in

1960, with a few exceptions, are typically non-industrialized countries. In 1960, the output value of manufacturing industries in African countries made up only 8.6 per cent of the domestic gross output value. By 1970, the African countries as a whole began to join the ranks of the industrializing countries, with their manufacturing industries contributing 11.5 per cent to the domestic gross output value. By contrast, however, many African countries, particularly the 18 poorest countries, were still non-industrialized. In the 10 years from 1960-70, the output value of manufacturing industries of the African countries rose by a mere 2.4 per cent of the domestic gross output value. At present, the portion in the national gross output value from manufacturing industries in the African countries has increased somewhat but, except for Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Ivory Coast, Zaire, Kenya and Nigeria, whose manufacturing industries produce more than 10 per cent of the national gross output value and where nearly 80 per cent of the continent's industries are concentrated, it is still below 10 per cent. Most manufacturing industries in Africa are branches of light industry, such as food, textile and others processing primary products.

The extreme backwardness of industry and agriculture coupled with stagnant farm production in recent years have caused a steadily larger influx of rural inhabitants into the urban centres to create serious unemployment and semi-unemployment problems in Africa. According to a study made by the International Labour Organization, the total number of unemployed and semi-unemployed in all African countries makes up 45 per cent of the work force.

### **III. Food Production Lags Behind Population Growth**

There is a grave food-grain shortage in the world and the problem is more serious in Africa.

Agricultural production in the African countries has made little headway in recent years. The growth rate has been very low. From 1970 to 1977, the average growth rate for agriculture was a low 1.9 per cent and per-capita production has fallen. In some oil-producing countries as well as in some other countries in Africa, there has been a decline. For some years in succession drought, insect pests and war have wrought havoc on agriculture, especially grain production. The regions most

affected are the Sahel region, some parts of east and southern Africa. In addition, the thrust of agricultural production in Africa has always been mainly on developing the traditional cash crops for export, with very little heed to developing grain production. This explains why grain production in Africa has not been able to match the rate of population growth.

In the 60s, annual average population growth rate for Africa was 2.4 per cent, while the annual growth rate of grain was 2.7 per cent. Then in the first five years of the 1970s, the annual population growth rate rose to an average of 2.6 per cent, rising to 2.7 per cent in the next few years. It is estimated that the



**Copper-ware shop in Lusaka.**

increase in 1979 was 2.9 per cent. According to the report at the tenth session on the African region of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the annual growth rate of African grain production from 1970 to 1977 was only 1.3 per cent, half the growth rate for grain attained in the preceding decade and much lower than in other developing regions. During this period, each African got 1.4 per cent less grain each year.

In the 60s, Africa was basically self-sufficient in grain, but the rate of self-sufficiency was constantly lowered in the 70s. From 1972 to 1974, the self-sufficiency rate for food-grain in Africa was only 90 per cent and has been falling continually. The FAO estimates that

*(Continued on p. 28.)*

## Confident and Hopeful

by Our Special Correspondent Hua Wen

THE well-known stateswoman, President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies and a leading member of the Communist Party of Italy Nilde Jotti, who visited China this autumn, is the widow of Togliatti, former Secretary-General of the Italian Communist Party.

This veteran stateswoman spent 10 days visiting Beijing, Shanghai, Xian and other places of interest and before leaving for home, she said to Chinese friends: "My party and I want to tell you that we are convinced that the Chinese people will certainly be able to overcome difficulties of various kinds and build up their country into a prosperous and modernized country."

Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping met her when she was in Beijing.

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### Good Sense Will Prevail

President Jotti was in China at an important moment. On September 30, the day after her arrival in Beijing, Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee Ye Jianying met Xinhua correspondents and issued a major statement concerning Taiwan's return to the motherland and the realization of peaceful reunification. During her meeting with Deng Xiaoping, she asked him to elaborate on this question.

"The return of Taiwan to the motherland is not an issue raised today. Concerning Taiwan's return to the motherland, we must proceed from reality, we must put forward reasonable policies. What's the use of raising conditions unacceptable to Taiwan? . . . The nine points concerning Taiwan's return to the motherland and the realization of peaceful reunification enunciated by Chairman Ye Jianying are an expression of our sincerity. There is nothing in it that Taiwan can find unacceptable," said Deng.

"Chiang Ching-kuo and I were school-mates," Deng Xiaoping went on. "We were at the Sun Yat-sen University in Moscow together.

If the reunification of our motherland is completed in our generation, we will be remembered in history."

On many occasions during her visit, President Jotti commented favourably on the Chinese leaders' proposal for the peaceful reunification of the country. "This is a very bold proposal," she said. "You believe that sense will prevail. I am convinced that the cause of China's reunification will ultimately be realized."

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### Chinese Women's Status Changed

Nilde Jotti has fought for women's rights in Italy for many years. She had been sympathetic and concerned about the tragedy of the Chinese women in old China, so she was naturally interested in the changed status of the Chinese women.

Kang Keqing, Chairperson of the All-China Women's Federation, met with President Nilde Jotti and had a most friendly talk. Later, President Jotti told me: "I was very happy to meet this Chinese woman leader who had been on the world-famous Long March." The two, who have long been prominent in the women's liberation movement, talked about birth control, family relations, the defence of women's rights and other issues. Kang told Jotti the Chinese Government's proposal of one child per couple was quite effective in the cities, but was meeting with many difficulties in the countryside. Jotti said that she was also for smaller families, because too many children inevitably pose a heavy burden on the women. "The natural population growth rate in Italy was zero last year," she said.

During her visit, the Italian visitor saw for herself that the men and women in China enjoyed equal social rights. But after a visit to the Shanghai Malu People's Commune, she challenged the local stipulation that the pension of a retired woman commune member was two



Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping and Nilde Iotti,  
President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies.

yuan less than for a retired male commune member. Speaking of her impressions about the status of the Chinese women, she said: "My impression is positive. I know how the Chinese women fared in the old society. During the visit I discovered that there has been a big change in the status of the Chinese women since liberation. The change is much greater than for the women of Europe after the war."

### Let's Forget the Past

When Deng Xiaoping met Nilde Iotti at the Great Hall of the People on October 2, he recalled meeting her in 1957. Iotti remembered the occasion. It was in Moscow. "I remember seeing Chairman Mao and you. Chairman Mao delivered an important speech at the meeting. I still have the minutes of that meeting," Deng said: "I have said to leading comrades of the Italian Communist Party that when our two Parties had quarrelled, some of our Chinese comrades' viewpoints were wrong, but that did not mean that the Italian comrades were correct in everything. Let's forget about the things we had quarrelled over."

"The Italian Communist Party is a good Party, with its own unique viewpoints," said Deng. "It has great influence among the people. We greatly respect this Party. The Chi-

nese Communist Party has its good points, too. Our two Parties have one thing in common, and that is, we don't want others to tell us what to do with a stick. Marxists should be good at raising and solving questions in accordance with the concrete conditions of their own country. Otherwise, they will not be able to win the support of the people, and win victory in the revolution."

President Iotti told me later that she was very glad

to hear what the Vice-Chairman had said. She said she had told Deng Xiaoping then that quarrels in human history and Party history should be forgotten and that the Communist Party of Italy has always cherished friendly sentiments towards the Chinese Communist Party and had followed with interest the struggles of the Chinese Party and its successes.

Nilde Iotti spoke highly of the role China is playing in the international arena. She believed that mankind is confronted by a grave danger. The most destructive nuclear forces in this era were concentrated in Europe, making it the most likely place for war. She said: "Faced with this reality, it is dangerous to let only the two superpowers decide things that concern the whole world. The new historical stage which has begun requires that this situation must come to an end. China, Europe and the third world must be allowed to play a positive part in making policy-decisions in world politics. At all times and in all places, the independence and sovereignty of various countries and the principle of self-determination for the peoples of the world must be confirmed and defended."

Time and again the Italian visitor stressed that she was sure China would be able to overcome its various problems and become an advanced power, playing a larger role in defending world peace. □

## Had "Cultural Revolution" Mass Support?

*Xi Xuan, a guest writer for "Beijing Review," answers some of our readers' questions as follows. — Ed.*

**Question:** The 10-year "cultural revolution" spread all over China and involved hundreds of millions of people. Didn't a political movement with such long duration and on such gigantic scale have mass support?

**Answer:** An analysis should be made of this question. First of all, it is necessary to clearly define "mass support." Comrade Mao Zedong said it all: "The right task, policy and style of work invariably conform with the demands of the masses at a given time and place and invariably strengthen our ties with the masses, and the wrong task, policy and style of work invariably disagree with the demands of the masses at a given time and place and invariably alienate us from the masses." (*On Coalition Government*, April 24, 1945.) That is to say, a social movement (or a principle, policy, etc.) is bound to win mass support if it is in the vital interest of the people and gives expression to their fundamental demands. Failing that, it will have no mass support at all.

The principal contradiction between the working class and the bourgeoisie was resolved in the main with the basic completion of socialist transformation of private ownership of the means of production in 1956. Thus the major contradiction in China at that time, as pointed out by the Resolution of the Eighth National Congress of the Communist Party of China on the Political Report of the Central Committee (1956), became that "between the people's need for rapid economic and cultural development and the inability of our present economy and culture to meet that need." The vital interest and the fundamental demand of the Chinese people, therefore, is to develop social productive forces, bring about industrialization and gradually meet the people's increasing material and cultural needs.

After the Eighth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, China entered a new

decade of all-round socialist construction. Although errors were committed in our economic and construction work during that period, the concerted efforts of the whole Party and the people throughout the country saw China through the serious difficulties of 1959-61. In 1965, the year prior to the "cultural revolution," national economic development reached the highest level the People's Republic had witnessed since its birth. At that time, the country's social life was stable, production grew apace and the people were quite satisfied. Then in 1966, the "cultural revolution" began, which instantly interrupted the sound development of economy and culture, and plunged the whole nation into 10 years of social upheaval. Thus the people's fundamental interests were jeopardized. This "revolution" was devoid of mass support although it involved large numbers of people.

**Q:** If the "cultural revolution" was not in the interests of the people, then why did it attract so many?

**A:** As I see it there were two main reasons.

First, the "cultural revolution" was initiated and led personally by Comrade Mao Zedong, who was highly esteemed for his great contributions to the Chinese revolution. But the esteem gradually developed into a personality cult. Li Biao, who had presided over the day-to-day work of the Military Commission of the Party Central Committee since 1961, had an axe to grind and did all he could to exaggerate Mao Zedong's personal role. As a result, the personality cult spread unchecked until it reached its pinnacle during the "cultural revolution." In 1966, Chairman Mao called on the nation to carry out the "cultural revolution" and "bombard the headquarters." The call was issued in the form of a Party Central Committee decision. The broad masses of cadres and people knew very little about the "revolution," but out of their confidence in the Party and Comrade Mao Zedong, they plunged themselves into the movement in their hundreds of millions in the initial stage of the "revolution."



Hundreds of thousands of people gathered in Tian An Men Square to pay tribute to the late Premier Zhou and vent their anger against the gang of four.

Second, the people held justified grudges against bureaucratism and other undesirable tendencies in the Party and government and, in their thirst for transformation, took part in the "cultural revolution" which they thought was the way to curb these tendencies.

However, from the very beginning of the "cultural revolution," the majority of the people were opposed to the ultra-"Left" way of doing things. Particularly unpopular was the policy of indiscriminately overthrowing all cadres and disrupting the regular order of the political life of the Party and state, as well as disrupting China's economic and cultural life. The people's doubts about the "cultural revolution" finally turned into conscious actions to counteract it. But those who took such actions soon found themselves branded "royalists" or "conservatives" and came under heavy fire. Many others adopted a wait-and-see attitude towards the factional struggles and later violence between mass organizations, only to be accused of being "fence sitters" or of "standing aloof." As time went by, more and more people turned against the "cultural revolution."

**Q:** By what social force could the "cultural revolution" last for a whole decade?

**A:** At last, only those who called themselves "rebels" were left in the "mass movement," while justice-minded cadres and people quitted in increasing numbers. Many of the "rebels" were young people who knew little about the past and present of the Party and state and who participated in the "cultural revolution" with a quasi-religious zest without really understand-

ing what they were doing. After many twists and turns, it began to dawn on them that the "cultural revolution" was of a destructive nature and that instead of freeing society of undesirable tendencies, it was spawning serious consequences. So they, too, quitted the "rebeling organizations" one after another. This brought about another radical change in the make-up of these organizations, until adventurers, speculators, those who sold themselves out for political purposes and other dregs of society became the basic political force the "cultural revolution" could rely on. These people were the social foundation for the Lin Biao and Jiang Qing counter-revolutionary cliques.

**Q:** People now accuse Lin Biao, Jiang Qing and company of committing towering crimes. Why could a handful of people like them throw a vast country into disorder?

**A:** This is because, for a period of time, they won Chairman Mao's favour and controlled the leadership of the "cultural revolution." The central cultural revolution group actually replaced the supreme leading organ of the Party, the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee. They maintained control of this bureau after the Ninth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party was held in 1969. They concocted the reactionary slogan of "all-round dictatorship" and exercised fascist tyranny in places under their control. As a result, Party organizations at various levels stopped functioning and Party members were deprived of their rights. In addition, the Constitution and state law were thrown overboard; citizens' personal

freedom and other civil rights were threatened. Violent strife spread far and wide; large numbers of people were falsely charged, arrested, detained or interrogated; and great harm was done to the cause of socialism. Though small in number, Lin Biao, Jiang Qing and company had potential ability for manoeuvres. Contrary to any social revolution which means the majority versus the minority, the "cultural revolution" became one in which a very few people were against the majority.

**Q:** Why didn't cadres and masses who were opposed to the "cultural revolution" rise against it?

**A:** The fact is that they did rise against it. In the whole process there were people who stepped forward to combat the wrong practices of the "cultural revolution." For example, at the onset of the "cultural revolution," on May 25, 1966, what was called "the nation's first Marxist-Leninist big-character poster" appeared in Beijing University. It accused the university Party committee and the Beijing municipal Party committee of being "anti-Party, anti-socialist sinister gangs," but it was instantly rejected by students and faculty members. Within half a day, 1,500 big-character posters were written to criticize it, and many students and teachers debated with the authors. The opposition was muzzled only after *Renmin Ribao* — the voice of the Party Central Committee — published articles extolling this big-character poster.

The majority of high-ranking Party leaders also grew suspicious about the "cultural revolution" and acted to counter it. Their accusers claimed they had very poor understanding of the "revolution" and their leadership was far from conscientious and effective. The "cultural revolution" came up against serious obstacles at its beginning, and Red Guards had to be dispatched from Beijing to big cities across the land to "kindle the flame" and encourage the local people to "rebel."

Some of the top Party leaders openly voiced their opposition to the "cultural revolution" in spite of extreme pressure. At meetings held around February 1967, a number of leading comrades of the Political Bureau and the Military Commission censured in one voice the wrong practices of the "cultural revolution" and the perverse actions of Lin Biao, Jiang Qing and company who were

stirring up the evil wind to oppose the Party leadership, overthrow veteran cadres and attack the army. This incident was later called the "February adverse current." In 1972, Comrade Zhou Enlai proposed to criticize the ultra-"Left" trend of thought in an effort to correct wrong practices of the "cultural revolution." In 1975, when Comrade Deng Xiaoping was administering the day-to-day affairs of the Party Central Committee, he did much to put things back in order and correct the mistakes of the "cultural revolution," and he waged a tit-for-tat struggle against Jiang Qing and her followers. The majority of veteran cadres who had been reinstated in their leading posts tried their best to cushion the losses incurred by the "cultural revolution"; they did everything possible to keep things going in various sectors of the national economy and various enterprises and factories in order to provide the basic conditions for a normal social life. In this way they were also counteracting the "cultural revolution."

Countless ordinary people rejected the "cultural revolution." In January 1967, for instance, when Zhang Chunqiao and his henchmen were scheming to take over Party and government leadership in Shanghai, a number of workers and students put up a big-character poster entitled, "Bombarding Zhang Chunqiao." In July 1967, confrontations between the masses and the "rebels" came to a head in central China's Wuhan. Xie Fuzhi and Wang Li (members of the central cultural revolution group) rushed to back the Wuhan "rebels," but were confronted instead by the masses of angry local people who opposed and greatly outnumbered the "rebels."

Under extremely difficult conditions, Zhou Enlai strove to minimize the effect of the losses caused by the "cultural revolution." He protected many cadres and ordinary people from persecution by the gang of four, who took advantage of the "cultural revolution" and did every evil. The Tian An Men incident of April 1976 touched off a nationwide movement in which hundreds of thousands of people paid homage to Premier Zhou a year after his death, and vented their anger against the gang of four and the "cultural revolution."

Thanks to the support of the populace, the Party Central Committee smashed the gang of four in October 1976 and has since been leading the nation to overcome the aftermaths of the "cultural revolution" in all areas of endeavour.

□

# China's System of Community Mediation

by Our Correspondent Zhou Zheng

*A large portion of China's civil disputes and minor criminal cases are resolved by community mediation committees. As a result, they seldom get to the courts.*

*This system, which has its roots in ancient community traditions, has become an increasingly important component in the nation's legal system during recent years. Many visitors to China express surprise and admiration upon first being introduced to the system.*

*The following special feature presents the mediation system and provides information on the manner in which it works. — Ed.*

## The Mediation Committee

THE mediation system operates under the direction of the people's governments, benefited also from advice and guidance provided by the law courts. In the cities, mediation committees are set up under the neighbourhood committees. In the countryside, they function as units of production brigades, which are usually organized on the basis of villages.

Mediation committees are usually composed of 5 to 11 elected members who serve without pay. Elections are held once every two years and sitting members can be re-elected. Committee members who do not measure up to the requirements of the job can be removed and replaced at any time.

According to provisions of the "Temporary Organizational Rules of the People's Mediation Committee," issued by the Government Administration Council in 1954, all committee work must be carried out in accordance with the government's policies and decrees. In addition

to mediating civil disputes and minor criminal cases, mediation committees are also responsible for conducting legal and moral education as well as propaganda. Since they are neither judicial nor administrative organs, they only have the right to persuade, educate and recommend.

Mediation is not an inevitable or required procedure for persons involved in disputes. Moreover, it cannot be used to impede people's attempts to get cases tried in formal courts. Those whose claims are rejected by mediation committees retain the right to seek redress in formal court hearings and in cases where committees make incorrect judgments, their decisions can be overturned by the courts.

China had at least 810,000 mediation committees in operation in 1980. These included 5.75 million mediators, who handled 6.12 million cases, about 11.8 times the number of cases handled in formal court pro-

ceedings during the same year. The number of committees increased in 1981. In addition to providing a valuable community service, the committees also serve the purpose of relieving the nation's courts of responsibility for processing cases which would otherwise prove time-consuming.

The practice of solving difficulties and disputes through consultation and mediation has existed for a very long time among China's working people. This is partially due to the fact that in the past reactionary governments and unjust courts frequently exploited working people. As a result, people tended to avoid the courts by turning to elderly members of their communities and fair-minded friends in order to resolve disputes.

The Chinese Communist Party inherited this fine tradition and has attempted to handle cases in accordance with existing community practices. From 1941 to 1949, in the Shanxi-Chahar-Hebei Border Region, the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region, the Shanxi-Hebei-Shandong-Henan Border Region and other revolutionary bases, the Party issued instructions and decrees concerning people's mediation work. These promulgations played a positive role in strengthening unity among the people, consolidating revolutionary bases and winning victories in the revolutionary wars.

Since the founding of New China in 1949, the mediation system has been expanded. De-

tailed regulations, instructions and methods for mediating civil disputes have been issued in many provinces. At the Third

National Judicial Work Conference in 1953, the Party decided that people's mediation committees should be established

throughout the nation. The 1954 rules clearly defined the nature, tasks, organization, discipline, working methods and principles to be used in mediation work.

ple on the nine mediation committees is either a housewife or retired female worker.

"Most of the work is done by the mediation committee members," said Qi Wenyuan, who modestly indicated that he helps them study and exchange work experiences.

### Information About China's Mediation Committees

Total:	810,000
Rural production brigades	547,000
Urban neighbourhood committees	40,000
Factories, mines and enterprises	70,000
Others (cultural and educational institutions, etc.)	153,000

## The Xibeiijiao Neighbourhood Mediation Committee

XIBEIJIAO is part of old Tianjin, an industrial city located in north China. It is one of the most crowded sections in Tianjin and its 99 *hutong* (lanes) have 30,000 residents inhabiting 8,800 households. Local mediation work is co-ordinated by the Xibeiijiao subdistrict office, a unit of the Nankai district government.

Qi Wenyuan, 51, a staff member of the subdistrict office, is also a judicial assistant. Because of his position as a judicial administrative cadre in the local government, he works under the leadership of the subdistrict office and seeks guidance from the district court. Up to now, China has 26,900 judicial assistants.

"Judicial assistants are responsible for supervising and helping in establishing and improving mediation organizations, training mediators and providing guidance to mediation committees," said Qi Wenyuan. "They also have to help mediate and solve difficult disputes and conduct propaganda and education regarding poli-

cies, laws, decrees and morality among local residents," he added.

Mediation committees were initially established in the Xibeiijiao area in the early 1950s. During the initial stage of the "cultural revolution" (1966-76), they were banned for being "tools of class reconciliation." Now each of the nine neighbourhood committees has a mediation committee. With one exception, each of the 46 peo-

### Training Mediators

The judicial assistants conduct meetings each Friday wherein they explain laws and special decrees. They also use the meetings to report on work and study problems. At a recent meeting, a district judge explained the art of mediation work and problems to be avoided. Most of the participants were elderly. Several had grey hair and three or four were accompanied by their grandchildren. The judge used easy-to-understand terms and the participants listened with great interest.

"In view of the fact that the participants are old and their educational level low, we try not to include too much content in the lectures," said Qi Wenyuan.



Judicial assistant Qi Wenyuan (left) leading a discussion.

"We try to facilitate their comprehension by using numerous examples," he added.

"For example, we explained the new Marriage Law to them article by article more than 20 times."

The district judicial bureau devotes considerable time to training mediators and whenever possible the procedure is geared to anticipated problems. For example, mid-summer is a peak period for disputes between neighbours because the crowded living conditions result in large numbers of people congregating outdoors. In order to prepare mediators for the annual increase in summer disputes, the bureau prepared a pamphlet entitled *Enhance the Understanding of the Legal System and Strengthen Unity Between Neighbours*. The bureau prepared a set of materials on strengthening family unity and practising frugality in household affairs for the Spring Festival period. After receiving materials on such matters, the mediators proceed to explain them to local residents.

### A Committee Chairwoman

The Third Neighbourhood Committee, which serves 3,900 residents from 1,086 households, has five members, all of whom are women. The mediation committee is chaired by a 59-year-old woman named Qi Shuzhen, who is also the vice-chairwoman of the neighbourhood committee. She has lived in the area for 40 years.

"We who engage in mediation work should use our mouths, legs and eyes more often," said Qi Shuzhen. "This means we should constantly explain the importance of living in harmony and dispense legal education. We should

## The Marriage Dispute

WHEN the third son of the Zhai family and the daughter of the Li family made plans to get married, trouble soon ensued.

The problem resulted from the fact that the Li family objected to the proposed marriage because their daughter was 10 years younger than her intended husband. Knowing that her family would object, the young woman secretly obtained a marriage license.

According to the new Marriage Law, she and her fiancé had the right to do this. Nevertheless, her relatives, motivated by values stemming from the feudal era, vowed to break her arms and legs if she attempted to go ahead with the proposed ceremony.

This greatly upset the intended groom's relatives and they insisted that the marriage would be held as planned. Both groups of relatives then proceeded to gather large numbers of friends to help them win the brawl which each expected.

By the time the local mediator heard about the situation, the group in the Zhai family had been drunk and armed with sticks. When she visited this family and asked what was up, she was summarily dismissed. Using tact and diplomacy, she patiently explained the provisions of the new Marriage Law. They finally calmed down.

Having accomplished that, she rushed to the home of the Li family. After she talked with them for a while, they also calmed down.

Both families made up when the young groom-to-be was persuaded by the mediator to take some refreshments to his fiancée's mother and father. The two families are now on good terms.

also pay frequent visits to people's houses and when we hear or see any symptoms of disputes, we should attempt to settle them before they become too serious."

Sun Hongzhen, a 61-year-old retiree, is also a local mediator.

"I retired in 1973 on a monthly pension of 40 yuan," she said. "To tell the truth, I have done too little, so I am willing to do more for my neighbours."

Liu Xiuzhen, another member of the local mediation committee, is also retired. She said that people sometimes come to her door at two o'clock in the morning asking for help in solving disputes. The two other members of the local committee are housewives in their 60s.

Qi Shuzhen enjoys discussing the committee's work and its

achievements. She and the other members of the committee have mediated a variety of disputes, including quarrels between neighbours, disagreements between in-laws, divorce proceedings between emotional spouses, parental support cases and personal property arguments. One of the committee's most memorable cases involved a long-standing dispute between an angry tenant and his obstinate landlord.

When the landlord refused to repair his leaking roof, the tenant refused to pay the rent. After 14 months, both parties agreed to permit the committee to mediate their dispute. After conferring with each of them, the mediators recommended that the tenant repair the roof and deduct the cost before paying his back rent. This arrangement satisfied both parties.



Mediation committee chairwoman Qi Shuzhen (centre) discussing work with committee members.

Some of the disputes handled by the committee are more complex. One involved a young widow who wanted to marry two years after her husband's accidental death. When her late husband's relatives heard about the proposed marriage, they began to abuse her. They also took steps to block the wedding. Because of the feudal tradition which deems it improper for a widow to remarry, the late husband's relatives felt completely justified in their attempts to block the proposed wedding.

Frustrated by the actions of her in-laws, the young widow prepared to file a court suit against them. The mediation committee entered the dispute at this point and explained the Marriage Law to the deceased man's relatives. Although they reluctantly accepted the fact that the law makes it illegal to interfere with marriages between consenting adults, they persisted in creating difficulties regarding the widow's legacy rights. The mediation committee then produced the section of the Marriage Law which indicates that "both husband and

wife have the right to inherit legacy."

After eight visits to the scene of the dispute, the committee managed to resolve the matter. The deceased man's relatives desisted and the young widow dropped her plans to take the case to court.

Qi Shuzhen admitted that the committee does not always manage to keep disputes from ending up in court. One such

case involved an elderly widow named Mrs. Li whose husband left her a six-room house inside a courtyard. Mrs. Li's son and his family lived in the three southern rooms of the courtyard while she and her daughter's family lived in the three northern ones. Mrs. Li, who was being entirely supported by her daughter, asked her son for financial assistance. When he refused, she went to the mediation committee and requested assistance.

The committee met with Mrs. Li's son and told him he had a moral and legal responsibility to provide his mother with financial assistance. Although the son agreed to give his mother five yuan per month, when Qi Shuzhen visited the family a few months later, she found that he had not kept his promise.

The committee then advised Mrs. Li to file a suit against her son in the district court. After hearing the case, the judge ruled that Mrs. Li's son and daughter had to give her 15 yuan apiece each month for her living expenses. Mrs. Li and her daughter were particularly pleased by this decision.



Residents Bian Qinyun (right) and An Ning, two neighbours who were at odds with each other for four years, are brought together by patient mediator Xu Wenying (centre).

### Assistant Mediators

Because Xibei jiao's mediation committees can't handle all the civil cases in the area, they have assigned responsibility for some of them to assistants. The assistant mediators are recommended by residents in the same compound and approved by the neighbourhood committees. The assistants are required to be enthusiastic workers, impartial and competent. They also have to enjoy the respect of residents in their communities.

There are 1,081 assistant mediators in the Xibei jiao neighbourhood, one for every 7.5 households. Given this, a major percentage of the disputes in the area are settled where they occur.

Wu Fengxiang, a retired worker, is an assistant mediator for the six households in his

compound. Though crowded, it is decorated with potted flowers. Mr. Wu, who is 61 years old, recently mediated and settled a potentially disruptive dispute between two of his neighbours.

Given the crowded living con-

ditions which exist in the area, people tend to use every available bit of space for housing. The dispute arose when the Dong family sought to make use of the back wall of the Chi family's house in order to build a room. The Chi's objected and Mr. Wu was brought in to mediate.

His talk with the Dongs indicated that they were faced with a particularly severe space problem. His talk with the Chi's indicated that they were afraid that the Dong's proposed room would block their access to sunlight through the window in the rear of their home.

Mr. Wu came up with a compromise recommendation which received the immediate approval of both families: he suggested that the Dongs construct a room with a low ceiling. Members of the Chi family were so impressed with Mr. Wu's recommendation that they volunteered to help the Dongs build their new room.

Liu Xiaochen, a 72-year-old retired factory cadre, is also an assistant mediator for his courtyard. He said that he likes to stress the importance of morali-



Mediation committee chairwoman Sun Shuzhen (right).

### Better Than a Judge

ONE evening last February, Chen Mitao and Zhang Tianying got into a fight.

When the fight was broken up, each woman accused the other of stealing her watch. Unfortunately, none of the people who witnessed the fight had seen either woman take the other's watch. Moreover, neither had any evidence to substantiate her charges. Nevertheless, the women and members of their families went to the local mediation committee and demanded that the dispute be settled.

The mediation committee, with the help of both women's work units, proceeded to investigate the dispute. When no immediate solution could be found, the committee recommended the case to the local police and the district law court. But since neither had any evidence to support her charges, the judge was unable to reach a decision.

In order to resolve the dispute, the mediation committee discussed it with people from the neighbourhood. After 14 discussions, the committee finally found out what had happened. During the fight, each woman had taken the other's watch. They refused to admit this because of their fear of losing face and because they felt that by telling the truth they might have to return the stolen watch without receiving the one lost in the fight.

The committee finally got both of them to admit what had happened. After engaging in self-criticism, they exchanged watches and the matter was resolved. Their neighbours praised the mediators who, even though they weren't judges, had succeeded where the local judge had failed.

### The Chicken Fight

ONE evening in the summer of 1980 Liu Shuanghe and Li Chengnian got into a big fight over a three-month-old chicken.

When the chairman of the local mediation committee arrived on the scene, he asked them to stop fighting and explain the problem. Each man claimed that the other had stolen his chicken.

The mediator listened and then concluded that although the situation wasn't serious, it could become so unless the dispute was quickly resolved. Remembering that chickens have characteristics similar to dogs, he came up with a novel suggestion.

He told each man to go home and return the next morning with his chicken coop. Having heard about the fight, many people from the village were on the scene when the two men arrived with their coops.

Taking charge of the situation, the mediator told each man to place his coop in the street at an equal distance away from the young chicken in question. After the coops were in place, the chicken was released.

It promptly walked over and joined the other chickens from the Liu family's coop. The experiment was repeated for three days in a row and each time the result was the same. Given this, Li Chengnian relinquished his claim to the chicken and the dispute was solved.

ty and neighbourhood unity in his encounters with local residents. During the past two years, there hasn't been a single quarrel on the *hutong* where he lives. Mr. Liu said that he

devotes a great deal of time to preventive work.

Given the efforts of the mediation committees and the work of assistants like Mr. Wu and Mr. Liu, civil disputes in the areas under the administration of the Third Neighbourhood Committee have been significantly reduced during recent years. Although residents were involved in 26 major disputes in 1978, that number declined to 6 in 1981. Statistics for the entire Nankai District show a similar decline. The district, which has 510,000 residents, experienced 4,235 disputes in 1977. By 1980, that number decreased to 2,216.

Although mediation committees can't be used to resolve every dispute, they are obviously successful. Most important, they are making an invaluable contribution to improving the quality of community life in China. □

(Continued from p. 17.)

last year every African received 10 per cent less food-grain than 10 years ago and by 1985, Africa will grow enough grain to meet only 80 per cent of its needs.

Not long ago, the Sahel region was hit by severe drought for five years in succession and drought and insects devastated farming in some countries in east Africa and southern Africa for two consecutive years. Millions were forced to seek refuge in other parts of Africa. Border wars, civil wars and racial discrimination also swelled the number of refugees.<sup>2</sup> It is estimated that about 100 million people in some 20 African countries are threatened by famine. Huge numbers of victims and refugees are desperately in need of relief and aid.

This is why the food-grain problem is the most urgent problem many African countries must solve. International organizations, such as the FAO and World Food Programme,<sup>3</sup> have sent relief grain, but many African countries have to spend much of their foreign exchange

buying grain every year. Grain accounts for more than 10 per cent of imports to African countries. In the decade between 1960 and 1970, African grain imports rose almost 38 per cent. Cereals imported in 1970 were equivalent to 15 per cent of the total grain output of the African continent that year. In the late 70s, grain imports by various African countries rose steeply. According to a report published on July 21, 1980 by the weekly *West Africa*, between 1970 and 1978, grain imports by African countries went up from 4.2 million tons to 11 million tons, and in 1985, it will rise to 15 million tons.

#### NOTES:

1. Republic of South Africa not included.
2. Poul Hartling, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said recently that there are 5 million refugees in Africa at present, about half the 10 million refugees in the world.
3. It is reported that in 1979-80, emergency relief grain provided to 25 African countries totalled 1.3 million tons, an estimated 2.4 million tons for fiscal 1980-81.

(To be continued.)

## ZOOLOGY

## China's Rarity

Numerous rare animals inhabit China. The Chinese Government has adopted measures to protect these species. Among those in the most precious category are:

**Giant panda** (*Aelurus melanoleucus*). The remote mountainous areas of southwest China



provide an ideal habitat where they have few natural enemies and plenty of bamboo to eat. In 1975-76 the deaths of 138 giant pandas in areas bordering Sichuan and Gansu were reported. At first, it was presumed these resulted from an epidemic disease. A later investigation, however, revealed the cause to be the deterioration and death of large tracts of bamboo. Numerous giant pandas thus starved to death.

In order to save the species, the bamboo groves must be restored and a way must be found to guarantee that no similar calamity occur again. An international agreement of co-operation has been signed and a new scientific research institution established. Studies will be undertaken to enable better pro-

tection of the giant pandas and their habitats.

Giant pandas propagate slowly. It is difficult to breed giant pandas in captivity, and their birth rate in the wild is also extremely low. Since 1937, China has exported 39 giant pandas, of which 14 are still alive. Lan Lan in Japan became pregnant but died of illness before giving birth. In July this year Ying Ying in Mexico gave birth to a cub, thus becoming the first giant panda to bear an offspring in captivity outside of China. No other incident of pregnancy was reported abroad in the last 44 years since 1937.

The propagation of this species has been a problem plaguing Chinese and foreign zoologists for decades. Director T. Reed of the US National Zoo in Washington D.C. said that the zoo has housed a pair for seven years and had hoped that they would breed naturally. Now, the zoo personnel believe that the difficulty is that the female panda has very thick hair and the male is not well developed physically. When Japanese zoologists performed an autopsy on Lan Lan, they discovered that though the internal organs of the foetus had formed, its reproductive organs were not well developed. It was even difficult to tell the sex of the foetus. They concluded: "The characteristics of the reproductive organs, which are unique in giant pandas, might be the major reason accounting for the danger of their extinction."

Another view, based on some recent observations of giant pandas in captivity, is that the low birth rate of giant pandas is: The sexual desire of male pandas is low.

In order to solve this problem, scientific workers in the Chinese zoos have experimented with artificial insemination since 1978 and initial results have been achieved. Four zoos in Beijing, Chengdu, Hangzhou and Shanghai have succeeded in making the female pandas pregnant on eight occasions and produced 16 cubs, of which five have been alive (three have now lived for more than one year).

**Golden monkey** (*Rhinopithecus roxaellana*). Comparatively large in number, these monkeys



live in scattered locales in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi. Some have also been seen in the virgin forest of western Hubei's Dashennongjia area. The golden monkeys average 71 centimetres in length with tails of 61 centimetres. They have fine golden fur. In ancient China, princes and high-ranking officials treasured coats made of their pelts. However, this species only came to the attention of modern zoologists in 1869 and was first brought to China's zoos in the 1950s. No foreign zoo has ever displayed a golden monkey. One was shipped to London in 1938 but died before being exhibited.

There are two other kinds of golden monkeys: the Yunnan golden monkeys are found in the northwestern forests of Yunnan, and Guizhou golden monkeys which inhabit the northern part of Guizhou. These two kinds of golden monkeys are slightly bigger than the ordinary golden monkeys and have only been observed on rare occasions. None has been captured alive.

**White-headed langur** (*Prosimia leucocephalus*). They are con-



sidered the world's rarest monkeys and have been displayed only in a few Chinese zoos. Neither living ones nor stuffed samples have been exhibited abroad. According to a survey conducted over the past two years, white-headed langurs live only in the southern part of Guangxi. They number about 600. Their heads are covered with white hair which extends down their necks and shoulders; the lower part of their tails and the back of their hands and feet are also white. However, the newborn langurs are yellowish orange from head to tail.

**Wild yak** (*Bos grunniens mutus*). Living on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, an immense area,



the wild yaks are restricted to certain isolated high mountains. In early winter, some wild yaks cross into Kashmir.

Unlike domesticated yaks, which are of various colours, wild yaks are all dark brown except for their whitish cheeks. Their bodies, especially that of the males, are much larger than that of domesticated yaks. Wild yaks weigh 500-600 kilograms and their shoulders are 1.8-2.0 metres above the ground. Their horns are thick and curved. Several young wild yaks have been captured and raised by the Beijing Zoo. Their propagation in captivity is no problem.

**Wild camel** (*Camelus bactrianus ferus*). Found only in China



and the People's Republic of Mongolia, they live in remote areas and are very difficult to capture. Since 1959 a few young

ones have been captured; most died shortly afterwards. The Beijing Zoo has raised four wild camels. One lived for four years; two, only several months. The remaining one has lived for more than two years in the zoo and is the only one in captivity in the world. All the captured wild camels have been males. The first one mated with a domestic camel and an offspring was produced.

## Panda Gives Birth

Scientists working at the Wulong Panda Conservation Centre have reported that Zhen Zhen, a giant panda, gave birth to a cub two months ago in her natural habitat.

Last March, the 10-year-old female panda was caught, fitted with a radio tracer and then released by scientists who were working on a save-the-panda project launched jointly by the Chinese Government and the World Wildlife Fund. The scientists, on April 13, witnessed Zhen Zhen's mating process. (See *Beijing Review*, p. 31, No. 32, 1981.) A month later, based on their observations and data, they concluded that Zhen Zhen was pregnant.

On October 20, two scientists, one Chinese and one American, saw Zhen Zhen hunting for food near her den and heard the cry of her cub from within. When the two scientists approached, the mother panda uncharacteristically rushed at them, obviously trying to protect her baby. After a few moments, she retreated to her den.

These observations underscore the achievements of the world's first giant panda conservation centre, located in a 200,000-hectare reserve in western Sichuan.

## Books

### Tourist Guidebook to Chinese Tales

**Old Tales of China** (in English)

Written by Li Nianpei,

Published by China Travel and Tourism Press,

Price: RMB 1.00,

Available at the Waiwen Bookstore in China's major cities; distributed abroad by Guoji Shudian (China Publications Centre), P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China,

Published and distributed in Xianggang (Hongkong) by the local Commercial Press.

*Old Tales of China* is a unique book which should provide readers with broad exposure to the origins and meanings of a significant portion of Chinese folklore and culture.

Published in English, the book contains translations of 60 traditional Chinese tales, each of which is accompanied by an illustration especially produced for this edition.

The book's author, Li Nianpei, who has worked as a translator for more than 30 years, introduced the text with a clear explanation of his pri-

mary objective: "This guidebook has been prepared . . . to give, in a simple and straightforward manner, the synopses of a number of age-old stories which have often been used as themes in various forms of art."

Visitors to China frequently encounter references to things such as "The Peach Garden Pact," "Monkey King Subdues the Demon" or various forms of traditional art such as the paintings on the walls along the Long Corridor of the popular Summer Palace and the colourful characters portrayed in traditional Chinese operas. Most often, it is difficult for them to acquire sufficient background in Chinese history and culture to adequately comprehend the rich traditions which they represent. This book should substantially solve that problem.

Many of the tales which the author has chosen to include in the book have been taken from classic Chinese novels: *A Dream of Red Mansions*, *Pilgrimage to the West*, *Water Margin*, etc. In order to provide readers with a good understanding of his excerpts, the author provides introductions.

He also includes brief commentaries on the leading characters and explanations of their complex relationships with other characters.

The book's index should prove particularly valuable to readers unfamiliar with Chinese names. It contains an alphabetical listing of the most important names appearing in the book and the numbers of the pages where they are to be found. The index also contains pronunciation guides for the names.

For those readers who have had previous contact with Chinese culture, the book should prove particularly helpful in regard to clarifying lingering questions about the origins of favoured tales or poems. For example, the fascinating short story, "Chang-ê Flies to the Moon," provided inspiration to Mao Zedong when he wrote the following famous lines in a poem for his martyred wife Yang Kaihui:

*The lonely moon goddess spreads her ample sleeves*

*To dance for these loyal souls in infinite space.*

A German edition will be subsequently published in the Federal Republic of Germany.

— Lu Niangao

(Continued from p. 11.)

African country accused the Soviets of saying one thing and meaning another.

China, a Permanent Member of the Security Council, voted for Salim and vetoed Waldheim. It has always sided with the third world countries and cast in its lot with them. It is a matter of course that China lends its backing to the candidate favoured by the non-

aligned movement and the OAU.

China's veto on Waldheim does not mean that it is deliberately making things difficult for him. To be frank, Waldheim has enjoyed enough honour by being the Secretary-General for 10 years in the 36 years of the UN history.

China's stand is reasonable. Many third world countries consider China a true friend of Africa and the third world, who

upholds justice and defends the cause of the third world.

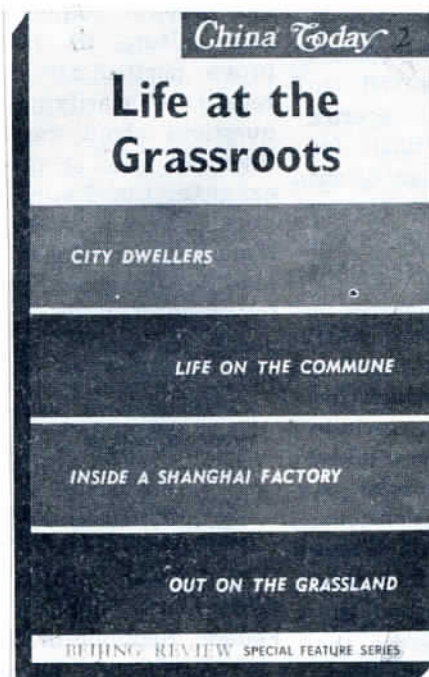
Tense bilateral and multilateral contacts are now going on in and out of the Security Council in an effort to break the deadlock. China is expected to continue its support, as it always does, for the just demand of third world countries.

— Xinhua Correspondents  
Yu Minsheng and  
Yuan Jin (Nov. 15)

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