

# PEOPLE'S CHINA



**SUPPLEMENT:**

**GENERAL PENG TEH-HUAI'S REPORT ON THE  
CHINESE PEOPLE'S VOLUNTEERS IN KOREA**

**19  
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.

No. 19, 1953

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# Chairman Mao Tse-tung's Message to G. M. Malenkov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., Expressing Thanks for Soviet Aid to China

Comrade G. M. Malenkov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R.:

The Central People's Government Council of the People's Republic of China, at its meeting on September 15, 1953, heard with gratification the report made by Comrade Li Fu-chun, member of the Government Delegation of the People's Republic of China, regarding its negotiations with the Soviet Government on the question of the Soviet Government's aid to China's economic construction. It is the consensus of opinion of the Central People's Government Council that since the great Soviet Government has agreed to extend systematic economic and technical aid in the construction and reconstruction of 91 new enterprises and to the 50 enterprises now being built or reconstructed in China, the Chinese people, who are striving to learn from the advanced experience and the latest technical achievements of the Soviet Union, will be able to build up step by step their own mighty heavy industry. This plays an extremely significant role in the industrialisation of China, in helping her in her gradual transition to Socialism and in strengthening the camp of peace and democracy headed by the Soviet Union.

The two states have settled in one single negotiation the question of construction of 91 enterprises and the question of long-term aid. This is unprecedented in history. It fully manifests the truth stated by the great Stalin: "The experience of this co-operation shows that not a single capitalist country could have rendered such effective and technically competent assistance to the People's Democracies as the Soviet Union is rendering them. The point is not only that this assistance is the cheapest possible and technically superb. The chief point is that at the bottom of this co-operation lies a sincere desire to help one another and to promote the economic progress of all."

In the course of the negotiations, the Soviet Government, on the basis of her rich experiences in more than thirty years of vast socialist construction, has put forward various proposals concerning both the principle and the concrete tasks of China's five-year plan. These proposals will help us, as far as possible, to avoid committing errors and diminish twists and turns in the course of China's economic construction.

On behalf of the Chinese Government and the Chinese people, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Soviet Government and the Soviet people for this great, all-round, long-term and selfless aid. The Chinese Government and the Chinese people will strive untiringly to strengthen the economic co-operation and friendly alliance between the Soviet Union and China, in the interests of the joint struggle for the cause of world peace.

**MAO TSE-TUNG,**

*Chairman of the Central People's  
Government of the People's  
Republic of China*

Peking, September 15, 1953.

# Under the Banner of Peace, Forward to New Successes!

**O**CTOBER 1 is a great and sacred festival to the Chinese people. It is the festival of victory won at the cost of a long and bitter struggle against both home and foreign reactionaries. For a hundred years and more, the Chinese people fought steadfastly for the day when they could seize the destiny of their motherland from the reactionary ruling class, take it into their own hands and with their creative labour build a free and happy life on their own soil.

Four years ago on October 1, the Chinese people reached the goal for which they had so long striven. Since then, they have been the sole and real masters of their country enjoying every possibility of working in peace to build a flourishing life.

Within a brief span of four years, many great successes in peaceful construction have been achieved. The Chinese people are justly proud of these achievements which have demonstrated the decisive superiority of the system of people's democracy.

**I**N these four years China has carried out many important social reforms: the land reform which eliminated the feudal land system and emancipated the peasants from the yoke of the landlords; democratic reforms in industrial enterprises which brought about fundamental improvements in their management; the movement for the suppression of counter-revolutionary elements, as a result of which the remnants of the counter-revolutionary forces in the country have been liquidated; the *san fan* and *wu fan* campaigns against corruption and theft which curbed law-breaking elements of the bourgeoisie whose activities had harmed the state. The victories won in these reforms and movements have greatly stimulated the activity of the masses, fundamentally changed the face of the whole country, streng-

thened the people's democratic dictatorship and created favourable conditions for the rapid rehabilitation and further development of the national economy.

During the same period the Chinese people have successfully carried through a tremendous work of national economic rehabilitation. Towards the end of 1952, China's industrial and agricultural production had, in general, reached or surpassed the highest levels of the period prior to the 1937 War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression. With the recovery and development of production, the volume of retail trade and the total volume of all domestic trade both came to exceed their past peak levels. In foreign trade, China put an end to the unfavourable balance of trade which had prevailed for more than seventy years and achieved a stable balance of imports and exports. All this has resulted in a fundamental turn for the better in China's financial and economic situation—commodity prices have been stabilised, the budget has been balanced and the country's economic forces have been launched on a process of steady growth.

The successes achieved in the rehabilitation and the growth of the national economy have led to the improvement of the material and cultural life of the working people. Employment has grown. Unemployment is being swiftly liquidated. The wages of workers and employees have been increased by 60 to 120 per cent. There is a much bigger supply of consumer goods for the working people. Up to 1952, seven million square metres of dwelling space were built by the state for workers and employees. Culture and education are flourishing as never before; the student enrolment in elementary, middle and higher educational institutions grows from year to year. Besides, the state has built and is building numerous rest homes, sanatoria, cultural palaces, clubs,

libraries, creches and other facilities for the working people.

It must be borne in mind that the Chinese people have been carrying on their work of economic rehabilitation in the circumstances of a struggle to resist American aggression. Together with the Korean people, they have successfully repulsed the attack of the U.S. imperialists against the Korean Democratic People's Republic. The great victory won by the Chinese people in their struggle to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea is witness to the historic changes that are taking place in China. It shows that China can no longer be subjected with impunity to humiliation of any kind and that even the most powerful armed forces of imperialism cannot prevail over the peace-loving and freedom-loving people.

With the victories gained on the front of economic rehabilitation and in the struggle to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea, the Chinese people have advanced triumphantly into the new historical stage of national construction. This year they have begun to realise their first five-year plan of economic construction which aims to achieve the industrialisation of the country and create the conditions for the gradual transition to Socialism. State investments in economic construction for this year constitute one-third of China's budgeted national expenditure. In 1953 China is to build 139 major enterprises including metallurgical, fuel, electric power, machine-building, railway and water conservancy projects. This year's plan of economic construction is being successfully fulfilled. The state-run industries exceeded their targets for its first six months, the total achievements being 101 per cent of the planned goal. In the field of agriculture, despite the fact that some parts of the country suffered from natural calamities, the total grain and cotton crops will reach or even surpass last year's levels. Plans for the first six months of this year in the field of trade, transport of goods and tax receipts have been fulfilled. This is a year of steady advance for the country's economy.

The people of China greeted their first five-year plan of economic construction with the greatest fervour and enthusiasm. The movement to increase production and practise economy to ensure the overall fulfilment and

overfulfilment of the plan has spread to every corner of the country. The whole population has linked up its daily work with the aims of the first five-year plan. The fundamental tasks of China's five-year plan are: to concentrate the main effort, first of all, on the development of heavy industry so as to lay the foundation for the industrialisation of the country and a modern national defence. In accordance with these aims, the cadres needed for construction are to be trained; communications and transport, light industry and agriculture will be developed; trade will be expanded; co-operation in agriculture and handicraft production will be promoted step by step, and private industrial and commercial enterprises will be gradually remoulded. Individual farming, handicraft and private enterprises and businesses will be expected to play their proper roles. All these measures will ensure the steady strengthening of the role of the socialist sector in the national economy, and a steady rise in the material and cultural life of the people on the basis of the further growth of production. These are the primary aims to which the whole Chinese people are directing their efforts.

The Chinese people have launched out this year on their first nation-wide elections based on universal suffrage which is unprecedented in Chinese history. Following these, the People's Congress will be convened to adopt the constitution, ratify the first five-year plan and elect a new Central People's Government.

The Chinese people are well aware that, in the course of their national construction, they will enjoy the same unfailing friendship and support from the Soviet Union as during the course of their past revolutionary struggles. China's national economy was rapidly rehabilitated with Soviet economic and technical aid. Now the Soviet Union has decided to answer China's request for economic and technical assistance by helping the construction and reconstruction of 141 industrial enterprises on a long-term, all-round and systematic basis. With such great and selfless aid from the Soviet Union, the Chinese people will be able to build step by step their own heavy industry—providing a mighty basis for the industrialisation of their country and the strengthening of its national defence.

Assured of the success of the work in hand, with boundless faith in the Chinese Communist Party and with heartfelt gratitude to the Soviet Union, the Chinese people are advancing resolutely and with complete confidence to their goal.

With the founding of the Chinese People's Republic, the socialist sector of the economy has rapidly developed, and its leading role increases in importance with each passing day. Labour in our country has indeed become a matter of honour, of glory and of heroism. The working class, as the leading force of the country, has not only increased in numbers but has considerably raised its general level of political consciousness and organisation.

A firm alliance of the Chinese working class and peasantry has been established. The broad masses of the Chinese peasants are organising themselves, step by step, on a voluntary basis. They are now advancing from the formation of temporary mutual-aid teams to the creation of permanent ones, and so to the organisation of agricultural producers' co-operatives. The peasants have been convinced by personal experience that this is the only path to the bright future.

At the present stage of construction in China, the uncontrolled, elemental development of private capitalism is no longer permitted. Relying on the strength of the socialist sector of the economy and in accordance with a unified national economic plan, private capitalist enterprises in industry and commerce are being guided onto the path of state capitalist economy, so that they may be brought under state direction and supervision and serve the interests of the state and the people.

The Chinese people are confident that by following this path they will successfully fulfil their tasks in the new historic stage. They have all the conditions for the fulfilment of their tasks: a state led by the working class; the continuous growth of the strength of the socialist sector of the national economy; the firm alliance of the workers and peasants; the brilliant leadership of the Communist Party of China and its great leader, Chairman Mao Tse-tung; the sincere and selfless aid of their great

ally, the Soviet Union; the friendly mutual aid and co-operation of all countries of the democratic camp; and finally, the abundant sympathy and support of all peace-loving peoples the world over.

**T**HE Chinese people clearly understand the international situation in relation to China. The U.S. rulers and their lackey Chiang Kai-shek still occupy China's territory in Taiwan. The armistice in Korea has been signed, but the U.S. imperialists are still plotting to wreck the Political Conference. They are planning to renew their aggression, speeding up the remilitarisation of Japan and organising various provocations against China with the aim of destroying the Chinese state. But the Chinese people will not for a moment relax their vigilance; all these treacherous imperialist conspiracies against them are doomed to fail.

The Chinese people soberly evaluate all changes taking place in the international situation and clearly understand their own responsibilities. They realise that in the cause of preserving world peace, their interests fully coincide with those of all peoples. They are boundlessly loyal to this cause. At home, they are now busily engaged in construction to raise the material and cultural levels of the life of the people. Internationally, they firmly and consistently adhere to a policy of peace between the peoples. They believe in the possibility of the peaceful coexistence of all countries with different political and social systems. They advocate the promotion of economic relations and cultural exchanges based on equality and mutual benefit. They consider that all international conflicts can be settled by negotiations. They understand clearly that their most important responsibility in the cause of consolidating world peace is to intensify peaceful construction within the country and firmly pursue a policy of peace in international questions.

In the struggle for the defence of world peace, the Chinese people will redouble their constructive efforts, stand firm by their policy of peace and advance unswervingly to a still brighter future.

# New China on the Road To Industrialisation

Wu Leng-hsi

**I**N the first four years of the existence of their own state, the Chinese people have marched from victory to victory. Completing a series of important social reforms and the task of economic rehabilitation, they launched out on planned national economic construction. January 1, 1953, marked the beginning of the first five-year plan of economic construction of the People's Republic of China.

When the People's Republic of China was newly founded, the country still faced a difficult situation. Social order had not yet been fully established. The system of feudal land ownership continued to exist over a large area of the country. Imperialist influence still maintained a hold in the economy and culture of the country. Both industrial and agricultural production were severely damaged by the war. There was little trade between the cities and countryside, and the people suffered great hardships.

During the four years which have passed since then, the Central People's Government has carried through a series of fundamental social reforms, swept out the remnant forces of both domestic and foreign reaction and concentrated all efforts on rehabilitating the ruined national economy. The land reform, aimed at smashing the feudal land ownership system, has been carried out, and more than 300 million landless and landpoor peasants have received their shares of land. Banditry has been wiped out and counter-revolutionary elements suppressed. The remnants of imperialist influence in the economic and cultural life of the country have been virtually eliminated. Enterprises which were formerly run by foreign capital and which are vital to the national economy and the welfare of the people have been put under the control of the People's Government. All imperialist-controlled educational and cultural institutions have been taken

over by the government and reformed. The movement to implement the Marriage Law directed against the feudal marriage system and the patriotic sanitation drive directed against the bacterial warfare waged by the U.S. Government have brought about a new social atmosphere. The *san fan* and *wu fan* movements\* have led to a remarkable strengthening of proletarian outlook among the people and of the leading role of the socialist sector in the national economy. The movement to resist American aggression and aid Korea has not only safeguarded China's national boundaries, but considerably raised the patriotic spirit and enthusiasm of the people, thus accelerating the process of social reform and economic rehabilitation. The successful carrying out of all these campaigns and movements accounts for the tremendous change in the character of Chinese social life.

## Rapid Rehabilitation

The rapid rehabilitation and development of the national economy has led to the present unprecedentedly thriving condition of the economic life of the country. By the end of 1952, production in all the main branches of the nation's industrial and agricultural economy (with the exception of coal) had reached or surpassed the highest levels achieved before liberation.

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\* *San fan* was a movement to wipe out corruption, waste and bureaucracy among the functionaries in government organs and public enterprises. *Wu fan* was a movement launched among private industrial and commercial circles to eliminate bribery, smuggling and evasion of taxes, stealing of state property, shoddy work and the use of inferior materials on government contracts, and espionage to obtain economic information from government sources to be used for market speculation.

The extent of rehabilitation and development of the main branches of industrial and agricultural production is shown in the following table:

Product	Output in 1952 (1949=100)
Pig Iron .....	764
Steel .....	846
Coal .....	202
Electric Power .....	164
Crude Oil .....	358
Cement .....	433
Cotton Cloth .....	287
Paper .....	331
Sugar .....	199
Grain .....	145
Cotton .....	291
Tobacco (cured) .....	411

The proportion of industrial output in the total national economy has risen rapidly. During the same period, state-owned industry, which is socialist in character, and co-operative industry, which is semi-socialist, have also grown rapidly. State capitalist industry, too, developed to a certain degree, while the proportion occupied by private capitalist industry has become less. The ratio of the various sectors of the industry as a whole (including handicraft workshops) underwent the following changes:

	1949	1952
State Sector .....	33.9%	50%
State Capitalist Sector .....	2.4%	5%
Co-operative Sector .....	1.0%	3%
Private Sector .....	62.7%	42%

Taking modern industry alone (excluding industry of a handicraft character), the figures for 1952 were as follows:

State Sector .....	60%
(about 80% in heavy industry and about 50% in light industry)	
State Capitalist Sector .....	6%
Co-operative Sector .....	3%
Private Sector .....	31%

Great successes have also been achieved in agricultural production. The number of peasant households which have organised together to take the road to co-operation has increased to a phenomenal extent. Up to the end of 1952, about 40 per cent of China's peasant households had been organised, and more than 200 million peasants had joined mutual-aid teams

(both temporary and permanent) and agricultural producers' co-operatives.

There has been a corresponding rehabilitation and development of all types of communications and transport. Urban-rural trade has been considerably expanded. In 1952, state-run and co-operative trade accounted for over half of the total value of domestic wholesale trade. In retail trade, the percentage in eight major cities was around 32 per cent.

Foreign trade also increased, especially trade with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies.

Commodity prices were kept stable throughout the country and were even reduced somewhat. Taking March, 1950, the month of the highest post-liberation price level as 100, the index in December, 1951 stood at 96.6, and in December, 1952 at 90.6.

The material and cultural life of the people has shown an initial improvement on the basis of the development of production, expansion of trade and stabilisation of prices. The amount of foodstuffs and of articles of daily use supplied to the people by state-run shops increased by 91 per cent and 106 per cent respectively in 1952 as compared with 1951.

The last three years have brought a general increase in the number of students in educational institutions of every grade, surpassing all the peak figures of the past. The total enrolment in primary schools in 1952 was 101 per cent higher than in 1949; in middle schools, 142 per cent higher; and in higher educational institutions, 55 per cent higher.

### Planned Economic Construction

The accomplishment of social reforms and the rehabilitation of the economy laid the foundation for the further development of national construction. China's first five-year plan of national economic construction began in 1953.

The fundamental tasks of the plan are:

To concentrate our main strength, first of all, on developing heavy industry and lay the foundations for the industrialisation of the country and the modernisation of national defence.

In conformity with this, to train up personnel for construction, develop communications and transport, light industry and agriculture and to expand commerce.

To promote co-operatives in agriculture and handicrafts and remould private industry and commerce step by step.

To enable individual agricultural production, handicrafts and private industry and commerce to play their proper role.

All this will serve to ensure a steady increase in the socialist sector of the national economy and gradually to raise the level of the material and cultural life of the people on the basis of the further development of production.

During the coming five years, China will concentrate great efforts on the development of ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, the machine-building industry, the coal industry, the petroleum industry, the electric power industry and the defence industry. New industrial bases will be built in areas rich in mineral deposits and far from the coast. China will have her own independent industry. She will herself produce machine-tools, precision instruments, automobiles, tractors, and equipment needed for national defence. The dream of industrialising the country which the Chinese people have cherished for almost a hundred years will be realised.

Communications and transport will also be developed. New railways and highways will traverse mountainous Southwest China, rich in mineral deposits and agricultural possibilities, and the vast expanse of Northwest China, which has a brilliant future for the development of industry and animal husbandry, and link them with the other parts of the country.

In the sphere of light industry, many up-to-date textile mills, paper-manufacturing plants, food factories, sugar refineries and chemical fertiliser plants will be built in new industrial centres which will arise in the hinterland, close to the sources of raw materials. The number of spindles in the country will increase by several million in the next five years. These advances will go far to meet the material needs of the people.

A large number of intermediate technical schools and new institutions of higher learning

of various kinds will be expanded or set up to train millions of skilled workers, engineers, technicians, factory administrators and new-type intellectuals with a mastery of modern science. Workers and peasants will have wide possibilities for all-round education.

There will be a further development of co-operatives in agricultural and handicraft production during the coming five years. Privately-operated industry and commerce will, in the main, be directed to the path of development towards state capitalism. The socialist and semi-socialist sectors will considerably increase their role in our industry, particularly in heavy industry, and will come to exert a pre-dominating influence in commerce.

### Unparalleled Tempo

The tempo of the industrialisation of China in her first five-year plan will know no parallel. The industrial levels which the capitalist countries in the West took thirty to fifty years to reach will be attained by China in five years' time. The tempo of China's industrialisation will be much quicker than that of the Soviet Union after the October Revolution. The reason why this is possible is that China will get all-round, long-term and selfless aid from the mighty socialist state, the Soviet Union. The Government of the Soviet Union has already agreed to give systematic economic and technical help to China between now and 1959 in building or reconstructing 91 enterprises in addition to 50 enterprises which are already being built or reconstructed. These include iron and steel combines, non-ferrous metallurgical enterprises, coal mines, oil refineries, scores of machine-building plants, automobile works, tractor works, power stations and a number of defence industries. The assistance given by the Soviet Union in the building of these enterprises will cover a wide range of activities: from geological surveys, designing, supplying construction equipment, installing machinery right up to starting actual production and the training of various kinds of personnel for the construction and operation of Chinese industry. This Soviet assistance will be of decisive significance in China's industrialisation. The heartfelt gratitude of the Chinese people to the Soviet people is fully expressed

in Chairman Mao Tse-tung's message to G. M. Malenkov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union.

### Targets for 1953

The scale of the first five-year plan is by no means small. Taking 1950 as 100, state expenditure on national economic construction was 421 in 1952 and is set at 596 for 1953. In total value, this year's industrial and agricultural production will be raised 12 per cent above that of 1952; industrial production will be 23 per cent (state-owned industries will increase their production by about 32 per cent). Agricultural production will be 6 per cent higher than in 1952. The targets for the output of some principal products in 1953 are as follows:

Product	(Output in 1952=100)	Output in 1953
Pig Iron		114
Steel Ingots		123
Steel Products		134.8
Copper		128.6
Coal		97.8
Electric Power		127
Crude Oil		142
Metal-cutting Machines		104.6
Generators		290.9
Motors		141.2
Nitric Acid		134.3
Cement		129.7
Cotton Yarn		109
Cotton Cloth		116
Sugar		123
Paper		106
Lumber		138
Grain Crops		106
Cotton (raw)		116
Tobacco (cured)		102.8

This year the first large rolling mill and seamless steel pipe plant ever to exist in China will be commissioned in Anshan. A number of large and small blast furnaces with an annual production capacity of several hundred thousand tons will be completed. New hydroelectric and thermo-electric power stations supplying a total of several hundred thousand kilowatts will also be built.

New coal mines will be opened and oil wells drilled. The production of big machines for machine-tool plants and of generators of several thousand kilowatts capacity has begun. New textile mills with a total of several hundred thousand spindles are to be established in Peking, Shihchiachuang, Chengchow,

Hsiangtan, Chengtu and other cities. Many paper mills and sugar refineries with modern equipment will be built or renovated.

Over 600 kilometres of new railway lines will be laid this year. The network of highways and inland waterways will be further developed. New steamers and wharves will be built.

The building of water conservancy projects on a gigantic scale will continue. The third-year (1953) building programme of the Huai River Control Project, which includes large reservoirs in Futseling and at other places, is under way. Five navigation locks and 14 culverts on the Sanho River, at Jenhochi and elsewhere have been built. On the Yungting River, the great dam of the Kuanting Reservoir, which will store 2,270 million cubic metres of water, has been completed.

Domestic and foreign trade is being expanded. The total sale of commodities in home markets in 1953 is to be 30 per cent over that of 1952. The volume of foreign trade is to increase by 32 per cent. People will be able to purchase about 70 per cent more foodstuffs and about 50 per cent more piece-goods from state-owned trading organisations than they did last year.

Opportunities for education are being greatly enhanced. The number of primary school students is now over 55 million. Students in secondary schools now exceed 3 million. Institutions of higher education have over 220,000 students, 10 per cent more than in 1952.

Since the beginning of the year, people throughout China have plunged enthusiastically into the task of national construction—continuing at the same time their unremitting efforts to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea as well as to strive for a Korean armistice. During the first six months of the year, the people have already scored important successes in the fulfilment of this year's plan.

State-owned industries have fulfilled their production plans for the first half of the year by 101 per cent, overfulfilling the plans for the production of steel, pig iron, copper, cement, crude oil, lathes, cotton yarn, cotton cloth,

rubber tyres and other items. Production in private factories also increased. For instance, those in Shanghai produced 29 per cent more during the first five months of this year than in the corresponding period last year.

With regard to capital construction, the tasks slated for the year are enormous. But in spite of this, the 746 enterprises, the construction of which will absorb 90 per cent of the total investments put in by the state for this purpose, have accomplished, during the first half of 1953, a volume of work exceeding that of the same period last year by 140 per cent.

In agriculture, not a few areas have reaped bumper crops of grain this year. It is anticipated that the output of grain and cotton will match that of last year.

Railways and other means of communications fulfilled their plans admirably. Railway transportation in the first half of 1953 was 17 per cent above plan; inland waterway transportation 23 per cent above plan.

In home trade, the markets teem with business. Although the first half of the year is customarily the "slack season" in China, yet trade was active, surpassing, in many places, the volume for the same period last year. Foreign trade has also kept abreast of the plan.

The overall economic condition of the country is characterised by a steady upward swing. The chief branches of the national economy are, in the main, fulfilling their plans. At the present time, the people are launching a nation-wide movement aimed at increasing output, raising income, practising economy and reducing expenditures so as to put the maximum resources into industrial construction. Working hard to overfulfil this year's plan, the people throughout the country are throwing themselves enthusiastically into this movement.

The workers have also become more active in making improvements in their work. They are giving full rein to their creativeness, increasing production, improving the quality of products and reducing production costs. Many factories, enterprises and organisations and many advanced workers and brigades have made out plans to increase production and carry

out economies during the coming three months, pledging to exceed their original quotas for the year and to create more wealth for the nation. The peasants, too, are doing their best to increase their harvests of grain and industrial crops.

## Year of Great Changes

The present year is one of great victories for the Chinese people as well as of tremendous changes. It is a year of great achievements on the economic front; while at the same time, the struggle to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea has been strengthened and the Korean armistice talks have been brought to a successful conclusion. It is the year of the launching of the first five-year plan of national construction following the conclusion of economic rehabilitation.

In the four years since its establishment, the People's Republic of China has gone through numerous severe tests. It has proved not only that, with the help of the forces of peace and democracy headed by the Soviet Union, it can smash any imperialist provocation, but also that it can overcome the most varied difficulties. It has rapidly healed the wounds inflicted on the national economy during the war, and begun to make astonishing achievements in its great programme of economic construction. The People's Republic of China is emerging on the international arena as a mighty new country, an important factor in international life. This even our enemies are forced to admit, whether they like it or not.

On October 1, celebrating the fourth anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Republic, the Chinese people can rejoice proudly at these splendid achievements.

The Chinese people face their gigantic and glorious new tasks with great confidence. They have united themselves under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and their great leader Chairman Mao Tse-tung. With their ever-growing enthusiasm and creativeness and enjoying the great and unselfish help of the Soviet Union and the support of the People's Democracies, they are confident of reaching and surpassing the targets of the first year of their first five-year plan.

# CHINA'S PEACE POLICY

**Ko Po-nien**

*Member of the Board of Directors of the  
Chinese People's Institute of  
Foreign Affairs*

WHEN the Chinese people, having won their revolution, founded the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949, a new period in Chinese history began. The days when the Chinese people were oppressed by foreign imperialism disappeared forever. China ceased to be a semi-colony of imperialism, and became an independent, unified state, democratic and strong.

The four years that have passed since then have proved that the liberated Chinese people, while building a peaceful and happy country, have also persistently pursued a policy of peace in their foreign relations. When our great leader Chairman Mao Tse-tung said: "We do not want to encroach on any country; we only oppose the aggression of the imperialists against our country," he was voicing the opinion of over 475 million people of China. The Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the fundamental law of China pending the adoption of a constitution, states clearly:

The principle of the foreign policy of the People's Republic of China is the protection of the independence, freedom, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country, upholding of lasting international peace and friendly co-operation between the peoples of all countries, and opposition to the imperialist policy of aggression and war.

The Chinese people are deeply convinced of the possibility of the peaceful coexistence of

countries with different social systems. The first proclamation of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, issued at the time of its formation, expressed the desire to establish diplomatic relations with all countries in the world:

...This Government (the Central People's Government) is the sole legal government representing all the people of the People's Republic of China. This Government is willing to establish diplomatic relations with any foreign government which is willing to observe the principles of equality, mutual benefit and mutual respect of territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Adhering to the principles stated in this proclamation and the Common Programme, the Central People's Government has in the past four years established diplomatic relations with 19 countries: the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, Korea, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Mongolia, Germany, Albania, Burma, India, Viet-Nam, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Indonesia, Pakistan and Finland. In addition, Britain, Ceylon, Norway, Israel, Afghanistan and the Netherlands have notified China of their willingness to establish diplomatic relations with her, while Britain, Norway and the Netherlands have each sent their delegates to Peking to conduct negotiations for the establishment of diplomatic relations.

As for the government of the United States of America, it has so far persisted in attempting to utilise the question of diplomatic

recognition in order to interfere in China's internal affairs. The U.S. Government, ignoring the fact that the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China has effectively brought the whole country except Taiwan under its rule and has won the warm support of the whole people, still maintains its puppet, the reactionary remnant Kuomintang "government," which the Chinese people have long since thrown off the mainland. It has refused to recognise the government of the Chinese people, and has coerced the governments of a few other countries to follow its example.

Whether the governments of the United States and these few other countries like it or not, however, the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China has become increasingly consolidated with each passing day. The subjective desires of the imperialists can never replace the objective facts. Without the participation of the People's Republic of China, which has a population of over 475 millions, no important international problem, and particularly no problems of the Far East, can find a solution.

### "Leaning to One Side"

The Chinese people are profoundly convinced that they must resolutely take their stand in the world camp of peace, democracy and Socialism headed by the Soviet Union, and that they must establish the closest fraternal ties with the Soviet Union in order to consolidate the victory they have already won.

This is the policy of "leaning to one side" as defined by Chairman Mao Tse-tung. In his historic work *On People's Democratic Dictatorship*, Chairman Mao Tse-tung pointed out:

...The forty years' experience of Sun Yat-sen and the twenty-eight years' experience of the Chinese Communist Party have convinced us that in order to attain victory and consolidate it, we must lean to one side. According to these experiences, the Chinese people must lean either to the side of imperialism or to that of Socialism. There can be no exception.

The Chinese people, who have won their liberation after years of struggle and sacrifice, will definitely not tolerate the policy of leaning to the side of imperialism, as this would reduce

China to a semi-colony of imperialism. They are determined to lean to the side of Socialism, for, as Chairman Mao Tse-tung wrote in the same work:

In an era when imperialism still exists, it is impossible for a genuine people's revolution in any country to achieve victory without various forms of help from the international revolutionary forces. Even when victory is won, it cannot be made secure without such help.

Therefore, Chairman Mao continued:

Internationally, we belong to the side of the anti-imperialist front, headed by the Soviet Union. We can only turn to this side for genuine and friendly assistance, not to the side of the imperialist front.

In accordance with this basic policy of "leaning to one side," the People's Republic of China, as soon as it was founded, established close, friendly ties with the Soviet Union. During Chairman Mao Tse-tung's visit to the Soviet Union in 1950, the People's Republic of China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics signed the Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance which has proved to be of great world-wide significance. Concurrently and later, other agreements were signed, such as the agreement on the granting of credits to China, the agreement on the sending of Soviet experts to China, economic agreements and the trade agreement.

During the past four years, the Soviet Union, in keeping with these agreements, has given China generous and selfless aid which has accelerated the rehabilitation and development of China's economy, helped in building up her national defences and enhanced the friendship between the peoples of China and the Soviet Union. In 1952, the Soviet Union transferred to China without compensation the Chinese-Changchun Railway, which had previously been under the joint administration of the two countries. This year, China embarked on her first five-year plan of large-scale construction, and the Soviet Union again extended great, all-round and systematic aid to China. The great, unbreakable friendship of the peoples of China and the Soviet Union, established on the basis of common interest and mutual trust, is a sure guarantee of the peace and security of the Far East and of the whole world.

In September, 1952, a little more than two and a half years after the signing of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance, the world was confronted with a new situation in the Far East. The United States of America, discarding its obligations under international agreements and encroaching on the legitimate rights of China and the Soviet Union, concluded a separate "peace treaty" with Japan. Soon afterwards, the United States and Japan signed the so-called "U.S.-Japanese Security Treaty" and "Administrative Agreement." As a result, Japan has become a military base of the United States in the Far East. Fostered by the United States, Japanese militarist and fascist forces are once again threatening Far Eastern peace and security. To cope with this situation, China and the Soviet Union have agreed to postpone the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the jointly used Chinese naval base of Port Arthur\* until a peace treaty is concluded between the People's Republic of China and Japan, and between the Soviet Union and Japan.

The Chinese people are willing to live in peace with the Japanese people, to establish relations with them on the basis of equality, friendship and respect for each other's national independence and sovereignty, and to trade with them so as to ensure peace. The Chinese people, however, are resolutely opposed to the reactionary forces in Japan which, under the wing of the United States, are following U.S. imperialism and making preparations for a renewed attack on the Asian continent, in the illusion that they can restore their rule over the Chinese and other peoples of Asia. The Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance is a most powerful guarantee against the resumption of aggression on the part of Japanese imperialism or any other state that may collaborate with Japan in acts of aggression.

The fraternal relations between China and the People's Democracies have also developed

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\* According to Article II of the Sino-Soviet Agreement on the Chinese Changchun Railway, Port Arthur and Dairen signed on February 14, 1950, the Soviet troops were to withdraw from the jointly-utilised naval base of Port Arthur immediately on the conclusion of the peace treaty with Japan, but not later than the end of 1952.

greatly during the past four years and China has signed economic and cultural agreements with most of them. The implementation of these agreements has steadily expanded trade to their mutual benefit, and increasing cultural exchange has brought their peoples still closer together. These developments have further enhanced the genuine friendship between the Chinese people and those of the other People's Democracies and their growing prosperity. Inspired by the common desire for mutual help and the progress of all, the peoples of the great Soviet Union, China and the People's Democracies are closely united in one big family—the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism.

There is no doubt that China's policy of close co-operation and unity with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies has played a decisive role in consolidating the victory of the Chinese people's revolution, as well as in advancing the peaceful construction of the country.

### **Against Aggression**

During the War of Liberation, U.S. imperialism exerted all its efforts to assist the Kuomintang reactionaries in their attacks on the Chinese people. But the Chinese people won the victory, and the People's Republic of China was founded.

Since then, the hostility of U.S. imperialism towards the Chinese people has been constantly increasing. U.S. imperialism has prevented China from enjoying the legitimate status in the United Nations to which she is entitled. Moreover, immediately after instigating its Syngman Rhee puppets to launch an attack upon the Korean Democratic People's Republic in June, 1950, it invaded the Chinese territory of Taiwan with its armed forces, using the situation in Korea as a pretext, and U.S. air forces repeatedly violated China's territorial air in the Northeast. It is the frantic ambition of the U.S. aggressors to conquer the whole of Korea and to go on to invade the People's Republic of China.

The Chinese are a peace-loving people, but they will never tolerate foreign aggression, nor will they stand idly by while their neighbour is invaded by imperialism. The Chinese people and government repeatedly made proposals to

and warned the U.S. imperialists, demanding that their armed forces be withdrawn from Taiwan, that they immediately stop the aggressive war against Korea and bring about a peaceful settlement of the Korean and Far Eastern questions. The U.S. imperialists, however, took the peaceful proposals of the Chinese people as a sign of weakness and turned a deaf ear to their warnings. In the early winter of 1950, aggressive U.S. forces crossed the 38th Parallel in large numbers and marched towards the Yalu and Tumen Rivers, posing a serious threat to the security of China's Northeast. This was beyond what the Chinese people could tolerate, so their volunteers went to Korea to fight shoulder to shoulder with the Korean People's Army. Halting the aggression of the U.S. imperialists, they forced them to retreat to the neighbourhood of the 38th Parallel.

As a result of the crushing blows dealt them by the Chinese People's Volunteers and the Korean People's Army, the U.S. aggressors were forced, in 1951, to accept the peaceful proposals put forward by the Soviet Union and supported by China and Korea concerning the opening of negotiations for a cease-fire and armistice. In more than two years of negotiations, U.S. imperialism, unwilling to accept its defeat and trying to maintain international tension, stalled the armistice talks with all sorts of gangster tricks. In order to meet the desire for peace of the peoples of the world, the Chinese and Korean peoples strove resolutely and patiently for the success of the armistice negotiations. As a result of their efforts as well as of those of the peace-loving peoples of the whole world, the United States was finally brought to sign the armistice agreement on July 27, 1953—and an armistice was at last realised. This is a great victory of the peace policy of the Chinese and Korean peoples and a great victory for the forces of peace of the whole world.

The success of the Korean armistice talks has proved that peaceful negotiation is the only possible and correct path for settling international disputes. Of course, the realisation of the Korean armistice is only the first step in the peaceful settlement of the Korean question. The Chinese people and their government will continue to exert efforts to consolidate the Korean armistice, to guard vigilantly against the recurrence of aggressive war and to facili-

tate the successful convening of the Political Conference in order to consummate the peaceful settlement of the Korean question. To enable the Political Conference to succeed, China is opposed to making its form a repetition of the Panmunjom negotiations which were only confined to the two belligerent sides. She proposes that, in addition to all nations on the two belligerent sides, a number of neutral nations concerned—the Soviet Union, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Burma—should be invited to participate as members in the Political Conference which should take the form of a round-table conference. The tasks of the Conference should be first to negotiate the withdrawal of all foreign military forces from Korea and to reach a peaceful settlement of the Korean question, and thereafter to discuss other questions. All decisions of the Political Conference, to be valid, must obtain the unanimous agreement of both belligerent sides in Korea. China hopes, genuinely and sincerely, that the Political Conference will proceed smoothly so that the Korean question may be settled peacefully by negotiations. She will continue to make efforts to achieve such a result.

### **Peace and Trade**

The Chinese people wish to develop commercial and trade relations with all countries of the world. Article 57 of the Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference provides:

The People's Republic of China may restore and develop commercial and trade relations with foreign governments and peoples on a basis of equality and mutual benefit.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, trade relations with the Soviet Union and People's Democracies, especially those with the Soviet Union, have been increasing by leaps and bounds. In 1950, the total value of China's trade with these countries was 26 per cent of the total value of China's foreign trade. In 1952, it increased to 72 per cent, and this proportion will continue to increase in the future.

China is not prejudiced against any capitalist country which wishes to develop trade relations on conditions of equality and mutual benefit. She wishes to restore and establish trade relations with all countries which are willing to maintain peaceful relations, because

this is advantageous to the development of the industrial and agricultural production and the improvement of the living conditions of the people on both sides.

However, since the birth of the People's Republic of China, U.S. monopoly capital lost the dominating position which it enjoyed in trade with China in the past. In December, 1950 the U.S. Government illegally froze Chinese assets in the U.S. and set up an embargo and other obstacles to block trade with New China. As a result, U.S.-China trade has greatly diminished in comparison with the past.

Because the U.S. monopoly of China trade was broken up, trade between China and Britain, after October, 1949, was considerably restored and developed. Later, however, the British Government succumbed to the incessant pressure of the U.S. Government, and followed the latter in its hostile policy of imposing trade bans and embargoes against New China. As a result, the volume of trade between China and Britain declined sharply. These events show that the reduction in trade between New China and a number of capitalist countries is entirely a result of the hostile policy which these countries, constrained by the imperialist rulers of the United States, adopted against New China.

### **Futile U.S. Trade Embargo**

The U.S. imperialists were confident that the blocking of trade would be a heavy blow to China. But their calculation has proved entirely wrong. Such measures have, in fact, only served to help China shake off the vestiges of semi-colonial economic dependence and thus to attain complete economic independence and self-sufficiency with greater rapidity. The measures to block trade with China imposed by the U.S. Government have also helped the Chinese people to liquidate more quickly the economic privileges which U.S. imperialism used to possess in China. As a result of the economic co-operation between China and the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, New China has defeated these hostile measures of the imperialists. The tremendous achievements China has made in economic construction in the past four years are eloquent proof that such measures are utterly ineffective in arresting her recovery and development. As a matter of fact, far from harming China, they

have harmed those countries which, servilely bowing to the will of the U.S. imperialists, have put them into effect.

### **China's Growing Trade**

In the past four years, China has made big advances in trade. She has balanced her international payments and done away with the excess of imports over exports which lasted for more than seventy years.

As a result of the rapid development of her industry and agriculture, China will be able to export more and more of her industrial, mineral and agricultural products, as well as animal products and handicraft items. Now that she has embarked on large-scale economic construction, she will also be able to buy from abroad more and more industrial machinery, equipment and raw materials, semi-manufactured products and industrial goods. The Chinese people, in addition to continuing to develop their trade with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, believe that they can establish trade relations on the basis of equality and mutual benefit with the various countries in Asia, Europe, America, Australasia and Africa, regardless of whether diplomatic relations now exist between China and those countries.

China has established trade relations of this description with such Asian countries as India, Pakistan, Burma, Indonesia and Ceylon.

The Chinese delegation to the Moscow Economic Conference in 1952 also concluded trade agreements with the delegations from Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Ceylon, Indonesia, Pakistan and Italy. In Peking, a Sino-Japanese trade agreement involving a total volume of imports and exports amounting to £60 million sterling was concluded with Japanese delegates to the Conference.

In 1952, China signed a five-year trade agreement with Ceylon covering shipments of rice and rubber. A tri-partite trade agreement was also signed between China, the Soviet Union and Finland.

In 1953, a French trade delegation visited China and signed an agreement covering trade to the value of £20 million. A British trade delegation which visited China this year signed

a business arrangement providing for trade transactions totalling £60 million. Similar trade agreements were signed this year with Finland and Egypt.

When the first China-Ceylon Trade Agreement was signed in Peking in October, 1952, R. G. Senanayake, head of the Ceylon Trade Delegation, said that his country had previously turned to the West for its prosperity; however, Ceylon from now on will turn East. Then he further stated that the first formal trade negotiations between China and Ceylon had sown the seeds of prosperity and friendliness. Not Ceylon, but the other Asian countries that would follow her example, would be the ones to reap the most important fruits of these seeds.

These words of Mr. Senanayake's show that the foreign trade policy of New China, based on equality and mutual benefit, has won the heartiest approval of all the Asian peoples.

The facts of the past four years have shown that the Chinese people and the Central Peo-

ple's Government have been faithfully carrying out a policy of peace. This is true in every field: in the establishment of diplomatic relations with other countries; in dealing with international problems; in developing foreign trade; in the handling of international cultural relations and other matters. China's peace policy is based on the principles of equality, mutual benefit and mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty. She will exert her fullest efforts in developing all types of normal international relations with other countries in line with these principles. These principles are inviolable; the Chinese people will not allow them to be infringed.

Standing firmly in the front ranks of the world camp of peace, democracy and Socialism headed by the Soviet Union, engaged in large-scale peaceful construction, China will continue to abide by her traditional policy of peace in an unremitting struggle for friendship and co-operation between nations and for the defence of lasting world peace.

## C. P. V. Helps Rebuild Korean Reservoir

The Kemyong (Sokam) Reservoir near Pyongyang which the U.S. Air Force wrecked in May this year has been rebuilt.

The reservoir, one of the largest in Korea with a perimeter of 30 kilometres and a storage capacity of over 34 million cubic metres of water, was wrecked by the U.S. Air Force in savage bombings on May 13 and 14. The destruction of the dam caused the inundation of all Sunan, Pyongwon and Taedong Counties and the outskirts of Pyongyang. As a result, 800 people were drowned and some 2,000 homesteads were affected.

On May 23 Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers were called in to repair the dam. They worked in the turbulent water and in heavy rainfall alongside the Korean people. The reservoir was repaired on August 14 after 83 days of intense work. The Volunteers alone moved a total of two million cubic metres of earth, dug 5,200 metres of ditches and built 47,000 metres of motor road around the reservoir.

Thanking the efforts of the men of the K.P.A. and the Volunteers, Marshal Kim Il Sung stated in a message: "The success we have attained in rebuilding the reservoir proves that our unity is invincible," and a citation for the men issued by the Chinese People's Volunteers' Headquarters on August 28 read: "Your work and your spirit of internationalism will strengthen the friendship and unity between the Chinese and Korean peoples."

Today towering over the reservoir is a memorial tablet erected by the Korean people honouring the men of the K.P.A. and the Volunteers for this new contribution to peace.

# China's General Election Has Begun

Chen Pao

CHINA'S first nation-wide general elections based on universal suffrage are in progress. This implements the January 13 resolution of the Central People's Government Council which provides for the convening of the people's congresses of all levels and the All-China People's Congress.

The greatest electorate in the world is now engaged in electing deputies to the basic organs of state power—the *hsiang*,\* towns and municipal districts and municipalities without districts—a total of over a quarter of a million local governments. When these elections at the lowest level are completed, the people's congresses at county, municipal and provincial levels will be elected step by step. The process will be climaxed by the election of the All-China People's Congress as the supreme organ of state power to adopt the constitution, ratify the first five-year plan of national construction and elect a new Central People's Government. These elections, therefore, are of an epoch-making character in the history of New China.

Due, however, to the vast size and population of the country and the great differences in conditions that exist between various areas, it is not possible to hold the elections simultaneously or even within a very short period at all the basic levels. The elections will,

therefore, be spread over many months. While some elections were held as early as April this year and all preparations for elections—census-taking, registration of voters, etc.—were in the main completed in August, the elections to the local governments of the lowest levels will only be completed by the end of this year or early next spring. The majority of China's electorate, the peasants who comprise some 80 per cent of the population, will not go to the local polls until the coming winter when the busy work of the autumn harvests has been done. The urban population as a whole will hold elections earlier.

## Thorough Preparations

Simultaneously with the promulgation of the Electoral Law on March 1, drafted by a Committee headed by Chou En-lai, Premier of the Government Administration Council, the Central People's Government Council formed a Central Electoral Committee headed by Liu Shao-chi, Vice-Chairman of the Central People's Government, and under its guidance, local organs have been formed to take charge of election affairs and see that the elections are carried through in good order and time. More than one million cadres have been specially trained to ensure that the elections are efficiently carried out. They are assigned wherever there is need of them in town or countryside or in the national minority areas to help the people hold their elections. Electoral commit-

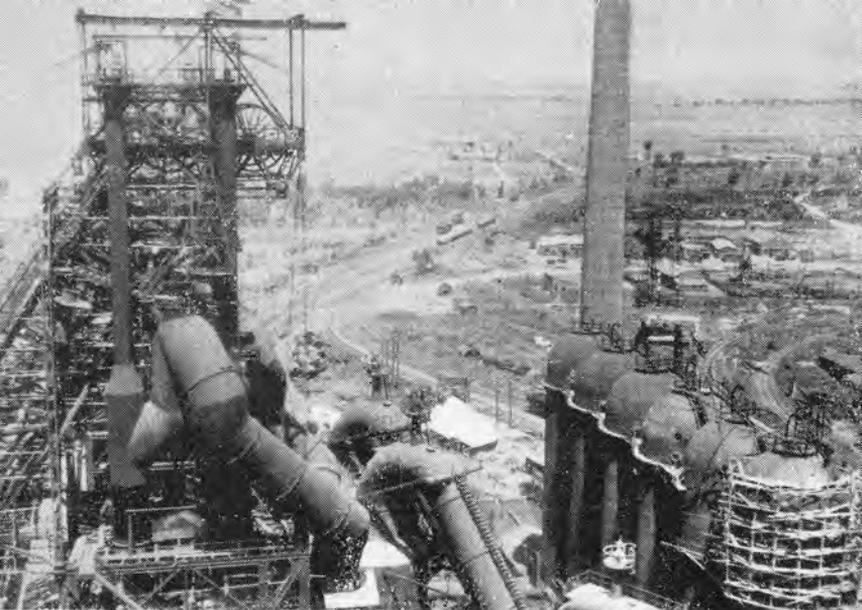
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\**Hsiang*—an administrative unit below the county level. It is composed of several villages. ♦



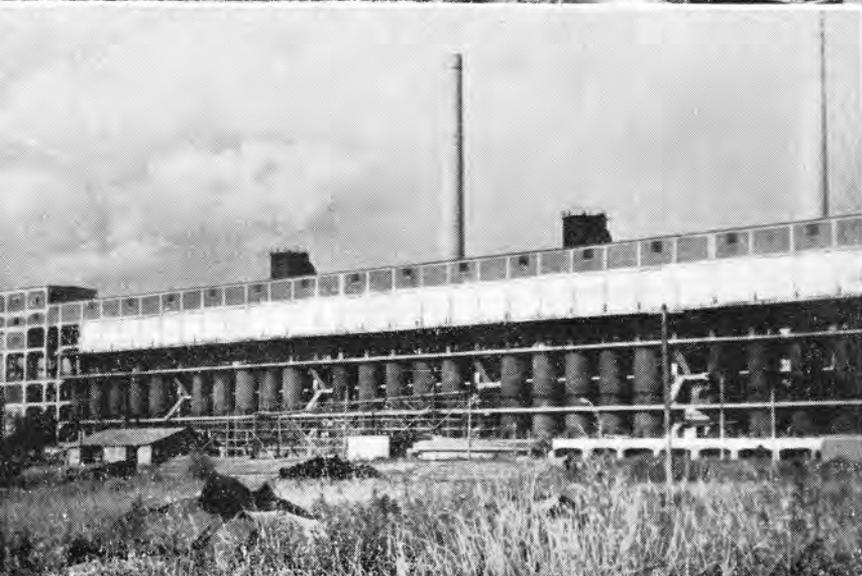
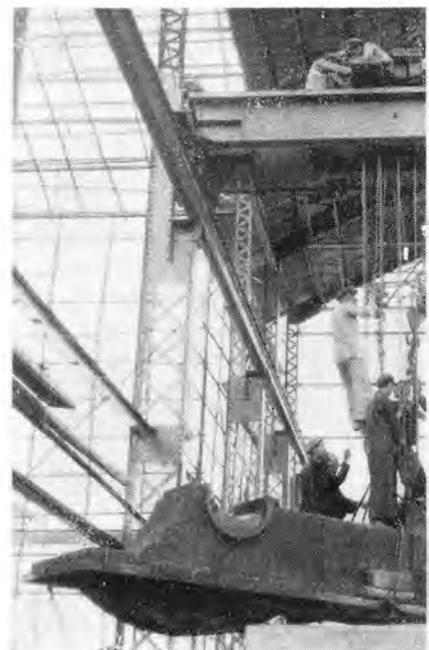
Strive to Fulfil and Overfulfil National Construction Plans!

*A Poster by Yu Yun-chieh*



Building China's second automatic blast furnace, the No. 7 furnace of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company

Installing state-owned Tzuni,



Part of a newly built synthetic gasoline plant in Fushun, Northeast China

## FIRST PROJECT FIVE-YEAR

With economic rehabilitation since 1953 launched her first five-year plan, which is leading to the industrial revolution, China sees the building and reconstruction of her country as a result of China's swift economic advancement. This is due to the selfless aid given by the Soviet Union, which has provided knowledge and equipment of the

Building the Lanchow-Sinkiang Railway, one of the ten new lines under construction this year



g equipment in a  
ned sugar refinery in  
Kwangtung Province



This heavy rolling mill of the An-shan Iron and Steel Company will be completed this winter

## CTS OF CHINA'S EAR PLAN

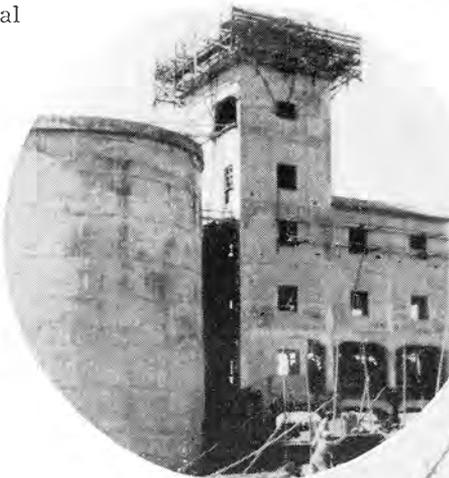
uccessfully completed, People's China  
e-year plan of economic construction,  
lisation of the country. This year will  
ion of many key industries. New  
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ne most modern type



An electrical-engineering plant in construction in Harbin, Northeast China



A Soviet expert assisting builders of a power plant in Chengchow, Honan Province



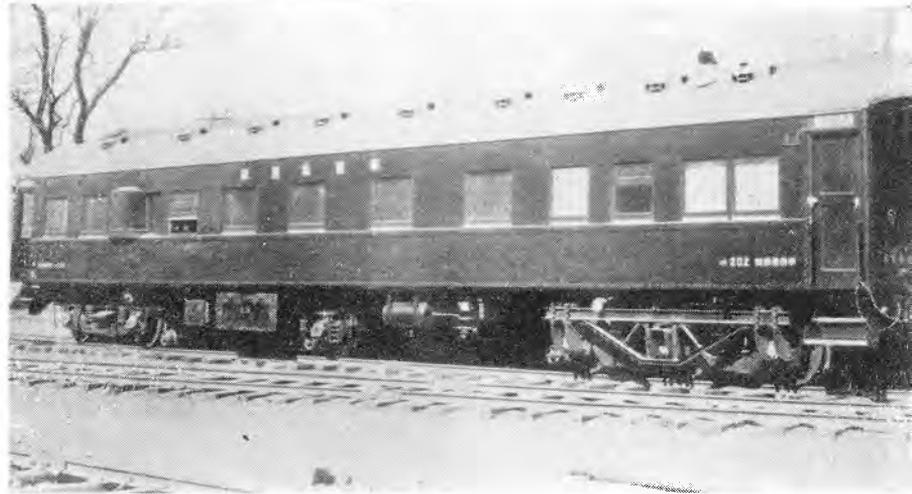
Digging foundations for China's first automobile plant. Inset: Building the project's own cement works





These modern machines in the new state Wuhan No. 1 Cotton Mill were all made in China

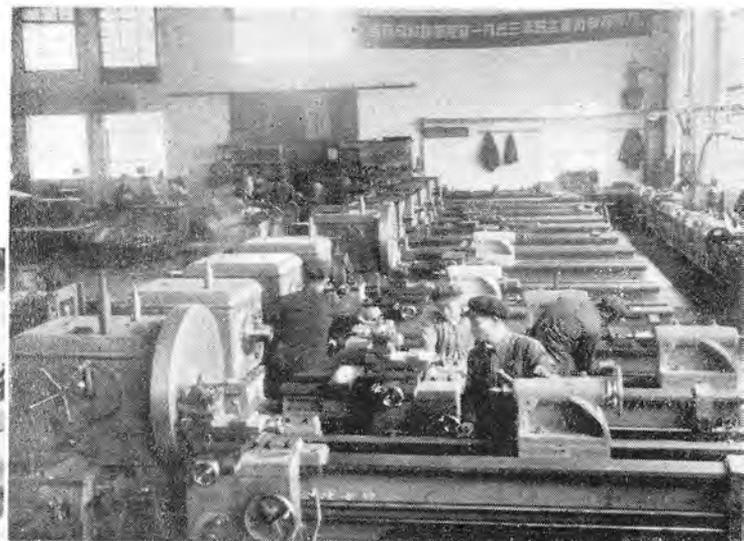
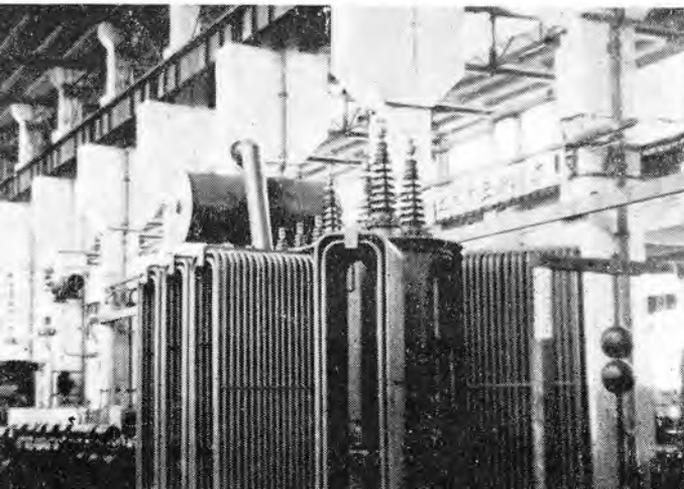
The first Chinese-made automatic track-inspection train produced by the Tangshan Railway Repair Works



## New Products Of China's Industry

New China's advances in economic construction have given a powerful impetus to her engineering industry. New types of equipment are being produced which were quite beyond the powers of the weak, semi-colonial industry of the past. Here are a few of the splendid new products created by China's workers

With the aid of Soviet experts, workers of a plant in Shenyang (Mukden) produced this first Chinese-made 10,000 KVA transformer



Workers of the Kaiyuan Engineering Works, Wuhsi, Kiangsu Province, assembling 13-foot lathes, the first of this type ever made in China

tees have been set up in the 29 provinces and 14 big municipalities and in most of the over 2,000 counties and smaller cities of China. Millions of copies of the Electoral Law and handbooks on electoral work have been published and distributed. These include copies in the Mongolian, Uighur, Tibetan and other national minority languages.

An additional aid to the proper preparation of the elections has been the holding of a series of early elections since April in hundreds of selected constituencies in many parts of the country. These elections—they are, of course, part of the general elections, although they were held earlier than the rest—have provided valuable experience for the elections which follow. In the coming months, this experience will be fully utilised as the elections get under way throughout the country.

In Northeast China, where preparations for such early elections began somewhat ahead of other areas, early elections had already been held in nearly all provinces by mid-July. In Szechuan Province, Southwest China, they have already been held in over 140 *hsiang*, towns and city districts. In Chekiang Province, East China, deputies have been elected in most of these early *hsiang* and town elections and preparations are now under way for the convening of the local people's congresses. In other areas of the country, such elections have already been held or preparations for them are well in hand. Elections were held from April to June in 1,600 constituencies. By mid-July, active preparations such as explanatory work, census-taking and registration of voters had been well launched in all areas.

### Great Enthusiasm

The elections which have been held have shown what great store the Chinese people set by the democratic rights they have gained after their long and bitterly contested struggle for liberation. Everywhere the elections have resulted in a new upsurge of political activity. In many factories in Shanghai and other industrial centres, festive meetings were held when electors' certificates were issued. In the old revolutionary bases in more than 200 *hsiang* and towns of Juichin, Hsingkuo and 22 other

counties of Kiangsi Province, the peasants took the keenest interest in the study of the various documents relating to the elections. They eagerly attended election meetings and discussions.

The enthusiasm of the industrial workers is expressed in the slogan which they have adopted throughout the country: "Let us greet the general elections with still bigger production!" Emulation campaigns have been more enthusiastically supported in factories whose workers and employees are participating in the elections. At the Shenyang Chemical Plant, the educative influence of the election greatly stimulated production. The daily output of Shop No. 514 at this plant rose by 30 per cent in the very first days of the campaign. Women workers of the Chihcheng Weaving and Dyeing Mill in Shanghai made an election-campaign pledge to strengthen labour discipline and improve the quality of their products. They increased the amount of first-grade cloth produced. Members of more than 50 work-teams at the Tientsin People's Printing Press undertook to meet the elections with practical deeds—they improved production. Emulation campaigns in honour of the elections were launched by the workers of many other enterprises.

The turnout of voters is a graphic illustration of the enthusiasm displayed by the people. According to statistics from 25 *hsiang* and towns in nine provinces, an average of over 80 per cent of the total electorate went to the polls, while in one case 99.3 per cent of the voters cast their votes.

A holiday mood prevailed on election days. The people put on their best clothes, pinned their electors' certificates and red flowers to their jackets and blouses and proceeded to election meetings in orderly ranks to the accompaniment of gongs and drums. Women of the national minorities wore their finest national costumes to the meetings.

This conscientiousness in voting is matched by the care with which the people choose their candidates for election. In Yakou Village, Chiangchin County, Szechuan Province, the present deputy was proposed as a candidate. He had been active and responsible in his work, but had shown one fault—an exces-

sive curtness in dealing with people. During the nomination discussions, he spoke before the electors and made a self-criticism of his style of work. His audience was satisfied that he had recognised his fault and would strive to correct it. They retained his name on the list of candidates.

The elections now under way are intimately linked up with the struggle against bureaucratism and against all infringements of the democratic way of running affairs. All that violates the people's laws and discipline is coming under heavy fire from the electorate. The people are showing great activity in criticising such shortcomings as they see, checking up on the work of the government and individual cadres. The elections are helping to rid the state apparatus of bad elements of all kinds.

### Confidence in Communist Party

These first elections have shown the great trust the people repose in members of the Communist Party, in the great mass of the cadres of the basic levels of government and those who have shown themselves to be models in productive work.

In five *hsiang* of Szechuan Province, 80 per cent of all deputies elected are lower government personnel. Of 31 delegates elected in Shanhsi *hsiang* of Feihsi County, Anhwei Province, nine are members of the Communist Party or the New Democratic Youth League. The peasants of Chengshih Village, a model bumper-harvest village, Hailun County, Heilungkiang Province, placed the exemplary government worker Ma Kuang-tien at the head of their list of candidates and elected him unanimously. Li Kai-chen, model agricultural worker of Szechuan Province, was elected by a sweeping majority from Nanlung *hsiang* in Szechuan's Nanpu County.

Nienpan *hsiang*, Nanchiang County, Szechuan Province, was once part of the Szechuan-Shensi border revolutionary base. Here, one-third of all the deputies elected are family members of Chinese Red Army fighters who had given their lives in the revolutionary struggle or of fighters in the People's Liberation Army, or who had themselves fought in the Red Army or partisan detachments.

These are the types of deputies being elected by the people, men and women who have achieved popularity among the people by their active and self-sacrificing work in production or defence of the people, as leaders or activists in the various great mass movements such as the movements to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea and the movements against all kinds of corruption, waste and bureaucratism.

Everywhere, women figure among the elected representatives. They comprise 21 per cent of all those elected in Hopei *hsiang*, Chiangning County, Kiangsu Province. In regions where different nationalities live together, the best representatives of each have been elected. In Chenliang *hsiang*, Kueichu County, Kweichow Province, the number of delegates of each nationality corresponds to its proportion of the total population.

Other delegates include the best teachers, doctors, forward-looking industrialists and businessmen and representatives of various religious groups. All these people have enthusiastically undertaken the honourable tasks with which the people have entrusted them.

This has greatly strengthened and invigorated the local administrative organs, strengthened the ties between the government and the people, improved the methods of work and morale of all cadres of the government and raised its general efficiency. This had been demonstrated in all areas where the people's congresses have been convened and got down to work following the elections.

Newly elected delegates are active in leading the people in productive labour. The first session of the new people's congress of Yufung *hsiang*, Suining County, Szechuan Province, answering the people's demand, concentrated its attention on production problems of vital local interest. It adopted a resolution stating that the most important task of the people's representatives in the ensuing two months should be to lead the masses in the fight against drought and to organise the collection and conservation of water for irrigation. It also approved a plan presented by delegate Tai Hai-cheng for the construction of a reservoir in the *hsiang*.

The *hsiang* cadres of Yuehnan, Taitsang County, Kiangsu Province, became much more active in their work after the elections. They threw themselves wholeheartedly into the organisation of temporary mutual-aid teams for the harvest season, with the result that the summer crop throughout the *hsiang* was gathered in within four days.

The experience of these early elections is being carefully applied as the elections spread from area to area. By the end of September, one-fifth of the population of South-west China or some 15 million people will have elected their deputies to the local people's congresses. In Central-South China where elections were completed in August in 1,000 villages, one-third of the area's 76,000 villages are now preparing to go to the polls. In Kiangsu Province, East China, elections are now being held in 4,200 *hsiang* and towns with a total population of 10 million. In Northeast China, elections have begun in all of the six provinces and five major municipalities.

### Deepening Democracy

In the four years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese people under the leadership of the Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung have successfully carried out a series of great democratic reforms that have given ever fuller development to the creative initiative and inventiveness of the mass of the people in restoring and developing the national economy and the nation's defences. Step by step the people's democratic dictatorship has been consolidated and developed through the system of people's representative conferences. Up to the present time, the number of people taking part in these representative conferences of all levels has exceeded 13,637,000, of whom over 80 per cent have been elected directly or indirectly by the people and up to 75 per cent of whom are workers and peasants.



Voters in Yushu County, Kirin Province, Northeast China, cheer a newly elected deputy

This is the mighty democratic foundation on which the Chinese state has advanced so rapidly in every sphere of endeavour.

Now the period of economic recovery has ended and the period of planned economic construction has begun. On the basis of the greatly raised political consciousness and organisational ability of the people and the successes already achieved, the time is ripe for the further step to democratisation represented by the nation-wide elections based on universal suffrage.

The Electoral Law of the People's Republic of China provides a genuinely democratic electoral system suited to the conditions now prevailing in China. Every citizen who has reached the age of eighteen has the right to elect and be elected irrespective of nationality, race, sex, occupation, social origin, religion, education, property status or residence. Exceptions are made only in the few cases of landlords whose class status has not yet changed, people who have been deprived of political rights and the insane.

The elections now being held will be a great step forward to a further rise in the well-being and cultural level of the people.

# What Happened at the Korean Truce Talks (II)

Wilfred Burchett

THE truce talks had been in progress for over four and a half months when General Nam Il and Admiral Joy met on November 27, 1951 to put their signatures to the agreement on Item 2 of the agenda—the fixing of the demarcation line. Discussion immediately shifted to the next agenda item—“concrete arrangements for the realisation of a cease-fire, including the composition, authority and functions of a supervisory organisation for carrying out the terms of a cease-fire and armistice.”

Once again General Nam Il made simple, workmanlike proposals fair to both sides that could have been agreed on the spot. Their acceptance would have greatly facilitated the winding up of the talks within the thirty days set as the time-limit within which the demarcation line would remain final.

Nam Il proposed a cease-fire on land, sea and in the air immediately after the signing of an armistice; the withdrawal within five days of armed forces, including naval units and

forces stationed on islands in the rear of the other side, to positions behind the respective boundaries of the demilitarised zone. Each side would nominate an equal number of delegates to form a “Cease-fire Commission” to share joint responsibility in carrying out and supervising the agreement. Nam Il asked for agreement in principle by the chief delegates, following which staff officers should work out the precise details.

The details for this simple and effective plan could have been worked out within one week at most. Instead, the Americans replied with a whole shower of boulders which they hoped would form a barrier of insuperable obstacles. Admiral Joy submitted a counter-plan which banned any form of reconstruction in devastated northern Korea and which provided for the American forces to carry out unlimited espionage to plot military and industrial targets for the U.S. Air Force at any moment they liked to call off the armistice.

The main point was that inspection teams should have free access to all parts of Korea to ensure that there should be no “military build-up” during the armistice. The latter was defined by Joy to mean no increase in military forces, supplies, equipment and facilities during the armistice period. As the American Air Force had been trying to

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This is the second article of a series on the Korean truce talks written specially for *People's China* by the correspondent of *l'Humanite* in Korea. The first article, which dealt with the adoption of an agenda for the truce talks and the discussion on the fixing of a demarcation line in the early stages of the armistice negotiations, appeared in issue No. 18 of *People's China*.

“justify” their obliteration of every town and village, every factory and workshop, every school and hospital on the grounds that these were “military facilities,” it was clear that the acceptance of such a proposal would only serve the American aim to keep North Korea as a heap of rubble.

But it was never intended by the Americans that such a proposal should be accepted. The intent, as on previous occasions, was to drop an insuperable obstacle on the path which led to an armistice.

For several days prior to November 27, inspired stories had been written from Tokyo and Joy’s headquarters at Munsan to the effect that the Korean-Chinese side “would never agree to any inspection behind their lines.” On the day Joy made his proposal, United Press reported from Tokyo that the most important point was that “observer teams must be set up with authority to range the length and breadth of Korea.” It is clear that Joy felt at this stage that he had created an insurmountable barrier.

Before many days, however, it was clear that this particular boulder had landed squarely on American toes and caused a lot of pained dancing and wriggling on the part of the American delegates.

The task of the Korean-Chinese delegates throughout the talks was patiently to expose the absurdities and injustices of American proposals, at the same time, meeting at least halfway anything reasonable in them that could lead to progress in the talks.

Within a few days it was the Korean-Chinese delegates who were pressing for an absolute ban on any form of military build-up with the ban rigidly enforced by neutral inspection teams, with the American delegates wildly wriggling to avoid this. In fact, as General Nam Il pointed out, it would be far better than having “no military build-up” to have a reduction of military potential by the withdrawal of foreign troops, including the Chinese Volunteers with their equipment. Joy refused to discuss this. Nam Il then proposed a complete freeze of military forces enforced by neutral inspection teams. The hypocrisy and demagogy of the American stand was immediately exposed.

## U.S. Version of “No Military Build-up”

The Americans would not even entertain Nam Il’s proposal. For them, Joy explained, “no military build-up” meant replacement of war-weary troops with fresh reinforcements; it meant replacement of worn-out weapons, trucks and tanks, planes and guns, with new, improved models of trucks and tanks, planes and guns. These demands were put forward under Joy’s formula of “rotation of troops and replenishment of military equipment and supplies.” As for the Korean-Chinese demand for adequate inspection by neutral nations, it was so breath-taking that the Americans took ten days to recover and to react. And these were ten of the precious thirty days ticking away to December 27, when the thirty-day time-limit for maintaining the demarcation line expired.

The ridiculous demands of Joy to halt the reconstruction of towns and villages, railways, factories and other civilian installations were exposed and publicised in the press. One by one, Joy had to withdraw them until he stuck fast on the demand that no airfields in North Korea should be constructed or repaired during an armistice.

Shifting all these boulders took time, and it was obvious that there was no intention on the American side even to pretend to reach an agreement by December 27. In fact, during the thirty-day period, several top-flight American correspondents were briefed at Ridgway’s headquarters that an armistice would be a dangerous and undesirable event.

In a big effort to speed an agreement, the Korean-Chinese delegates met a number of the American demands. They agreed that specified numbers of troops could be rotated each month, that weapons could be replenished. Progress was made in the first two weeks in December to such an extent that there was a sharp plunge in stocks and shares on the New York Stock Exchange. Now in the U.S. view, progress had to be stopped. The key to the attitude of Ridgway and his supporters in Tokyo, Korea and Washington at this time is found in a Reuter dispatch from Tokyo on December 17. It is the explanation, too, for much that occurred from the time the talks started.

"The possibility remains," reported Sidney Brooks, chief Reuter correspondent in the Far East, "that the thirty-day period in which the presently agreed demarcation line will apply may be extended. But if it is, and if an armistice is concluded, there are many responsible officers and observers here who will regard it as a virtual defeat of the power of the Western world by a Communist army. . . . *There is a strong feeling in the Allied Command that the negotiations were a mistake in July when they started and are again a mistake, now aggravated in November.*" (My italics. The reference to November is to the agreement on the demarcation line.—W.B.)

" . . . There are many here," Brooks went on, "who believe that the methods adopted at Kaesong and Panmunjom have reduced the prestige and integrity of the United Nations. . . . The Command is criticised for putting up basic principles as the price of horse-trading and then throwing them away as part of a bargain with a sharp trader. . . . Many here regard each concession to Communist stubbornness in argument as a defeat secondary only to the major defeat they feel implied in the fact that the might of the Western world failed to secure a military decision against the Chinese peasantry. . . ."

Here, stated in the clearest terms by the chief of a Western news bureau, one has at least part of the reason for the incidents, the wrecking attempts and the stalling. The career militarists who were conducting the talks were infuriated by their defeat at the hands of Korean and Chinese workers and peasants. They were reluctant to sit down on equal terms with Asians. They were convinced that the whole question of negotiations was a blunder. Inwardly, they were determined that there should never be a negotiated peace. And their attitude fitted perfectly into the overall policy of Washington. The attitude described by Brooks was the reason for American delegates "dragging their feet" both before and after December, 1951.

That the Americans had no intention of reaching agreement within the thirty days from November 27 to December 27 is clear from many sources, from their conduct during

this period, from the Reuter and other similar dispatches, and from the fact as disclosed by Colonel Schwable, Chief-of-Staff for the First Marine Wing, that a long-range programme of germ warfare was started during that period.

The thirty-day period passed, and there was no agreement. The American lobbyists were hard at work trying to get support for a naval blockade of China. At the General Assembly of the United Nations met in Paris, Warren Austin demanded more help in men and weapons to extend the war. Even the pretence of trying to reach an agreement was dropped.

### Absurd U.S. Proposals Exposed

As the weeks ground by at Panmunjom, the absurdities put forward by the Americans were exposed, and they were forced to shuffle away from them. The basic points of no military build-up, with neutral inspection and rotation of men and weapons, had been offered by the Korean-Chinese side by December 27. They were actually to be written into the Draft Armistice Agreement some six months later and confirmed in the final armistice agreement signed on July 27, 1953. But, for six months, agreement on Item 3 was held up, while the Americans demanded a ban on repair or construction of airfields.

This was a flagrant interference in the internal affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It was the sort of condition a victor power could impose on a defeated power, but never one which could be accepted by powers negotiating on the basis of strict equality. There were many reasons why such a demand was unacceptable. It was an infringement of national sovereignty, and it was not likely that the Koreans and Chinese who had so magnificently and successfully defended their national sovereignty by force of arms would throw it away at a conference table. And if any country in the world had the right to improve its air defences, that country was the Democratic People's Republic of Korea after American air savagery had pulverised it into ruins. There was one more important point. Korea's great "secret" weapon in the war was her ability to wage defensive war, to keep industry going, to keep

supplies rolling to the front despite an all-out day-and-night air assault by what was boasted to be the world's most powerful air force. The Americans were highly interested in knowing how this was done. By retaining such a point as "no repair of airfields" in an agreement, they could claim violations with inspection every week until inspection teams had crawled over every square metre of northern Korea, supposedly looking for a cartload of dirt thrown into an airfield or investigating a complaint that an acre of rice paddy ploughed up was preparation to lay down an airstrip. Pretended violations could have been used by the Americans to re-start the war when rotation of troops and replenishment of arms had reached a suitable stage.

This demand could not be accepted and the Americans knew it. It was a formidable boulder, but one which the Americans themselves would have to move.

"Let us forget the words 'Korean sovereignty and internal affairs!'" shouted the American delegate at the January 5 session. It was true that the Americans had forced many countries, including some once proud empires, to forget that such things as their sovereignty existed, but this was not true of the Korean Democratic People's Republic or of People's China. They had won their sovereignty with weapons in their hands and were prepared and able to defend it.

### Turner's "Friendship" Story

In a clumsy attempt to drive a wedge between the Korean and Chinese delegates, Admiral Turner, chief of the sub-committee, handling Item 3 in early January, blustered about the traditional friendship between the American and Chinese peoples. He cited as an example of this friendship the fact that during the Korean war the Americans "had refrained from air or naval attacks against China, although this would have been childishly simple."

General Hsieh Fang of the Chinese People's Volunteers, and chief of the Korean-Chinese team in the sub-committee, replied by listing the aggressive actions taken by the Americans against China since the outbreak

of the Korean war, including the seizure of Taiwan and repeated air attacks against towns and villages across the Yalu from Korea.

"Is this what you mean by friendship for the Chinese people?" General Hsieh asked. "These actions were carried out by a handful of bellicose elements, and by linking these actions with United States public opinion, you only slander the American people." And General Hsieh finished by warning Turner that the days were long past when the Americans could frighten people in Asia with a few warships or planes. It was time, he said, for the American negotiators to face up to military realities.

It took, however, many more months and many more serious defeats on the battlefield to make the Americans face up to military realities.

Turner's successor, General Ferenbaugh, an enormous man built like a bullock and with the same grasp and intelligence as that plodding animal, took up the threats of continued "military pressure" laid down by Joy and Turner. "We're willing to sit at this table while the arguments of artillery, bombs and bullets continue," drawled Ferenbaugh. Every tactic of military adventure, of terrorist bombing and germ warfare, of threats and bluster and twisted logic was used by the American generals to force through their demand to rob Korea of its sovereignty under the formula of "no reconstruction of airfields."

Eventually, the demand had to be withdrawn, but it was typical of the American horse-trading methods, perhaps slave-trading would be a better term, that they offered to withdraw this boulder. Only at the price of detaining about a hundred thousand of Korean and Chinese prisoners of war. It is important to remember, however, that the solution of Item 3 in the final Armistice Agreement signed on July 27, 1953 was based almost precisely on the proposal submitted by General Nam Il just twenty months earlier on November 27, 1951. The events leading up to the infamous proposal to trade scores of thousands of prisoners of war for the withdrawal of the American ban on the airfields will be described in the next article.

# Picture Story Books

Li Chun

**N**EW China's picture story books are a sort of literary light cavalry. They make a sweeping penetration of the front of outworn ideas and backwardness. They leave their gains for knowledge and beauty to be consolidated later by more substantial literary forces.

It is a common sight in China today to see a mixed group of children and adults crowded around the counters of a bookshop or street bookstall deeply engrossed in these pocket-sized picture books. They are four

inches deep by six wide. They have attractive, brightly coloured covers, and a picture with a caption on every page. They are written in simple language which even those knowing only about 1,000 characters can read.

In the past, they were simply regarded as children's books and contained only childish or supposedly childish stories. There are still specifically children's stories—though the content of these, too, has changed fundamentally—but quite grown-up fare is now printed in this format, and there has been a vast expansion of their readership in the upper age groups. They have advanced far beyond city bookstalls. Today you can find them in village clubs, in reading rooms of factories and mines, in the barracks and bivouacs of the People's Liberation Army and the encampments of the Chinese People's Volunteers in Korea . . . everywhere, in fact, where children or adults are learning to read.

Since the first one appeared some forty years ago in China, thousands of picture story books have been published. Their wide public appeal undoubtedly has been because "the picture tells the story." The best of them are in clear outline or in sharp light and shade and tell a complete story that can be understood almost without the accompanying text. They are somewhat like a succession of stills from a motion picture. Some of the latest are in fact actually made up of stills from current

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The author is a well-known woodcut artist.



An incident from the Long March of the Chinese Red Army. An illustration from "Thirty Years of the Chinese Communist Party," drawn by Chao Feng-chuan, Ku I-chou and Wu Ching-po

films printed in half-tone blocks telling the story of the films in tabloid form.

### Pre-liberation Picture Books

Some of the earliest picture story books were based on stories taken from the ancient Chinese literary classics. Incidents from *Shui Hu* (*Water Margin* or *All Men Are Brothers*),\* the famous and rousing tale of a peasants' revolt against the emperor, or from *San Kuo Yen Yi* (*The Tale of Three Kingdoms*)\*\* were and are perennially popular. The picture story books popularised these classics among readers who were not yet able to read the great originals. A few of these first picture stories were original compositions, reflecting the progressive ideas of the times and exposing the dark reality of the old days . . . and their authors suffered inevitable persecution at the hands of the warlords, Kuomintang reactionaries and Japanese imperialists whom they attacked either directly or by implication.

In 1916, during warlord Yuan Shih-kai's dictatorship in Peking, an artist drew a picture book entitled *The Story of an Ape Government*. In a thinly-veiled satire, he picture Yuan as an ape wearing a crown in imitation of a man. (In Chinese the word for ape has the same sound as "Yuan.") The lampoon was soon discovered by the infuriated Yuan, who ordered the arrest of the artist and the suppression of the booklet.

Picture story adaptations of progressive modern novels were also made before the liberation, but few survived long. They were banned and confiscated by the reactionary Kuomintang government. One artist completed a picture story history of the Second World War. Because it contained a portrait of



Young Hai, the shepherd boy, is given an urgent message to deliver to the guerillas. An illustration from "The Feather Letter" drawn by Liu Chi-yu

the people's leader, Mao Tse-tung, the Kuomintang prohibited its sale.

Thus some of the pre-liberation picture stories were good progressive productions, but most of them were heavily burdened with the ideological junk of feudalism. The worst propagated superstitious beliefs, or actually lauded brigandage, were often obscene and had other backward characteristics running counter to the interests and outlook of the people.

The Kuomintang reactionaries naturally did not overlook this means of spreading their obscurantist ideology. It is not surprising that, under the Kuomintang, unscrupulous booksellers were allowed to import the notorious "comics" of the United States with their propaganda of violence and sex. The Kuomintang tried hard to tempt or force many artists to draw anti-Communist picture stories for them, but they were met with flat refusals.

### After Liberation

The picture story books were radically reformed by the liberation. The best of the old have been preserved. New elements characteristic of the New Democracy have appeared in them.

\* *Shui Hu*, one of the greatest Chinese classical novels ascribed to Shih Nai-an of the 14th century in the Yuan and Ming Dynasties. It deals with the peasants' revolutionary war in the Sung Dynasty.

\*\* *San Kuo Yen Yi*, by the great writer Lo Kuan-chung of the Yuan Dynasty (A.D. 1280-1368), is a romance of wars covering the period A.D. 168-264.



An illustration from "Mr. Tungkuo" drawn by Liu Chi-yu and based on "The Chungshan Wolf," a fable of the period of the Warring States

The scope of the picture story books both in content and influence has expanded beyond comparison with the past. Since liberation the cultural level of the masses of the people has been greatly raised. Tens of millions have become literate or are studying to read. This last winter some 50 million peasants joined the winter study groups, while the People's Liberation Army has taught tens of thousands of its men to read. There is a greater demand than ever before for picture story books. It thus became an urgent task to fit them fully for their new important role as the people's popular literary fare. Leading artists producing them have come to realise the tremendous importance of the work they are doing—the popularising of literature and art for the children, for the workers, peasants and people's fighters. The special study of Chairman Mao Tse-tung's *Talks at the Yen-an Forum on Literature and Art*, which the artists made, directed their particular attention to this new outlook on their work. They organised a special series of discussions which planned the reform of the picture story books to bring them into line with modern needs.

It was under such circumstances that the Association of Picture Story Artists was established in January, 1950 in Shanghai, which was the leading centre for the publication of the little books. A special study class was simultaneously organised, and it enlisted

the assistance of a number of well-known modern artists, such as Chen Yen-chiao and Mi Ku, to help the artists of the old school raise their general political and artistic level. The tasks of the picture story artists were also discussed at the First Congress of Writers and Artists in Shanghai in 1950 and at the First National Conference on Publications convened in Peking in the same year. These discussions gave a new orientation to the work of the picture story artists, widening their horizons and widening their readership.

The new picture story books have been completely emancipated from feudal superstition and other retrograde tendencies. They take their themes from the great classics or outstanding

literary works of today or deal originally with the new persons and things of People's China. Of recent titles, *Chao Chan-kuei* and *Labour Hero* portray modern factory life; *Land Reform*, *Sunshine on the Sangkan River* (based on Ting Ling's Stalin Prize winning novel) and *The Whole Family Works in Production* describe the life of the peasants; *Combat Hero Wei Lai-kuo* and *The Liberation of Hainan Island* depict life in the P.L.A. units. Many others portray the life of women and youth in the new China. These are all widely read works. Some have produced popular characters now known throughout the nation. In total they depict the sterling character of the people of China, their love of labour, their lofty ideals, their patriotism, the passion and heroism of their struggle against aggression and oppression and their steadfast devotion to the cause of peace.

### Some Good Examples

These new picture stories have carried on the best traditions of the old. But better editing, better literary collaboration, better material conditions for the artists have eliminated the careless rush work of the past. Particular attention is paid to the integrity of both plot and characters, to the clarity of pictorial presentation, as well as to the suitability of background and secondary characters and the unity of pictures and text.

This is no longer Cheap-Jack art—though they are still sold at popular prices. Many of them are collectors' items and find a place in many scholars' and artists' libraries. They have become not only spare-time reading for the masses but also an important means of education. The picture story of *Thirty Years of the Communist Party of China* by Chao Feng-chuan, Ku Yi-chou and Wu Ching-po has become a popular reference book for the study of the Chinese revolution. It sold over 5 million copies in its first year.

The number of new picture story books has greatly increased. Sales have soared. From 1950 to 1952, almost 2,000 picture story books were published in Peking, Shanghai and Northeast China with editions totalling over 20 million copies. Some of these, such as *The Feather Letter*, *Mr. Tungkuo* and *Wang Hsiu-luan*, all by the artist Liu Chi-yu, have enjoyed widespread popular success.

*The Feather Letter* is based on a story by the writer Hua Shan. It describes how, during the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression, young Hai, a shepherd boy, leader of the Children's League in a North China village, volunteered to serve the people's forces. The central episode tells how he delivers a "feather letter"—an urgent dispatch—for the commander of a guerilla unit in a battle of wits, resourcefulness and courage against the invaders.

*Mr. Tungkuo* is another little masterpiece of this artist. It is based on *The Chungshan Wolf*, a fable of the period of the Warring States (403-221 B.C.) telling the story of Tungkuo, a good-hearted, long-suffering old man who wanted to live a peaceful life, opposed war and the slaughter of any living creature, man or beast. But Tungkuo didn't know the difference between aggression and defence against an aggressor, and he even thought a wolf was a good animal. He was surprised to find that the wolf turned on him soon after he had saved it from the hunters. Tungkuo's philosophising had little effect on the beast, and he was only saved from death by the lucky return of the huntsmen who

wanted to rid the area of this menace to the peaceful life of the villagers. Tungkuo finally realised how mistaken were his ideas on the nature of wolves when he saw the remains of human beings in the wolf's stomach.

*Wang Hsiu-luan* tells how this peasant labour heroine led the peasants in raising bumper crops while the menfolk were away in the People's Army.

Such new picture stories have been praised as examples of good work in this field. They have had a considerable influence on other artists. They have proved to be easily understandable and highly entertaining. They succeed in enlisting the reader on the side of the forces of justice and progress and their heroes, and in mobilising his contempt and just hatred against the villains, the enemies of the people, whether these be treacherous collaborators, Kuomintang reactionaries or imperialist aggressors.

The picture story books of New China have a bright future before them. If the people demand more books and better books, the artists themselves are today more politically, technically and artistically competent to answer that challenging demand.

"No Tolstoy or Flaubert could emerge in the sphere of the picture story books . . . but there may emerge as great an artist as a Michelangelo or a Da Vinci"—this was the hope held out by the late Lu Hsun, China's greatest modern writer.



An illustration from "Wang Hsiu-luan," drawn by Liu Chi-yu

# “Let Me Look at Chairman Mao”

I Hsin

LIKE the sun in spring, liberation brought light and warmth to the working people who had suffered so long under the reactionary yoke. To Granny Chen, the once-blind mother of a people's soldier, it brought not only light but the joys of life denied her in the past.

Granny Chen is now sixty-four, and her husband is seventy. They live at their nephew Chen Teh-fu's house at No. 7 Tsaochia Ta Chang, in Tientsin. In the trying days when the Japanese aggressors held sway and the people had only coarse grain to eat, the old man was a pedlar who sold almond porridge. But his earnings were meagre, and Granny Chen had to do needle work to make ends meet. Early in 1945, her daughter was already married, and her son, who was only seventeen, was an apprentice in a factory. As he could not stand the ill-treatment at the hands of the Japanese management, he secretly went to the Northeast. Later, hard pressed for debts, her husband fell ill and remained bed-ridden for some time. Tortured by worries and by yearning for her son, Granny Chen was alarmed to find that her eyes were becoming dimmed. First she lost the sight of one, then of the other.

Being almost stone-blind now, Granny Chen needed somebody to look after her, so she moved over to a little room where her nephew lived with his wife and seven children. Her husband put up a stall in front of the house during the day and slept in the windowless stable in the yard at night.

Granny Chen spent most of her time on the *kang*\* of her nephew's wife. While awake,

\* *Kang*—a raised platform which serves as a bed in a Chinese house; made of bricks and with a flue running beneath it, it can be heated in winter.

either in the day or at night, she seemed to be staring listlessly in front of her with her lustreless, blind eyes. It was suffocating in the room in summer, and she often went to sit outside the doorway to get some air. It was always her little grand-daughter, Fu-erh, who led her out.

Sometimes the old woman became exasperated, and she would pound her chest and knock her head against the wall. At such moments, Fu-erh would get frightened and cry helplessly.

Granny Chen had a strong aversion to rainy days, on which she would say bitterly:

“Good Heavens! Better die than live on like this!”

Once Fu-erh answered her softly: “Don't get worried, Granny. . . . If you want to die, I'll die with you.”

“Die with me? What ever for?”

“Why, to lead the way for you!”

Granny Chen sighed and hugged the little girl, dropping hot tears on her head.

Her husband also often comforted her, but he sighed to think what little good that did.

Then came the liberation. At the beginning, Granny Chen heard firecrackers and the deafening sound of drums and gongs. Then quarrels among her neighbours were replaced by hearty laughter, and she often heard people happily telling one another about the improvements in their life and the even better days lying ahead. Gradually, she became aware that the world around her was vastly different to that of the past. She began to have the

feeling that the cause of all these changes could be traced, in one way or another, to one man whose name she kept hearing—Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

She liked to listen to the children singing after school:

*From the red east rises the sun,  
There appears in China Mao Tse-tung...*

Frequently she would say to them: "Sing it again, sing it again." Their ringing voices would then fill the small courtyard once more. . . .

Another thing that made Granny Chen happy was that her son, who got in touch with her again after the liberation, had joined the People's Liberation Army in Northeast China in 1946. Now she and her husband had the status of "army dependents." Her nephew's wife found work at the Army Dependents' Gunny Sack Factory, and her daughter's eldest son, now married, got a job at the Chenghua Iron Plant through the help of the government. The owner of the house voluntarily lent an occupied side-room to Granny Chen's husband, who also got employment, at a regular wage, as attendant at a public water supply station only a few yards from home. The district government kept asking after the old couple's welfare and issued them "army dependents' gift grain" at the lunar New Year and other festivals. Life became happier and easier for them, as it did for everyone. Granny Chen,

when feeling them with her hands, found that all the neighbourhood children were getting plump.

On the eve of National Day, 1951, the leader of the army dependents' group on their street visited the Chens. Standing in the courtyard, facing the sun, Granny Chen said sadly: "My eyes are done for; I shall never see the sun again. It'll never be any more than a red blur to me." These words attracted the group leader's attention. "Eyes that can still see a red blur," he thought to himself, "might be restored to sight with proper treatment." He spoke to the community affairs section of the district government about it, and they sent a cadre to the Chens to get details of Granny's condition.

Three days after National Day, the district government, acting in conformity with the government directive stipulating free medical care for army dependents and poor citizens, sent Granny Chen to the First Municipal Hospital of Tientsin. The ophthalmologist there examined her eyes and found that they were filmed over with cataract—that her sight was not gone but only obstructed. An operation was performed. When her eyes were unbandaged, Granny Chen saw a flash of light. What a dear light! The old lady was so excited that she nearly cried out for joy. But the hospital people immediately bandaged her eyes again so as to let them rest.

On her way home at noon two weeks after the operation, Granny Chen kept recalling the happiness she had experienced when her eyes were finally unbandaged and she saw for the first time the little grand-daughter who had looked after her. Back home the courtyard was swarming with people. Her nephew and his wife, her grandchildren and neighbours all came out to greet her and helped her into the house.

"Granny, are your eyes cured now?" asked her second grand-daughter.

"Granny, just look how nice my dress is," interrupted her first grand-daughter.



**Granny Chen at her needle work after her sight was restored**

"How did you get cured? Was it painful when your eyes were being operated on?" chimed in one and all.

And to each other they said: "That the blind can see again is really something unheard of. But for Chairman Mao, how could Granny Chen ever see the light again?"

The room was brimming over with excitement. From the kitchen came the appetising smells of stewed fish and steamed bread.

Granny Chen looked at the room in which she had lived for years but which she had never seen. She looked at her grandsons and grand-daughters who had grown beyond recognition. She looked at her old husband who was too excited to speak and at her neighbours who had come to see her, and her heart

pounded with unutterable joy. She looked at this and at that, unable to believe that she could really see again. She would have thrown herself on her husband's breast and wept to her heart's content had there not been so many people present.

After a while she stood up, slowly, moved by a wish she had long cherished. "Let me look at Chairman Mao," she said. "I want to see what he looks like."

She was told that Chairman Mao Tse-tung's portrait was hanging on the wall. Raising her head, she began looking for it. When she finally saw the portrait, she immediately walked up to it and, with deep gratitude, stared at the face of the leader of the Chinese people, whose care had restored her sight.

## Book Review

# How China Has Changed

**Chen Han-sen**

*Vice-Chairman, Chinese People's  
Institute of Foreign Affairs*

PRIOR to 1949, the American project to train Chiang Kai-shek's troops was known as the Military Aid Group in China, usually referred to at that time by its initials—MAGIC—which was exactly what the reactionaries expected of it. But the magic failed; instead it was the revolution that worked. Basil Davidson is one of the many recent visitors to China to bear witness to this fact. A war-time army officer, novelist and well-known British journalist, he spent some time in China last autumn. The keynote to his book *Daybreak in China*\* is, in his own words, that "the Chinese revolution is real; and it is Chinese."

The author has a deep sense of the meaning of the revolution. This is evident from his eyewitness accounts of the concrete effects of

the land reform, factory reform, educational reform, military reform, marriage reform and religious reform. He not only describes all these but gives us his interpretation of each, prefacing it with an explanation of its political basis.

"The China that has emerged from revolution is not a Parliamentary Democracy; it is a People's Democratic Dictatorship," Mr. Davidson writes. It consists, he points out, of the combined aspects of "democracy for the people and dictatorship for the reactionaries." On the foundation of the new state, China is steadily transforming itself from an agricultural country into an industrial one. The illustrative stories told by Mr. Davidson are always vivid and significant. Reading of the lives of poor peasants Huang Pang of Kwangtung Province and Chi An-yeh of Chekiang Province; of women leaders Cheng Wan-yung of Canton and

\* *Daybreak in China*, 191 pp., by Basil Davidson, Jonathan Cape, London, England, 1953.

Chang Ru-chen of Nanking; of primary school teacher Wang Mei; of the workers now living in Tsaoyang Villas in Shanghai; of Yang Ming, a leader of the boat-dwellers on the Pearl River, one feels irresistibly and movingly that the author is right when he says that revolution "seems to have passed by nothing, no matter how insignificant or hopeless or humble, without leaving the imprint of change."

Vicious imperialist propaganda strives to make the people in the West believe that people's democratic dictatorship is a "reign of terror." Mr. Davidson found no terror in China. "After all, why should there be?" he asks. "What terror is needed to gain and retain the support of peasants to whom you have given land, advanced interest-free loans, built or enlarged schools, stabilised prices, increased the quantity of consumer goods?"

"No doubt," Mr. Davidson says, "there will be people in the West, even so, who refuse to accept the notion that life in China is changing for the better in a real and revolutionary sense, who will say that all this is starry-eyed optimism, who will continue to believe in terror and slave-labour in China; all I can say to them is that they deceive themselves. They are living in a world which has left them far behind."

China is firmly launched upon the opening stages of intensive industrialisation. This, too, occupies the author's attention. He considers production reform and democratic reform to be the "blood and sinews of factory life in China now." The former will develop technique, initiative and ingenuity in improving working conditions and the rate and quality of work. The latter will improve the mutual relations of managers, workers, foremen and technical staff. Criticism and self-criticism are a major method for both. "Through these two reforms," says Mr. Davidson, "and the mental and material changes which have flown from them and are flowing from them now, productivity is rising in China's factories."

There is a steady improvement in workers' conditions. Mr. Davidson makes it clear that this is because the state is on their side. He has also talked to leading private businessmen who told him that they were now getting a very decent share of business and believed they

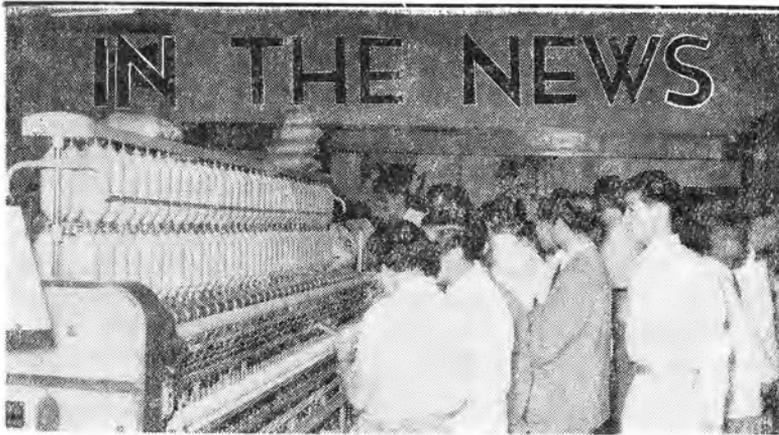
would go on getting it for some years to come. What ordinary businessman, they asked him, would look for more than that in the circumstances of the world today? "The truth is," says Mr. Davidson, "that China's successes are being achieved—and can only be achieved—by the voluntary and even enthusiastic effort of most of the people of China."

Revolution has brought about a transformation in the lives of countless women of all classes in China. Of this, the British writer says, "I found nothing in China more suggestive of world-shaking change than these changes among Chinese women. Deep in the roots of every-day life, here is one of the keys to an understanding of China now." This thoroughness of change leads him to declare that China can never be the same again.

Mr. Davidson perceives that the Chinese people today are centering their efforts on the conflict between what will be and what is. This is true in politics, economics and culture. From conversations with Chinese artists and from seeing their performances, he learned of what they termed "conflict with their own ignorance, with their own poverty of taste and culture." And he adds in his book: "That is why, perhaps, they speak so keenly of the way in which they are together now in co-operation, and not, as they were before, isolated in competition."

Mr. Davidson was impressed by the "overwhelming all-embracing confidence" of "all manner of people in all manner of situations." "This confidence in the future," he comments, "is somewhat lacking in the West. We are accustomed to looking at the future less with eyes that are eager and impatient, as with eyes averted from the spectre of another world war, or another slump, or another period of bitter social strife."

The book is a valid account of the new China. It is also beautifully written from the point of view of style. The reviewer was able to find only two factual errors. The actual tomb of Sun Yat-sen in Nanking is described as a ceremonial tomb (p. 159). The Yellow River does not flow near Kalgan (p. 27). What Mr. Davidson saw from the air was the Sangkan River, popularised in the Stalin Prize novel by Ting Ling, which deals with rent reduction, interest reduction and land reform in the area.



## Regional Autonomy

Since the Central People's Government promulgated, in August, 1952, the General Programme for the Implementation of Regional Autonomy for the National Minorities, remarkable successes have been achieved in the development of autonomous regions for China's many national minorities.

By March this year, 47 large national autonomous regions at and above the county level had been established. A total of over 10 million people now live in various national autonomous regions. Many more autonomous regions are being set up or will be set up shortly.

The Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region established in 1947 is still the trail-blazer for the other areas. The gross output in grain last year was 25% higher than the highest annual record in pre-liberation days. Animal husbandry is double what it was in 1947. The industrial age is coming to the region, with several plants being set up. The people's purchasing power is over four times that of 1948. Over 60% of the region's school-age children are attending primary schools. With medical services rapidly expanding, there is now a population increase, whereas formally there was a sharp decline.

In all the autonomous regions, the emphasis at present is on economic questions, particularly on the improvement and develop-

ment of agriculture and animal husbandry.

## NW China Trade

Northwest China's trade is growing steadily. In Sian, capital of Shensi Province and the largest city of the area, total business transactions during the first six months of this year were 42% above those of the same period last year. Compared with the same periods of last year, the Sian State Department Store sold 51% more cotton fabrics and silks during the first six months and 472% more bicycles during the second quarter of this year, while the area's co-operative societies sold 28% and 27%, respectively, more fertilisers and selected seeds, and 70% more tea, five times as much sugar and 200% more cloth during the first half of this year.

## Water Conservancy Works

The Kuanting Reservoir on the Yungting River in North China, the nation's biggest reservoir in construction, has recorded its first great success in preventing flood. It has held back the second greatest torrent of water ever recorded in the history of the Yungting River. On August 26, the flow of water on the Yungting River reached 3,700 cubic metres per second. This would certainly have caused disastrous floods had not the Kuanting Reservoir been available to cope with it.

Work on this project began in November, 1951, and will be com-

pleted in the spring of 1954. When completed, the dam will be 45 metres high, and the reservoir, covering an area of 23,000 hectares, will have a capacity of 2,270 million cubic metres.

\* \* \*

From the Huai River project sites came reports that the first phase of this year's work had been completed. Water detention projects and reservoirs along the Huai completed up to the present are able to control a total of 16,000 million cubic metres of water.

During the first six months of this year, two large detention projects were completed: the Sanho Dam turned the Hungtze Lake into a natural reservoir capable of storing 4,000 million cubic metres of water; and a big water detention basin has been commissioned on the Huai's middle reaches on the borders of Honan and Anhwei Provinces.

Five big locks have been completed, one on the middle reaches in western Anhwei Province, the other four on the lower reaches in northern Kiangsu. In the near future, these locks will make the Huai River navigable for a distance of 1,000 kilometres.

More than 20 tributaries on its upper and middle reaches have been dredged and their courses improved, involving 100 million cubic metres of earth and stone work.

Work continues on three new reservoirs: the Nanwan, Poshan and Futseling, all started last year.

## Industrial Briefs

The Anshan Iron and Steel Company's new seamless steel-tubing mill, in preparation for full-scale production, commenced a complete trial run on September 15. The company's heavy rolling mill, equipped with the most up-to-date "push-button" automatic machinery, will be commissioned by the end of October.

\* \* \*

Work on China's first automobile plant is progressing rapidly since the foundation stone was laid on July 15. Thousands of skilled

builders, technicians, engineers and other experts have come from Anshan and Shanghai to work on this project.

\* \* \*

Coal mines in China are advancing steadily to mechanisation. Donbas-type mining combines are now working in the Tatung Colliery in North China. In the Huainan Coal Mine in East China, 80% of the output is now hewed by machines. In the Pingsiang Coal Mine in Central-South China, the first mechanical coal-cutter started work in August, and more such machines are being commissioned. Underground transport has also been mechanised in this mine.

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Two completely mechanised flax-processing mills are being built near Harbin. When completed next year, their annual output will equal the total annual output of the seven existing flax-processing mills in the Northeast.

### Porcelain Works Revived

The famous ancient porcelain town of Chingtehchen in Kiangsi Province, Central-South China, is reviving the production of porcelain ware with colourful 15th century designs. Beginning in October, this ware will be produced in large quantities to meet the big demand throughout the country.

Chingtehchen was noted for its fine porcelains. Its wares were sent as far as Korea, Japan and Europe. But in 1939, the whole industry was ruined by the Japanese imperialists. Most of the porcelain factories were closed until the People's Government came to their rescue.

Some 20 million kilogrammes of porcelain ware are now being produced each year, a total of more than 140 million pieces, or 10 times more than in 1939.

Specialists have been sent to Chingtehchen to discuss with the workers improvements in the quality and patterns of porcelain ware, and how the best of China's traditional ceramic art can be assimilated. Pottery artists have introduced over 2,000 new patterns,

many of them outstandingly reflecting the vigorous spirit of New China.

### Chinese Exhibitions Abroad

The Leipzig International Fair was held from August 30 to September 9, but the Chinese pavilion remained open for four more days. Berlin and Leipzig newspapers, commenting on the Chinese exhibits, expressed admiration for the speedy development of industry in China.

The Chinese exhibition at the Stockholm International Fair, which opened from August 23 to September 6, attracted more than 250,000 visitors.

China is one of the seven countries participating in the International Fair at Djakarta, Indonesia, which opened on August 29. The Chinese section is the largest of all and is attracting great attention.

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## CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

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### September 6

The Korean-Chinese side completes the repatriation of all P.O.W's to be directly repatriated.

### September 11

The All-China Athletic Federation has sent a message to the Table Tennis Federation of Asia protesting against the participation of the Kuomintang clique in Taiwan in the second Asia Table Tennis Championships, reports Hsinhua News Agency.

### September 13

Foreign Minister Chou En-lai cables a reply to the Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning the resolutions on the Korean question adopted by the U.N. General Assembly at its 430th plenary meeting.

### September 15

Chairman Mao Tse-tung sends a message to G. M. Malenkov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., expressing the Chinese people's gratitude for Soviet aid to China's economic construction.

# LETTERS

To the Editor

## Admirer of Chinese Culture

ESPIRITO SANTO, BRAZIL

As an artist, a painter and a philosopher, I have been, since my youth, an unconditional admirer of Chinese spirituality, of Chinese painting, sculpture and, last but not least, architecture, which I consider to be the most wonderful and grand of all architectures.

As a "white man," I have always been ashamed of the "role" that Europeans have played in Asia, the cradle of human civilisation, treating great nations so much older than we "parvenus," as if they were savages that needed to be "civilised" by Babbits like Truman. I express to you my profound sympathy and admiration, and I am sure that China, under the leadership of men like Mao Tse-tung, will become one of the first really "human" nations, free from Coca-Cola civilisation!

Prof. Rodolfo Wolff

## Interest in People's China

KENT, ENGLAND

All the articles in *People's China* are fine, and I am particularly interested in those on irrigation, education and the marvelous progress in industrial work. With a large country rich in ores and minerals, it is only a matter of time before you have forests (where wanted) and a soil which will produce all needs.

H. A. Gray

DHAR (M.B.), INDIA

I am especially interested in the student movement of People's China, women's social problems and land reform. And I am glad to state that I get full knowledge of these matters that interest me, included in one magazine which is no other than *People's China*.

Vasant B. Pradhan



A Pair of Goldfish — Symbol of Prosperity

*A Scissor-cut From North China*