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BEIJING REVIEW

北京周报

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

- 6.65 Million Employed in 1982
- How Do China's Lawyers Work?
- Africa to Solve Grain Problem



LETTERS

Chinese Youths

I very much liked the article entitled "After Careful Thought and Comparison" in issue No. 18, 1983. I am pleased to see that the Chinese youths have not lost their faith in Marxism-Leninism. Articles in Western newspapers always say the Chinese youths are facing a "crisis of faith" and they "believe nothing." But what I saw on my tour to China was the opposite. My impression is that young people are enthusiastically devoting themselves to the great socialist modernization drive.

The Chinese Communist Party again has won its prestige and faith by bravely facing its mistakes and shortcomings and making great efforts to build spiritual civilization. In addition, I thought the articles to mark the centenary of Marx's death were good. I wish you would include more articles on the international communist movement such as an assessment of "revisionism."

Martin Lötcher
Basel, Switzerland

Space Science and Technology

I am interested in an article on China's space science and technology in a recent issue. But I

think your weekly could publish fewer foreign affairs articles which are included in other magazines.

Besides, I enjoy the articles in the "Chinese-Type Modernization" series and the "Facts and Figures" column, especially the facts, because figures are in general for the statisticians.

If it is possible, would you carry some articles about the reforms in leadership in such fields as agriculture and enterprises and the reasons for the reforms?

I hope you will make even deeper analyses and study of some of China's important problems.

Quan Le Ly
K.B., France

International Relations

I'm very interested in your reports in "China" (a special column for French edition — *Ed.*). Through them I can better understand China and China's position on the international stage.

The "Chinese-Type Modernization" series and "Facts and Figures" articles are interesting. They help me analyse China's development and its advancement.

As a whole, your journal is interesting with varied contents. To improve your weekly, I wish you would make deep analysis of inter-

national relations. It would be better if you would get to the bottom of a matter, not just describe the contacts between state leaders.

**M'Backe Mouhanadou
Lamine**
Touba, Senegal

Articles on Chinese Modernization Boring

My opinions on *Beijing Review* are:

1. In recent issues, I liked "Bid Farewell to Yesterday—A reformatory near Qinhuangdao" in issue No. 3, "How Chinese Workers Exercise Their Democratic Rights" in issue No. 40, 1982 (issue No. 8, 1983 in German edition), "The Mighty Changjiang River" in issue No. 10, "Daqing Oilfield Today" in issue No. 13 and "China's Space Science and Technology" in issue No. 14.

I don't like "Standard of Living and Economic Construction" in issue No. 8 and "Report on the Implementation of the State Budget for 1982 and the Draft State Budget for 1983" in issue No. 3.

2. I thought the "Facts and Figures" and "Chinese-Type Modernization" articles should be good. "Facts and Figures" are excellent but the articles in "Chinese-Type Modernization" are boring with many foreign words that are hard to understand. I think such articles should be light and accessible.

3. Generally speaking, *Beijing Review* provides me information about China. I wish your articles would more clearly explain China's stand in international relations.

Would you carry a series of articles that introduce cities or scenic spots and publish more reports on minority nationalities in China?

I'm interested in China's railway construction. The article "Railways: Today and Tomorrow" in issue No. 52, 1982 was too short.

4. The printing is quite good. The printing of pictures should be improved. The "Art Page" and the cover should be printed on good quality paper. Don't use foreign words.

Axel Heiderhoff
Echzell, FRG

Just off the press

MY FIRST SIXTY YEARS IN CHINA

by Sam Ginsbourg

Sam Ginsbourg arrived in Harbin, "the Paris of the Orient," from his native Russia in 1917 at the age of three. For many of the next 64 years he personally recorded the monumental changes occurring around him for the revolution he eventually joined.

Truthful, vivid and gripping, his reminiscences are must reading for anyone who wants to understand contemporary China.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

To Attract More Foreign Funds

To acquire more funds for its modernization drive, China has decided to create conditions favourable to foreign investors. Related background information explains that China is in a strong financial position and well able to pay off its loans (p. 4).

China's Lawyers

With the re-establishment of the socialist legal system in 1979, the work of lawyers was resumed in China. Our correspondent, after interviewing a leader in the notary public office in Beijing and a lawyer, describes the progress in China's legal work (p. 19).

6.65 Million Employed in 1982

Altogether 32 million people — around one-third of the total current work force — have been provided jobs in the last four years. The makeup of the working class has changed in five aspects (p. 5).

Africa's Grain Problem

Serious grain deficits in Africa have been caused by single crop economies left over from colonial history and by a faster population growth rate since the 1970s than grain output increases. To solve the problem, many countries have taken measures to develop agriculture by self-reliance instead of relying on grain imports (p. 14).

Track-and-Field Achievers

Students from two counties in coastal Fujian Province have achieved many successes in sports as a result of mass physical training activities (p. 28).



Lawyer Zhou Naxin (left) answered legal questions on May 28 during the recent "Legal System Publicity Week" in Beijing.

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

Attracting more foreign funds

China has decided to adopt a number of flexible measures for taxation, interest rates and the sale of products so as to attract more foreign funds and accelerate the construction of key projects and the technical transformation of existing enterprises.

Among these measures are: Exempting joint ventures with Chinese and foreign investment from import duties and industrial and commercial tax on machinery, equipment and materials imported according to contracts and granting them other preferential treatment (see "China grants tax cuts for joint ventures," in our issue No. 19, 1983). Allowing some of the joint venture products to be sold on the Chinese market. Granting more decision-making power to Shanghai and other coastal cities in foreign trade. Simplifying the entry formalities for the foreign representatives of joint ventures. These measures, plus China's gradually improving economic legislation, will provide a more favourable investment environment for foreign entrepreneurs and bankers.

At present, the principal Western capitalist countries have not rid themselves of the latest economic stagflation and much surplus fund, technology and equipment are seeking new horizons. To expedite its modernization drive, China, for its part, needs to acquire more funds and advanced technology

and equipment on the basis of self-reliance. Attracting foreign funds with preferential conditions will benefit both sides.

During the four years between 1979 and 1982 since China adopted the policy of opening to the outside world, it has used about US\$12,600 million in foreign funds. Of this, \$10,800 million were foreign loans (\$7,100 million have been repaid) and the remaining \$1,700 million were direct foreign investments. The latter sum was used by 83 joint ventures, 792 joint management projects, 12 offshore oil exploitation co-operation projects, 872 compensatory trade projects and 34 enterprises run by foreign firms (in special economic zones).

China also has used the foreign funds to build a number of railway lines, harbours and airports, and in the technical transformation of a number of small and medium-sized enterprises, in oil prospecting, in developing some mines and in building four special economic zones.

In the course of co-operation and joint management with foreign firms, the Chinese staff has become increasingly knowledgeable about international trade. But our present pace of utilizing foreign funds still falls short of the needs of the modernization drive. Our present flexible policies towards joint ventures were adopted against this background.

Some people at home worry that the plan to use an increasing amount of foreign funds will invite a heavy burden of foreign debt or even will cause us to risk being controlled by foreign capital. This kind of worry is understandable. Problems may occur if large sums of foreign funds are improperly used.

In recent years, we already have gained some experiences, both positive and negative, in dealing with foreign funds. In our future work we will further carry out the principle of acting according to our own abilities and stressing practical results, so as to avoid being bogged down in foreign debt as some other countries have experienced.

China now has basically paid off the high-interest loans it acquired when it imported some complete sets of equipment in 1978. Currently it mainly uses medium- and long-term, medium- or low-interest loans and absorbs direct investments from abroad. The annual sum it repays in principal and interest is much lower than 20 per cent — the safe figure acknowledged by the world — of the foreign exchange it earns in export. Therefore we have no problems in paying off our debts.

Moreover, China's use of foreign funds is conducted on the premise of fully exercising a socialist country's sovereign right and foreign investments are kept within the bounds of Chinese laws. Under no circumstances will China sacrifice its sovereignty in exchange for some immediate interests.

— Economic Editor Jin Qi

Millions put to work in 1982

China has provided jobs for 32 million people, around one-third of the current total work force, in the last four years.

Of the 6.65 million who were given jobs in 1982, 4.75 million were urban dwellers and the rest were university and secondary vocational school graduates and demobilized soldiers.

In 1982, the percentage of those assigned to state owned enterprises dropped to 20.9 per cent from 29 per cent in 1981. In the meantime, due to a new emphasis on improving the economic results, productivity rose 2.3 per cent over 1981 in state-owned industrial enterprises that operated as independent accounting units.

The proportion of those employed by collective enterprises increased to 50.4 per cent in 1982 from 49 per cent in 1981, increasing the total number of workers in these enterprises to 26.51 million.

Moreover, 5.5 per cent of the people employed in 1982 were engaged in individual enterprises, making a total of 1.3 million people in the country. Nationally, about one-fourth (26 per cent) of those in individual businesses are young, but in Guangdong and Fujian, 50-60 per cent of the people in this field are young.

About one-fourth (23.2 per cent) of those employed in 1982 pooled money and ran collective enterprises which bear the sole responsibility for gains and losses.

By the end of 1982, 3.04 million Chinese people were still waiting for jobs, slightly fewer than in 1981. In the meantime, the number of family members supported by each worker or staff member was reduced from 3.6 in 1952 to 1.73 in 1982.

According to incomplete statistics, in Shanghai, China's largest industrial metropolis with a population of 11 million, each employee supported 1.5 family members.

In urban areas of Anhui Province, the employment rate reached 61.2 per cent, with every worker or staff member supporting 0.63 people.

Recent changes in the working class

China now has more women workers and more service trades employees than in 1978. These are two of the five major recent changes in the composition of the country's working class, according to the State Statistical Bureau.

Since 1979, 31 million more people (not including self-employed individuals) have been added to the labour force. In the same period, great progress was achieved in spare-time education and training for workers. The number of young and middle-aged workers and staff attending continuing education classes on cultural and technical subjects is unprecedented.

According to incomplete statistics collected in Tianjin, Liaoning, Heilongjiang, Shandong, Jiangxi, Hunan, Gansu and five other provinces and

municipalities, 3.49 million workers have reached the cultural level of junior middle school leavers after attending the classes. These have contributed to the changes in the makeup of the working class.

The five changes are:

— More women workers.

By the end of 1982, 40.93 million Chinese women worked outside the home, 30 per cent more than at the end of 1978, and 36.3 per cent of the total labour force.

— More workers employed in collective enterprises.

By the end of 1982, 26.51 million people worked in these enterprises, an increase of 29.4 per cent over the end of 1978, surpassing the 15.8 per cent increase in state-owned enterprises.

— Marked increase of workers in commerce, catering and other non-productive service trades.

By the end of 1982, 22.75 million workers were in these trades, 28 per cent more than at the end of 1978. The number of workers employed in commercial and catering undertakings alone increased 30.5 per cent; in other service trades, 52.6 per cent; and in municipal public utilities, 41.4 per cent.

— Bigger growth of employment in coastal regions than in inland areas.

Employment in Liaoning, Hebei, Shandong, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Fujian, Guangdong and Guangxi was up more than 20 per cent over 1978 as against the 17.4 per cent increase in the inland areas.

— More professionals and office workers.

Between 1978 and 1982, the number of manual workers grew by 13.2 per cent, while that of mental workers rose 24 per cent, with the total number reaching 22.67 million. The proportion of scientists and technicians grew more rapidly. Even so, the number still falls short of the demands of the country's economic construction.

Hijacked crew cited for bravery

Crew members of the CAAC (Civil Aviation Administration of China) Trident flight 296 which was hijacked to south Korea on May 5 were recently commended by the State Council. Cited as a "Heroic Crew of CAAC," along with Captain Wang Yixuan who was named "Heroic Captain of CAAC," the nine members were each promoted.

The State Council citation

said the crew members of flight 296 displayed courage and resourcefulness in defending the passengers' safety and the dignity of the motherland during the crisis.

The crew was commended for its calm response to the six armed hijackers even when the plane lost contact with the ground.

It also was praised for its skill in effecting a safe landing at the Chunchon Airport in south Korea despite the facility's unsuitability for landing a big plane.

The six hijackers were recently put under arrest in south Korea.

The hijacked Trident was repaired before returning to Beijing on May 18.

Earlier, at a press conference attended by Chinese and foreign reporters, CAAC's Director-General Shen Tu expressed thanks to the south Korean authorities, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Japan and the USA for their concern and assistance after the hijacking.



Vice-Premier Wan Li presents a banner reading "Heroic Crew of CAAC" to the hijacked airliner personnel.

Teachers of the year commended

Dai Fengge, 43, is a primary school teacher in Yanshou County, Heilongjiang Province, northeast China. Upon his graduation from a teachers' school in 1961, he volunteered to go to teach in a county where the economy was backward and the cultural level comparatively low. The school-age children of Yanshou County were too poor to go to school, so he organized his pupils to work for their tuition while also attending school. Students earned the money for paper, books, school bags, and even their school clothes. For 10 years now, all eligible children have attended school and no one has dropped out.

Dai is one of the 857 middle and primary school teachers commended by the Ministry of Education for their hard work and devotion to their occupation.

Lin Li, a middle school teacher in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, is a native of Nanjing in Jiangsu Province. Upon her graduation from the History Department of Beijing Teachers' University in 1959, she asked to go to Ningxia instead of richer Hebei Province. Though her boy friend who was assigned a job in Beijing broke off with her, she persisted and has taught there for 24 years.

Li Aimei is teaching first-grade pupils in the primary school affiliated to the Nanning Butchery in Guangxi Province. She enrolled 12-year-old girl Zhong Yanlin who was crippled by infantile paralysis and personally escorted her to and



The Beijing Municipality held a meeting in the Great Hall of the People to commend teachers with 30 years of experience in education.

from school every day. She carried Zhong on her back to the cinema and to where the other students have group activities. Through all this Zhong learnt of the warmth of collective life and also how to read and write.

He Yuqin of the No. 16 Middle School in Kaifeng, Henan Province, has taught the students about patriotism and encouraged them to study hard by carrying out emulation drives.

Education Minister He Dongchang said that teachers should be praised for training workers, peasants and other labourers who uphold ideals and morals and are cultured and disciplined. Deputy head of the Propaganda Department of the Party Central Committee Zeng Delin called on primary and middle school teachers to take the lead in building socialist spiritual civilization and also asked the whole society to respect teachers and to recognize the importance of their work.

China has 10 million primary and middle school teachers and more than 200 million students who account for nearly a quarter of the nation's population. The quality of these teachers will have a great impact on raising the cultural level of the whole nation and improving the social climate.

Five-year plan for higher education

The Ministry of Education and the State Planning Commission recently drew up a plan for accelerating China's higher education in the coming five years.

Under the programme, the number of college students will increase by 121,000 each year, reaching 1.76 million by 1987, a 53 per cent increase over the 1982 figure of 1.153 million.

The annual enrolment of the country's regular colleges will rise to 550,000 in 1987, up 75 per cent over the 1982 figure of 315,000.

More rapid development is planned for radio-television universities, correspondence colleges, night schools, enterprise-run workers' colleges, peasants' colleges, colleges for managerial cadres and teachers' training schools. The annual enrolment of new students in these facilities will increase from 290,000 in 1982 to 1.1 million by 1987, up 3.8 times, and the total number of students registered in these schools will rise from 1982's 640,000 to 2.37 million in 1987.

Several concrete measures will facilitate the expansion:

— A number of new colleges will be set up in the next five years and existing universities that are able to assign faculty members to help run branch colleges or night schools in the localities or elsewhere.

— Large and medium-sized cities, big enterprises, people's organizations and individuals will be encouraged to run colleges or short-term vocational schools.

— Educational television stations will be launched in every city with a population exceeding one million. They will offer courses in finance, economics, law and applied liberal arts.

To expand enrolment, it was also decided that beginning this year students whose homes are in the same city as their schools will become non-resident students and those who live on campus will be charged for board.

African Liberation Day

May 25 was the 20th anniversary of African Liberation Day. In Beijing African diplomatic envoys gave a reception to mark the festival of the African countries and people.

Ulanhu, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and Gu Mu, State Councillor, attended the reception.

Speaking on behalf of the diplomatic envoys of the African countries, Moroccan Ambassador to China Abderrahim Harkett said: Today, Africa as a whole fervently demonstrates her solidarity, her unity and her aspirations, with the noble objectives she has set herself since the creation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), that is the total liberation of the African continent and inter-African co-operation.

More than ever before, he added, the independent Africa is firmly determined to continue to give her total, concrete and unconditional support to the just struggle of the peoples of southern Africa.

Gu Mu, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people, praised the OAU for its unremitting efforts over the past two decades to maintain African solidarity, thus making a valuable contribution to peace, stability and development on the African continent. He condemned the South African racist regime for dispatching military aircraft to carry out wanton and indiscriminate bombing on Maputo, capital of Mozambique.

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship With For-

eign Countries gave a reception on May 26 to celebrate African Liberation Day. Premier Zhao Ziyang and State Councillor Ji Pengfei were present at the reception.

The association's president, Wang Bingnan, and Ambassador Abderrahim Harkett spoke at the reception.

Wang spoke highly of the extremely important role played by the OAU in the past 20 years in winning and safeguarding national independence, in opposing outside interference and in defending the unity of Africa.

On May 24, more than 200 students from some 30 African countries and Chinese students celebrated African Liberation Day at Beijing University.

Sino-Belgian Party relations restored

Hu Yaobang, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, and Louis Van Geyt, Chairman of the Belgian Communist Party, have agreed on the restoration of the relations be-

tween the two Parties, which have been suspended for 18 years.

They agreed that every Party should think in its own way, make judgment and formulate policies independently and develop relations with other Parties on the basis of equality.

Countries and Parties, big or small, have their own strong-points and weakpoints, and relations among all Parties should be based on equality, said Hu Yaobang when he met with the Delegation of the Central Committee of the Belgian Communist Party on May 26 in Beijing.

"We appreciate the Belgian comrades' analysis of the achievements of the international communist movement in the past years," Hu said. "At the same time, we would like to point out that the movement had taken a tortuous road. This is true of Parties which have attained power and those which have not."

On the policy of the Chinese Communist Party, Hu said that socialist China will never occupy one inch of land of other countries. "This is the basic policy of our Party and our country," he said. "At the same time, we



Hu Yaobang meets Louis Van Geyt and members of his delegation.

oppose any country occupying the territory of other countries. We disapprove any 'patriarchal party' or 'dancing to another's baton' and will not permit anyone to impose his views on others," he added.

Louis Van Geyt said the talks between the two Parties have clarified a series of common views on international relations shared by the two Parties and also their differences on some other questions.

He said that the situation demands furthering the relations between the two Parties on the basis of independence, equality, non-interference and mutual respect. Such relations, he added, will not affect each other's relations with other Communist Parties and other progressive forces.

Sino-US trade talks

China and the United States should take concrete actions to remove obstacles to better relations and build a foundation of mutual trust so that bilateral relations may grow healthily.

Premier Zhao Ziyang said this on May 25 when he met with the US Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige, who came to Beijing on May 21 to attend the first session of the China-US Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade which took place from May 23 to 25.

Premier Zhao said that China has always regarded Sino-US relations as very important. The two countries, he said, have made considerable progress in economic and trade relations and in industrial and technical

co-operation since the normalization of diplomatic relations in 1979.

"We welcome the results that have emerged from the first session of the China-US Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade," Premier Zhao said. "However, there is still a big gap between the progress that has been made and the potentials of China and the United States. So we should join our efforts."

According to the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade briefing, the first session of the China-US Commission made progress on the following items:

1) The two sides have agreed in principle to explore in detail the conclusion of an inter-governmental protocol on industrial and technological co-operation.

2) The two sides exchanged respective draft proposals on a China-US Bilateral Agreement on Investment Protection and agreed to hold substantive discussions in Beijing in early June.

3) To renew at an early date the China-US Maritime Agreement, the US side agreed to respond as soon as possible to the Chinese proposed draft agreement.

4) The Chinese side extended, through the US delegation, invitations to US industrialists and businessmen to attend the International Conference of Technology Transfer for Mechanical and Electronic Industries to be held in Beijing in October this year, so as to further promote Sino-US technology trade.

5) To ensure greater contact between China and the US on economic and trade laws, the two sides agreed to hold legal seminars in China this year and in the United States next year.

6) It is the belief of both sides that the establishment of a centralized mechanism for mutual contacts is necessary, in order to promote the systematic and planned development of bilateral economic relations and trade as well as industrial and technological co-operation. The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade on the Chinese side and the Department of Commerce on the US side will be responsible for this work.

7) The US side asked China to approve the applications of two US banks to establish offices in Beijing. The Chinese side agreed in principle and the department concerned will consider the request.

8) In order to promote Sino-US industrial and technological co-operation, the two sides agreed that in July this year the Chinese side will make available a list of projects which might involve US companies.



*Latin America***Seeks ways to spur its economy**

DURING the three-day (May 19-21) meeting in Bogota, Colombia, of political figures, economic experts and entrepreneurs of Latin American nations to discuss the impact of the Western world's economic crisis and to find ways to revitalize the economies of the Latin American countries, the experts unanimously called for a gradual reform of current economic policies, adoption of austerity policies and concerted actions in dealing with the outside world.

Concrete Steps

They proposed that the Latin American countries should renegotiate their foreign debts for a 20-year moratorium and lowered interest rates; open more markets to avoid overdependence on traditional European and North American markets and take joint action in dealing with protectionism; step up co-operation among Latin American nations and give more scope to the role of subregional economic integration organizations; expand trade among Latin American nations and mutual exemption of tariffs; and strengthen co-operation among Latin American countries in such fields as transport and communications, food grain and energy.

The experts also called for a restructuring of the present world economic order and for ample consideration to be given to the needs and interests of developing countries.

The meeting, sponsored by the Latin American Economic Commission and the Latin American Economic System (SELA), issued a document when it ended on May 21. The document pointed out that "Latin America is faced with the worst economic crisis since the 1930s" which found expression in a declining gross national product, rising unemployment, runaway inflation and accumulated debts.

Economic Problems

The document said that last year saw a drop of nearly 1 per cent in the continent's overall GNP, with per-capita output value falling from US\$1,009 in 1980 to US\$967 in 1982. The biggest drops in GNP were sustained by Chile and Uruguay, 14.1 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. Next came El Salvador and Nicaragua whose per-capita output value sank to a level lower than 20 years ago. Only a small number of countries such as Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador registered a slight increase in GNP.

Last year, the document said, the unemployment and semi-unemployment figure of the continent as a whole topped more than 26 million.

The document showed that last year the inflation figure in Latin America also hit an all-time high, with prices soaring up by 84 per cent. In this respect, Bolivia led all other nations by registering a 296.6 per cent rise in consumer prices, a

fivefold increase over the previous year. It was followed by Argentina, Mexico and Brazil, with the former sustaining a fourfold increase and the last two recording a threefold increase.

Foreign debts incurred by Latin American nations last year, the document said, totalled \$270.2 billion, averaging \$750 per person. Topping the list were Mexico, Brazil and Argentina which had piled up debts of \$200 billion.

Experts at the meeting said that the economic recession in the Western world was the main external reason for the region's economic problems. They cited protectionism, depressed prices of raw materials and primary products, and high interest rates as having made a severe impact on the region's economies.

— *Hu Jikang and Jin Shenjian*

Afghanistan**Soviet troops intend to stay**

THE Soviet troops occupying Afghanistan have recently sent warplanes to raid the Afghan guerrilla areas, peaceful towns and villages, wounding and killing thousands of innocent inhabitants there. These atrocities have aroused angry protests from the Afghan people and have been strongly condemned by peace-loving people all over the world.

Although the Soviet Union has continued to increase its troop strength over the past three years since it invaded Afghanistan, even with so-

phisticated weapons it has not been able to destroy the armed resistance forces of the Afghan people. Despite this failure, Moscow has not altered its strategic goal of opening a southern passage to the Persian Gulf through Afghanistan, and has no intention of withdrawing its troops. The recent raids and the construction of permanent Soviet military facilities in Afghanistan clearly confirm these intentions.

Not long ago the Soviet authorities said that they intended to find a political solution to the Afghan question. The prerequisite for any political settlement of the Afghan question is a Soviet troop withdrawal. Unless this prerequisite is met, a political settlement is meaningless. The recent Soviet raids upon the Afghan people are hardly an indication that the Soviet Union is willing to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

The correct way to solve the Afghan issue remains the

four principles set forth in the UN resolution: All Soviet troops must withdraw from Afghanistan unconditionally; the sovereignty, political independence and non-aligned status of Afghanistan must be

restored; the Afghan people's right to self-determination must be respected; and the Afghan refugees must be allowed to return voluntarily to their homes with honour.

— Ren Yan

Middle East

Where should the Palestinian forces in Lebanon go?

THE Lebanon-Israel troop withdrawal accord provides that the Palestinian troops stationed in Lebanon should also withdraw. But where can the Palestinian troops go, now that their homeland is in the hands of the Israelis?

Most of the Arab countries favour a pullout of all foreign troops from Lebanon in order to restore the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The invading Israeli troops should have uncondi-

tionally withdrawn from Lebanese soil long ago. The Syrian troops can return to their own country whenever they wish. However, the homeless Palestinian soldiers simply have no place to go.

The 10,000 Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) personnel, evacuated from Beirut last August, are now scattered to seven Arab countries. A withdrawal of the 6,000 or 7,000 PLO soldiers from Lebanon's Bekaa Valley would simply be another transfer of PLO personnel from one Arab country to others. It has been learnt that US envoy Philip Habib is trying to persuade certain Arab nations to accept them. Even if he succeeds, the Middle East problem will remain unresolved.

The question of where the Palestinians might go was in fact answered last September at the Arab Fez Summit, which called for an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Palestinian territory, so as to enable the Palestinians to return to their homeland and set up their own state.

Both Israel and the United States opposed the Fez resolution. Instead of pulling out of the occupied Palestinian lands, Israel claimed that "Jordan is the homeland of the Pales-

Afghan resistance groups' full unification

The Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahideen has reached complete unification following the announcement on May 25 of the establishment of a united leadership and dissolution of the seven member parties.

This was made public by Professor Abdul Rasul Sayaf, president of the newly merged resistance organization, in a written announcement at a press conference in Peshawar, Pakistan the same day.

The announcement came in the wake of an extra-ordinary session of the 60-member Supreme Council of the Islamic Alliance convened on May 22. The meeting decided that the leaders of the merged parties in the alliance resign as heads of their former parties, the previous parties should be dissolved and the assets and resources of the previous parties be transferred to the alliance.

The formation of the alliance was announced in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, last year. It had been a loose seven-party alliance with each party retaining its own departments.

The meeting elected Sayaf as the Alliance's new president with a tenure of two years.

At the press conference, Sayaf reaffirmed his resolve to continue the holy war until the last Russian is driven out of Afghanistan.

tinians." In a similar tone, US President Ronald Reagan expressed the view that the Palestinians could only be allowed to have self-rule in association with Jordan. The Reagan proposal just cannot work, as the collapse of the half-year-long negotiations on the establishment of a Palestinian entity linked with Jordan proves.

At present, some Arab countries are cautious about the Lebanon-Israel agreement, not because they do not support the idea of a complete evacuation of all foreign troops from Lebanon but because the rights of the Palestinians are once again being neglected. The Palestine issue is still the crux of the Middle East problem. As long as it is neglected, there can be no lasting peace and stability in the region.

— Rui Yingjie

France

An important military budget

THE five-year (1984-88) military budget approved by the French National Assembly on May 20 involves not only France's own defence but is also vital to the security of Western Europe as a whole.

"It is mainly the Soviet deployment of the SS-20 missiles that has destabilized the international environment surrounding France," the report appended to the budget says. "The seriousness of the situation is

further aggravated by the fact that the deployment is specifically aimed at Europe," it adds.

This is the first time that a French military budget indicates clearly the source of the threat to France.

Three Defence Perimeters

The budget adopts the strategic view that French armed forces will not only defend their own country, but should also participate in the defence of Western Europe and of those countries that have military treaties with France.

This strategic thinking, described by Defence Minister Charles Hernu as France's three "defence perimeters," reflects France's inclination to strengthen its military co-operation with NATO.

France withdrew from NATO's integrated military command in 1966 and has openly stated that it has no intention of reintegrating with NATO.

But the French authorities have said that if Western Europe is attacked, France will decide independently when and where to join the "frontline battles."

The budget says France will set up a 50,000-man "rapid action and assistance unit" mainly for the "European theatre."

The new five-year budget projects an annual growth rate of 2 per cent in military spending, which will reach 4 per cent of the country's gross national product by 1988.

While giving priority to nuclear defence capabilities, the budget stresses the modernization of conventional forces with

sophisticated military technology. It foresees a trimmed-down but more mobile armed force with improved weaponry.

By the end of the century, the budget says, France will have a ground force of 290,000 soldiers, a cut of 25,000 from the present level, supported by 1,100 tanks, 400 helicopters and 8,000 armoured vehicles.

The navy will have two aircraft carriers, one of which will be nuclear-powered, and a dozen or so attack submarines. The air force will maintain its arsenal of 450 fighter jets and in addition will purchase US early warning AWAC planes.

During the debate on the budget, the French Communist Party said that it opposed the prior designation of the enemy and therefore abstained from voting on the relevant part of the budget. But it voted in favour of the budget as a whole.

The opposition parties, Rally for the Republic and the Democratic Union, criticized the budget, saying that military spending falls short of the country's defence needs.

Defence Minister Charles Hernu stressed that the military objectives contained in the budget must be achieved under all circumstances.

It is noteworthy that the budget was adopted after only a 10-hour debate which had been expected to last two days. Observers in Paris see this as an indication that there is no major difference among the various political forces on the question of strengthening defences to safeguard national independence.

— Yang Qi

Eager to export grain to Moscow

THE US Government on May 17 announced that Moscow had accepted President Reagan's April 22 proposal to negotiate a new long-term grain agreement with Washington. Reagan made the offer because the current US-Soviet agreement (1976-81), twice extended in 1981 and 1982, expires September 30 this year.

There are indications that the renegotiation is most likely to be very tough.

An About-Face

With this move the Reagan administration has changed the original US policy of imposing economic sanctions against the Soviet Union. But this reversal of position did not come as a surprise.

The US Government earlier had repeatedly signalled its willingness to sell more grain to the Soviet Union and assured Moscow of the United States' "reliability as a supplier of grain." Washington did not disguise its eagerness to expand grain sales to Moscow.

By contrast, the Soviet Union showed little interest in purchasing more grain from Washington. During the US-Soviet grain negotiation held last May in Paris, the Soviets refused to raise the minimum quota of grain that they were obligated to import from the United States under the current agreement. In another negotiation held last October, Soviet delegates said that the US offer to sell Moscow 23 million metric tons of grain was "appropriate," but they would buy only when the price was low enough.

Reasons

The reasons why Washington has wooed Moscow to buy more of its grain are:

First, with a huge surplus of grain on the world market and the grain price dropping, many grain exporting countries are in sharp competition to make more grain sales. According to estimates by the US Agriculture Department, the world total grain output in the fiscal year 1982-83 will reach the record figure of 1,660 million tons, and by the end of this fiscal year, the world grain stock will reach 250 million tons, the highest in the past 10 years.

Second, the Soviet Union has diversified its grain supply sources since the 1980 US partial grain embargo. Figures show that 70 per cent of Soviet grain imports was from the United States in the period of 1972-80. But now the American share of Soviet grain imports has dropped to 20 or 30 per cent. Since 1980, Moscow has increased its grain imports from Canada, Australia and Argentina.

Third, since the United States has had three consecutive years of excellent harvests, surplus grain has piled up tremendously and thus increased US agriculture's dependence on world markets.

US farm products export has been generally affected by the current worldwide economic recession which has brought about a sluggish world grain market

and a price dive. Moreover, its grain competitiveness has been greatly weakened by high US interest rates and the strong position of the US dollar. According to figures published by the US Agriculture Department, the total value of US exports of farm products dropped from US\$43.8 billion in the fiscal year of 1981-82 to US\$40.5 billion in 1982. The American farmers' net income dropped from \$19.6 billion in 1981 to \$19 billion in 1982, the lowest level since the 1930s. It is estimated that the net agricultural income can only reach \$15 billion in 1983. Now one-fourth of the 2.4 million US farmers are in debt.

Traditionally, US grain export made up an important part of the country's international balance of payments. With a trade deficit of \$42.7 billion in 1982, a decrease in grain sales to the Soviet Union will not only cause a worsening of US international balance of payments, but also adversely affect its grain price on world markets. Besides, the Reagan administration has been under growing pressure from some US farm states to make greater efforts to sell more grain to Moscow.

The US authorities, in view of their global strategic rivalry with the Soviet Union, have repeatedly stressed that high technology and equipment should be strictly banned from export to the Soviet Union, and asked their European allies to follow suit. However, the US Government, on the other hand, has more than once expressed its wish that the Soviet Union would buy more of its grain. The self-contradictory US policy will sharpen the differences between Washington and its West European allies.

— Lu Haoqing

Africa Stresses Solving Grain Problem

by Wu Tianxi and Li Zhengdong

The slow development of Africa's grain production is attributable to the single crop economy left over by colonial rule — a situation which has not changed much after the independence of African countries — and their stress on cash crops and neglect of grain production. The growth of population, the rapid growth of urban population in particular, and natural disasters have caused severe grain shortages.

Grain problem can be resolved mainly by developing agriculture self-reliantly for grain imports may only partially solve the problem in a short period. According to their own conditions, some countries have achieved good results in developing grain production.

THE severe grain problem in Africa, one of the major topics discussed at the Eighth Session of the Committee on World Food Security held last April, is an issue of common concern to the world community. Many African countries are laying special stress on developing grain production and have taken various measures for this purpose.

Prior to the 1970s, except for a few countries which relied on grain imports, most of the 50 African developing countries (hereafter referred to as Africa, not including South Africa) were self-sufficient or basically self-sufficient in grain. Kenya, Uganda and some other nations sometimes sold their grain surpluses.

In the 1970s, Africa's grain production began to lag behind population growth. The average annual growth rate of grain production was only 1.2 per cent in the 1970s, much lower than the 2.9 per cent average annual population growth for the same decade. The discrepancy between grain production and consumption has exhausted the grain reserves of Africa. By the end of 1982, African grain reserves amounted to only 7.1 million tons, a little more than 15 kilogrammes per capita or only 11 per cent the total African grain consumption that year. This figure is far lower than the minimum international standard (grain reserves should be 17-18 per cent of actual annual consumption) to en-

sure minimum security against possible food shortages.

In 1981, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization listed 43 severely food-deficient countries in the world, of which 26 were in Africa. Grain prices have continued to rise in some countries with serious food shortages. The rising grain prices were an important factor causing inflation in these countries. More African countries were being forced to spend foreign exchange, which should be used for economic construction, to purchase grain. This has had an unfavourable impact on the development of Africa's national economies.

Slow Development of Grain Production

Since the 70s, the growth of Africa's grain production has been slow and very uneven. During the 1970-81 period, output decreased in four years and had a zero growth rate in two years. The average annual growth rate in grain production dropped to less than 50 per cent of the rate of 2.7 per cent in the 60s, falling behind the annual growth rate of population.

Africa's agricultural production has always been very extensive. In recent years, the traditional crop rotation system has been gradually abandoned to meet increasing food needs, thus the soil has been robbed of its fertility. Moreover, the supply of fertilizers is inadequate. Africa now uses an average of only 15 kilogrammes of chemical fertilizers per hectare of land,

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just 1/16 of the world's average fertilizer application rate. Except for some regions in north Africa, irrigation is seriously inadequate throughout Africa. Only 2,466,000 hectares are irrigated, accounting for only 1.8 per cent of Africa's total cultivated land. Since the late 60s, the Sahel region and the countries of east Africa have been afflicted with one drought after another for successive years and with frequent plant disease and insect attacks. All this has seriously lowered Africa's agricultural productivity. At present, Africa's grain output constitutes only 4.6 per cent of the world total output although it has 10.5 per cent of the world's grain lands. Africa's animal husbandry and fishery also are not well developed.

Prior to independence, the developing countries of Africa were forced to plant cash crops according to the colonialists' demands, crops such as cocoa, groundnut, sisal hemp and oil palms. They became "one crop" or "single product" economies. This is the cause of their backward grain production. After independence, in order to gain more foreign exchange for their economic construction, many countries paid more attention to agricultural investments, the supply of materials for agricultural production, agricultural research and relevant technical services for cash crops. Some countries concentrated their efforts on petroleum or mining products and ignored grain production. Even the policies and technical assistance for grain production focused on rice and wheat rather than millet, maize, tuber crops, pulses and sorghum which accounted for more than 80 per cent of Africa's total grain acreage. Although some Africans have realized this problem and called for giving grain production top priority, grain production failed to increase due to a lack of funds and technology. There are also many unresolved concrete problems in such fields as price policy and technology popularization and training.

Grain Production and Population Growth

While grain production grew at a slow pace, Africa's population skyrocketed. In 1950, the population of Africa was only a little more than 200 million. By 1965 it was 287 million, a 38 per cent increase in 15 years, almost the growth rate of grain production. But by 1980 Africa's population had reached 440 million, a 53 per cent increase in 15 years which far exceeded grain increases for the corresponding period.

The statistics of 43 African countries show that average per-capita grain increases were below zero in 30 countries. Most of these are low-income developing nations.

It should be noted that population has grown rapidly in urban, industrial and mining areas. In 1965, the urban population of Africa was 73 million and Cairo was the only city with more than one million people. But by 1980, the urban population had increased to 151 million, and 14 big cities had more than one million people each. With the rapid population growth of urban, industrial and mining areas, the need for marketable grain increased greatly, and the pattern of food consumption also changed. As a result, large amounts of grain have to be imported to alleviate the shortages, which in turn intensifies the seriousness of Africa's grain problem.

Further analysis of the relationship between population and grain in Africa must not ignore the growing gap between the rich and the poor.

Reliance on Imports is Not a Permanent Solution

Before the mid-60s, Africa's annual net grain imports totalled 1-2 million tons. In the following years, the low international price of grain made it more advantageous to import grain than to develop grain production at home, so grain imports increased year by year. In the early 70s African grain imports reached more than 6 million tons. Egypt and other north African countries were the main importers. During 1972-74, many African countries had to use their foreign exchange to import grain at high prices to cope with the severe grain shortage resulting from their poor harvests. Libya and Nigeria paid any price to purchase huge amounts of grain with their oil earnings. In 1982, almost all the developing countries of Africa were importing grain in varying amounts and net imports for Africa increased to 23.6 million tons.

Although large amounts of grain imports and grain aid can relieve the problem of grain shortages in some regions, this also creates new problems. For instance, the high cost in foreign

exchange has curtailed their economic development. In some nations the lack of essential measures to protect production and the large-scale dumping of grain have weakened their own grain production. When the African nations drastically increased grain imports, their inadequate port installations, storage facilities, inland transportation and management have resulted in overstocked ports and grain losses.

Mainly Depending on 'Self-Reliance'

The African lands are vast with relatively good weather conditions and rich organic resources. Experts of some international organizations estimate that at least 53 million hectares of new land could be exploited and utilized with necessary investments. Expanded water resources could irrigate 10 per cent of the cultivated land. Then, more than twice the present population of Africa could be fed, even assuming a low level of agricultural investments.

In April 1980, the Organization of African Unity summit meeting held in Lagos mapped out the well-known "Lagos plan" which targeted economic development and the economic integration of Africa, and stressed the spirit of collective "self-reliance," by which each nation would implement the plan by concentrating on developing its own resources. The plan gave first priority to the development of grain and agriculture and set the following goals: 1. Making

great efforts to develop grain production, to become self-sufficient in grain, animal products and aquatic products within 10 years, and to improve people's nutrition levels; 2. Gradually establishing grain reserves; 3. Improving storage conditions; 4. Strengthening agricultural scientific research in accordance with African needs and characteristics to raise the yields of crops, animal husbandry and fishery; 5. Improving basic rural facilities to boost the comprehensive development in rural areas.

At present, a number of African countries are attaching more importance to increasing grain production. Nigeria, a major oil-producing country, has decided to readjust its economic strategy to develop agriculture and is determined to achieve self-sufficiency in grain. Senegal, where the main crop is groundnuts, has carried out a diversified agricultural policy in recent years, and has achieved good harvests in 1981-82. Mobilizing all kinds of tractors to help small farmers cultivate and sow last year, the Moroccan Government has also abolished agricultural tax, ensured the supply of seeds and chemicals, increased agricultural credits and exempted farm supplies from import duties, thus increasing the nation's grain output. In Uganda, where political upheaval and drought once created nationwide famine, bumper harvests of the past two years have made it possible to again export grain and other farm products. This shows that, with some efforts, the developing countries in Africa can become self-sufficient in grain. □

For Your Reference

National People's Congress

As the First Session of the Sixth National People's Congress is scheduled on June 6, we would like to acquaint our readers with some brief points about the system of the National People's Congress and the previous congresses. — Ed.

THE National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China is the highest organ of state power. The National People's Congress and its Standing Committee exercise the legislative power of the state. China's Constitution, Marriage Law, Criminal Law and the Law Con-

cerning Joint Ventures With Chinese and Foreign Investment were all enacted by the National People's Congress.

According to the stipulations of the new Constitution adopted in December 1982 by the Fifth National People's Congress at its Fifth Session, the National People's Congress, in addition to its legislative power, also exercises the following powers:

— It can amend the Constitution and supervise its enforcement; enact and amend other basic statutes.

— It elects the President and the Vice-President of the People's Republic of China. It decides on the choice of the Premier of the State Council upon nomination by the President of the People's Republic of China, as well as decides on the choice of the Vice-Premiers, State Councillors, Ministers in charge of ministries or commissions and the Auditor-General and the Secretary-General of the State Council upon nomination by the Premier.

It elects the Chairman of the Central Military Commission and, upon his nomination, decides on the choice of all the others on the Central Military Commission.

It elects the President of the Supreme People's Court and the Procurator-General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate.

The National People's Congress has the power to recall or remove these persons from office.

— It examines and approves the plan for national economic and social development and the reports on implementation; it examines and approves the state budget and the reports on implementation.

— It approves the establishment of provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the Central Government; it decides on the establishment of special administrative regions and the systems to be instituted there.

— It decides on questions of war and peace; and exercises such other functions and powers as the highest organ of state power should exercise.

The National People's Congress is composed of deputies elected by the provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the Central Government and by the armed forces.

The National People's Congress is widely representative. All nationalities, democratic parties, government offices and public organizations are entitled to appropriate representation.

Among the deputies to this National People's Congress are a large number of people from various fields of work who have made out-

standing contributions to the modernization drive.

The congress has a notable increase in the representation of intellectuals. The proportion of Party member deputies has decreased.

The permanent body of the National People's Congress is its Standing Committee. The Standing Committee is composed of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen, the Secretary-General and members who handle the important routine work. The Chairman and other members are elected for a term of five years. The new Constitution stipulates that the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Standing Committee shall serve no more than two consecutive terms.

To maximize its role, the National People's Congress supervises the work of state agencies. The new Constitution stipulates that no one on the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress shall hold any post in any of the administrative, judicial or procuratorial organs of the state.

It also decides that the National People's Congress establishes a Nationalities Committee, a Law Committee, a Finance and Economic Committee, an Education, Science, Cultural and Public Health Committee, a Foreign Affairs Committee, an Overseas Chinese Committee and such other special committees as are necessary.

These special committees examine, discuss and draw up relevant bills and draft resolutions. The National People's Congress and its Standing Committee may, when they deem it necessary, appoint committees of inquiry into specific questions and adopt relevant resolutions in the light of their reports.

Deputies to the National People's Congress during its sessions, and all those on its Standing Committee during its meetings, have the right to address questions, in accordance with procedures prescribed by law, to the State Council or the ministries and commissions under the State Council, which must answer the questions in a responsible manner.

, People's congresses are established in provinces, municipalities directly under the Central Government, autonomous regions, counties,

cities, townships and towns. Local people's congresses at different levels are local organs of state power.

Background Notes on Previous NPC

THE First Session of the **First National People's Congress (NPC)**, convened in Beijing September 15-28, 1954, adopted the first Constitution of the People's Republic of China, elected Mao Zedong Chairman of the People's Republic of China and Liu Shaoqi Chairman of the First NPC Standing Committee. On a suggestion of Chairman Mao, it named Zhou Enlai as Premier of the State Council.

The Second Session of the First NPC, held July 5-30, 1955, examined and endorsed China's First Five-Year Plan (1953-57) for the development of the national economy.

The First Session of the **Second NPC** took place in Beijing April 18-29, 1959 and elected Liu Shaoqi Chairman of the People's Republic of China and Zhu De Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee. Zhou Enlai again was appointed Premier of the State Council.

The First Session of the **Third NPC** was held in Beijing between December 21, 1964 and January 4, 1965. Premier Zhou Enlai's Report on the Work of the Government for the first time set forth the four modernizations (modernization of agriculture, industry, national defence, science and technology) as a national task. The session elected Liu Shaoqi Chairman of the People's Republic of China, Zhu De Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee and appointed Zhou Enlai State Council Premier.

At the First Session of the **Fourth NPC** in Beijing January 13-17, 1975, Premier Zhou Enlai, in compliance with instructions from Chairman Mao, set a timetable for the modernization drive, calling for major achievements by the end of the century. Meeting these goals will put China's economy in the front ranks of the world

and turn China into a modern, powerful socialist country.

The session adopted the revised Constitution of the People's Republic of China, which included many "Left" slogans. Just prior to this session, the gang of four plotted to seize the supreme state leadership but Chairman Mao laid bare and foiled their scheme. The session elected Zhu De Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee and appointed Zhou Enlai Premier of the State Council.

The First Session of the **Fifth NPC**, convened in Beijing February 26-March 5, 1978, endorsed the revised Constitution of the People's Republic of China. For various historical reasons, the session failed to rid the Constitution of all the "Left" elements. At the session, Ye Jianying was elected Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee and Hua Guofeng was appointed Premier of the State Council.

The Second Session of the Fifth NPC, held June 18-July 1, 1979, endorsed the Criminal Law, the Law of Criminal Procedures and the Law on Joint Ventures with Chinese and Foreign Investment.

The Third Session of the Fifth NPC, August 30-September 10, 1980, adopted the Law of Citizenship of the People's Republic of China, the Marriage Law, the Income Tax Law Concerning Joint Ventures With Chinese and Foreign Investment and the Individual Income Tax Law. The session endorsed the resignation of Hua Guofeng from the position of Premier and appointed Zhao Ziyang the State Council Premier.

At the Fourth Session of the Fifth NPC, November 30-December 13, 1981, Premier Zhao Ziyang's Report on the Work of the Government set forth the 10 principles governing China's economic construction. The session approved the Law Governing Economic Contracts, the Income Tax Law Concerning Foreign Enterprises and the Law of Civil Procedures.

The Fifth Session of the Fifth NPC, November 26-December 10, 1982, approved the nation's fourth Constitution and the Sixth Five-Year Plan (1981-85) for economic and social development. □

How Do China's Lawyers Work?

by Our Correspondent Zhang Zhiye

Safeguard correct enforcement

— *Interview with Tan Wenji, a leader in the notary public office in the Ministry of Justice of the People's Republic of China.*

Question: Could you give a brief account of the historical development of the work of lawyers in China?

Answer: Through 2,000 years of China's feudal society, there were no lawyers at all. The feudal landlord rulers enforced a barbarous autocracy, extorted confessions by torture, arbitrarily declared the accused to be guilty, treated human life as if it were not worth a straw, forbade the accused to defend himself and provided no counsel for trials.

It was not until modern times that the ruling classes in old China began to establish the work of lawyers, patterned after Western models. In 1912 the Northern Warlord government formulated a "lawyer statute" and in 1914 the Kuomintang government promulgated and enforced a "lawyers' law."

But, since old China was a semi-feudal and semi-colonial society in which only a few lawyers were upright and fair-minded and dared to speak for the people, the lawyers actually served the reactionary ruling classes.

After the founding of the Peo-

ple's Republic of China, we abolished the old legal system of the Kuomintang government and established a new, socialist system.

Between 1954 and 1957, we set up in succession 800 legal advisory offices staffed with 2,500 full-time and 300 part-time lawyers throughout the country. Lawyers' associations were formed in most provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. The work of lawyers was welcomed by the people.

However, owing to the influence of "Left" ideas, the lawyers' work was suspended soon after it began.

In 1979 with the re-establishment of the socialist legal system, the lawyers' work was resumed in China. In August 1980 the NPC Standing Committee adopted and published the Provisional Regulation Governing the Work of Lawyers of the People's Republic of China, thus ushering in a new stage in the development of China's system of lawyers.

At present, there are 2,350 legal advisory offices with more than 12,000 lawyers (about 8,600 working full time and

3,500, part time). Lawyers' associations have been set up in 14 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions.

Q: What are the major tasks of China's lawyers? How is legal work conducted?

A: Lawyers are state legal workers, not privately employed professionals. Generally speaking, the duty of a lawyer is to offer legal advice to ensure the correct implementation of law, and to defend the interests of the state and the collective and the legitimate rights and interests of citizens.

The activities of lawyers are many-sided, but include mainly five aspects:

— On request, lawyers act as legal advisers to government institutions, enterprises and undertakings, public organizations and people's communes; furnishing legal advice, drafting legal papers, taking part in litigation, mediation, and arbitration so as to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of the inviting unit.

At a time when China is pursuing policies of opening to the outside world and stimulating the economy at home and when it is constantly strengthening its economic legislative and judicial work and managing its economy by fully utilizing legal means, it is all the more important for the lawyers to undertake legal advisory work. At

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present, more than 600 large and medium-sized enterprises across the country have invited lawyers to act as legal advisers.

— Entrusted by the defendant in a criminal case or assigned by the people's court, the lawyer acts as a counsel for the accused. In accordance with facts and law, a lawyer's duty is to present the basis for acquitting the defendant and to advance his opinion on mitigating or remitting the defendant's responsibility for a crime, so as to defend the legal rights and interests of the defendant.

According to incomplete statistics, lawyers handled more than 90,000 criminal cases nationwide in 1982.

— The lawyer also acts on behalf of litigants involved in civil suits. Within the limits of the powers entrusted to him, the lawyer as a procurator should, in accordance with facts and law, help bring about a reconciliation between the litigants or take part in the law-

suits to defend the legal rights and interests of his client.

In 1982 lawyers acting as procurators handled more than 23,000 civil suits.

— In a case that is not resolved by court proceedings, the lawyer can handle certain affairs on behalf of the litigant or act as a procurator and take part in mediation and arbitration.

He can also handle matters of a non-disputed nature on behalf of the litigant, such as trusts, transfers, business affairs, commercial registration, etc.

In cases that are disputed but may not warrant court proceedings, the lawyer can help to bring about a conciliation. These have proved to be useful means for handling domestic disputes or disputes over economic affairs with foreign enterprises.

In 1982 the nation's lawyers handled more than 12,000 out-of-court settlements.

— The lawyer can answer inquiries and provide legal help. In 1982, the nation's lawyers answered 1.45 million people making inquiries including 580,000 legal questions and drafted 135,000 legal papers. Through such work, they have disseminated legal knowledge among the masses, thereby preventing and reducing civil disputes and the number of criminal cases, as well as civil suits.

Q: In China what kind of people are qualified to be lawyers?

A: As specified in the Provisional Regulations Governing the Work of Lawyers of the People's Republic of China, proceeding from China's specific conditions, citizens who love the People's Republic of China, support the socialist system and have the right to vote and stand for election and who have passed the required examinations are qualified to serve as lawyers. These are:

1. Those who have graduated from institutions of higher learning after completing their course of law and have engaged in judicial work, teaching or researching law for more than two years;
2. Those who have been trained in law and have acted as judges in people's courts or procurators in procuratorates;
3. Those who have received higher education and have engaged in economic, cultural and educational, scientific and technical work for at least three years; who are familiar with their specialities and laws related to their specialities, have been trained in law and prove to be suitable for the work of a lawyer;



Beijing Lawyer Zhu acts as a legal adviser to an agency under the Ministry of the Space Industry.

4. Others who have met the requirements as listed in point 1 or point 2; and who have a college level education and prove to be suitable for the work of a lawyer.

To guarantee the quality of lawyers, the state specifies the qualifications for lawyers. Those who possess these qualifications are examined and approved by judicial departments (bureaus) under provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, which will issue them lawyers' certificates and report to the Ministry of Justice of the People's Republic of China for record.

If the Ministry of Justice finds that the examination and approval are incorrect, it notified the judicial departments (bureaus) concerned that they must re-examine the qualifications of the persons involved.

Q: Since lawyers in China get state salaries, can they defend the legitimate rights and interests of the defendants?

A: Lawyers are state functionaries who are paid by the legal advisory offices. While engaging in their professional activities, including acting as counsels for defendants in criminal cases, lawyers strictly follow the principles of "handling cases on the basis of facts and taking laws as the criteria."

Their job is to safeguard the interests of the state and the collective and the legitimate rights and interests of the citizens, including the legitimate rights and interests of the defendants involved in criminal cases.

At the same time, through the supervision by legislative and judicial administrative agencies, the state ensures that lawyers

perform their duties properly according to law.

Therefore, there is no need to worry that state employment prevents lawyers from properly defending the legitimate rights and interests of the citizens.

China's judicial experience shows that lawyers who act as defence counsels in criminal cases can correctly and effectively safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of the defendants.

Q: What problems and prospects does China face in improving the lawyers' work?

A: China's socialist legal system is being gradually improved. This requires great efforts to strengthen and upgrade the lawyers' work. The major problem we face at present is the insufficient number of lawyers.

To change this situation, the state has taken a series of effective

measures to train lawyers and enlarge their ranks. It has strengthened the work of institutes of political science and law and law departments in universities to enrol as many students as possible. It has decided to invite some people to become part-time lawyers from various trades and professions in society, especially economic departments.

In addition, it has helped enterprises set up legal offices and train their own legal workers.

These measures will not only help overcome the shortage of lawyers but can open up wider avenues for the expansion of the lawyers' ranks.

The state has paid special attention to improving the working conditions and living standards of the lawyers. Therefore, China's lawyers can be expected to play an increasingly important role in the building of the state's legal system.

Lawyers' association

HAN XUEZHANG, president of the Shanghai Lawyers' Association, is a respected lawyer. When the 10 arch criminals in the Jiang Qing and Lin Biao counter-revolutionary cliques were tried publicly in 1980, she acted as a counsel for Yao Wenyan, a member of the gang of four.

"My husband (Professor Gu Weixiong of Fudan University in Shanghai) and I were once persecuted by the gang of four," Han said. "At first, I did not wish to be his counsel. But I believe that everyone is equal before the law and that defending the accused in accordance with law and facts is the duty of a lawyer, so eventually I gladly accepted the task."

Upon arrival in Beijing, I had two lengthy meetings with Yao Wenyan, heard the court investigations and verified a host of human testimony and material evidence.

During the trial, another lawyer and I pointed out that one accusation in the indictment was untenable — that Yao Wenyan prepared public opinion for armed rebellion in Shanghai. The court agreed that Yao Wenyan was not responsible for the crime of armed rebellion in Shanghai.

"Later, this was highly praised by lawyers abroad, who said that this showed that China's lawyers were really performing their duties."

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Han Xuezhang, 70, was admitted to the Shanghai Institute of Political Science and Law in 1934. She majored in law with the aim of defending women's rights. After graduating in 1938, she set up her own legal office.

Later when Japanese militarists invaded China, she became indignant and closed down the office. It was not reopened until after 1945.

In the years during the rule of the Kuomintang government, she devoted the bulk of her energy to the struggle for social democracy and progress.

At the time, China's famous democrats and experienced lawyers Shen Junru, Shi Liang and Sha Qianli had many followers and Han Xuezhang was one of them.

Guided by Shen Junru and Shi Liang, she served as a permanent legal adviser to *Lianhe Wan Bao* (Union Evening Paper), a progressive paper in Shanghai, and thus gained a good reputation as a "democratic lawyer."

After the founding of New

China, she became president of a people's law court. However, like many other intellectuals, she was unjustly criticized in 1957. In a subsequent period, she worked in the counsellor's office in the Shanghai municipal people's government.

After 1979, the work of lawyers was resumed in China and she once again began to act as a lawyer. Today she leads a lawyers' association with more than 300 members. She is very enthusiastic about the association's work. In co-ordination with the judicial departments, she set up two municipal legal advisory offices in metropolitan Shanghai and a legal advisory office in each suburban county and district.

"Although Shanghai does not have many lawyers at present, the lawyers' association organizes lawyers to undertake a great number of legal affairs, such as defending the accused in criminal cases, acting on behalf of the litigants involved in civil suits, handling non-lawsuit cases and answering legal questions," she said.

"In addition, many of our

lawyers are asked to serve as legal advisers to state organizations, enterprises and undertakings, furnishing legal advice on their businesses, examining their economic contracts or taking part in mediation, arbitration or lawsuits. These activities directly serve economic construction," she said.

The Shanghai municipal lawyers' association led by Han Xuezhang mainly handles the following tasks.

— It protects the lawyers' legitimate rights and interests while performing their duties;

— It studies and discusses lawyers' participation in handling major cases;

— It invites some well-known personages in society into the lawyer's organization so as to expand the ranks of lawyers;

— It arranges and organizes contacts between lawyers of the association and their counterpart abroad so as to facilitate exchange of experiences and promote international friendship; and



Han (right) acted as legal counsel to Yao Wenyuan (left) before his trial in October 1980.



The legal advisory office in Beijing.

— It helps the judicial and educational departments to give professional legal training.

Once a week, Han Xuezhong holds meetings with other lawyers in the legal advisory office to discuss concrete cases. At the same time, she analyses the defence process in cases that have already been concluded and sums up experiences and lessons.

The discussions are intended to help other lawyers correctly understand the basic spirit and concrete articles of the law and to defend the legitimate rights and interests of the accused according to law.

She said that a lawyer does not defend the accused as he pleases. Instead, "his (or her) defence must conform to facts and the law."

In the summer of 1982, when the accomplices of the Jiang Qing counter-revolutionary clique were tried in Shanghai, Han Xuezhong personally led 18 lawyers to take part in the defence work.

Two of the lawyers defended Huang Jinhai. In their meeting with Huang, they discovered that he totally denied the charges against him and declared his intention to "create a big uproar at the court." Obviously, this would not help the legal proceedings.

Han Xuezhong asked the lawyers to seriously analyse the case, encourage the accused to observe the stipulations of relevant laws and help the court to clarify the details of the case. During the trial Huang admitted his crimes. At the same time, the lawyers, basing themselves on investigative findings and analyses, offered a realistic defence, negated certain charges in the indictment and asked the court to handle the case leniently. The accused was satisfied with the lawyers' work.

Han Xuezhong said that China's lawyers are not privately paid professionals. They are ideologically responsible to the state and the law and should foster collectivism.

"As president of the lawyers' association, I am duty-bound to help the lawyers to become devoted to their duties, be impartial and not to act wrongly out of personal interests. This is what I expect to accomplish in my life," she said.

The Shanghai municipal lawyers' association is developing a socialist style of legal work. Once a lawyer acted on behalf of an old woman in litigation of a legacy dispute. The woman was very happy with the lawyer's conduct, which was both exemplary practice of law and defence of her legitimate rights.

When the case was concluded, the old woman tried many times to learn the address of the lawyer, so she could reward him. Finally she waited at the bus station and followed him home. When she caught up with him, she thrust a package into his hands full of gifts worth more than 1,000 yuan and rushed away. But the lawyer returned the gifts, saying that lawyers should serve the people and should not be a slave to money.

Towards the end of 1982, Han Xuezhong went abroad to study other countries' legal practices. She discovered that many countries were very interested in China's system. She came to the conclusion that as China had now resumed legal defence work, some foreign methods can be used, such as inviting lawyers to act as legal advisers to factories and enterprises.

At the same time, China is a socialist country which has its own specific conditions, so in its drive for modernization, it must create and improve the legal system which has its own characteristics, she said.

Lawyers' rights and responsibilities

CHINESE lawyers, both civil and criminal, are first and foremost responsible to the court. Their job is to protect their client's legitimate rights in the context of helping the court arrive at the correct conclusion.

A civil lawyer's responsibility is to present materials and opinions that exonerate his client or explain the circumstances that mitigate his actions so that the court can decide the extent of liability.

A criminal lawyer represents his client but is not expected to protect him from justified legal charges. The law stipulates that a criminal lawyer may only proceed from laws and facts to present materials favourable to his client, but may not exclude unfavourable data.

The people's court is, in turn, required to facilitate the lawyers' work. For example, it must ensure the timely delivery of indictments and other papers to the lawyer.

A lawyer has the legal right to see all court files related to the case he handles and to copy any materials he considers important. He may not be denied this right under any circumstances, not even in the name of confidentiality.

The court is required to ensure that the lawyer has sufficient time to prepare his defence and to allow necessary postponements of a trial.

Defend the Innocent

Once when a Shanghai district people's court was handling a robbery case, the principal accused Ma refused to eat and talk. The court assigned him a lawyer. First the lawyer convinced Ma to eat and then slowly he persuaded Ma to give his side of the story. Ma began to talk.

Ma, 29, had been accused of robbery with a gang including Dong. Guo and Wang (Guo

and Wang had already been convicted and sentenced). Ma was charged with being the gang leader. The other three all stated that Ma had taken part in the crime. At first Ma denied it point-blank. Later he said he had taken part in the robbery. However, no sooner had he been arrested, than he denied his former statement and began a hunger strike.

The lawyer held that since the accused denied his original confession, it was necessary to reconsider the facts stated in the indictment. The court, therefore, returned the indictment to the procuratorate, asking for further investigation because the facts it provided were not clear.

The lawyer also requested that the accused be released on bail so that he could stay at home waiting for trial. When the procuratorate indicted Ma for the second time, Ma was no longer accused of being the ringleader but otherwise the facts remained the same. The lawyer made further investigations. He discovered that Ma had been with the others at the scene of the robbery before it occurred, but he had no idea that the other three planned to rob it and he was not present when the robbery took place.

After the robbery, Ma sold a TV set to a third person as he was instructed to by Dong but he did not know that the set was stolen, and Ma received not a single cent as commission.

When the three were arrested, they suspected it was Ma who had turned them in. They therefore agreed on a fabricated story and shifted the main responsibility on to him.

During the court proceedings, the lawyer argued that Ma was innocent of both robbery and



Zheng receives a visitor at her law office in Beijing.

disposing of stolen goods. The district court pronounced him not guilty, but the procuratorate appealed against the judgment. In a final ruling, the Shanghai Intermediate People's Court upheld the verdict of not guilty.

Who Is To Blame?

When there is no doubt that the accused has committed the crime, the lawyer presents the court with facts and arguments that might mitigate or exonerate the accused of his criminal responsibility. One defence is the plea that the accused was not the principal offender.

The Shanghai Intermediate People's Court once openly tried a murder case involving three defendants, Fang, Wang and Cai. Each had his own lawyer. Fang's lawyer argued during the trial that Fang took part in the murder and supplied the murder weapon, so his crime was serious. But after the murder, he surrendered himself to the public security bureau accompanied by a family member. He completely confessed his crime and showed repentance. So Fang's lawyer asked for a mitigation.

Wang's lawyer claimed that his client had taken part in plotting the murders on several occasions and that he had been to the scene of the crime before it occurred. But he had not actually committed the murder. After the crime, he surrendered himself on his own and also disclosed the crimes of the other two offenders, resulting in a rapid solution of this case. He had performed good services in informing against the two offenders, therefore he was qualified to be mitigated and remitted.

After a careful review of the evidence and the defence, the



Legal counsels in a Shanghai court.

court sentenced Cai to death and he was executed immediately; it sentenced Fang to seven years and acquitted Wang.

The Legal Rights of the Accused

A man named Hou was convicted of five counts of theft committed with others during April 1980 and of four additional counts of theft he committed on his own between March and May 1980. The district court that tried the case sentenced Hou to six years in prison, the accused and his legal representatives (his parents) appealed against the judgment with the help of a lawyer.

After reading the file and making investigations, the lawyer felt that the judicial procedures were illegal. The accused was born on August 30, 1963. His first crime was committed on March 5, 1980, and his last offence on May 8 the same year when he was under 17 years old.

However by the time the case came to trial — October 8, 1980, he was 17 years and two months old. The lawyer pointed out to the court of second instance (intermediate people's court) that

the Criminal Procedure stipulates: "Where an accused is deaf or dumb, or a minor, the People's Court shall assign an advocate for the accused if he has not called in any."

In this case, the accused was a minor (under 18) in 1980. During the trial by the court of first instance, the court failed to assign an advocate for him, nor did they inform his parents of his rights.

This obviously violated the youth's legal rights. The lawyer requested that the court withdraw the original judgment and that it remand the case for retrial by the court of first instance.

The Beijing Intermediate People's Court ruled that Hou's trial by the district people's court violated the stipulation of the Law of Criminal Procedure of the People's Republic of China, and that the judgment by the court of first instance should be withdrawn according to law and the case be re-tried.

Advocate for Legitimate Defence

An agricultural school in Beijing was showing a film one

evening when a gang of hooligans caused a disturbance. Zhang, a teacher, tried to stop them by reprimanding them. He was beaten up by the gang.

Sun, a faculty member of the school, ran to the school's security department to ask for help, but nobody was there. So he took out a fruit knife for defence, intending to stop the hooligans. When he returned to the scene of the fight, he found the teacher lying on the ground with a bleeding head. Zhou, one of the gang, was lifting a rock, ready to strike at the teacher. Sun tried to stop him and in the ensuing struggle stabbed Zhou in the abdomen and he was also stabbed. Later Zhou died from loss of blood. The procuratorate initiated a prosecution of Sun for manslaughter. Sun was sentenced to 15 years of imprisonment by the court of first instance. He appealed against the judgment with the help of a lawyer.

The lawyer investigated and re-examined the case. He declared at the court of second instance that the nature of this case was not "fighting with each other," but a legitimate defence on the part of Sun who was trying to save Zhang from the hooligans. Although Sun's action resulted in Zhou's death, it was nonetheless necessary because: 1. Sun was forced to use his knife, and he used it promptly, an essential step to stopping the attack on Zhang. 2. The armed response corresponded to the intensity established by the hooligan's attack on Zhang. Judging from the number of hooligans, means of harassment, the weapons they used and their obvious intention to smash Zhang's head, showing complete disregard for human life, their offences were serious enough to warrant the death penalty in a

court. The only way Sun could protect Zhang was to stab Zhou.

The court of second instance made the following judgment: The acts of Sun were legitimate but excessive acts of defence. Sun was sentenced to two years in prison with two years reprieve.

At a legal advisory office

THE Beijing Legal Advisory Office is an agency where citizens can seek legal information and assistance.

It has eight rooms where individuals can discuss their legal problems with lawyers. The complaints are mostly civil, dealing with economic, matrimonial, housing, heritage and other disputes. Some people merely seek explanations of laws. Some simple disputes only require a few minutes of a lawyer's time, others can be quite time consuming. Some cannot be solved in one day.

A typical case for agency lawyer Ma was presented by a middle-aged couple, both college teachers, who wanted to resolve a quarrel with their neighbour over the use of a common kitchen.

When they arrived in the office, both had some bruises stemming from a fist fight. The lawyer carefully considered the facts of the case as they described it and finally told them that they had little basis for a law suit. They decided to try to resolve the conflict themselves and to establish more friendly relations with their neighbour.

The lawyer objected to this decision and helped Sun to appeal to a higher judicial department. The Beijing Intermediate People's Court re-tried the case based on the stipulations of the Law of Criminal Procedure. It pronounced Sun not guilty on the basis of legitimate defence.

Ma said that he thought it would be the best way to solve the problem.

Zhu, one of the agency's leaders, said that it was customary in China for people to settle disputes by themselves or through a mediator, rather than to take disputes to court, because they feared losing face or hurting the feelings of the other party.

In addition to the mediation committees which are people's organizations, the legal advisory office is another place where disputes can be resolved with the help of lawyers and do not need to develop into law suits. These services also lighten the burden on the court.

A reception room was set up in the legal advisory office in November 1981. Among those who come for help are professionals, people's deputies, cadres in government organizations and enterprises, art and literary workers, industrial workers, peasants, soldiers and housewives.

In 1982 alone, the office received 7,611 visitors, drafted 554 legal papers, handled 95 non-lawsuit cases and answered



Beijing lawyers prepare a defence in a criminal case.

1,086 letters from the people. It has seen a great increase in economic disputes, as well as enterprises asking for legal advice. Some cases have been rather complicated. These developments are considered a normal phenomenon following the establishment of the legal system.

The agency lawyers try their best to protect the legal rights and interests of the parties concerned.

Guo, a woman lawyer, discussed a case involving a primary school teacher's younger brother. This female teacher, about 40, came to the office on behalf of her brother. In 1976, her brother had a knife fight with the husband of a woman with whom he was having an affair. The injuries were not serious, but her brother was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

The lawyer read all the files and trial transcripts and advised the teacher that when her brother was sentenced, the court was influenced by an ultra-Left line. It was not uncommon in those days for the offenders to be inappropriately sentenced. She said the judgment was too severe, based on the Criminal Law.

Moreover, it was inappropriate to include, as the judgment did, the proposition that as the injury took place in Sept. 1976 when people were mourning the passing away of Chairman Mao Zedong, the offender should be dealt with especially severely. The lawyer told her that the litigant might appeal for a new judgment. The teacher is now urging her brother to appeal his sentence.

The office has a friendly atmosphere where lawyers treat the clients with courtesy and respect. One lawyer said that some visitors try to present gifts to the lawyers, such as money, cigarettes, wine or candies but the gifts are all politely refused.

A young lawyer who was also a cashier explained that the office charges a very low rate so that anyone can afford legal aid. The lawyers are paid directly by the government and all fees go to the government.

The charges range from 0.5 yuan to 10 yuan for legal inquiries or drafting legal papers; 5-30 yuan for drafting contracts and agreements; 10-30 yuan for handling criminal or civil cases; 10-30 yuan for estates amounting to over 10,000 yuan; if the estate is under 100,000 yuan, the

rate is 2-3 per cent of that amount, 0.5-1 per cent, if the estate ranges from 100,000-1 million yuan.

Not long ago, a Xianggang merchant became ill in Guangzhou and had to convalesce there for some time. He fell in love with the peasant woman who looked after him and asked her to marry him. When they went to a people's commune in Guangdong to apply for marriage registration, they were rejected. The merchant therefore made a special trip to the capital.

A lawyer investigated the case and then advised the merchant that first he needed to obtain a certificate from a notary office in Xianggang testifying to his occupation and that he was unmarried. Following that, he needed to acquire a marriage registration license at a county civil department in Guangdong Province.

The merchant was happy with this experience. He said it would have cost at least HK \$800 (about RMB 230 yuan) to talk with a lawyer in Xianggang but in Beijing he paid only 2 yuan. He wanted to pay more, but his offer was turned down. □

SPORTS

Barefoot sprinters promote sports

Putian County on the south-east coast of Fujian Province covers 1,975 square kilometres, has a population of 1.5 million people and is famous for its lichee. But to sports fans, Putian County is known for its armies of amateur track-and-field athletes, many of whom turn out potential national stars.

As early as 1863, Putian set up physical education courses for its schools, offering high jump, broad jump, shot put and running.

At the 3rd National Sports Meeting in Wuchang, Hubei Province in 1924, Nanjing college student Wu Demao, a Putian native, captured the pentathlon and decathlon gold medals. In those days, dozens left Putian to move to institutes in the more culturally and educationally developed city of Shanghai to major in sports. In the early 1930s, these people returned home and became the first professional sports teachers in Putian.

During October 1947, a self-sponsored 39-member sports

team stunned the country when it competed in Fuzhou, Shanghai and Nanjing and won all 56 matches. Thereafter Putianians came to be known as the "barefoot sprinters" (because they wore no shoes when they ran). Track-and-field events, however, were limited to only some schools.

The founding of the People's Republic in 1949 began a new era for Putian's sports. The Party and government protected and promoted local sports development.

In 1956 Putian County set up a county educational sports committee and the county education bureau drew up a physical education syllabus for its middle schools and each year granted tens of thousands of yuan for school sports funds.

Everyone of the 133 secondary vocational schools and middle schools in the county had its own track-and-field team. Thousands of students took part in physical training.

Seventy-seven-year-old Putian No. 1 Middle School has had sports programmes for many years. The Asian broad jump record holder Liu Yuhuang (8.11 metres) and the 9th ASIAD decathlon gold medalist Weng Kangqiang are graduates of this school.

Every day after school, the school's playground becomes alive with students doing all kinds of sports: broad jump, high jump, basketball, volleyball, etc. They start doing exercises at five thirty in the morning. Students are required to take two classes of physical training every week, in addition to limb and eye exercises during the break, and two extracurricular sports activities. All these are considered criteria for choosing model students and model classes.

Weng Zulie, 75, is a physical education teacher at Putian No. 1 Middle School who was an athlete himself before he began teaching 52 years ago. He has witnessed the ups and downs of sports development in his hometown.

In the hard times before liberation, he led a hand-to-mouth existence and had to give away six of his children to survive. When he recalled his experience as a member of the Putian sports team visiting Shanghai and other cities in 1947, he said: "All our outlays came from alumni donations. Sometimes we had to move on foot from place to place."

Weng Zulie has coached many sports talents. Some of them have received doctoral degrees

"Special tracks" in Putian County.



Weng Zulie (front left) in a coaching session.



in sports or professorships abroad. Others set national and Asian records. The school cited his many accomplishments at a ceremony for his 50th anniversary of teaching and the President of the All-China Sports Committee Li Menghua sent him a letter of thanks on the occasion. Weng is now a member of the Committee and a member of the National Track-and-Field Society.

Another strong piece of evidence for Putian's local sports development is to be seen in an out-of-the-way underdeveloped island, Huanggua Islet. It covers only one square kilometre and has a population of 4,700.

Although the island has only one primary school and only one playing ground about the size of a basketball court, all the same its home-made equipment facilitates physical training for 954 pupils. In 1982, students from this school captured the team events titles in a county primary school sports meeting.

Their success can only be explained by the fact that they have not permitted themselves to be restricted by their limited conditions. They use small boulders as shots, mooring-ropes for tug-of-war and have stretched their playground on to the beach and into the sea, where students swim and boat in the summer and climb the cliffs and hike in the winter.

Today Putian County is not the only sports loving county in China. Quite a few others have followed suit, encouraged by its experience.

Putian's neighbour, Xianyou County, fostered the 1982 national junior 200-metre sprint gold medalist and the 100-metre silver medalist and the national youth pole jump gold medalist.

Commune-run spare-time sports schools are rare, but Xianyou has nine and they all

concentrate on track-and-field events.

The first, now four years old, ran into difficulties at the beginning because it had insufficient funds and equipment. The county government allowed the school to finance itself through opening a workshop that makes packing boxes. In addition, the county sports committee has provided 1,000 yuan for the school each year. The school charges no tuition fee and even gives students stipends.

Working with their own hands, the teachers and students extended the original 60-metre-long track into a four-lane 300-metre track. Despite all the simple facilities and equipment, two students of the school broke provincial records and seven topped junior records in Putian Prefecture.

Both Putian and Xianyou Counties regard primary and secondary schools as the foundation for developing sports. Upon graduation, sports activists enter the society enthusiastic about physical training, and they promote track-and-field sports wherever they are assigned to work.

GEOLOGY

Mount Namjagbarwa surveyed

Two recent surveys by Chinese scientists of Mount Namjagbarwa in southeast Tibet have revealed the geological secrets of the area. The entire mountain has moved northward more than 60 kilometres in the past 3 million years, averaging two centimetres per year. The crust of the mountain has risen 1,200 to 1,500 metres in nearly 30,000 years, averaging four centimetres per year.

Containing the gorges of Yarlung Zangbo River, Mount Namjagbarwa is the only mountain over 7,000 metres above sea level on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau that remains unconquered. Characterized by complex topography, unique natural conditions as well as rich natural resources, the area around the mountain has long been believed a key to revealing the secrets of the rising of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. Hence, the mountain is attracting the attention of scientists and mountaineers the world over.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences made two comprehensive surveys of Mount Namjagbarwa in August 1982 and February 1983. The surveys gathered information in more than 10 fields, including geology, landforms, physical geography, plants and animals.

The surveys verified the fact that the area around the mountain was an ideal place for the geological research due to the vigorous activities of its geological structures.

Every year, the area experiences three or four earthquakes each with a magnitude of 4-5 on the Richter scale. In the 1920s, a British expeditionist surveyed Mount Namjagbarwa, and at the big bend of the Yarlung Zangbo River running through the canyon, he found two big waterfalls, each with a drop of more than 10 metres. But now both of the waterfalls have disappeared.

One geologist who participated in the recent surveys said he believed that the epicenter of the August 15, 1950 earthquake, which registered 8.5 degrees on the Richter scale, might be in the Mount Namjagbarwa area, instead of Zayu as was thought at the time.

Scientists on the second expedition of February 1983 have

located an advancing glacier on the northwestern slope of the mountain, which contains evidence of the effects of the oceanic monsoons. The advancing glacier is about 10 kilometres long at an elevation of 3,000 metres above sea level. It is the first time such a glacier has been discovered in China.

The scientists' studies suggest that the glacial flow is caused by steep glacial bed and strong earthquakes. The cycle of advance is about 20 years.

According to the records, local Tibetans first suffered from its advance in 1950 when 96 villagers were buried and only one survived. It moved forward again in 1968.

Scientists warn that precautions should be taken in case the next advance blocks the Yarlung Zangbo River and causes flooding in the lower reaches.

About 40,000 specimens of animals and plants were collected by scientists on the expeditions.

The third large-scale scientific expedition to Mount Namjagbarwa will be made by the Chinese Academy of Sciences from June to September this year. Their surveys will also include atmospheric physics, geophysics, geochemistry, environmental chemistry, metamorphic rock and avalanche.

ART

Ivory carving

A large ivory carving, *Grand View Garden*, depicting scenes, characters and episodes of China's classic novel *A Dream of Red Mansions* by the 18th century writer Cao Xueqin was

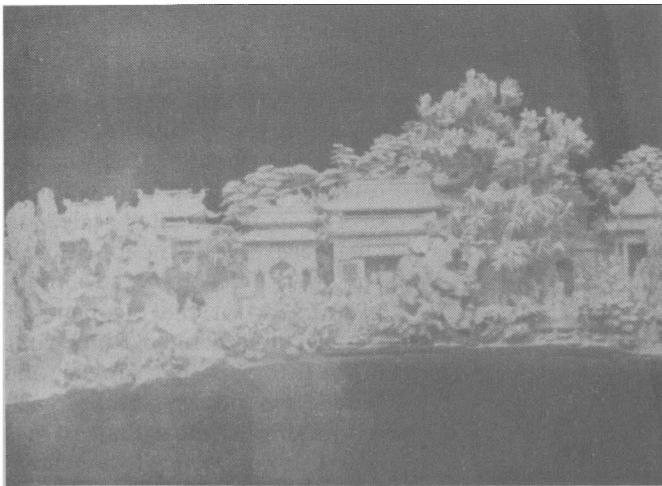
finished in Shanghai April this year.

It is carved out of one tusk of 1.68 metres long and 46 cm at its widest, with exquisite composition and style. The whole piece weighs 75 kilogrammes.

Grand View Garden is the home of the Jia family whose life was detailed in the novel. The craftsmen captured 16 episodes including Lin Daiyu's coming and Granny Liu's visit to the garden in a harmonious piece of art. It consists of 163 figures, more than 200 trees and flowers and over 20 pavilions and chambers. The figures, only about 2 centimetres high with heads the size of small beans, are vividly carved; their expressions varied and life-like. The buildings are richly ornamented in the style of ancient Chinese architecture.

This carving was created over three years by Xu Genquan, Fan Haiyan, Lu Yunsheng and four other craftsmen at the Shanghai Jade Carving Factory under the tutelage of Masters Huang Derong, Cai Jiansheng and Xu Wancheng.

The craftsmen created innovative techniques while using traditional ones. Hollow, shallow and deep sculpting as well as bas relief — all are used. In addition, it is the first of its kind to re-present a long novel on a single carved piece of ivory.



Ivory carving of "Grand View Garden." Inset shows a detail of it.



Papercut for a window.



Pillow cover pattern.

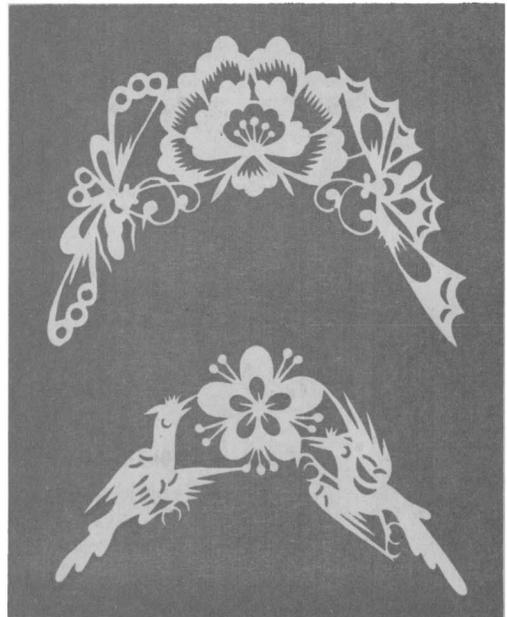
Quilt design.



Papercuts

by Huang Kaotian

Born in 1920 in a traditional paper-cutting family in the western part of Hunan Province, Huang Kaotian began his paper-cutting career at the age of 12. Most of his papercuts are used by the local people as designs for embroidery on pillows, curtains, scarves or shoes. He specializes in designing patterns to fit into different shapes. His works are very popular.



Pattern for shoe embroidery.

