

PEOPLE'S 人民中国 CHINA



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1953

PEOPLE'S CHINA

A FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE

Editor: Liu Tsun-chi

CHRONICLES the life of the Chinese people and reports their progress in building a New Democratic society;

DESCRIBES the new trends in Chinese art, literature, science, education and other aspects of the people's cultural life;

SEEKS to strengthen the friendship between the people of China and those of other lands in the cause of peace.

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Three Tasks for This Year

FOR 1953, the people of China have set themselves three great tasks.

The first task is to go on resisting American aggression and giving aid to Korea, and to win new victories over the invaders while continuing to strive for a peaceful settlement based on fairness and reason.

The second task is to begin the five-year plan of national construction aimed at transforming China from an agricultural into an industrial country.

The third task is to elect and convene the All-China People's Congress and local people's congresses, to adopt a constitution and to elect a Central People's Government and local people's governments.

These historic undertakings are closely linked and intertwined.

Successful resistance to aggression is the prerequisite of peaceful construction. The U.S. monopolists are trying to expand the Korean war and launch new enslaving wars in their endless voracity for blood-money profits. The Chinese people, aiding their Korean brothers, are fighting to protect national independence, the improvement of living standards, and peace.

China's new five-year plan is the first step of the industrialisation the people have dreamed of for a century, the industrialisation that will be a guarantee that they will never again be subjugated by imperialism or live in poverty. That such construction can proceed even while imperialist attacks are being warded off has been proved by the record of the past three years, in which industrial and agricultural production has grown by 65 per cent, the wounds of decades of war have been completely healed, and vast, new undertakings have been accomplished.

The exercise by the people of their democratic right to frame their own constitution and elect their own government will immeasurably strengthen their enthusiasm both in national construction and in the defence of their gains.

Internationally, the carrying out of the tasks the Chinese people set themselves in 1953 will be a weighty contribution to peace, democracy and human happiness among all the peoples of the world.

True Friendship

ON December 31, 1952, the Soviet Union turned over to China, without any compensation whatsoever, full ownership of the 3,000-kilometre Chinese Changchun Railway with its land, lines, rolling stock, repair plants, power stations, buildings and other properties. The transfer of the railway, which was originally built by tsarist Russia and recovered from Japanese imperialism by the Soviet Army, took place after more than two years of joint Sino-Soviet administration during which all war damage was completely restored, the railway became the best equipped and operated in the country and more than 20,000 Chinese technicians and administrators were trained with Soviet help.

The event was unlike anything that had ever happened, or indeed is conceivable, among profit-mad capitalist states which do not hesitate to unleash every form of robbery, including war, to get their hands on "valuable property" of any kind. Soviet Ambassador A. S. Panyushkin rightly pointed out at the signing ceremony in Harbin that the transfer is "a remarkable example of the new type of co-

operation which has been established among countries of the democratic camp. At the bottom of this co-operation lies the sincere desire to help one another and to promote the development of all." And Chairman Mao Tse-tung spoke for all in China when he said in a special message to Stalin, "The Chinese people will forever remember this fraternal, friendly assistance."

Laureates of Peace

NOTHING is more important in our day than the fight to avert war and promote peace among the nations. And the International Stalin Peace Prize, awarded annually, is the highest distinction that a worker in the cause of peace can win.

At this time, when the success of the world Congress of the Peoples for Peace has demonstrated once more the growth and broadening of the peace forces, we hasten to congratulate the seven newest recipients of this high honour: Yves Farge of France, Dr.

Saifuddin Kitchlew of India, Elisa Branco of Brazil, Paul Robeson of the United States, Johannes Becher of Germany, Dr. James Endicott of Canada and Ilya Ehrenburg of the U.S.S.R.

Four of these prize-winners have lately been in China. Dr. Kitchlew played a prominent part in the Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions in Peking last October. Dr. Endicott and Yves Farge personally investigated and branded the American imperialist crime of germ warfare in China and Korea. Ilya Ehrenburg came earlier to present the International Stalin Peace Prize to China's own Soong Ching Ling.

The noted German writer Johannes Becher is a veteran fighter in the cause of peace. Elisa Branco was imprisoned for bravely addressing Brazilian soldiers and denouncing the Korean war. The mighty voice of Paul Robeson will be heard as the true expression of the American people long after war-breeding imperialism has been relegated to the scrap-heap of history.

To all these gallant leaders, we send our felicitations and best wishes for long, fruitful and victorious activity in the common cause.

The Great Tasks for 1953

IN 1953 the people of China face three great tasks.

The first is to continue to strengthen the struggle to resist American aggression and aid Korea and to strive for still greater victories; the second is to launch the first five-year plan of national construction and to fulfil and over-fulfil the 1953 construction plan; the third is to convene the All-China People's Congress for the adoption of a constitution and the plan for national construction.

IN their more than two years' struggle to resist American aggression and aid Korea, the Chinese people have achieved tremendous

An abridged text of the editorial of the Peking People's Daily, January 1, 1953.

victories. In the past year alone, the Chinese and Korean peoples' forces put out of action over 241,900 men of the American aggressor and satellite forces and shot down or damaged over 5,300 enemy aircraft. (American casualties alone topped the figure of 102,700.) Added to previous losses, enemy casualties have reached the total of 736,000 men, including over 322,000 Americans, and the number of enemy aircraft brought down or damaged exceeds 7,800. The world has come to recognise that the more they battle, the more powerful the Chinese and Korean peoples' forces become. While enemy losses in manpower and material become ever more staggering, their troops grow ever more demoralised and their internal contradictions become increasingly sharp. In spite of all this, and in spite of the reasonable proposals re-

peatedly advanced for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question by the Chinese and Korean side in the Panmunjom negotiations and by the Soviet delegates in the U.N. General Assembly, the American aggressors have persistently rejected peace. They and their collaborators insist on the forcible detention of Chinese and Korean captured personnel and the continuation of the war. They are, moreover, actively conspiring to extend the scope of their aggression. This situation naturally evokes the greatest vigilance on the part of this country.

The Chinese people, therefore, must continue, in 1953, to reinforce the struggle to resist American aggression and aid Korea. They must be prepared to smash enemy attacks and raids anywhere and by every means, and strive for new and still greater victories. At the same time, they must continue to strive for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question on a fair and reasonable basis.

1953 is the first year of large-scale construction in our country. The question arises: is large-scale construction possible in circumstances which call for the continued strengthening of the struggle to resist American aggression and aid Korea? The answer is unequivocally in the affirmative. During the past two years, the people of our country have made enormous efforts in the struggle to resist American aggression and aid Korea, yet this has not hindered, but indeed accelerated, the completion of our economic restoration and the radical improvement of our economic and financial situation. In 1952, the total value of industrial and agricultural output exceeded their value in 1949 by 65 per cent. Apart from coal, which shows a slight lag, the highest annual pre-war level has been surpassed in all the principal industrial and agricultural products. Taking the highest annual production level before liberation in each case as 100, preliminary statistics for 1952 show that pig iron production reached 105, steel ingots 170, coal 95, electric power 114, cement 153, cotton yarn 150, cotton cloth 165, paper 212, grain 109 and cotton 155. We have achieved complete equilibrium in balancing our revenue and expenditure. The state (socialist) economy has definitely achieved a leading position in indus-

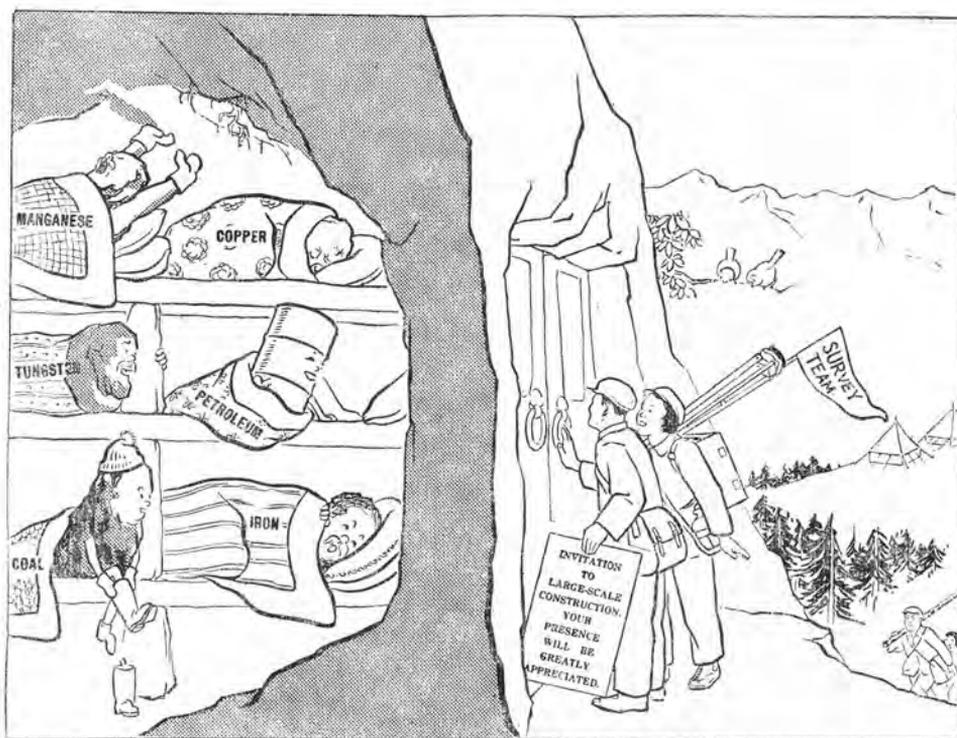
try and commerce. All this has created excellent prerequisites for large-scale national construction.

National construction includes the building up of the nation's economy, its national defences and its culture with economic construction as the basis. The over-all task of economic construction is to transform China step by step from a backward agricultural country into a powerful, industrial country. To attain this objective, we must first concentrate on the development of such heavy industries as metallurgy, fuel, power, machine-building and chemicals, etc.

Industrialisation has been the dream of our people over the past hundred years. Industrialisation is a basic guarantee that they will never again be humiliated by imperialism or have to live in poverty. It is, therefore, in their vital interest. The people of our country must unite as one in active struggle for this greatest good.

The industrialisation of our country must proceed at a much faster pace than that of any capitalist country in its period of development; our industrialisation must adopt the quick tempo reached in the industrialisation and development of the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies. Such speed is possible because our country is a People's Democracy. Our national construction is identical with the interests of the people of the whole country, its aim being the continuous raising of the standard of the people's material and cultural life, the consolidation of our national defences and the preservation of peace. That is why our people can bring their labour enthusiasm and creativeness into full play in carrying out the plans of construction. Also, this fast tempo is attainable because we can profit from the generous, selfless assistance of our great ally, the Soviet Union, the guidance of advanced Soviet experience, and the support of the People's Democracies and all peace-loving peoples throughout the world.

To realise our plan of large-scale national construction, all workers, engineers and technical personnel in both public and private enterprises, and managerial staffs in industry,



An invitation from
the people

Cartoon by
Wei Chi-mei

the building industry, communications and transportation must all engage in patriotic production emulation on a wide scale; learn advanced working methods, science and techniques; further develop all potentialities and fully utilise all favourable circumstances.

In the course of our industrialisation, our agriculture must also go forward rapidly. On the basis of voluntary action and mutual benefit, the peasants throughout the country should organise themselves further so as to develop systematically and carry to a higher stage the agricultural mutual-aid movement and the movement for the organisation of producers' co-operatives, learn up-to-date techniques in agriculture, carry out water conservancy projects and water and soil conservation, prevent the ravages of flood, drought, pests and plant disease, strive to raise crop yields per unit area and fulfil and overfulfil the plans for increased output.

State-trading companies, co-operatives and private commercial firms should step up trading so as to help the plans for industrial and agricultural development and satisfy the peo-

ple's daily needs. State-trading companies and co-operatives should all improve their methods of management, definitely adopt the system of business accounting, shorten the period of capital turnover and reduce expenditures in commodity circulation.

The nation's cultural and educational programme must be adapted to the needs of economic construction and national defence. We must train an enormous number of people for all types of construction work and call upon youth, the students and intellectuals to intensify their study of techniques and science. We must continue to raise the political consciousness of youth and of the entire nation. We must help women throw off the bonds of feudalism and acquire an equal status with men, so as to expand the ranks of workers in industry and agriculture.

Capital is needed in all sectors of national construction, but the capital at our disposal is limited. So the whole nation and all government workers must attach great importance to the question of the sources and the correct utilisation of capital. To guarantee the capital

investment for the build-up of our nation, capital must be employed on a priority basis, it must be invested first and foremost in enterprises that have a decisive bearing on the nation's future, that is, in heavy industry and national defence. To guarantee the necessary capital investment for construction on a nationwide scale, we must also continue to practise economy and save every bit of money for this purpose.

Leadership is of paramount importance to our national construction plans. To fulfil our plans, we must train and promote large numbers of outstanding cadres employed in construction.

AS our country passes from the stage of successful economic restoration to the stage of large-scale construction, it is necessary, in accordance with the Common Programme, to convene the All-China People's Congress and local people's congresses at all levels and elect the Central People's Government as well as local people's governments. The All-China People's Congress will adopt a constitution and the plan for national construction. There is no doubt this will be a great event in the political life of the Chinese people.

During the last three years and more, conditions were not ripe for putting into effect the system of the people's congresses, owing to the vast scale of the social and political reforms and the work of economic rehabilitation then in progress. For this reason, the Plenary Session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference has temporarily been exercising the powers of the All-China People's Congress, and the local people's representative conferences have, in varying degrees, assumed the powers of the local people's congresses. At the same time, in the absence of a constitution, the Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference has temporarily and partially served in its place. Now these provisional measures which were absolutely essential in the past and have successfully served their historic mission, no longer meet the requirements of the stage of planned construction. Following the land reform and other social reforms, the overwhelming majority of

our people are now prepared to elect their own government. The full exercise of the people's democratic rights will strengthen the link between the People's Government and the masses and greatly enhance their revolutionary fervour and labour enthusiasm, factors which are among the most important prerequisites for the successful execution of our construction plans.

THE tasks for 1953 are gigantic. Their completion will be an excellent beginning of, and will lay a sound foundation for, the whole five-year plan. It will decisively affect the work of the following four years. Undoubtedly, all open and covert enemies will try to sabotage these tasks by every possible means. We shall meet with all kinds of difficulties. But we must overcome these obstacles and win victory. It should be recalled that in the brief period of a little more than three years, the people of our country, under the brilliant leadership of Comrade Mao Tse-tung and the Communist Party of China, and with the powerful support of the Soviet Union, have solved problems which had never been solved in the past thousand years, thus leading our Motherland straight out of the depths of misery and darkness to a world of light and hope. We have successfully achieved national unity; completed land reform; launched the struggle to resist American aggression and aid Korea and the struggle to suppress counter-revolutionaries; eliminated the remaining influences of imperialism in China; consolidated the unity of all nationalities in our country; readjusted industry and commerce; stabilised prices; balanced the budget; prosecuted the struggle against corruption, waste and bureaucratism and against bribery, tax evasion, theft of state property, cheating on government contracts, and stealing economic information from the state; developed the movement for increasing production and practising economy; and completed the work of economic rehabilitation. It is obvious, therefore, that our 475 million people, under the leadership of Comrade Mao Tse-tung and with the help of Comrade Stalin, will go forward from victory to victory in their just cause. Let the people of all social strata and all nationalities in our country rally in indestructible unity for the sake of the new and greater victories to come!

The Transfer of the Chinese Changchun Railway

Chao Ching-lun

On December 31, 1952, an important event in the relations of friendly co-operation between China and the Soviet Union took place. At a ceremony held in Harbin, the Government of the Soviet Union transferred without compensation all its rights in the joint administration of the Chinese Changchun Railway, with all property belonging to the Railway, to the full possession of the Government of the People's Republic of China. Thus the Soviet Union has scrupulously fulfilled its commitments under the Sino-Soviet agreement on the Chinese Changchun Railway of February 14, 1950, and the Sino-Soviet communique of September 15, 1952.

The property of the Chinese Changchun Railway transferred includes the trunk lines running from Manchouli on the Sino-Soviet border to Suifenhao via Harbin and from Harbin to Dairen and Port Arthur with all the land, railway structures, equipment, rolling stock, workshops, communication installations, buildings and other establishments serving the railway.

The transfer was legalised in a final protocol signed by the Joint Sino-Soviet Commission for the Transfer of the Chinese Changchun Railway set up by agreement between both governments on an equal footing. Present at the ceremony were Premier and Foreign Minister Chou En-lai, Minister of Railways Teng Tai-yuan, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Wu Hsiu-chuan, Vice-Chairman of the Northeast People's Government Kao Chung-min and Alexander S. Panyushkin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the U.S.S.R. to China.

In his speech delivered at the ceremony, Premier Chou En-lai extended heartfelt thanks to the great Soviet people, the Soviet Government and Comrade Stalin for their fraternal, friendly assistance to the Chinese people. He

described the fraternal co-operative relationship between China and the Soviet Union as an "unparalleled, shining example in the history of international diplomacy."

Ambassador Panyushkin pointed out in his speech that, as the result of the defeat of imperialist Japan, the overthrow of the reactionary Kuomintang government and the establishment of the People's Republic of China friendly to the Soviet Union, the situation in the Far East has been fundamentally transformed, giving rise to new conditions which provided the possibility of approaching the question of the Chinese Changchun Railway in a new fashion. He described the railway as a "highway of friendship" between the two peoples.

Following the transfer, effective as from 18:00 hours on December 31, 1952, the name Chinese Changchun Railway Administration was changed to the Harbin Railway Administration directly under the Ministry of Railways.

A reception was given by the Joint Sino-Soviet Commission after the ceremony at which a message from Chairman Mao Tse-tung to Comrade J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., on the railway's transfer was read by Chou En-lai. Toasts were drunk to the friendship between the Chinese and the Soviet peoples and to the health of their leaders. A programme of music and dancing performed by the Soviet Arts Workers' Group ended the day's celebrations.

The Chinese Changchun Railway (now the Harbin Railway) consists of two trunk lines, one from Manchouli in the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region to Suifenhao in Sungkiang Province via Harbin; the other from Harbin to Dairen and Port Arthur, with a total length of more than 3,000 kilometres. It was begun by tsarist Russia in 1896 and was then called the

“Chinese Eastern Railway” and the “Southern Manchurian Branch of the Chinese Eastern Railway.” The latter was seized by the Japanese after the Russo-Japanese War and the former passed under the control of the Japanese in 1935. When Northeast China was liberated on August 15, 1945 with the assistance of the Soviet Army, the railway was freed from the Japanese imperialists.

With the victory of the revolution of the Chinese people and the establishment of the People’s Republic of China, a new approach to the problem of the Chinese Changchun Railway was made possible, and on February 14, 1950, an agreement on the Chinese Changchun Railway was concluded between China and the Soviet Union. In Article 1 of this agreement, it is stated:

Both Contracting Parties agree that the Soviet Government transfers without compensation to the Government of the People’s Republic of China all its rights to joint administration of the Chinese Changchun Railway with all the property belonging to the Railway. The transfer shall be effected immediately after the conclusion of a peace treaty with Japan, but not later than the end of 1952.

Then in April, 1950, the representatives of the governments of China and the Soviet Union agreed that, beginning on April 25, 1950, the Chinese Changchun Railway Company should be established for the joint administration of the railway before its transfer to China.

During the war, the Japanese brigands and their puppet troops had seriously damaged the railway. But while under joint Sino-Soviet administration, the Soviet Union helped China with considerable manpower, supplies and advanced technique to repair and build up this railway.

In the past three years, more than 1,300 Soviet experts have trained nearly 20,000 Chinese railway administration cadres and technical workers. Nationally famous model workers Cheng Hsi-kun, Li Hsi-kuei, Yang Mao-lin and the woman locomotive-driver Tien Kuei-ying were all personally trained by the Soviet experts. Taking into account the specific conditions of China, the Soviet experts have helped the Chinese workers to give expression to their creative power and introduced many advanced methods. More than 130 innovations based on Soviet methods have

Chairman Mao Tse-tung’s Message to Comrade J. V. Stalin

Comrade Stalin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R.:

During the joint administration of the Chinese Changchun Railway by China and the Soviet Union, the Soviet side has contributed immensely to the Chinese people in railway construction. The Chinese people will forever remember this fraternal, friendly assistance. Now on this occasion when the Soviet Government, in accordance with the 1950 agreement and the 1952 communique, is transferring gratis to the Government of the People’s Republic of China, all its rights to the joint administration of the Chinese Changchun Railway together with all properties belonging to the railway, I, on behalf of the Chinese people and Government, express my heartfelt thanks to the great Soviet people, to the Soviet Government and to you. May the great friendship between the Soviet Union and China grow and become more consolidated with each passing day.

MAO TSE-TUNG.

December 31, 1952.

emanated from the Chinese Changchun Railway, thus guiding and setting examples for the railways throughout China. This has been invaluable to the Chinese people both in railway administration and the administration of other enterprises.

On New Year’s Day, 1953, Premier and Foreign Minister Chou En-lai presented the more than 1,300 Soviet experts with the “Chinese Changchun Railway Medal” on behalf of the Central People’s Government in recognition of their work and the enormous aid they have rendered towards building up China’s railways. On the same day, an obelisk was unveiled and a memorial hall was dedicated to commemorate the brilliant achievements of the Chinese Changchun Railway under the joint Sino-Soviet administration. The obelisk is inscribed with a dedication reproducing Chairman Mao Tse-tung’s handwriting. Situated on the square in front of the Harbin Railway Administration building, this obelisk symbolises the eternal solidarity of the great friendship between the Chinese and the Soviet peoples.

Socialist Realism— The Road of Advance For Chinese Literature

Chow Yang

THE great works of Soviet literature occupy an important place in the life of the Chinese people and exercise a deep influence on Chinese literature. Soviet literature is a source from which the Chinese people have always drawn confidence, courage and experience in carrying on their struggle both in the days before they won their liberation and after they had achieved victory. We see through Soviet literature a social order that is the most progressive and the finest in the world; a social order which has never existed before and which is the embodiment of human happiness; we find examples there of the noblest human qualities and the loftiest moral character. The great strength of Soviet literature lies in the fact that it observes and reflects life from the standpoint of Communist ideology; it combines the reality of today with the ideals of tomorrow. In other words, its power lies in its creative method of socialist realism.

Socialist realism has today become the banner of progressive literature throughout the world. The literature of the Chinese people is also advancing under this banner. Just as China's New Democratic revolution is a component part of the world proletarian socialist revolution, so is the literature of the Chinese people a component part of the world literature of socialist realism.

Speaking of the movement for the new culture (the May Fourth Movement of 1919), Comrade Mao Tse-tung wrote:

This article by Chow Yang, well-known critic and Vice-Minister of Cultural Affairs, was originally published in the Soviet magazine *Znamya* (No. 12, 1952) on the occasion of the recent Sino-Soviet Friendship Month.

...The May Fourth Movement came into being at the call of the world revolution of that time, of the Russian revolution, and of Lenin... (On *New Democracy*)

In his work *On People's Democratic Dictatorship*, Comrade Mao Tse-tung still more profoundly and clearly defined the significance of the October Revolution in Russia for the Chinese people. He wrote:

The Chinese were introduced to Marxism by the Russians. Before the October Revolution, the Chinese were not only unaware of Lenin and Stalin but did not even know of Marx and Engels. The salvos of the October Revolution brought us Marxism-Leninism. The October Revolution helped the advanced people of China and of the whole world to adopt a proletarian world outlook as an instrument for contemplating a nation's destiny or for reconsidering one's own problems. Follow the path of the Russians—this was the conclusion.

The conclusion "Follow the path of the Russians" is applicable in literature and art as well as in politics.

It is unthinkable that the historic victory of the Chinese people's revolution could have been achieved without the great influence of the October Socialist Revolution and the assistance of the Soviet Union; so also, the achievements of the Chinese people's literature today would have been impossible without the great influence and inspiring example set by the Soviet literature born of the October Socialist Revolution.

Modern Chinese people's literature has grown on the fertile soil of the realities of Chinese life. It has inherited all the best traditions of the centuries-old and extremely rich and splendid literary heritage of China; it has skillfully adapted these traditions to the new tasks of today. In literature and art, we have op-

posed, and we shall continue to oppose, the blind worship of western bourgeois literature. While Chinese literature must have its own particular and distinctive national style, its national character is by no means insulated, narrow or conservative. On the contrary, on the basis of its own national traditions, it can and must absorb all that is progressive, all that is useful in world literature.

Throughout the entire course of its development, Chinese literature has always studied the advanced experience of world literature to enrich itself and raise its level. Of all foreign literature, works of Russian and Soviet literature have exerted a particularly great influence on Chinese literature. As far back as 1932, in his article *I Hail the Literary Ties Between China and Russia*, Lu Hsun, greatest of China's writers, wrote with gratitude and enthusiasm of the profound influence exerted on the Chinese people by Russian and Soviet literature and the consequent forging of lasting spiritual links between the Chinese and Russian peoples.

Recalling the time when Russian literature was first introduced to China at the end of the last century, Lu Hsun wrote:

We learned then that Russian literature was our teacher and friend, for we saw in it the splendid soul of the oppressed, and their attempts to achieve their freedom.... From this literature, we also learnt one great truth: that there are two kinds of people in the world—the oppressors and the oppressed.

Nowadays, everybody knows this, and there is no arguing about it, but at that time, it was a great discovery, comparable to the discovery of fire for lighting and cooking by people in ancient times.

This high evaluation was fully justified, because the penetrating exposure and description of class contradictions and class struggle in Russian literary works have been of tremendous assistance to the Chinese people in their search for a road to liberation and at the same time helped Chinese literature to take the path of revolutionary realism. The positive influence of Russian and Soviet literature was strongly shown throughout Lu Hsun's work from the very beginning. He did exemplary work in popularising Russian and Soviet litera-

ture in China. His translations of Gogol's *Dead Souls* and Fadeyev's *The Nineteen* are outstanding works.

Nearly all the revolutionary democratic intellectuals in China, beginning with the very first ones, have in one way or another come into contact with Russian literature and been powerfully drawn towards it. Russian literature possesses this special power of attraction because it reflects the resolute struggle of the Russian people for the loftiest human ideals against the oppressors and slave-drivers; it mirrors such noble traits of the Russian people's national character as their love of freedom, their wisdom and their courage.

Pushkin and Gogol, Tolstoy and Turgenyev, Chekhov and Gorky—all are as dear to the Chinese reader as his own national writers. The characters in the works of these authors are just as near and dear to us. Although the heroes in the Russian classics—as rightly pointed out by the great Russian critic Dobrolyubov—did not have sufficient power of decisive action, nevertheless, they never reconciled themselves to the ugly reality around them; they strove hard to attain freedom and reach for light. It was precisely this that had so powerfully attracted the Chinese progressive and democratic intellectuals of those times and profoundly inspired them.

Of all foreign authors, none could compete with Maxim Gorky in winning the most honoured place in the hearts of the Chinese readers. When we read his *Stormy Petrel* and *The Song of the Falcon*, we sense the real revolutionary Russian spirit. In his novel *Mother*, we met for the first time in literature the resoluteness of character of the militant Russian working class, a quality which serves as an example to the working class of the world.

Comrade Fadeyev once said: "There is much that is similar in the character of the Chinese and Russian peoples." This similarity, without doubt, is the outcome of the similar historical conditions in which the two peoples waged their long struggle for freedom and national independence. And we are very proud of this similarity in the character of the Chinese and Soviet peoples.

With the historic victory of the Chinese people, absolutely new conditions were created for the unprecedented development and further consolidation of the old and close literary ties between the Chinese and Russian peoples which were commended by Lu Hsun. Soviet literature, art and films are today not only examples which are studied by Chinese writers and artistic workers, they have also become a mighty moral force of Communist education and inspiration for the broad popular masses of China. They have become an indispensable, most precious and integral part of their new cultural life.

Such novels as *The Iron Flood*, *The Nineteen*, *Cement*, *And Quiet Flows the Don*, *Virgin Soil Upturned*, *How the Steel Was Tempered (The Making of a Hero)*, *Days and Nights*, *The Russian People*, *The Front* and others have long been loved by Chinese readers. The splendid types of Soviet people portrayed in Soviet literature are warmly loved by millions of Chinese readers; they will live forever in the hearts of the Chinese people. Pavel Korzhagin, Zoya, Matrosov and Oleg Koshevoi have become characters on whose example countless numbers of China's young men and women are being raised.

We are especially gratified that the young literary, art and film creations of the new China are well received in the Soviet Union, and that their ideological and artistic values are highly appreciated by Soviet readers and audiences. The presentation in 1951 of Stalin Prizes to the Chinese writer Ting Ling for her novel *Sunshine on the Sangkan River*, to the writer Chou Li-po for his *Hurricane* and to the playwrights of the opera *The White-Haired Girl* was a great honour to our literary and artistic workers and to the entire Chinese people. This was the highest praise for our Chinese writers and a great inspiration and encouragement to them to create even better works.

The increasing cultural exchange between China and the Soviet Union is of exceptional importance in promoting the development of Chinese literature and art. The significance of these ties is not limited to the field of literature; it extends to the political sphere. It is known to all that the great friendship of the Chinese

and Soviet peoples is the main factor in safeguarding peace in the Far East and throughout the world. The strengthening of cultural exchange between China and the U.S.S.R. is an important factor in consolidating this friendship still more.

The Chinese people, especially Chinese literary and artistic workers, are faced with a serious task: to popularise still further Soviet literature, art and films among the people. Literary and artistic workers will have to exert still greater efforts to learn from the creative experience and skill of Soviet writers and especially to master their creative method of socialist realism.

At present, Chinese literature as a whole is not yet fully socialist; it is socialist and democratic, guided by the creative methods of socialist realism. Comrade Mao Tse-tung has clearly pointed out in his work *On New Democracy*:

Because New Democratic politics, economy and culture are under the leadership of the proletariat, they all contain a socialist element, which is moreover not an ordinary but a decisive element.... If there is a socialist element in our politics and economy, then, as its reflection, there will be a socialist element in our national culture.

In judging whether a particular literary work is a work of socialist realism, the main thing is not whether socialist reality is reflected in this work, but whether it reflects from the Marxist stand and point of view the truth of life in its revolutionary development. Many of our literary works, for example, the works of Ting Ling and others who were awarded Stalin Prizes, the works of Chao Shu-li and others, describe the life and struggle of the peasants. Nevertheless, these works cannot be described as peasant literature or ordinary democratic literature, but as the literature of socialist realism. We call them so because their authors write about the peasants not from the ordinary peasant or general democratic point of view but from the socialist point of view of the working class. In observing the fate of the peasants through the eyes of the working class, the authors of these works describe the revolutionary struggle waged by the peasants under the leadership of the Communist Party, show the

changes occurring in the status of the peasants and their ideological development. While they sing the praises of the inexhaustible revolutionary energy of the peasants, they at the same time criticise all conservative and backward elements in their ideology, class consciousness and habits. In writing about the emancipation of the peasants, the writers actually write about the working class leadership of the peasants. In their works, peasant activists and Communists are not simply peasants but the vanguard of the working class in the countryside. People's fighters in literary works on the People's Liberation Army and the Chinese people's volunteers are the incarnation of the unity of the lofty spirit of patriotism and internationalism.

Our country is entering a new historic stage of large-scale economic construction. There is no doubt that the socialist elements in our political, economic and cultural life will continue to grow. Thus, with the rise of the working class as the leading class in industrial production, its socialist consciousness will develop along with its labour enthusiasm. In the countryside, the peasants will gradually take the path of creating agricultural producers' co-operatives. The intelligentsia and students are being educated in the spirit of the Marxist conception of the world. All this provides a real and ever more extensive basis for a socialist realist literature.

Naturally, China must pass through a certain period of development in order to transform herself into a socialist country. Although the socialist sector is the leading force of the national economy and is developing with incredible speed, it may be said that China today is still a country of small-scale producers. The bourgeois class still exists in China. This fact is reflected in literature where bourgeois and especially petty bourgeois ideology exerts a deep influence and where, as a result, there is a fierce struggle waged by socialist realism against the influence of bourgeois and petty bourgeois ideology.

Chinese literary works following the principles of socialist realism are today admittedly far from always being mature. They are still in the process of growth. This is mainly due to the fact that Chinese writers are not sufficiently well versed in Marxism-Leninism, not sufficiently steeped in the rich experience of life and lack a high level of artistic skill. This underlines the urgency and importance of our learning from Soviet literature using the creative method of socialist realism.

What are we going to learn from socialist realism and how are we going to apply this creative method?

Socialist realism demands in the first place that the writer be sincere and truthfully depict reality in its revolutionary development. In life, there are always contradictions and struggles between things that are progressive and developing and those that are backward and dying away. A writer should penetratingly reveal the contradictions in life, clearly grasp the main tendencies in historic development and vigorously support all that is new and oppose the old. Therefore, in estimating the ideological value of a literary work, we must primarily decide whether this work sufficiently reveals the class contradictions of society—which are reflected in the



Herds on the Sikang-Tibetan Plateau

Woodcut by Wei Ke

minutest details of all spheres of life—and whether the revelation is profound enough. Any tendency to try to cover up, disguise or gloss over the contradictions of life is a distortion of reality, reduces the ideological militancy of literature and weakens its active role.

In the past three years, the Chinese people have achieved great successes in their heroic struggle against U.S. aggression and to aid Korea, in carrying out the land reform and various other social transformations as well as in the restoration and construction of their economy. We have seen countless numbers of heroic and exemplary workers and deeds appear on the various construction fronts in our country. These should, in the first place, be depicted and praised in our literature. At the same time, it should be pointed out that the successes achieved in our country under the leadership of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the Communist Party of China during the past three years have been achieved only by overcoming many and great difficulties. On the one hand, the Chinese people have to continue the struggle against imperialism, and on the other, they have to develop large-scale peaceful construction within the country. The existence in China of a huge number of scattered small producers runs counter to the requirements of the industrialisation of the country. Remnants of the old ideology, old habits—for example, the outlook of the private ownership of property and conservatism in production among the peasants—run counter to the steadily rising political consciousness of the Chinese people. Some of our writers often fail to disclose our difficulties and the contradictions which do in fact exist; they do not realise that our country's successes can only be described by depicting the difficult process of overcoming difficulties. Some of our writers have a superficial understanding of optimism, and their writings create the wrong impression that our successes have been achieved without any difficulty. When they deal with contradictions in life, they not only do not dare to disclose them but even try to gloss them over and blur their features so as to avoid making "mistakes." Thus, they describe the turbulent stream of life as a still current which at most has only a few ripples on its surface.

Fadeyev's novel *The Nineteen* tells of the struggle waged by a guerilla unit in the Russian civil war. In the end, there remained only nineteen members in the unit, but as we read of their unconquerable revolutionary will and confidence, we say that it was they who were victorious. The reader is left not with any feeling of defeatism but, on the contrary, the spirit of revolutionary optimism is strengthened. The same can be said of Fadeyev's novel *The Young Guard*. It is only in the process of overcoming great difficulties and contradictions that the real power of revolutionary optimism can be revealed.

To describe the struggle between the forces of the new and the old, it is necessary to forcefully portray the heroes who represent the new. These heroes should be presented as positive characters taking an active and progressive stand and transforming life. Generally speaking, our writers are still not adept enough in describing new heroes, though they show a comparative maturity in describing the old type of hero and events of the past. Very often, the new heroes of our literature lack character. Writers frequently describe only the outer appearance of the new life, the general political physiognomies of the new heroes without penetratingly depicting their individual characters, their thoughts and feelings. This is the reason why many of our literary works suffer from lack of vitality, are dry and formalistic. Soviet literature has created an entirely new type of hero who is building a Communist world. This should be seriously studied by our literary workers.

For us today, the most important thing in mastering the principles of socialist realism in Soviet literature is to learn how to describe the contradictions and the struggle between the new and old forces of society, how to create the characters of the new heroes who personify the lofty morals and the noble qualities of the man of Communist society.

In this respect, the works of many outstanding Soviet writers can best serve us as examples. Comrade Stalin's directives concerning literature and art, the historic resolutions

of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on questions of ideology, the late Comrade A. A. Zhdanov's instructions on questions of literature and art and finally the directives on these questions contained in Comrade G. Malenkov's report to the 19th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union—all these represent the richest and most valuable experience for the progressive literary and artistic workers of China and the whole world. They have given us most valuable and important guidance.

Our study of Soviet literature will not hinder but help our literature to inherit our own splendid national traditions. The tradition of realism in Chinese literature is deep-rooted in the past and has a long historical background. Revolutionary democratic realism, the main stream typified by Lu Hsun in the new Chinese literature after the May Fourth Movement, opened a new era in the history of Chinese literature and prepared the conditions for the advance to socialist realism.

The spirit of Lu Hsun's realism is mainly reflected in his hatred of the dark reaction of old China, in his fervent desire and striving for a new China and in his attitude towards the principle he adopted of making a sharp distinction between truth and falsehood, and in the ardency of his individual loves and hates. In creating Ah Q*, Lu Hsun, on the one hand, deeply sympathised with this humiliated and insulted hero while on the other hand he sharply flayed his vital weaknesses—his undeveloped class consciousness.

The realist works of the Chinese classics also describe the social struggle and depict the character of the heroes. The first great Chinese novel *Shui Hu* (*All Men are Brothers* or *Water Margin*) published six hundred years ago, gives a powerful portrayal of the struggle waged by the peasants against the feudal and bureaucratic landlords. Much as this struggle was tinged with its unavoidable backwardness and primitiveness, nevertheless, it developed to a high stage such as in the building up of a base at Liang Shan Po by the peasant rebels, the formation of an army of their own and the establishment of a government. There are 108

* Hero of the famous short story *The True Story of Ah Q* by Lu Hsun which is printed in the second issue of *Chinese Literature*.



We love peace!

Poster by Yen Han

heroes in this novel, and most of them are characters with distinctly different personalities. Another great Chinese novel is *The Dream of the Red Chamber* with its 448 male and female characters. This is unusual even in world literature.

Chinese literature today must inherit and develop these excellent traditions of ancient Chinese literature in skilfully depicting the struggles and character of its heroes. The new literature of socialist realism can become a real people's literature only by consciously and, of course, critically, absorbing these excellent traditions of China's national classical heritage.

Thus we must learn from advanced Soviet literature while we base ourselves on the life of the people of our own country, on the national heritage of our own literature. Following in the footsteps of Soviet literature, New China's literature has begun to enter onto the path of socialist realism. We will advance steadily along this path.

New Year Comes to Peking

Sun Chan-ko

By late December, the holiday spirit reigned in Peking. State enterprises one after another announced successful completion of their annual plans. The end of 1952 was flushed with victory. Spending money was plentiful, and the goods were there to buy. Peking's people prepared to celebrate the most prosperous New Year in the city's history.

The days when "New Year comes and prices sky-rocket" have gone forever with the reactionary Kuomintang racketeers. State and private enterprises laid in large New Year stocks of goods well ahead of time. They prepared for a daily sale of 200,000 kilogrammes of biscuits and sweets for the New Year rush. Crowds of shoppers thronged the state shops, co-ops, arcades and markets, buying things for the New Year parties as well as presents, particularly toys for the children.

Eggs, though usually in short supply in the cold season, were held steady at 600 yuan apiece (about two pence). Apples from Chefoo, oranges from Szechuan, tangerines from Chekiang, grapes from Hsuanhua, pomelos from Kwangsi, bananas from Kwangtung... all kinds of fruits and sweetmeats were on the stalls, at moderate prices.

All state shops and most of the private stores gave a 5 per cent discount for three days on all sales. Beginning with December 30, the shopping spree was on! Ready-made clothes, cloth, particularly woolen goods, and fur-lined shoes were in great demand. The volume of business that day in state shops increased 150 per cent over the average. Hsien Hsiang and Co., a private shop, did twice as much business as usual. Before noon it had sold several hundred high quality pullovers and its whole stock of good quality blue cloth. Pao Tsuen-chen, an elderly building worker, alone bought 50 feet of cloth and counted out 200,000 yuan. When an onlooker expressed surprise at this, he replied, "This is nothing! I've been making good bonuses recently, and I'm going to buy myself a fur jacket for the New Year too!"

Watch-dealers were particularly busy. With plenty to eat and comfortably dressed, the people can now afford to think about watches, which are no longer a luxury. Customers want good quality watches and don't mind paying for better workmanship. State department stores sold more than a thousand watches a day during the New Year sales. Three hundred good quality watches at over one million yuan each, which had only just arrived at the First City Department Store, were sold out in five days. Electrician Pai Yu-wei, who couldn't even afford a reed mat before the liberation, was able to buy a brand new Swiss-made wrist watch worth over 1,400,000 yuan on New Year's eve.

The co-ops were crowded. As early as the beginning of December, many letters and phone calls came from members. "We need more printed cottons, the prettier the better!" wrote a group of women members. "More meat should be stocked," warned the Worker Families' Committee.

Shoppers returned home well satisfied. Private businessmen, too, were pleased with the soaring sales.

Firecrackers whizzed, boomed and whistled, and the main streets and thoroughfares were gay with lanterns and coloured neon lights on New Year's Eve.

At homes, at schools and in the people's gaily decorated clubs, the citizens of Peking enjoyed their ample dinners and celebrated at evening parties. Workers' clubs put on special theatrical performances with many plays dealing with the production front and the new Marriage Law. Theatres and cinemas were crowded.

Hundreds of thousands sang and danced to music from Peking radio. They rejoiced at the success of the past year's efforts.

The grand, star-lit evening flowed past. Finally the hour struck. Twelve clear chimes sent off the year that was full of peaceful victories and welcomed in 1953—the year of China's first five-year plan.



Part of the Anshan Iron and Steel Works

ANSHAN— China's Steel City

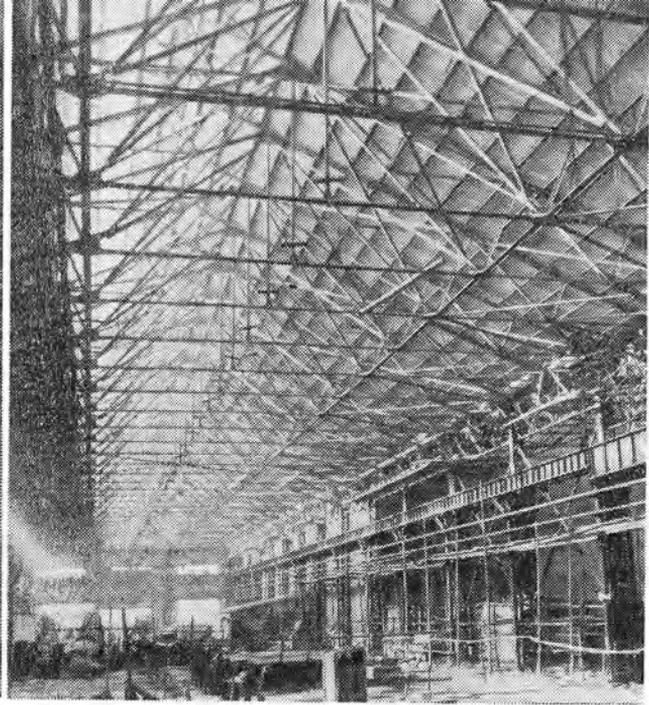
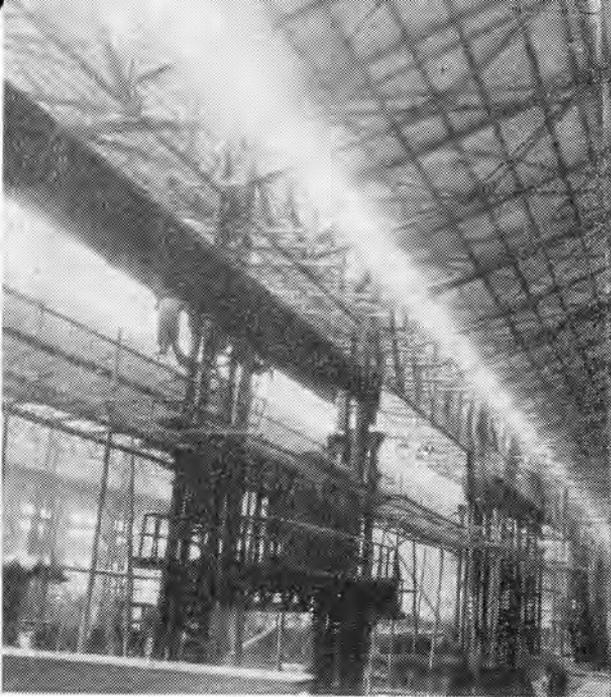
In three years, the state-owned Anshan Iron and Steel Company in Northeast China has completely rehabilitated installations wrecked by Japanese invaders and Kuomintang traitors, surpassed all its production plans and begun new construction on a large scale



Using advanced Soviet methods, the steel workers of this No. 4 Open Hearth Furnace completed a smelting in the record time of 6 hours 9 minutes, surpassing the achievements of similar furnaces in capitalist countries

Builders of the people's Anshan. This model concrete-laying team led by Wang Ching-chung raised labour efficiency 136 per cent during the patriotic emulation movement





Part of the new No. 1 Works in construction at Anshan



Anshan has become a school for tens of thousands of new technical cadres. A veteran worker and two young apprentices

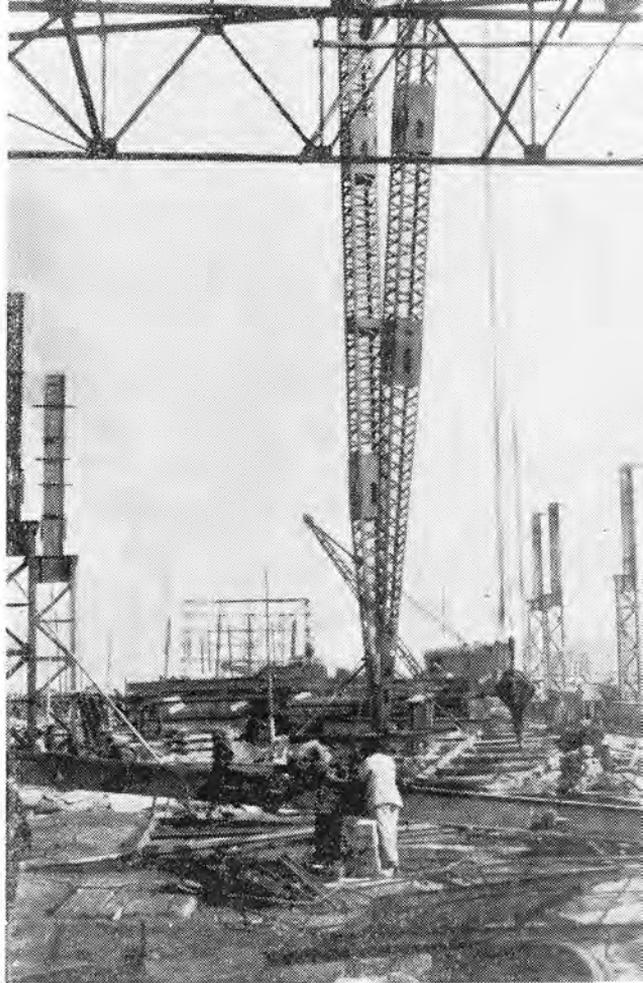


Builders working at heights are all provided with safety belts





Foundation of new plants entailed moving 100,000 cubic metres of earth. Such work is being increasingly mechanised



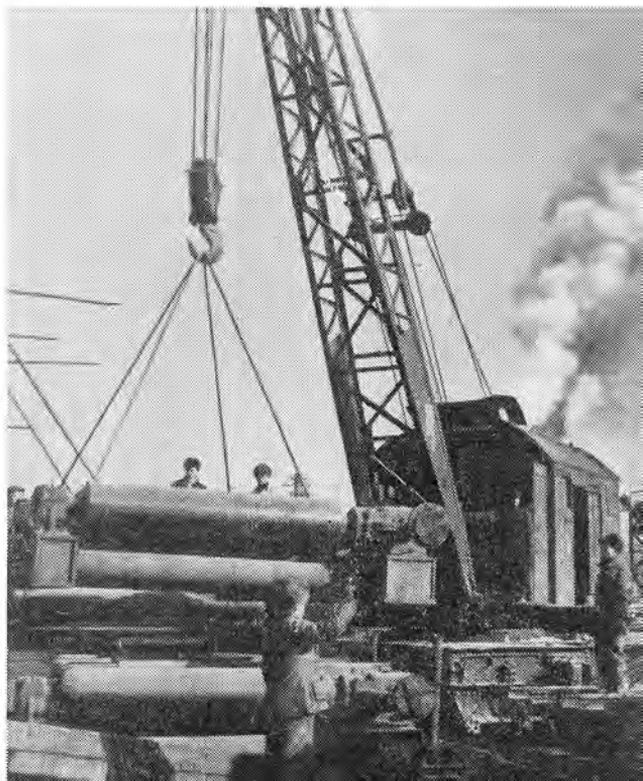
A 30-ton crane raises the steel girders of the new Anshan



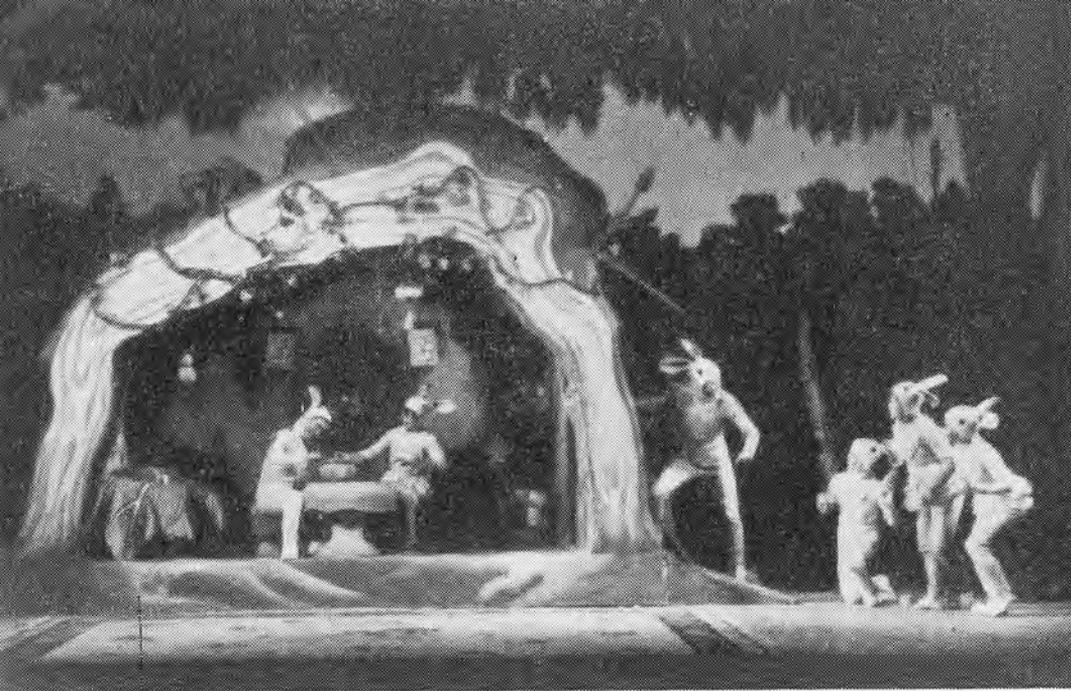
These young surveyors are typical of the new technical school graduates entering the great work of national construction

A NEW ANSHAN RISES

Installing heavy equipment in a new mill



These dwellings will house the influx of new workers at Anshan



The Little White Rabbit in his forest home

At Peking's Children's Theatre

The Little White Rabbit is by S. Mikhalkov, well-known Soviet writer of children's stories. White Rabbit, who has taken the good hunter's gun, thinks he can deal with the wicked fox on his own. But he finds himself in a tight spot when the gun is found to be unloaded at a crucial moment. Only the co-operation of his neighbour, Brown Rabbit, saves the day. White Rabbit and the young audiences of the Children's Theatre both learn a valuable lesson in an exciting way.

The Peaches Are Ripe by Jen Ta-lin tells how a troop of Young Pioneers help the old owner of a peach tree despite a serious misunderstanding that makes him suspect that they came not to protect, but to rob his tree. It all ends happily when the troop saves his peaches from a storm.



Picking the peaches in *The Peaches Are Ripe*

Peking's Children's Theatre

Yang Yu

Sunday morning nine o'clock is theatre time for Peking's youngsters. This is the time for the regular week-end performance of Peking's first state Children's Theatre.

A band of young hopefuls crowd round the entrance of the Youth Palace Theatre. A chorus of "Any empty seats?" greets the understanding young usher every time she puts her head out of the door. Inside, the lucky eight hundred look entranced at marvellous forests where rabbits talk and sly foxes are outwitted, and villages of today where Pioneers, in spite of all sorts of difficulties, do their good deeds.

Though new to Peking, the Children's Theatre has a ten-year history. In 1941, a group of children who were rescued by guerillas from the Kuomintang rear were cared for and trained by the famed Youth Drama Academy in Yen-an. They formed the first People's Children's Theatre. War conditions forced this to be disbanded some time later, but in 1945, immediately after V-J Day, the idea blossomed again into reality. A cultural troupe sent to develop art activities among the youth of the Northeast, seeing the crowds of eager children at their shows, thought of how urgently necessary it was to restore the Children's Theatre. Volunteers were not hard to find. A score and more of boys and girls from the villages of Sungkiang Province joined the troupe when it went there to assist the land reform.

This cultural troupe grew steadily as it travelled the country mobilising the youth for the war of liberation against the Kuomintang regime. It accompanied the People's Liberation Army in its victorious advance.

With peaceful conditions re-established, this group of talented youngsters was reorganised to form the nucleus of the Youth Theatre. As part of its activities, the full ensemble of the first state Children's Theatre was formed in August, 1952.

Today the theatre has a hundred members, a large repertoire of special programmes for children including many plays, its own orchestra, dance, dramatic and puppet show groups. It is supervised directly by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

Jen Hung, a musician, is the director. He was an associate professor of the Lu Hsun Art Academy in Yen-an. Deputy-directors Lu Ya-neng and Tien Yu are theatre workers with a long experience of revolutionary cultural work. Lu first joined a revolutionary drama troupe in early childhood. In those days under the Kuomintang terror, they were often in danger of

their lives. They frequently went hungry. Later he went to Yen-an where he became a playwright and producer. Tien Yu is the dance mistress of the troupe. Deep in the enemy rear, she danced in a mobile Youth Dance Ensemble which played its part in mobilising the people during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression. Those were days of danger and persecution of young revolutionary artists and of the most degraded exploitation for the child-actors of the orthodox stage. What a contrast with the lives of the little players in Peking's Children's Theatre of today!

Housed in a Palace

The troupe is housed in one of the palaces of the former Manchu aristocracy. The large ceremonial hall is now their rehearsal studio. The many chambers serve as class rooms, library, dining hall and dormitories. All the children receive a full, all-round education as well as professional training which includes both modern dancing and the classical Chinese movements. Since their plays combine speech, music, singing and dancing, each actor must have a versatile training.

They give full performances in Peking only during four months of the year. At other times, they go on short tours to farms and factories. Once a week, they visit the Children's Palace in Pei-hai Park, where they play, dance, chat and study with the other children. They also take a hand in helping Peking's children in the primary schools to stage plays, dances or ballad singing. They all have scores of pen-friends and a large fan mail. Last year, eight of them visited the U.S.S.R. and the People's Democracies in Europe and brought back many new national songs and dances that are now popular items in their repertoire. They live a full family life in the school. Yearly examinations and tests add new members to the troupe. The older members graduate to the professional stage or to other professions.

The Children's Theatre now has a firm place in the life of Peking's youngsters. Its plays teach the five great loves of the Pioneers of China—love of Motherland, of people, of labour, of science and of public property. They develop the spirit of patriotism and internationalism, comradeship and teamwork. Teachers say that it is one of their best assistants. The children have given it their final seal of approval. They no longer call it the "Children's Theatre" but just simply—Our Theatre.

For the Right of Man to Peace!

By our special correspondent at the Vienna
Congress of the Peoples for Peace

The great success of the Vienna Congress of the Peoples for Peace lies in the fact that it rallied new forces to the cause of peace at a critical time—when the handful of generals of Big Businessmen now in complete and open control of the United States Government threaten to prolong and even expand the existing wars in Asia, and hence endanger the peace of all humanity.

The Vienna Congress had been called by an emergency session of the World Peace Council last July in order to find new forms of achieving unity of action with representatives of those groups of people who had not yet taken part in the world peace movement, but whose will for peace was growing.

Between December 12 and December 19 in this ancient European capital, a cross-roads of Europe, it was shown that agreement is possible, and that men and women of all walks of life may freely express their disagreements and yet achieve a militant unity on the central and immediate questions: defending national independence for all peoples, ending the wars in Korea, Viet-Nam and Malaya, and easing international tension, in the first place by getting negotiations started between the Five Great Powers to conclude a pact of peace.

The widest variety of differing political tendencies, cultural attitudes and national origins were reflected in Vienna. Never before had 1,627 delegates, 105 guests and 102 observers as well as 46 representatives of international organisations come together from no less than 85 countries.

To the same platform with Soong Ching Ling and Kuo Mo-jo of the people's China came Giuseppe Nitti, son of a former Italian premier and head of a liberal parliamentary group for peace, and James William Cooke, an official spokesman for Argentina's government. Alongside Le Dinh Tham of Viet-Nam stood the French intellectual and dramatist, Jean-Paul

Sartre. Ilya Ehrenburg and Alexander Korneichuk of the Soviet Union stood side by side with Joseph Wirth, former German chancellor. In the company of Korea's great poet, Han Sul Ya, who shook every delegate with a moving and terrible description of the horrors in Korea, stood no less than 42 outstanding churchmen of the Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, Buddhist and Jewish faiths from every part of the world, including four ministers of religion from the United States insisting upon "an immediate cease-fire in Korea in the confident expectation that if the slaughter in Korea is stopped the truce talks will have hope of success."

From Laos and Khmer, from miners and Catholic priests of France, from generals of the Brazilian army as from great actors such as Kanemon Nakamura of Japan, from Equatorial Africa and South Africa to Burma and Indonesia, from the representative of Iran's Muslims, El Kashani to George Hayward, a building trades worker of San Francisco, came a kaleidoscope of opinions, out of which a single searchlight focused on the great and central issue: defending and winning the peace.

No wonder that in such an atmosphere the final Appeal to the Peoples and the Address to the Governments were adopted without a single vote cast in opposition.

To this Congress of the Peoples, where just about a thousand delegates came from Western Europe, the peoples of liberated and still embattled Asia brought an imposing delegation.

From People's China came 59 delegates, representing all circles of Chinese public opinion; from the Korean Democratic People's Republic, 19, and from Viet-Nam, Laos and Khmer, 11.

Of the other 18 nations of Asia, there were no less than 150, among them a most representative Indian Delegation. And the impact

of the Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions, held in Peking last autumn, could be felt not only from the Asian speakers but in the exceptionally wide participation of key countries of Latin America, such as Chile, Argentina and Brazil as well as the peoples of the Middle East and North Africa.

A highlight of the debates was the clarity established on the inextricable connection between the struggle for national independence and the safeguarding of peace. This was the work of an entire commission and was reflected in scores of the almost 200 speeches in the seven-day session.

"The Congress of the Peoples for Peace proclaims the right of all peoples to self-determination and to choose their own way of life without any interference in their internal affairs whatever motive be invoked in justification," says the appeal. "The national independence of every state constitutes the essential condition of peace."

One important feature of this discussion, highlighted in Ehrenburg's address, was the sharper understanding that the national independence of the countries of Western Europe is now threatened by American imperialism even though it is from many of these same Western European countries that the oppression of the nations of Asia, the Near East and Africa still comes.

In the debate on aggression in Korea, prefaced with powerful speeches by Kuo Mo-jo, Chairman of the China Peace Committee, Han Sul Ya of Korea, and Saifuddin Kitchlew of India among others, full clarity was reached on the necessity of ending the fighting immediately and leaving the disputed question of the prisoners of war to be resolved in further talks.

Kuo Mo-jo gave a detailed explanation of why the Korean Democratic People's Republic and the Central People's Government of China had rejected the so-called Indian resolution at the recent United Nations General Assembly "as nothing but the United States proposal in disguise." He warned the Congress that the peoples of the world must not commit the mistakes of the years before World War II, in the appeasement of Hitler and imperialist Japan. If the United States Government

persists in its present attempt to detain prisoners of war forcibly, contrary to the Geneva Convention, he said:

it will find that the peoples of Korea and China will neither give in nor submit. For retreat and submission would only serve to encourage the U.S. Government to violate international conventions and humanitarian principles and to undermine the sovereignty and independence of other nations by armed intervention.

The leader of the Indian Delegation, Kitchlew, who followed Kuo Mo-jo, upheld the latter's persuasive warning against appeasement. He likewise called for an immediate cease-fire, after which all other questions could be settled by negotiation. The entire Congress came to its feet as the Indian and Chinese spokesmen embraced on the platform. This was a symbol of the unity of Asia, for, as Dr. Kitchlew said:

Let me assure our Korean and Chinese friends that the Indian people shall never, never fall victims to those who seek to make Asians fight Asians.

A major feature of the discussions were reports on bacteriological warfare by leading scientists who brought testimony, as did the Chinese exhibition on bacteriological warfare attended by virtually every delegate, that germ warfare had in fact been used by the American imperialists. The Congress noted Kuo Mo-jo's solemn declaration that "such criminal acts are not yet ended." The final appeal of the Congress took cognisance of these reports and said:

We categorically demand the immediate prohibition of biological warfare and the adherence of all states to the Geneva Protocol of 1925.

The urgency of easing the current tension, irrespective of opinions of how it arose, formed the substance of the speeches towards the close of the Congress.

It was a Congress that clearly showed, as Soong Ching Ling had said in her opening address, that

the relationship between the majority and minority of mankind is undergoing a rapid transformation. . . we have come to a point in our historical development where, for the first time, the majority can break through to a choice which is clearly in its own interest. This time, Man has the power to choose peace.

Cadres for Industrialisation

Tai Yen-nien

WITH the launching of China's First Five-Year Plan in 1953, basic construction on an enormous scale will begin throughout the country. There will be great developments in industry, agriculture, afforestation, water conservancy, communications, power stations, housing, public services and amenities, with the emphasis on heavy industry.

In 1953, the capital investments of the Central People's Government in both heavy and light industry will be many times greater than total capital investments in the last three years.

The successful development of construction on such a huge, nation-wide scale is at the best of times a difficult and complex task. Apart from the questions of accumulation of capital, survey of natural resources and preparation of the necessary machinery and equipment, scores of thousands of administratively and technically efficient personnel, and a still greater number of technicians and skilled workers are required. This is a particularly difficult problem to solve in a predominantly agricultural country like China. Chen Yun, Chairman of the Committee of Financial and Economic Affairs of the Government Administration Council, in discussing this problem on October 22, 1952, pointed out that the major contradiction of the present phase is that the country is faced with a huge task while the forces to accomplish it are rather weak. It is, therefore, necessary, he said, to build up our strength in this field, to establish good organisations for basic construction—both for planning and the actual work of construction. It is also necessary that such organs be staffed with capable administrators and technicians and highly skilled workers. At present, new personnel can be made available mainly by transferring those already engaged in production.

More Builders

In accordance with the spirit of this directive, large numbers of personnel, technicians and skilled workers have already been transferred to the construction fronts.

All organisations which are taking part have been considerably reinforced. The Bureau of Basic Construction of the Ministry of Heavy Industry already has a strong core of essential cadres. It has a construction planning department and operates 11 engineering companies in Northeast China which deal with capital projects. It is establishing similar organisations in other parts of China.

The first group of cadres and technicians, numbering several thousands, has been transferred from steel works in various parts of the country to new assignments. From June to October, 1952, the number of cadres assigned to assist in the building of the nation's new railways increased by 50 per cent. This made it possible to expand ten previously existing railway inspection and planning teams into four branch bureaux for railway planning in the Northeast, Northwest, Southwest and Central-South Administrative Areas and to form 18 inspection and planning teams. National geological survey teams have increased threefold since 1950, and a Ministry for Geology was set up last September.

All production centres and government departments dealing with production have transferred selected cadres to construction. This naturally had to be carefully prepared. By overcoming conservative methods of leadership and organisation and as a result of the heightened enthusiasm of the cadres, technicians and workers in increasing production and efficiency, it was carried out without a hitch. Despite the withdrawal of such large numbers of cadres from production, output has actually increased.

The Example of Anshan

Last year, one group after another of administrators, technicians and skilled workers was transferred from the Anshan Steel Company to other fields. More than 360 administrative cadres, more than 200 technical cadres and very many skilled workers were transferred... and production actually increased.

This was because, preparatory to making these transfers, the Anshan Company trained many replacements by various means from among the ranks of industrial and office workers. In addition to over 200 workers promoted to be technicians, more than 740 shop-foremen and administrators were trained and promoted.

A call was sent out by the works' administration, backed by the local Communist Party branch, the New Democratic Youth League, the trade union and other mass organisations for increased production and higher productivity of labour. The result was that production not only proceeded uninterrupted but plans were overfulfilled and new records were created. The production plan for the second quarter of the year was surpassed by 11.7 per cent and that for the third quarter by 5.1 per cent. The Number 4 Open Hearth Furnace surpassed the production levels attained for this type of furnace in capitalist countries and approached the levels of Soviet technique.

Every key man in the production departments of the Anshan Steel Company has three deputies now, and they are all ready for any transfer to meet the needs of new construction.

The Anshan Company has now drawn up plans to train tens of thousands of technicians and skilled workers in the next five years, thus turning Anshan into a technical training centre for the iron and steel industry of the whole country.

Educational System Reorganised

Training of cadres is being pushed ahead vigorously throughout the country. Last year, all higher educational institutions were reorganised. Institutes of geology, iron and steel, mining and metallurgy, aviation and other institutes for the education of leading personnel were established. The whole educational system has been reformed to meet current needs. One-half of the total number of students specialising in vocational courses will be able to do full-scale jobs after two years. The number of students has also greatly increased. Compared with old China, for example, the number of students now enrolled in the Peking



Young draughtsmen in a government department busy working on projects for the large-scale construction which is beginning in the people's China

Institute of Geology is double the number of geologists who were trained by China as a whole in the last few decades.

Many short-term vocational schools give training to cadres who have already had some basic training. Seventeen schools have been opened for this purpose in the Southwest Administrative Area alone. There are 10,200 students who have completed or will soon complete such short courses and receive assignments to various posts on the construction front.

An important source from which new technicians and specialists are drawn is the ranks of seasonal or part-time workers. Inspired by the call to build a New Democratic China, free, strong, independent and prosperous, they came to the construction sites from many places and work with enormous enthusiasm. Now, either on the job or in courses while they work, they are receiving professional knowledge that is making them a rich source of skilled labour.

These are some of the successes that have already been achieved in preparing qualified personnel for large-scale national construction in 1953.

Unconditional Repatriation— An Inviolable Principle of the Geneva Convention

Chen Ti-chiang

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THE United Nations General Assembly resolution on the prisoner-of-war question was an encouragement to aggressors. The American aggressors were given the green light to push on with their ruthless scheme for the compulsory detention of Chinese and Korean P.O.W's. The barbarous massacres of P.O.W's by the American aggressors, far from being condemned, were condoned and even encouraged by this body, the main purpose of which is supposed to be the maintenance of peace and the principles of humanity. The Pongam massacre in which 87 P.O.W's were ruthlessly killed and 120 wounded by U.S. camp guards was the direct consequence of such encouragement. It stands as concrete evidence of the utter hypocrisy of the U.N. resolution.

This resolution, the Pongam massacre, as well as other atrocities committed by the United States forces, are merely parts of the American policy of "no armistice, no negotiation and no peaceful settlement but the prolongation and extension of the Korean war."

From the beginning of the truce talks, the American negotiators have been carrying on the negotiations with one purpose in mind. They have been looking for some plausible pretext to break up the negotiations and to lay the blame at the door of the Chinese and Korean side.

During the discussions on the P.O.W. question, they started with the proposition that P.O.W's be exchanged on a one-for-one basis. When this became untenable, they switched to the impossible demand of "voluntary repatriation," which means in effect involuntary detention of a large number of Chinese and Korean

P.O.W's. This was later renamed "no forcible repatriation" to make it sound less offensive, and the "principle" was embodied in the United Nation's resolution cloaked in the phrase "no force shall be used to effect repatriation."

This principle has no basis either in international law or in international conventions. Article 118 of the Geneva Convention of 1949 on prisoners of war, which is the law governing the point at issue, contains the clear stipulation that "prisoners of war shall be released and repatriated without delay after the cessation of active hostilities." Is there in this stipulation anything which can be interpreted to give the detaining power the discretion not to repatriate the prisoners? Is there anything from which inference can be drawn giving the prisoners the option of choosing between immediate restoration of freedom and continued captivity? None whatsoever. The very posing of the alternatives is absurd, for no one in his senses could ever think of choosing captivity, and, as a matter of fact, the Chinese and Korean prisoners of war have demonstrated, by their heroic resistance against the enemy's attempt to break their will to return home, their unshakeable determination to be repatriated.

Despite the clear terms of the Convention, the American aggressors tried to argue that the Convention does not require both release and repatriation, that the prisoners of war could be "released" without being put in the care of the competent authorities. "Release" in this context means turning them over to the Chiang Kai-shek and Syngman Rhee gangs.

Unfortunately for the American aggressors, the Geneva Convention is so plain in its

wording that so crude a distortion only drew forth the ridicule and indignation of the people of the world. The Convention states unequivocally that it is "release and repatriation" that is called for: release without repatriation can in no way be considered to have met the requirement of the Convention. The international practice has consistently been to hand over prisoners of war to responsible authorities of their home state who would provide for their orderly return to their homes. So indisputable is the practice that the American negotiators at the time of drafting the armistice agreement could not but follow the invariable practice of stipulating for both release and repatriation. Article 51 of the agreed draft agreement provides:

All prisoners of war held in the custody of each side at the time this armistice agreement becomes effective shall be released and repatriated as soon as possible....

As if anticipating disputes on this point, it was explained parenthetically in the same paragraph:

... the act of delivery of a prisoner of war by one side to the other side shall... be called 'Song Hwan' in Korean, 'Chien Fan' in Chinese, and 'Repatriation' in English....

It is, therefore, quite clear that it is absolutely impossible to misinterpret either the Geneva Convention or the Draft Armistice Agreement on this point. In point of law, the Chinese and Korean position is unassailable. This much has been conceded by even American writers of international law. For example, in an article appearing in the July issue of the *American Journal of International Law* of last year, one of America's well-known international lawyers, Professor Pitman B. Potter of the American University, wrote:

... it was universally assumed and insisted that the captor should promptly repatriate all prisoners of war at the end of hostilities or war, with the exception of individuals under prosecution for criminal offences. All emphasis was placed upon release and repatriation, and, indeed, it was hardly imagined that prisoners would not wish to be released and repatriated (simple release was not considered). Retention by the captor was the main point against which the attack was made. Refusal to repatriate was the chief offence of which the captor could be guilty.

The Geneva Convention and the draft agreement are precise and unequivocal statements of the existing law. It is precisely these qualities of these two documents that stand in the way of the American aggressors' plan for the compulsory detention of the prisoners of war. However they may fume, the American aggressors are impotent against these impregnable citadels of law. They therefore decided to do without law and rest their case solely upon the so-called "humanitarian principle" which permits the American aggressors to refuse to repatriate those prisoners of war who "refuse" to be repatriated.

Of course, there is no such thing as a "humanitarian principle" which can over-ride the Geneva Convention—which itself is the expression of the humanitarian principle recognised by civilised nations in time of war. As is pointed out in the foregoing, the "refusal" of the Chinese and Korean P.O.W's to be repatriated is purely an American invention. Foreign Minister Chou En-lai, in his reply of December 14, 1952 to Mr. Pearson, has stated that the hypothesis of "refusal" "does not accord in the slightest with human nature; still less does it square with the facts."

It must be further pointed out that, when the American side invoked the cynical "humanitarian principle" as a ground for detaining prisoners of war, they are no longer arguing on the solid basis of law, but are relying upon something outside the law. The very suggestion that the problem of prisoners of war can be dealt with on a "voluntary" basis is itself in contravention of the Geneva Convention. I refer to Article 7 of the Convention, which provides that prisoners of war

may in no circumstances renounce in part or in entirety the rights secured to them by the present Convention, and by the special agreements referred to in the foregoing Article, if such there be.

This article is well considered and carefully drafted. It was deliberately made watertight, absolute and unconditional, as the phrase "in no circumstances" clearly indicates. It is obvious to everyone that a prisoner of war is not a free agent. He is entirely under the control of the detaining power and is actually deprived of the power to make independent decisions. It requires no great amount of

imagination to foresee the possibility that a detaining power might use violence, threat or other improper means of persuasion to induce prisoners of war to accept conditions contrary to the terms of the Geneva Convention as we have actually seen happen in the practice of the U.S. in its P.O.W. camps. If such "expressions of will" on the part of the prisoners be accepted as valid, then all the devices carefully designed to provide for their protection would come to naught, and the whole structure of the Convention would fall to the ground. There can be nothing easier than for the detaining power to announce that certain things are being done "according to the wishes of the prisoners of war," whose opinion may never have been consulted. The legal doctrine that a contract made under duress is void is based upon precisely the same consideration. No credence can be given to renunciation of rights under the Convention, because, if such renunciations be allowed, the door would be thrown wide open to abuse.

This possibility was clearly envisaged by the drafters of the Geneva Convention. In the Diplomatic Conference held in Geneva, 1949, the Special Committee was to consider a proposed amendment to Article 7, which read:

Prisoners of war may in no circumstances be induced by constraint or by any other means of coercion, to abandon partly or wholly the inalienable right conferred on them by the present Convention....

The proposal was rejected on several grounds, *inter alia*, that the word "inalienable" tended to restrict the scope of the rights of which renunciation is forbidden; the ban against renunciation should apply to all rights. Secondly, it was objected that the ban against renunciation should be unqualified; it should not be confined to renunciation which is "induced by constraint or by any other means of coercion." The Special Committee over-ruled the suggestion of the French Delegation that under exceptional circumstances renunciation ought to be allowed. During the discussion, the Soviet delegate, M. Morosov, stressed the view that the prohibition against renunciation must be categorical, and the allowance of any exception would lead to abuse. It is significant that this fear was shared by the United States delegate, Mr. Yingling.

It is clear from the preceding that Article 7 of the Convention was drawn up not without examining the possibility of extremely exceptional circumstances in certain cases, yet it was deliberately made absolute in order to eliminate the far greater evil of abuse by the detaining power who might seek to deprive prisoners of their rights by alleging the voluntary character of the renunciation. The American aggressors may much regret that the law was made so precise and inflexible, but they cannot complain that it failed to take note of possible exceptional necessities of particular cases, or that it had not taken adequate account of "humanitarian" considerations, or that it has become antiquated. The truth is that, far from being antiquated, the law had only been revised and brought up to date in 1949, one year before Washington embarked upon its war of aggression against Korea and two years before the question of P.O.W's was brought up for discussion. The American argument that the Geneva Convention has "lagged behind the changing social fact" does not stand examination. As a matter of fact, the "social fact" that the American generals are trying to detain P.O.W's for their foul purposes is precisely a circumstance which the participants of the Geneva Convention actually took precautions against.

From a legal point of view, the American case was lost before it was brought up. The United Nations was now called upon to rubber-stamp the American made so-called "principle of no forcible repatriation." It dutifully performed its somersault trick at the bidding of its master, and, by so doing, exposed itself to the contempt of the world.

For the Chinese people, the position is clear. Foreign Minister Chou En-lai in his reply to Mr. Pearson has declared that the Chinese people absolutely cannot tolerate such criminal violation of the Geneva Convention. He said:

The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China has always firmly adhered to and upheld the basic principle of the total repatriation of prisoners of war after an armistice is effected, as established in the Geneva Convention, and will continue to do so.

Such a stand has not only the support of the people of China, but also of the people of the whole world.

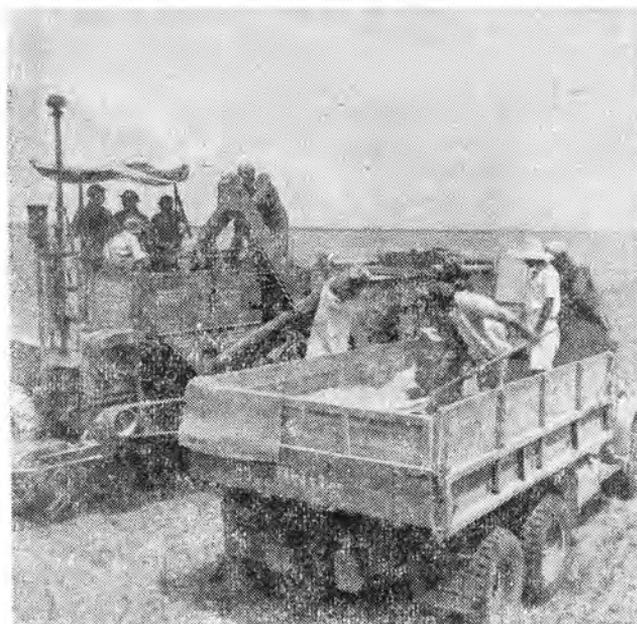
The Bumper Harvest of 1952

Chao Yu-pin

IN 1952, for the third year in succession, New China reaped a bumper harvest. The remarkable thing about it was that record crops were gathered in all agricultural areas and in every sector of farm production: soya beans and *kaoliang* in the Northeast, rice in the South, wheat and cotton in the North and Northwest. The total grain crop was 9 per cent higher than the maximum pre-war level, while cotton output surpassed the top pre-war figure by approximately 55.7 per cent. Considerable increases were registered in the production of jute, hemp, flax, tobacco, sugar beet, sugar cane, tea, silk cocoons and fruits.

The growth of China's farm production in the past three years is shown by the figures below (taking the 1949 figure as 100):

	1949	1950	1951	1952 (estimated)
Foodstuffs	100	117	128	140
Cotton	100	159	252	300



A Stalin No. 6 combine harvesting 1,500 kilogrammes of wheat in 20 minutes, at work on the Huangfangchu State Farm, Honan Province, Central China

The gross production of tea in 1952 exceeded the 1950 level by 250 per cent, tobacco increased by 200 per cent, cocoons by 50 per cent. There were two times more oranges and tangerines in 1952 than in 1950.

There was a new feature in last year's production: bumper crops were gathered and new records were set not on separate small lots, but on large territories covering whole counties and provinces. For instance, the average yield of soya beans, *kaoliang*, wheat and millet in Heilungkiang Province—the granary of the Northeast—was more than the maximum level recorded in this area. In Liling County, Hunan Province, in 1952, bumper crops averaging 1,000 or more catties of rice per *mou* were gathered by 32 villages and 21,990 individual farms.* On more than 730,000 *mou* of land cultivated in this county, the average yield was 814 catties. The 1952 average rice yield in this county greatly surpassed that of the pre-war years when the record yield per *mou* was 600 catties.

In Shansi Province, the irrigated fields of the Yuncheng area, which embraces 17 counties, yielded up to 300 catties of cotton per *mou*, while the non-irrigated fields yielded more than 150 catties per *mou*.

How It Was Done

How were these bumper yields achieved?

First and foremost, the land reform has been basically completed throughout the country in areas inhabited by 90 per cent of the rural population. This reform in removing the dead hand of feudal and reactionary oppression freed the latent productive forces of the countryside. Freed from the heavy load of unjust taxes, debt and rent and other services to landlords, the peasants began farming their

* One catty = 500 grammes; one *mou* is approximately one-sixth of an acre, one-fifteenth of a hectare.

own land enthusiastically. They received implements, loans and other aid from the people's authorities and rapidly rehabilitated and developed agricultural production. Knowing that they are building their own happiness and country, they launched a broad patriotic emulation movement to increase production. In the past year, spurred by the campaign to resist U.S. aggression and to aid Korea, this has become a great mass movement.

There was a steady growth of the mutual-aid movement. Mutual-aid teams and agricultural producers' co-operatives at present embrace 35 million peasant households, that is, 40 per cent of the country's rural population. Such organised effort is particularly effective in the patriotic movement to increase production, and it has drawn great numbers of individual farmers into the movement.

In the past, bumper crops were gathered on small lots in widely scattered areas. The experience of record crop-growers was never made widely known to the peasant masses. Now the development of mutual-aid and co-operative methods of farming have created favourable conditions for the spread of advanced farming experience and the more rational use of land. In 1952, the peasants eagerly started studying scientific agricultural techniques.

Wide-spread introduction of such advanced agricultural methods has produced spectacular results. In Chaoyuan County, Heilungkiang Province, the introduction of close planting, of high quality seed and the proper use of fertilisers increased the yield on an area of approximately 118,000 hectares by 66 per cent over the 1951 figure. The yield of another area of 9,000 hectares tilled with the aid of new agricultural methods rose by 100 to 200 per cent or more over the 1951 level.

The peasants have also won great victories in the organised struggle waged against natural calamities. The active participation of millions of peasants in large-scale irrigation construction has ended the menace of recurring floods along such rivers as the Yangtse and Huai, while the construction of minor irrigation projects and thousands of wells has increased the area of irrigated land throughout the country by 23 million *mou*. Similar collective efforts brought victory over various pests.

The People's Government has, of course, advanced large agricultural loans to peasants and helped the former poor peasants to overcome their initial difficulties created by the shortage of draught animals, seeds, fertilisers and farm tools. In East China, the total sum of loans granted in 1952 exceeded the 1951 figure by 400 per cent. Last spring, the government loaned the peasants of Northeast China 37,600,000 catties of grain, 6,186 sets of new farm tools, more than 11,000 head of draught animals and 62,000 tons of fertilisers. The loans granted to the peasants of Central-South China amounted to 1,071,750 million yuan in the first half of 1952.

Finally, it is necessary to stress the importance of the dissemination in China of advanced Soviet theories of scientific farming, agricultural technique and experience. This facilitated the wide-spread reform in agriculture, raised the yield per hectare and showed China's peasants the way to collectivisation. The adoption of Soviet methods of deep ploughing, close planting, proper use of fertilisers and irrigation of farmland has been one of the most important factors in increasing crop yields. The Soviet method of close planting has now been widely adopted in China. This method was used by the cotton-growers of Kaomi County, Shantung Province, after they had studied the experience of the famed cotton-grower Chu Yao-li. In planting 320,000 *mou* with cotton, the farmers reduced the distance between the rows of cotton plants and were thus able to plant between 2,500 and 3,000 cotton plants on a *mou* of land, as against 2,000 in the past. On lots producing bumper crops, they were able to plant more than 3,000 cotton plants. As a result of this, the yield per *mou* in this county was increased to 125 catties, that is, by 20 to 30 per cent above the 1951 figure.

The peasants are gradually introducing other advanced agricultural methods, which will play an important role in increasing the country's farming production still more.

A Better Life

Bumper crops after liberation mean a happier life for the peasants. In the days of the reactionary Kuomintang regime, a bumper harvest, when there was one, brought benefits only to landowners and usurers to whom the

poor peasants were forced to hand over a greater portion of their crops. They had to sell the remaining grain at the low prices prevailing at harvest time in order to pay taxes and the many debts that they never could escape from. In the old days, bumper harvests in fact, with their lower grain prices—often spelled disaster.

Before liberation, China's peasants annually paid the landowners 30 million tons of grain for the use of 700 million *mou* of land. The land reform delivered them from this burden. At the same time, the People's Government is annually reducing the agricultural tax. This tax, which ranked second in 1950 among the state revenues, now ranks fourth and constitutes only 12 per cent of it. Local surtaxes have been abolished. Thus, the peasants paid considerably less tax in 1952 than in 1951.

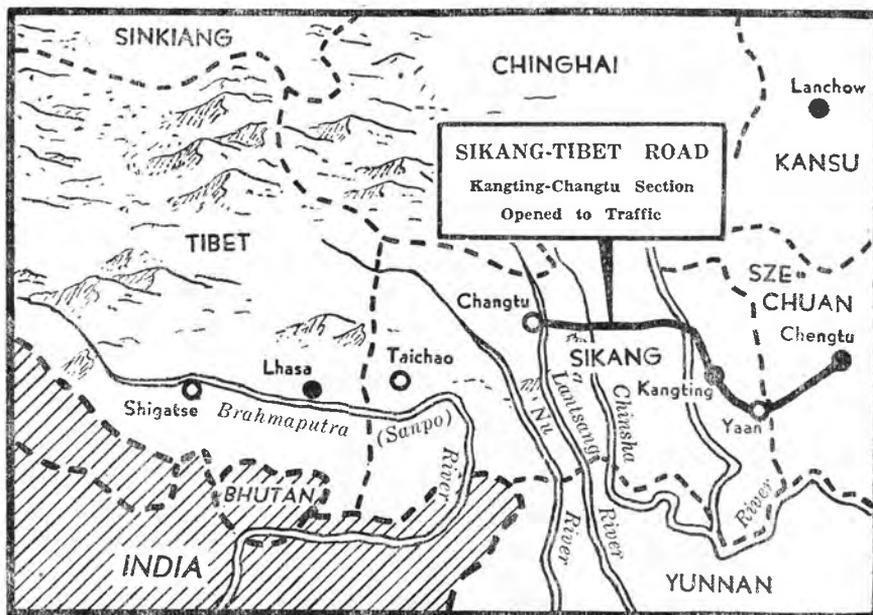
Bumper crops have greatly raised the purchasing power of the peasants, improved the country's domestic trade and food and raw materials reserves and done away with sharp seasonal price fluctuations. For instance, in the first six months of 1952, 1,200 local fairs held in North China had a turn-over exceeding 1,000,000 million yuan. In the same period,

the North China peasants bought 780 million catties of fertilisers, about 30,000 new-style ploughs, 92,916 waterwheels. These purchases exceeded all the purchases of 1951 by 42, 64 and 28 per cent respectively. At the same time, their purchases of daily necessities in the first six months of 1952 exceeded considerably those of the corresponding period in 1951.

The peasants' purchasing power in the second half of 1952 registered a further increase. The demand for certain commodities actually exceeded the supply, and there were new demands for goods showing a rising standard of living—fountain pens, thermos flasks, bicycles, etc. The policy followed by the People's Government in regulating the ratio in prices between foodstuffs and cotton (depending on the local conditions of various areas, the price of a catty of cotton equals the price of 7 to 9 catties of grain) has helped to liquidate the sharp fluctuation of seasonal prices for agricultural produce and has secured the peasants' interests.

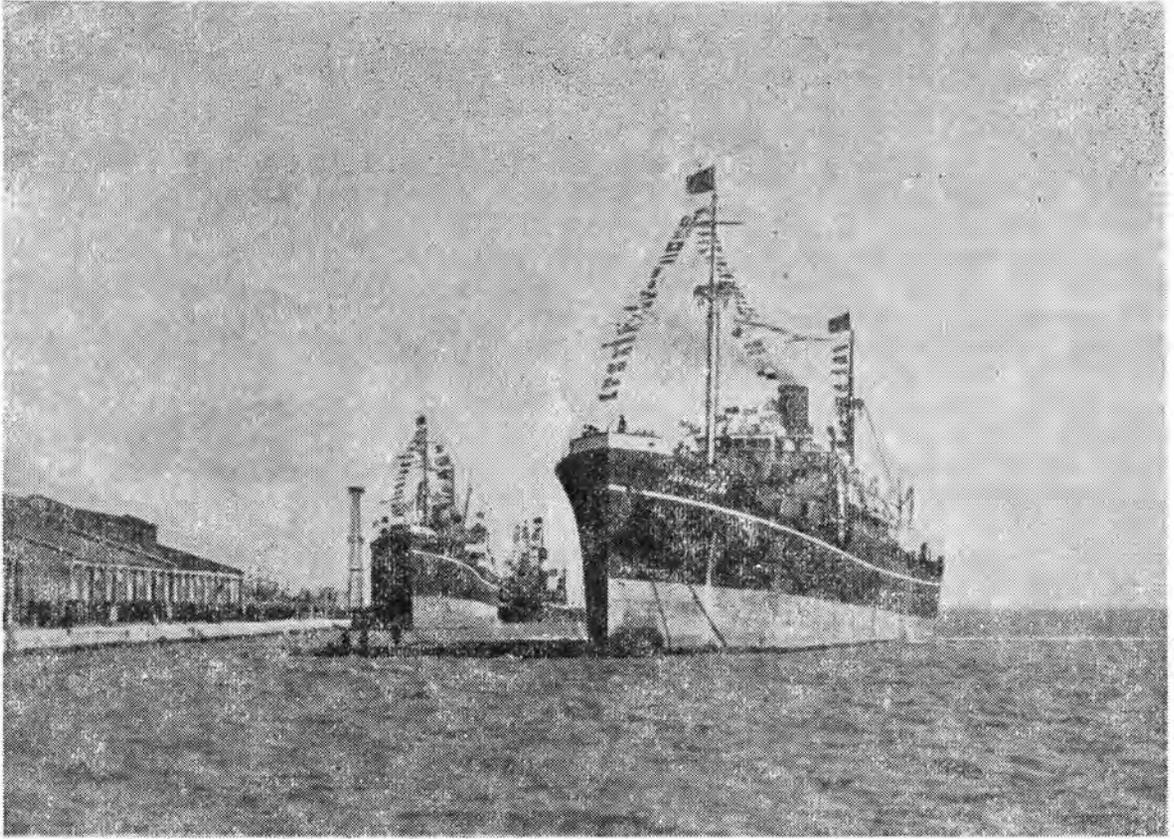
Encouraged by the great results of 1952, the Chinese peasants are enthusiastically preparing to develop agricultural production to a still higher degree as their contribution to the large-scale economic construction of 1953.

NEW HIGHWAY FOR SOUTHWEST CHINA



Regular traffic has started on the new Kangting-Changtu Highway. The construction of this long mountain road, the first half of the great highway from Sikang to Lhasa, capital of Tibet, is a triumph of human endurance and modern engineering. It spans a high plateau 2,500 to 5,000 metres above sea level. Forging a way for it through barren territory, men of the P.L.A. Engineering Corps and civilian road builders worked under conditions of intense cold and in rarified air on treacherous heights.

The completion of this highway, linking the formerly isolated province of Sikang with the rest of the country, is of immense importance to the development of China's Southwest.



HSINKANG— North China's New Port

Liang Chen-ming

More than thirty-two years ago, in his pamphlet, *Plans for National Reconstruction*, Dr. Sun Yat-sen wrote of the need for a modern port in the gulf of Pohai to serve the North China area.

But the Chinese people had to wait until the liberation before Dr. Sun Yat-sen's dream could be fulfilled. In August, 1951, the Central People's Government made the decision to build the harbour. In only fifteen months, two and a half months ahead of schedule, Hsinkang (New Harbour) was formally declared open, and the first 10,000-ton ship sailed into port.

Hsinkang stands 45 kilometres from Tientsin at the point where the slow flowing Hai River meets the sea. It is one of the largest and most up-to-date artificial harbours in the world. Its construction so soon after the liberation is a tribute to the inexhaustible energy of the Chinese people.

Besides providing yet another port for world trade, Hsinkang will considerably improve coastwise trade and cheapen transport between the north and south of China. Formerly, Tientsin used to be the transport centre for North China, but it was an expensive affair shipping goods first to Tientsin and then

to the waiting ships and vice versa. Owing to the lack of a deep harbour, ships of more than 3,000 tons had to anchor in the roads some 30 miles out to sea. The total annual cost of taking their cargo off in lighters for the long pull up the Hai River to Tientsin alone was estimated at 204,000 million yuan, or the cost of transporting goods on 25,000 thirty-ton freight cars from Tientsin to Shanghai, a distance of 1,322 kilometres. Costs rose even higher in winter when ships had to discharge their cargoes at the ice-free ports of Shanghai, Dairen or even as far south as Canton.

* * *

Hsinkang serves a vast hinterland. In addition to North China, it includes the provinces of Jehol, Kansu, Ninghsia, northern Shantung, western Shensi and Inner Mongolia. Sinkiang and Chinghai will be directly connected by rail with Hsinkang when the new railway to Sinkiang is completed. The area has a population of over one hundred millions.

North China is rich in coal, iron, petroleum, salt, grain, livestock, wool, hides and minerals: products which are in demand in other parts of China as well as abroad. Shanghai, for instance, gets much of its coal from the north; Japan, until the prohibition imposed by the U.S. occupationists, was a great importer of North China's coal and salt. Malaya was a big importer of the well-known glass from Chinwangtao. Peking and Tientsin handicrafts are in demand throughout the world.

On the other hand, delivery of goods to meet North China's industrialisation needs will be speeded up. Machinery, semi-finished goods, raw materials, industrial products from other parts of the country and from abroad will come through Hsinkang.

* * *

It is no small job building a modern port. Half the granite deposits from two hills was used in the construction of the two immense breakwaters which have a combined length of 30 kilometres. Silt dredged from the bed of the sea would fill a channel 35 metres wide, 4

metres deep and 120 kilometres long—about the distance from Tientsin to Peking.

Workers speeded up the job, challenging each other to friendly competitions and making thousands of valuable rationalisation proposals. For instance, the crew of No. 5 Dredger worked out a method by which the work of dredging could continue even while the dredger was weighing anchor to move to another position. It meant an increase in the working efficiency of the dredger by giving another 200 hours of work, clearing 127,000 cubic metres more silt and a saving of 36,000 kilowatt-hours per year.

An outstanding feature of the construction of Hsinkang was the fact that more than 90 per cent of the work was mechanised: an example of how the latest Soviet techniques are utilised to eliminate human toil in China. One of the many machines used was an automatic dredger with a capacity of 4,800 tons of silt an hour—doing the work of 18,000 men.

Mechanisation demands a supply of highly skilled personnel. Although experts, engineers and university professors from Peking, Tientsin and Shanghai went to Hsinkang to help in the work, it was necessary to obtain the services of a considerable number of other people with technical knowledge. The director of the Machine Repair Plant, Ma Ching-cheng, solved the problem boldly. He instituted a rapid training course for technical apprentices so that within six months they were able to handle complicated machines. Another outstanding worker is the sixty-year-old diver Feng Tai who insisted on personally training young divers and frequently accompanied his pupils under water to give them practical training.

* * *

Hsinkang is equipped with shipyards, railway yards, warehouses, icebreakers, floating cranes and up-to-date equipment like automatic coal-loaders. The first wharf, already completed, can handle four 10,000-ton and five 3,000-ton vessels at a time. The work of improvement continues, and, when completed, it will make Hsinkang one of the best ports in the East.

IN THE NEWS

Targets Overfulfilled

As the year 1952 drew to its close, factories and mines throughout China announced the completion or overfulfilment of their annual production targets.

Most state-owned iron and steel plants fulfilled their 1952 plans ahead of schedule, many of them by as much as a month. In iron and steel mills in Anshan and Penki in the Northeast, Tientsin, Tangshan and Taiyuan in North China, Wuhan in Central-South China, and Chungking in the Southwest, iron ore output was 10-80% above the targets set; pig iron, 4-28%, steel, 5-35%, and rolled steel, 2-17%.

Coal miners of state-owned collieries throughout China produced over 2 million tons of coal above plan in 1952. Total coal output was 28.7% over 1951.

The railways fulfilled their 1952 freight transport target 7 days ahead of schedule. The total tonnage of freight carried was 15.7% more than in 1951.

By December 20, salt production was 7.18% over and above the plan for 1952. This was 6.13% higher than the 1951 figure and surpassed the highest pre-war figure by 57.64%.

The Yumen Oil Field in Northwest China reached its 1952 production targets by December 1. The output of petroleum was 10.5%, kerosene 18.9% and heavy lubricating oil 27.5% above the plan.

The tin output of the Yunnan Tin Co. in Southwest China surpassed its 1952 target by 27% 11 days ahead of schedule.

In Shanghai, 15 state cotton mills fulfilled their 1952 production targets in cotton yarn and cloth ahead of schedule.

New Technical Schools

There are 80% more secondary technical school students in North China now than in the first half of 1952. Nine new technical schools have recently opened, including the Peking Iron and Steel School, a tractor school, a mining school and a hydrotechnical school.

Of the 31 technical schools in North China, 20 are training technicians for mechanised farming, civil engineering, mechanical engineering and electrical engineering, metallurgy, the iron and steel and other heavy industries. Four are schools for the textile and chemical industries.

In Shanghai, 3 new technical schools have been set up for industry in general and for the power and textile industries in particular. Thousands of students have already been enrolled, most of them young workers from engineering, textile and public utility enterprises. All three schools are well-equipped with experimental equipment, libraries, spacious stadiums and playing fields. The Shanghai Industrial School is building an experimental works.

Developments in Insurance

When a hailstorm damaged the cotton fields of peasants in the Shihchiachuang District of Hopei Province early in 1952, they were fully reimbursed for their loss by the People's Insurance Company. In addition, the local government mobilised help for them to replant within three days, and the insurance company paid for the seeds.

This is only one of the more than 40 different types of policies offered by the People's Insurance Company. Since its establishment in 1949, it has developed a network of 627 branches and 3,735 agencies throughout the country. Its policies range from fire, accident and freight to livestock insurance.

All state enterprises automatically take out insurance. Fire prevention has received prominent attention by the insurance company which gives wide publicity to fire prevention work. With the rapid restoration and development of home trade, the amount of freight insurance has steadily increased. Since 1950, about half the freight moved in China by rail, air, steamship, truck, river boat or draught animals has been covered by insurance.

Rural insurance, however, is something entirely new. Commencing in 1950, in a few experimental centres, animal insurance is now being promoted in 600 centres. By the end of September, 1952, the number of animals insured had risen to nearly 12 million. In some cases, whole villages insure their cattle. Crop insurance is as yet only being carried out on a small scale. Cotton insurance is the most widely developed and is being promoted in 36 centres. Other crops insured include wheat, rice, tobacco, sugar cane and hemp.

All Made in China

With the successful production of X-ray tubes for use in medical work and industry, complete sets of X-ray equipment can now be manufactured in China. The preliminary experimental and research work has been conducted in the X-ray laboratory of the former Department of Physics of Tsinghua University, directed by Professor Yu Jui-huang. X-ray tubes are now going into production on a considerable scale and at a cost of only one-tenth that of imported tubes.

Gauze for plaster of Paris casts is being mass produced in Shanghai by the East China Department of Health. Meeting international standards, this Chinese-made gauze costs only one-tenth the imported article. The manufacturing process was perfected by Dr. Wu Chu-yao of the Department of Osteology of the Shanghai Medical College.

All radio receiver parts can now be made in China. Complete sets of tubes for radio receivers, in-

cluding mixers, R. F. amplifiers, twin detector amplifiers, power amplifiers and rectifiers, have been successfully made in the Nanking Electrical Appliance Works.

Shanghai Museum Opens

A museum, with more than 2,800 exhibits ranging from stone implements over 500,000 years old to modern handicraft products was recently opened in Shanghai. These exhibits have been collected by the Shanghai Committee for the Preservation of Ancient Relics during the past three years.

In the ten exhibition halls are bronze utensils of the Yin Dynasty (1766-1122 B. C.) of splendid design and fine craftsmanship; bronzes of the Western Chou Dynasty (1122-770 B.C.), including the famous Great Yu and Great Ke Cauldrons which have inscriptions of several hundred characters, of great importance for research into the social and state systems of that time. There are also various bronzes of the periods of the Chun Chiu (770-403 B.C.) and the Warring States (403-222 B.C.) and large clay human figures, horses and camels in three-coloured glazes of the Tang Dynasty (618-907 A.D.), block-printed books of the Five Dynasties (907-960 A.D.) and the Sung Dynasty (960-1279 A.D.), silk tapestry of the Sung Dynasty and fine porcelains of the Sung, Ming (1368-1644 A.D.) and Ching (1644-1911 A.D.) Dynasties.

A number of rare paintings of high artistic value ranging from the Tang to Ching Dynasties are on exhibit in the museum's picture gallery. This is Shanghai's first museum on such a scale.

"Ta Kung Pao" and "Kwangming Daily"

Beginning in 1953, the Shanghai *Ta Kung Pao* and the *Progressive Daily* of Tientsin will be merged and published in Tientsin, retaining the name of *Ta Kung Pao*. The new *Ta Kung Pao* will continue coverage of news and reviews of international events, in which it specialised, and will feature information on domestic financial and economic questions. On the pro-

posal of the China Democratic League, its organ, the *Kwangming Daily*, will, from 1953, be run by a board representing all the democratic parties of China. The paper proposes to give particular attention to questions of culture, education, health and science.

CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

December 21

Foreign Minister Chou En-lai sends a cable to Lester B. Pearson, U. N. General Assembly President, protesting against the killing of 87 and injuring of 120 captured personnel of the Korean-Chinese side on Pongam Island by U.S. armed forces.

An exhibition on the People's Republic of Hungary is opened in Shanghai.

December 22

The chief liaison officer of the Korean-Chinese side protests against American shelling of the Panmunjom conference area on December 20.

December 24

The Chinese Communist Party's proposal to convene the All-China People's Congress and local people's congresses at all levels in 1953 is discussed at an enlarged session of the Standing Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in Peking.

Hsinhua reports another prisoner of war was shot dead on Koje Island on December 21 by U.S. guards.

A group of 542 oversea-Chinese, the 23rd group of Chinese residents deported by the British authorities in Malaya, arrives in Canton.

U.S. military aircraft again intrude over the Panmunjom conference area.

December 25

The Ministry of Higher Education is formally established at a ceremony in Peking.

The Epoch Publishing House established by the Tass News Agency in China is transferred gratis to China.

December 27

The China Peace Committee and 13 other people's organisations in China issue a joint statement protesting against the death sentence imposed on two American progressives, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, on a framed-up charge.

An exhibition, "Poland Under Socialist Construction," opens in Peking.

December 29

Jacob Cotzoveanu, new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Rumania to China, presents his letters of credence to Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

Hsinhua reports, quoting American official announcements, that four more P.O.W's were murdered by U.S. guards in the Koje, Cheju and Pusan camps on December 23, 24 and 25.

December 31

At a ceremony in Harbin, the Chinese Changchun Railway is transferred gratis to China. Chairman Mao Tse-tung sends a message to J. V. Stalin thanking him and the Soviet people and government for the transfer.

Hsinhua reports, quoting an American official announcement, one more P.O.W. killed by U.S. guards in the Koje P.O.W. camp on December 26.

An agreement to prolong the effective period of the Sino-Japanese trade agreement to June 30, 1953, is signed in Peking.

The Ministry of Finance issues a directive on the tax system of commodities which will be effective starting from January 1, 1953.

January 5

Hsinhua reports that during the last six days of 1952 (December 26-31), the Chinese people's volunteers killed or wounded more than 1,600 enemy troops, shot down 15 and damaged 22 enemy planes in Korea.

Internal airmail postage for letters not exceeding 10 grams is reduced from 2,300 to 1,600 yuan, or only double the ordinary rate.

LETTERS

To the Editor

Stop Germ War!

WEST BENGAL, INDIA

Permit me to offer my heartfelt greetings to those volunteers of your country who have dedicated their lives to free the Korean people from the grip of the American warmongers. The vile crimes committed by the American invaders, violating all international conventions, in order to mass slaughter innocent people has aroused the boundless wrath of peace-loving people throughout the world. We, the Indian people, of high ideals, of spiritual outlook, lodge a vehement protest demanding the immediate cessation of bacteriological warfare which is being used by the U.S. and its henchmen against the peaceful people of China and Korea. We must not forget that the American aggressors are not only the enemies of China and Korea but also the enemies of all mankind.

Bibhuti Roy

RADIO PEKING

PROGRAMMES FOR OVERSEAS LISTENERS

PROGRAMME IN	PEKING TIME	G. M. T.	FREQUENCIES (KC/S)
<i>Japanese</i>	05.00—05.30	21.00—21.30	640, 720, 6100, 10260, 11690.
<i>Korean</i>	06.00—06.30	22.00—22.30	640, 720, 6100,
<i>English</i>	06.30—07.00	22.30—23.00	640, 700, 6100, 7500, 9040, 10260, 11690, 15060, 15170.
<i>Indonesian</i>	07.00—07.30	23.00—23.30	700, 11690, 15060.
<i>Viet-Nameese</i>	07.30—08.00	23.30—00.00	700, 11690, 15060.
<i>Thai</i>	08.00—08.30	00.00—00.30	700, 11690, 15060.
<i>Ke-Chia Dialect</i>	08.30—08.45	00.30—00.45	700, 11690, 15060.
<i>Amoy Dialect</i>	08.45—09.00	00.45—01.00	700, 11690, 15060.
<i>Burmese</i>	09.00—09.30	01.00—01.30	700, 11690, 15060.
<i>Cantonese Dialect</i>	09.30—09.45	01.30—01.45	700, 11690, 15060.
<i>Chaochou Dialect</i>	09.45—10.00	01.45—02.00	700, 11690, 15060.
<i>Korean</i>	16.00—16.30	08.00—08.30	640, 720, 6100, 10260.
<i>English</i>	17.00—17.30	09.00—09.30	700, 6100, 10260, 11690, 15060.
<i>Ke-Chia Dialect</i>	17.30—18.00	09.30—10.00	700, 11690, 15060.
<i>Amoy Dialect</i>	18.00—18.30	10.00—10.30	700, 11690, 15060.
<i>Indonesian</i>	18.30—19.00	10.30—11.00	700, 11690, 15060.
<i>Japanese</i>	19.00—19.30	11.00—11.30	6100, 11690, 15060.
<i>Cantonese Dialect</i>	19.30—20.00	11.30—12.00	700, 11690, 15060.
<i>Standard Chinese</i>	20.00—20.30	12.00—12.30	640, 700, 720, 6100, 7500, 9040 10260, 11690, 15060, 15170.
<i>Viet-Nameese</i>	20.30—21.00	12.30—13.00	700, 11690, 15060.
<i>English</i>	21.30—22.00	13.30—14.00	700, 11690, 15060.
<i>Thai</i>	22.00—22.30	14.00—14.30	700, 11690, 15060.
<i>Chaochou Dialect</i>	22.30—23.00	14.30—15.00	700, 11690, 15060.
<i>Burmese</i>	23.00—23.30	15.00—15.30	700, 11690, 15060.

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