

PEKING REVIEW

32

August 11, 1978

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**Heighten Our Vigilance and
Get Prepared to Fight a War**

**Writers and Artists Come
Into Their Own Again**

***Conference of Foreign Ministers of
Non-Aligned Countries***

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北京周報

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Chairman Hua Meets Foreign Guests

Malian Government Delegation. Chairman Hua on August 2 met with Alioune Blondin Beye, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Mali, Madame Beye and the Malian Government Delegation led by him.

Chairman Hua said during the meeting: "The 1973 visit to China by His Excellency the Head of State Traore has played a significant role in furthering the mutual understanding and friendship between the governments of our two countries and between our two peoples. At present, the relations between our two countries are developing very well. I believe they will be better and better."

The Malian Government Delegation came to China on July 31 for a friendly visit. Foreign Minister Huang Hua held talks with Minister Beye in Peking.

Korean Symphony Orchestra. On the evening of August 5 Chairman Hua attended a performance given by the visiting National Symphony Orchestra of Korea. During the intermission, Chairman Hua and other Chinese leaders met with the orchestra's leader and other Korean comrades. Chairman Hua praised the Korean artists for their successful performance. He said that their performance gave the Chinese people an opportunity to appreciate Korean art and that they had contributed to the strengthening of

the friendship between the Chinese and Korean peoples.

Kampuchean Government Military Delegation In China

A military delegation of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea led by Son Sen, Deputy Prime Minister in Charge of National Defence and Chairman of the General Staff Commission of the Kampuchean Revolutionary Army, paid a visit to China from July 29 to August 5 at the invitation of Hsu Hsiang-chien, Vice-Premier of the State Council and Minister of National Defence. The visit has achieved complete success.

Speaking at the banquet he gave in honour of the Kampuchean delegation, Vice-Premier Chen Hsi-lien warmly praised the Kampuchean Revolutionary Army for carrying out valiant struggles and inflicting defeats upon the aggressors. Vice-Premier Chen said: "The contention for hegemony between the superpowers is the root cause of intranquillity throughout the world. We can see the shadow cast by hegemonism in what is happening in Asia, including Indochina." He declared that the Chinese people and the Chinese People's Liberation Army will always stand on the side of the Kampuchean people and the Kampuchean Revolutionary Army and support each other.

Deputy Prime Minister Son Sen, in his speech, said that Kampuchea has constantly frustrated and smashed the invading enemies, particularly the aggression, subversion and putschist plots of the Vietnamese expansionists and annexationists completely, and on its own defended the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kampuchea. He expressed the wish to strive to strengthen and develop the revolutionary friendship and unity between Kampuchea and China.

Chairman Hua and Vice-Chairman Teng met the delegation on separate occasions. Hosts and guests had comradely conversations on questions of mutual concern. This is of great significance to the development of the friendly relations between the peoples and the armies of the two countries.

Vice-Premier and Minister of National Defence Hsu Hsiang-chien met with Deputy Prime Minister Son Sen. The meeting took place in a hospital where the host was staying at the time. Vice-Premier Chen Hsi-lien held talks with the Kampuchean Deputy Prime Minister.

Vice-Premier Keng Piao Visits Malta

Vice-Premier Keng Piao paid a visit to the Republic of Malta from July 29 to August 2 after concluding his visit to three Caribbean countries.

During his 5-day stay in this Mediterranean country, the Vice-Premier received a warm welcome from the Maltese leaders and people. This visit has deepened the mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries.

At the banquet he gave to welcome Vice-Premier Keng, Maltese President Anton Buttigieg spoke highly of the fact that there are successors carrying out Chairman Mao's ideals and work. Vice-Premier Keng praised the Maltese Government for adhering to its just stand of opposing hegemony and safeguarding its independence. He stressed in particular: "The Maltese Government is concerned about the security of the Mediterranean region and remains on guard against the rivalry and expansion of the superpowers in this region. It has spoken out in defence of stability and peace in the Mediterranean at international forums and proposed that the Mediterranean should belong to the people of the Mediterranean countries." He said that China would resolutely support Malta's just stand in international affairs.

Prime Minister Mintoff held talks with Vice-Premier Keng in Malta.

Record Half-Yearly Foreign Trade Volume

China's January-June exports outstripped those of the same 1977 period by 28.5 per cent and

imports rose 60 per cent. On the whole, there was a small trade surplus.

The percentage of industrial exports continued to rise, with considerable increases in crude oil, coal and cotton fabrics, which are the major export items.

Imports included a 70 per cent rise in technology and whole plants and a 41 per cent increase in electrical equipment, machinery, meters and instruments. Imports of raw and other materials, farm machinery, chemical fertilizer, insecticide, and fine-strain seeds and cattle, all in great demand for developing the basic industries and agriculture, also showed increases.

Chemical fibre textiles, wrist-watches, television sets and other manufactured goods were imported to meet increasing needs in the domestic market.

China has expanded its economic exchanges with other countries in the first half of this year. More trade agreements and contracts were signed with foreign firms than in the corresponding 1977 period, including a long-term trade agreement with Japan and a trade agreement with the European Economic Community.

New Railway Timetable

Beginning from August 1, a new national railway timetable came into effect. According to this new timetable, 87 passenger and 1,066 freight train services have been added. Now on China's mainland all provincial and autonomous regional capitals, with the exception of

Lhasa, and the municipalities of Shanghai and Tientsin are linked with Peking by direct express.

Both passenger and freight trains are running at higher speed. For instance, the express from Peking to Shanghai now takes 19 hours instead of 20 hours and 51 minutes previously.

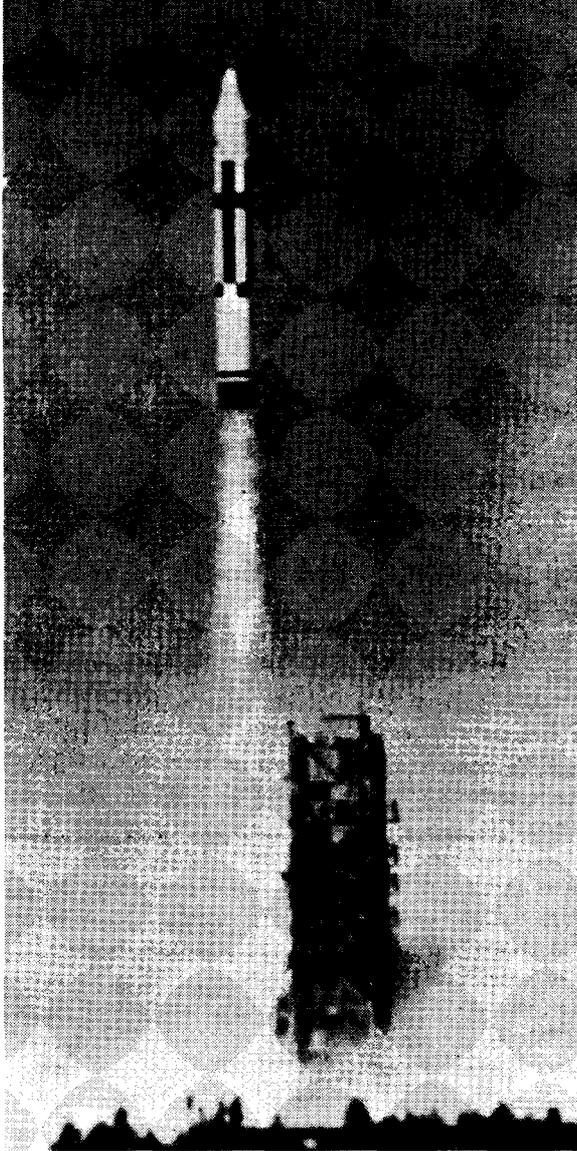
In recent years a number of new railway lines have been completed, some lines have been double-tracked and more diesel or electric locomotives put into use. The result is an increase in China's railway capacity. The new timetable bids fair to make more effective use of existing railway facilities.

IN THE NEWS

• Li Hsien-nien, Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Vice-Premier of the State Council, on August 1 met with Kampuchean Deputy Prime Minister Ieng Sary who arrived in Peking on his way home after attending the foreign ministers conference of the non-aligned countries.

• Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien on August 4 met with Katsumi Endo, Deputy Director of the Editors Department of the Kyodo News Service.

• Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping on August 6 met with the Delegation of the Austrian Research Institute on China. The delegation was headed by Otto Roesch, Minister of Defence.



A missile test.

and social-imperialism. So long as these social systems do not change, war is inevitable. The two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, are seeking world hegemony, and Soviet social-imperialism, in particular, is striving by every means to dominate the world. This is the root cause of the intensification of basic contradictions in the contemporary world and the source of unrest in the world. The sharpening contention between the two superpowers is bound to touch off a third world war sooner or later. We have more than once drawn attention to this. Is it because we are fond of war? Of course not. We firmly oppose war and our opposition to a new world war is clearly stated in our Constitution. But the danger of war is an

objective reality which everyone can see. We face this reality squarely and we speak of it again and again for the purpose of reminding people that they should maintain a high level of vigilance against a new world war and do their best to put off its outbreak.

The international situation has undergone tremendous changes over the last 33 years following the end of World War II. Countries want independence, nations want liberation and the people want revolution — this has become an irresistible trend of history. U.S. imperialism has been going rapidly downhill from its position as the overlord of the capitalist world. More pronounced is the change of the Soviet Union from being the first socialist country in the world to a social-imperialist country. The imperialist camp has fallen apart while the socialist camp no longer exists. The rivalry for world domination between the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, and the struggle waged by the people of the world against them have become the focus of present-day world politics.

As the nature of the social system in the Soviet Union has changed, so have its policies; in its foreign relations, it is energetically pushing hegemonism and expansionism. While taking over all the reactionary junk of the old tsars, Soviet social-imperialism has donned the cloak of socialism. It is more rapacious, adventurous and deceptive. With the weakening of the U.S. position in the world, the Kremlin is stretching its tentacles farther and farther and has become a much more dangerous source of a world war than the United States.

World domination is the strategic target of Soviet social-imperialism which has wild ambitions and “wants to grab the whole of Europe, Asia and Africa.” With the United States as its opponent, it is resorting to political, economic and military means in a fierce contention for world hegemony. As Europe is the main target of rivalry, it has deployed three-quarters of its armed forces in the European section of its territory and in East European countries so as to ensure its control over Eastern Europe, threaten Western Europe and take full advantage of the loose and weak state of the West European countries to push ahead with its tactic

of defeating them one by one. The Soviet Union has recently been stepping up its aggression and expansion unscrupulously and blatantly. In Africa, it has sown seeds of discord and stirred up troubles, kindled the flames of war and sent Cuban mercenaries to pull chestnuts out of the fire for it. In South Asia and the Red Sea area, it has used the most savage and vicious means to direct and support some pro-Soviet forces in carrying out assassinations, subversions and coups, and it has even dispatched its own military personnel to take part in sanguinary incidents and pave the way for its southward thrust into the warm waters. In Southeast Asia, it has instigated and supported the Vietnamese authorities, which are pursuing a policy of local hegemonism, to make provocations, carry out armed invasion against Kampuchea and serve as a Cuba in the East. It is precisely because of the Soviet Union's rabid offensives that the danger of another world war is conspicuously growing.

To realize its ambition of world domination by force of arms, the Soviet Union is engaged, on a scale and at a speed unknown before, in an arms race with the United States. Its military spending in each of the last few years exceeded 100,000 million U.S. dollars which, together with other outlays for military purposes, accounted for about 20 per cent of the gross national product. Like untamed horses running amuck, the Soviet new tsars are making every effort to step up arms expansion and war preparations. Someday, their hands will itch and trigger off

a war. This is something independent of man's will.

In spite of the fact that the Soviet Union and the United States alternate offensive with defensive in their global contention, the former is mainly on the offensive and the latter on the defensive. For Moscow to grab a piece of land means snatching a piece of meat from Washington's plate. But how can the United States willingly let others take away what it has in its hands when it is still quite powerful? That is why the contradiction between the Soviet Union and the United States is irreconcilable and the contention between them will continue.

"The content of imperialist politics is 'world domination' and the continuation of these politics is imperialist war." This is a dictum by Lenin. Today it is the Soviet Union and the United States that want a world war and are capable of fighting such a war. Either the Soviet Union or the United States will light the fuse, and the main danger comes from the Polar Bear.

War Can Be Put Off by Struggle

When we say that a new world war is inevitable, we are talking about an objective law and a tendency. We do not mean that a war is imminent. At present the two superpowers have their own weaknesses and difficulties. Soviet social-imperialism is essentially feeble, and its



An armoured unit on manoeuvres.



Navymen studying military techniques.

strength does not match its wild ambitions. It has constantly met with setbacks in its acts of aggression and expansion and has not completed its global strategic disposition for launching a new world war. The United States, for its part, is crisis-ridden and finds the going tougher and tougher. So long as we follow Chairman Mao's great theory of differentiating the three worlds, unite with the third world, win over the second world and form a broad international united front to oppose the two hegemonic powers—the Soviet Union and the United States—with the accent on exposing and pounding hard at the policy of aggression and war pursued by Soviet social-imperialism, it is possible to postpone the outbreak of another war.

Social-imperialism and imperialism always talk from positions of strength. They bully the weak but fear the strong. This counter-revolutionary policy of strength must be countered by a revolutionary policy of strength. Before unleashing a global war, they have to set up

some air and naval bases in various parts of the world and occupy some places of strategic importance. So with a view to putting off the outbreak of war, we must work together with the people of the world to disrupt the worldwide strategic deployment of the two hegemonic powers and that of the Soviet Union in particular. Wherever the Soviet Union stirs up trouble, we support the people there in waging a resolute struggle against it. The firmer the struggle and the harder the blows, the more effective will it be for us to upset its timetable for launching a war.

The policy of appeasement is a catalyst for war. To put off the outbreak of war, it is essential to oppose the policy of appeasement towards the Soviet Union militarily, politically and economically. Soviet social-imperialism will never change its nature. It may change its methods, tactics and means for seeking hegemony, but the set goal of its global strategy will remain unchanged. If you make compromises and concessions, the result will be: Give him an inch and he'll take an ell. Following such a policy can only result in sowing the wind and reaping the whirlwind.

The great People's Republic of China is a serious obstacle to Soviet social-imperialism's contention for world domination. Because of its intense hatred, Soviet revisionism is bent on subjugating China. The Khrushchov-Brezhnev renegade clique has not only taken over the old tsars' policy of aggression and expansion in its entirety, but has outdone them. It has massed about one million troops on the Sino-Soviet border and in the People's Republic of Mongolia and has deployed strategic weapons for offensive purposes, thereby posing a direct military threat to China. It has time and again encroached upon China's territory, territorial waters and air space and wantonly provoked armed conflicts. It has geared up its propaganda machine to incite anti-China hysteria. It has also fostered pro-Soviet forces, sought military bases and peddled what it called an "Asian security system" in countries and regions around China in a vain attempt to encircle China strategically. More recently, in co-ordination with the Vietnamese authorities' flagrant discrimination

against Chinese nationals residing in Viet Nam and opposition to China, thereby resulting in a serious exacerbation of Sino-Vietnamese relations, the Soviet Union has come into the open from behind the scenes, spreading rumours against and slinging mud at China while openly resorting to provocation and instigation. What Soviet social-imperialism has done is doubtless spearheaded against the United States and aimed at threatening Japan, but this also shows that it has stepped up its preparations for launching a war of aggression against China.

Be Prepared Against a War of Aggression

Soviet social-imperialism is our chief and most dangerous enemy, so we must take it on in all seriousness. Chairman Mao told us: "We must be prepared against surprise attacks. So long as imperialism exists in the world, there is bound to be some madmen who are bent on imposing a world war on the people in total disregard of their opposition. We must fully anticipate such a possibility." We must, therefore, base ourselves on the assumption that the enemy will launch a war earlier than anticipated and make preparations against his launching a war at an early date, against his launching a big war, a nuclear war and a surprise attack on us. We must race against time and increase the tempo of preparation against a war of aggression.

The most fundamental thing in getting well prepared against a war of aggression is to hold high the great banner of Chairman Mao, adhere to Chairman Mao's military thinking, grasp the key link in army work — "The army must be consolidated" and "Be prepared to fight a war" — expedite the modernization of agriculture, industry, national defence and science and technology and the revolutionization and modernization of the army, and get prepared ideologically and materially for fighting a war.

Fighting a people's war is the core of Chairman

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Mao's system of military thinking. It is an effective weapon for us to defeat the enemy and win victories, and is an all-conquering plan Chairman Mao bequeathed to us for vanquishing aggressors. In the past we relied on people's war to defeat the powerful enemies both at home and from abroad; in the days to come we must continue to make the most of our vast territory and large population, the superiority of our social system, the glorious tradition of people's war and other favourable conditions to win victories through arduous and protracted people's war.

In a future war against aggression, it is quite likely that we shall fight an enemy who may have an edge over us in military technology and is better armed, but his military theory is decadent and reactionary and his war of aggression is unjust. So his weapons and equipment, no matter how large the quantity and how high the degree of sophistication, cannot be turned to full account. We are armed with Chairman Mao's military thinking, the most advanced and powerful ideological weapon of our time, and with weapons and equipment which are far superior to those we used in the past. If any enemy should dare to invade China, we can rely on the main forces of our army and the local corps to annihilate large numbers of enemy troops, and at the same time we can mobilize the militia and the masses to look for any opening to hit hard at the enemy on an extensive scale. In the event everyone will be a soldier, every village a fortress and every place a battlefield; no enemy can stand such attacks and attrition

A naval air force unit in training.





Militiamen of minority nationalities in Sinkiang guarding the frontier together with P.L.A. fighters.

no matter how numerous his troops are. Didn't certain people in the West with military foresight say that attacking socialist China is militarily speaking a taboo and that whoever gets involved will have no hope of getting out again? This is indeed perspicacious. People's war is extremely powerful and can achieve much. In this we have full confidence.

Marxism must necessarily advance; it must develop along with practice and cannot stand still. The same is true with the theory of people's war which must develop as history advances. Modern war is different from past wars in many aspects. Our enemy has made tremendous changes and we ourselves are vastly different from what we were in the past. This demands that we integrate Chairman Mao's concept of people's war more closely with the new historical conditions, make a serious study of the new characteristics and law of people's war fought under modern conditions and step up our preparations in all fields.

The system of our armed forces, which are a combination of field armies, regional forces and the militia, is the best organizational form for fighting a people's war. With regard to a future war against aggression, one can hardly tell the front from the rear, for it will be a people's war fought on a large scale against the invaders from the air, the sea, the land and even underground. This makes it all the more necessary to stick to the three-in-one system of the armed forces.

Active defence and luring the enemy troops in deep are the basic principles of our strategy for winning a future war against

aggression. "Engaging the enemy outside the gates" has never been a good method of fighting. Ours is a socialist country and our social system determines that our strategic principle must be one of active defence. In coping with invaders, we must strike at the enemy after letting him in, and strategically we strike only after the enemy has struck. By luring the enemy in deep we do not mean letting enemy troops go wherever they like but we will force them to move as we want them to; at key places we will put up a strong defence, prevent them from penetrating inland unchecked and systematically lead them to battlefields of our choice so as to wipe them out piecemeal. We must adhere to the principle of protracted warfare, for we firmly believe that through long and arduous struggles we can gradually change the balance of forces between ourselves and the enemy, switch over to the strategic counter-offensive and win final victory.

Stepping up the education and training of our troops and the study of military science is a task of strategic importance in increasing the capability of fighting a people's war under modern conditions. Modern war has placed greater demands on the army and militia with regard to their ability to organize and direct battles and their tactics and skills. We must attach strategic importance to education and training, strengthen research in military science, raise the cadres' and fighters' military and political calibre and scientific and cultural level, and turn the army into a big school.

Our aim in speeding up the development of the national defence science and technology and national defence industries and improving the

arms and equipment of our army is to build up the material basis for increasing the might of people's war under modern conditions. On the basis of accelerating our economic construction, we must strive to modernize our national defence at high speed and pay attention to learning from the advanced experience of other countries; at the same time we must make efforts to improve the arms and equipment of our army, navy, air force and militia so that there will be new-type conventional equipment and sufficient ammunition as well as better atom bombs, guided missiles and other sophisticated weapons.

Building our strategic and tactical rear into a powerful and solid base area will provide us with a reliable support for fighting a people's war. In a modern war, there is not much difference between the front and the rear and the various areas may be cut off from each other. Hence the need to build the vast rear areas into strategic bases capable of supporting a prolonged war and fighting on their own.

The people's air defence must be strengthened so that in the event of a war it will be possible for us to preserve our strength, keep our losses to a minimum, avoid disorder and successfully turn the nation from a peace-time to a war-time system of life and work. We must act according to Chairman Mao's instruction "Dig tunnels deep" and the plan worked out by the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua, fully arouse the masses to speed up the projects related to the people's air defence and preparations against war, not only in the important cities but also in all other cities where conditions are available, especially in places to be kept in our hands for sure, so that these projects can be used during peace times and war times and for offensive and defensive purposes.

Restoring and carrying forward the fine tradition of our Party and army in doing political and ideological work and giving full scope to this work are an important guarantee for winning victory in a future war against aggression and for bringing about the socialist modernization of our country as well. Under new historical conditions, we must redouble our efforts in doing political and ideological work, if we are to enable the commanders and fighters to always maintain a high degree of revolu-

tionary vigilance, rid themselves of illusions about peace and get prepared at all times to crush any acts of subversion and aggression by social-imperialism and imperialism, and make every preparation for liberating Taiwan. Meanwhile, we must do a good job in grasping class struggle in the ideological sphere, improving our work in all fields, step up political and ideological work in the grass-roots units and carry forward the fine tradition of doing political and ideological work fostered by Chairman Mao himself. We must uphold the basic principle of seeking the truth from facts and integrating theory with practice, make political and ideological work part of our efforts in all fields to realize the general task for the new period and part of the tasks in grasping the key link of class struggle to run the army well and getting prepared for fighting; we must learn to apply the fine tradition of doing political work to fighting a modern war so that it will play its full role as the leading factor guaranteeing victory.

Chairman Mao always stressed that "the whole Party must pay great attention to war, study military matters and prepare itself for fighting." To be well prepared against war is not just a matter for the army alone, it is a matter of paramount importance for the whole Party, the whole nation and the various fronts. Our workers, poor and lower-middle peasants, revolutionary armymen and intellectuals must work hard to increase our economic strength and improve our defence capability. This in itself is a contribution to stepping up preparations against war.

We will not attack unless attacked; if we are attacked, we will certainly counterattack. Should any enemy dare to risk launching a war of aggression against us, then let him try and see what will happen! Our 800 million people and armymen are well prepared to meet the challenge. No matter when and where the enemy invades our country, we will wipe him out resolutely, thoroughly, wholly and completely. If social-imperialism and imperialism should impose a new world war on the people of the world, they will certainly arouse the world's people to rise in revolution. The result will be the inevitable doom of social-imperialism and imperialism and worldwide victory for socialism and communism.

Writers and Artists Come Into Their Own Again

THE All-China Federation of Literary and Art Circles recently called an enlarged meeting of its national committee after its work had been interrupted for a period of 12 years. Three hundred and forty well-known writers, actors and actresses, artists and critics attended the meeting which will contribute significantly to the elimination of the pernicious influence of the "gang of four" and to the development of socialist literature and art in China.

In a written statement full of revolutionary fervour, Kuo Mo-jo, the late chairman of the federation and an outstanding proletarian cultural fighter, warmly welcomed this grand reunion of writers and artists. He called on them to "throw themselves into the fiery mass struggle" and "forge ahead to realize the general task in the new period of development in China." That was his greeting to the coming high tide of cultural construction in our country a fortnight before he died on June 12. Half a century ago, he had written effusive, stirring verses predicting the doom of an old world and the birth of New China, verses embodying the bright ideals of a future world, which inspired vast numbers of young people to plunge themselves into the incipient revolutionary movement of the Chinese proletariat.

Ulanfu, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, and Chang Ping-hua, Head of the Propaganda Department Under the Party Central Committee, made important speeches at the meeting.

Organizations of Writers and Artists

The federation and the Unions of Chinese Writers, Theatrical Workers, Musicians, Film Workers and Dance Workers have all been reactivated along with *Wenyi Bao*, the national journal of literary and art critique.

The Unions of Chinese Artists and *Chuyi* (ballad singing and other performing arts) Workers, the Research Association of Folk Literature and Art and the Photographic Society will also resume their work.

All the literary and art organizations under the All-China Federation of Literary and Art Circles are specialized people's organizations. Founded after the birth of New China, they all served as indispensable aides of the Party on the front of literature and art.

In the 50s and early 60s, these bodies did useful work along Chairman Mao's line. They organized their members to take an active part in socialist revolution and construction, study Marxism, and go deep among the masses to live and work with them so as to turn out socialist literary and art works. They had also brought up young writers and artists and taken part in international cultural exchanges.

Literary and art circles for a time also produced some bad works because of the interference of Liu Shao-chi's revisionist line. Still, Chairman Mao's revolutionary line consistently dominated the scene and there were noteworthy achievements in the field of literature and art.

The "gang of four," prompted by their counter-revolutionary needs, tried to write off these achievements. Chang Chun-chiao declared that these unions of writers and artists were revisionist, and the All-China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, its member organizations and their affiliated associations at the provincial level, earmarked to be "smashed," were forced to cease functioning. The literary and art contingent was disbanded and many fine writers and artists were stigmatized as revisionists, renegades or enemy agents and subjected to harsh persecution. The garden of literature and art was reduced to a wasteland.

And now, the writers and artists in a happy mood of liberation, are joyously celebrating the reactivation of their unions. They are determined to follow Chairman Mao's line, carry forward the fine traditions and make their organizations fighting ones imbued with a new look and a new style of work.

Victims Rehabilitated

The first subject discussed in the recent meeting was the exposure and criticism of the "gang of four." The gang was vehemently denounced for using literature and art to carry out political intrigues and for their cultural autocracy and cultural vandalism. Those present at the gathering recalled with sadness the outstanding writers and artists who had died at the hands of the "gang of four."

One of the victims was Lao Sheh (1899-1966), a noted patriotic author who was particularly good at portraying the life of the urban working people and their aspirations. His novel *Ricksha Boy*, an expose and denunciation of the old society, is familiar to people at home and abroad. Other works of his include dozens of plays. He was also a prolific writer of prose, essays, ballads, operas, literary reportages and children's stories. He had been praised as a "people's artist," "master of language" and "model worker in the literary world." The humour and wit in his works have had a far-reaching influence on literary work in our country.

In 1966 Chiang Ching and her ilk trotted out their fictive charge that New China's literature and art was "under the dictatorship of a sinister revisionist line" and Lao Sheh was denounced as an "active counter-revolutionary." He was harassed and physically mauled in a continuous round of meetings. Shortly after, he died, innocent and grievously wronged. At the time of his death he was Vice-Chairman of the All-China Federation of Literary and Art Circles and of the Union of Chinese Writers.

On June 3 this year, a solemn memorial meeting to mourn Lao Sheh was held in Peking. The eulogy pronounced on the late well-known author listed his thirst for progress, his love for the people, his unbending will and his style of hard struggle and plain living.

Confidence Plus Enthusiasm

Recalling the bitter fight between members of the literary and art circles and the "gang of four," vice-chairman of the federation Chou Yang said: "The 'gang of four' thought they could annihilate revolutionary literature and art, but things did not turn out the way they wanted it." At the meeting, one writer said: "I am proud to say that this literary and art contingent of ours nurtured by Chairman Mao himself proved indestructible." Liu Pai-yu, a noted P.L.A. prose writer, said: "The dross has been eliminated. Our ranks are the purer for that."

They were speaking for the entire meeting. The enmity they bear against the "gang of four" is spurring them to work hard for a flourishing garden of socialist literature and art.

Chen Teng-ko, a veteran guerrilla and writer, is working on a long novel about the trials and tribulations of the underground workers during the War of Resistance Against Japan (1937-45). The plot took shape when he was persecuted and thrown into jail by the "gang of four." "I am writing about the revolution of the past for the revolution today. The 'gang' maligned and attacked veteran revolutionary cadres, so I'm going to try and get people to understand the life revolutionaries of the older generation led, the ideals they held, the sacrifices they made and what they have done for the revolution," said Chen Teng-ko.

Elder author Pa Chin, 74, still sits at his desk every day. He is translating the long memoir by the 19-century Russian thinker Alexander Herzen, and wants to write a long novel and get two collections of his short stories published before his 80th birthday.

Two other septuagenarians, playwrights Hsia Yen and Yu Ling, are also busy at work. Hsia Yen is working for the production of new films for the 30th anniversary of the People's Republic next year and Yu Ling hopes to have four plays completed in the next five years.

Yao Hsueh-yin, author of the best-seller *Li Tzu-cheng*, is working furiously to complete the last three volumes of this long historical novel about the 17th-century leader of peasant insurgents. The first two volumes were completed

only with Chairman Mao's support because the "gang of four" was then wildly cracking down on writers and artists. Yao, 68, plans to write another two long novels about life in China between the 18th and 20th centuries.

Serving the General Task of the New Period

Writers and artists from all parts of the country also discussed the question of how to turn out creative works in the days to come.

The unanimous opinion was that literature and art must serve the workers, peasants and soldiers, and socialist revolution and construction.

After the fall of the "gang of four" China has entered a new period of socialist revolution and construction. The general task in this period is to persevere in continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat and transform China into a modern, powerful socialist country before the turn of the century. All writers and artists should do their level best to turn out works which praise the heroic people on various fronts and their deeds and capture the atmosphere of the new period.

Those who attended the meeting were happy to see that writers and artists throughout the country are making a good start.

In a year or so, nearly 100 full-length plays have been staged throughout the country, in addition to the more numerous local operas. The audience can now see the images of Chairman Mao, Premier Chou and other revolutionaries of the older generation on the stage. These first tentative performances which reflect the wishes of the people found a warm response with the masses.

Cartoons, *chuyi* (ballad singing and other performing arts) and satirical comedies can quickly reflect what is happening in real life and are very popular with the masses. Works in these categories dealing with struggles against the "gang of four" have shown a variety of styles in the portrayal of characters and artistic presentation.

Some works have themes seldom dealt with before. One middle school teacher in Peking



Yang Mo, author of *Song of Youth*, is working on another novel.

has written a short story about how a school was wrecked by the gang. The story raises up the big problem of how to educate the youth and has aroused widespread interest.

Hsu Chih, a poet, has written in a matter of months a series of reportages about China's outstanding scientists of today. At the meeting called by the federation, he expressed the view that literature and art should play their part in helping to promote the making of a modern socialist country. "We should dedicate ourselves heart and soul to this task the whole nation is now energetically engaged in," he said.

Hundred Flowers in Blossom

It was the opinion of the gathering that if China's socialist literature and art is to flourish, the key lay in adhering to the policy of letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend laid down by Chairman Mao. With serving the workers, peasants and soldiers as the orientation, different artistic forms, styles and ways of performance must be allowed to develop freely and different schools of thought in academic studies must be allowed to enter debate freely.

Everyone agreed that the themes of creative works should be varied. Great efforts must be made to create works reflecting class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment in transforming China into a modern

socialist country. At the same time, other themes should not be ignored. Efforts must also be made to portray heroic workers, peasants and soldiers of our time, revolutionary cadres, intellectuals, children as well as other characters, be they positive, negative or mediocre persons. The great cause of socialism and communism must be extolled, while feudalism, capitalism and their noxious influence must be sharply criticized.

While themes in our literary and art works must be rich and varied, we must see to it that contemporary revolutionary themes predominate. The noted Shaohsing opera singer Yuan Hsueh-fen told the gathering that a number of good traditional theatrical works, historical plays and operas have been staged to enrich the cultural life of the masses and meet the needs of making ancient things serve the present. However, she emphasized, we must devote ourselves more to the creation of contemporary themes and make greater contributions to the realization of the general task of the new period. Our job today is to inspire the people more forcefully to work on current tasks of socialist construction.

Drama critic Chang Keng held that the 300 different local forms of opera of long standing would be revitalized when they switch their main efforts to contemporary themes. He said: Time marches on. If operas fail to reflect problems the masses are interested in and fail to portray characters they are familiar with, the audience will desert us. If we fail to portray people's new life, our performing arts too will become stagnant and decline.

Deep Into the Life of the People

The life and struggle of the people is the only source of literature and art; only when writers and artists have gone deep into the life of the people can they succeed in their creative work.

The hustle and bustle of working for modernization after the fall of the gang provides China's writers and artists with a wide range of themes and a rich and vivid source of materials. At the meeting they anxiously expressed the wish to go to factories, mines and the countryside to find out for themselves what life there is like.

Writer Li Chun said: The meaning of going deep into the life of the people today has two aspects: One is to remould the world outlook of our writers and artists through practical experience in life so that they will have a better understanding of what the people want and their works will strongly reflect the spirit of our time. The other is that writers must constantly increase their store of knowledge of everyday life so as to enable them to vividly and realistically portray characters and find more themes to write on. He said: "As suppliers of spiritual nourishment for the people, as architects of the soul, we are obliged in the new period of the revolution to fulfil the glorious mission given us by the era we are living in."

After four years living as a peasant in the area formerly flooded by the Yellow River in central China, Li Chun has completed a film script describing how a barren area was turned into a granary. It is now being filmed.

At the studio where *The River Surges On* (scenario by Li Chun) is being filmed.



August 11, 1978

Democracy and Legal System

THE importance of strengthening the socialist legal system was again stressed in a recent *Renmin Ribao* article entitled "Democracy and Legal System."

The article pointed out that the new Constitution of the People's Republic of China adopted by the Fifth National People's Congress is the fundamental charter for guiding us in building a modern, powerful socialist country. To enhance our socialist legal system, it is necessary for the National People's Congress to enact, in due course, a series of additional socialist laws such as criminal law, civil law and procedural laws and to improve the judicial organs.

In accordance with Chairman Mao's instruction in 1962, departments concerned worked out drafts of the Criminal Law, the Civil Law and the Law of Procedure in Criminal Cases. The draft Criminal Law was issued in 1963 to some provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions for comment. The urgent task now is to complete the work.

The socialist legal system, comprising public security organs, procuratorial organs and people's courts which complement and restrict each other, should be restored actually and not formally.

The article reviewed how our socialist legal system had been seriously sabotaged by Lin Piao and the "gang of four." Such sabotage underwent, in general, two stages. In the first stage, that is, in the early period of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, they waved the banner of "revolutionary rebellion" and advocated "smashing the public security organs, procuratorial organs and people's courts." This wrought havoc with these organs. In the second stage, when they usurped a portion of the leadership in the judicial organs, they abused their power to suppress the revolutionary cadres and people.

With the shattering of the "gang of four," the greatest obstacle to enforcing socialist legal system was swept aside. But the aftermath of the sabotage by Lin Piao and the "gang of four" as well as their influence remain to be further overcome and eliminated. All the cases fabricated or wrongly handled by them must be redressed, cases involving those who use their power to violate laws and regulations should be firmly dealt with, and the fine tradition of abiding by the socialist laws must be restored and carried forward.

Socialist New China emerged from semi-feudal and semi-colonial old China where not a trace of democracy could be found. Feudal conceptions, feudal ethics and moral principles, and feudal conventions and habits were deep-rooted and penetrated every aspect of social life. When the old social system was wiped out, the old social ideology could not be eliminated at once. A great many feudal ideas could be found in the members of the "gang of four." Therefore, in a sense, the elimination of the poisonous influence of the "gang of four" means wiping out that of feudal autocracy. This is a profound revolution in ideology.

Socialist legal system is closely linked with the democracy of the people. Punishing the few reactionaries who undermine the socialist cause and protecting the people's interests and democratic rights according to law are two inseparable aspects of the socialist legal system.

Protect Historical Relics

RENMIN RIBAO recently published a reader's letter saying: In view of the damage done to ancient relics in Shantung Province's Chufu County, the native place of Confucius, it is necessary to point out that appraisal of personages in history and protection of historical relics are by nature two different things and should be treated as separate problems.

There are altogether 338 historical sites in Chufu that have been placed under protection since the nationwide liberation, the letter said. These include the famous Temple of Confucius, Confucius' Mansion (estate of the descendants of Confucius) and an adjoining grove of trees — the Confucian Wood.

Historical treasures are the fruits of labour of the people in the past and should be protected, the letter continued. Lin Piao and the "gang of four," however, during the Great Cultural Revolution sent their followers to Chufu to smash stone tablets and statues, burn woodcarvings and destroy ancient books, paintings and costumes. These people also wrote a letter of "protest" to the State Council, slanderously alleging that the efforts of the state to protect historical relics were aimed at "shielding monsters and devils." After the "gang of four" were overthrown, repair work was begun, but should be further strengthened.

A reply from the State Administrative Bureau of Museums and Archaeological Data was also published by the paper. The bureau expressed agreement with the viewpoint put forward in the reader's letter and said that protection of historical relics has been the consistent policy of the state. In 1961 the State

Council announced that the Temple of Confucius and other ancient relics were among the nation's key units singled out for preservation, and this decision should not be affected on account of the appraisal of Confucius.

The reply explained that protecting these ancient buildings and other relics does not mean glorifying Confucius or advocating the doctrines of Confucius and Mencius, and it is for the sake of preserving our nation's historical and cultural legacy.

The Confucius' Mansion is located on what used to be a big landlord estate. Extensive data are available there showing the exploitation and oppression of the peasants by this family. The keeping of the data as criminal evidence and material for teaching by negative example is precisely for the purpose of exposing the feudal ruling class and criticizing the doctrines of Confucius and Mencius, continued the reply.

Chairman Mao's Talk: Background Material

Chairman Mao's "Talk at an Enlarged Working Conference Convened by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China" in 1962 was carried in our issue No. 27, 1978. In this talk, Chairman Mao referred to some historical figures and stories and a passage he quoted from Szuma Chien. Published below is some background material to help readers in understanding the references. — Ed.

Szuma Chien

Szuma Chien (145 or 135 B.C.-?), a native of Hsiayang (present-day Hancheng in Shensi Province), was a famous Chinese historian, writer and thinker of the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-25 A.D.). He was born into a family with a heritage of learning in history and astronomy. In his early life, he travelled widely, visiting historical sites all over the country, studying local customs and collecting myths, legends and folklore. Later when he succeeded his father as court historian, he had access to the books and archives of the imperial library and read extensively. He started writing the

Historical Records. Later, as punishment for defending a general who had surrendered to the enemy, he was imprisoned and castrated. After his release, he was appointed as an official in charge of the emperor's decrees and documents, and firmly resolved to complete the *Historical Records*. In this work, he traced Chinese history from legendary times down to the middle of the Western Han Dynasty, and with his use of biography, created a new form of historical writing. The *Historical Records* replete with a distinct literary flavour has had a strong influence on later Chinese historians.

When King Wen was detained, he produced the "Book of Changes"

King Wen, or Chi Chang, was founder of the Western Chou Dynasty (11th century-771 B.C.). Towards the end of the Shang Dynasty (16th century-11th century B.C.), he founded a subordinate state based on the system of slavery in the present-day Chishan area in Shensi Province. According to histori-

cal books, King Wen was detained by the Shang monarch in Yuli (present-day Tangyin in Honan Province), and died soon after he was released. His son, King Wu, led a punitive expedition against the House of Shang, overthrew it and unified the country.

During his detention, King Wen is said to have expanded the eight diagrams (symbols of natural phenomena: heaven, earth, thunder, wind, water, fire, mountain and stream), drawn by the legendary Emperor Fu Hsi, into 64 *kua* and 384 *yao* and given explanations to each *kua* and *yao*. This made up the *Book of Changes* for foretelling good and evil, which was later developed into one of the six Confucian classics.

When Confucius' was in distress, he compiled the "Spring and Autumn Annals"

Confucius (551-479 B.C.), a native of the State of Lu in what is now Shantung Province's Chufu area, was born in the latter part of the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.). He devoted his life mainly to discourses with his disciples and for a period held some important official posts in Lu. He never ceased dreaming of restoring the political system of the Western Chou society which was tottering at his time. When his proposals were rejected by Lu, he wandered about the various states expounding his views among the feudal princes. Not content to turn down his counsels, some of them cast him abroad unceremoniously to suffer danger and privation. Late in life, he was compelled to return to Lu where he and his disciples engaged in collating the classical works, said to be six in all, one of which was the *Spring and Autumn Annals*.

The *Spring and Autumn Annals* is a chronological record drawn up by official historians of Lu and revised, it is said, by Confucius. In the main, the book deals with the history of the State of Lu, during the period from 727 to 481 B.C., but it takes up the history of other states as well. The annals covers events briefly and is very much like an outline history of modern times. Scholars of the past held that the annals in its narrative of events imparts praise or blame between the lines, and on this account has all along been regarded as one of the six important Confucian classics.

Chu Yuan was exiled and so composed the "Li Sao"

Chu Yuan (c. 340-278 B.C.), a noble of the State of Chu in the Warring States Period and an eminent patriotic poet of ancient times, was placed in important posts by Prince Huai of Chu in the early years of his life. At that time, both Chin and Chu, the two strongest states, were in a position to unify the country. Siding with the State of Chu, Chu Yuan advocated political reforms at home and a foreign policy of alliance with other states against Chin, in the hope that Chu would accomplish the great cause of national unification. Since his position was in conformity with the aspirations of the people, he won the support of his colleagues. Prince Huai, at first in favour of his position, later gave ear to slanders against him. Chu Yuan was banished after Prince Huai passed away.

Thereafter Chu Yuan wandered about along the Yuanchiang and Hsiangchiang River valleys (present-day Hunan Province) for years, during which he wrote many poems, the most famous being the *Li Sao*. This poem, which expresses yearning for his motherland and love for the people, hatred of evil and steadfastness, has had a profound influence on later Chinese literature. In the end, he drowned himself in the Milo River, a tributary of the Hsiangchiang in Hunan Province.

Tsochiu Ming lost his sight and the "Kuo Yu" followed

Tsochiu Ming, a native of the State of Lu, lived at the end of the Spring and Autumn Period, roughly in Confucius' time. It is said that he was once an official historian of Lu. On the basis of the *Spring and Autumn Annals* revised by Confucius and historical data he had collected on various states, he wrote the book *Tso Chuan*. The *Spring and Autumn Annals* is only a brief record of history whereas *Tso Chuan* gives a more detailed account of historical happenings. It is the first outstanding chronological record of ancient times.

Kuo Yu is a work said to have been written by Tsochiu Ming after he became blind. It records mainly events of the States of Chou and Lu in the late Western Chou and the Spring

and Autumn Period. *Kuo Yu* and *Tso Chuan* can be used for comparison and verification.

Sun Tzu was mutilated before he wrote his book on military science

Sun Tzu or Sun Pin, a native of the State of Chi, was a prominent military scientist who lived in the middle of the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.).

Sun Pin and another military man, Pang Chuan, learnt the art of war from the same tutor. Later Pang Chuan was appointed a general in the State of Wei. Jealous of Sun Pin's ability, he secretly summoned Sun to Wei. After Sun's arrival, Pang trumped up charges against him, had his kneecaps removed and his face tattooed, and put him under house arrest. Eventually, with help from an envoy of Chi, Sun made his way back home under cover and became chief of staff of the Chi army. Later, during a war between Chi and Wei, Sun Pin encircled Pang Chuan by stratagem in Maling (now Taming in Hopei Province). The Wei troops were defeated and Pang Chuan himself was captured and killed.

Sun Pin's book on military science contained 89 chapters, as mentioned in the history books, but all were lost through the years. In 1972, worn-out slips containing 31 chapters in some 11,000 characters were discovered by Chinese archaeologists in a Han Dynasty tomb in Yinchuehshan, Linyi, Shantung Province. Thus this famous book on military science, lost for over 1,000 years, is back again among the living.

The 300 poems in the "Book of Odes"

The *Book of Odes*, otherwise referred to as the 300 poems, is China's earliest anthology of poems. The *Book of Odes*, containing 305 ancient poems, is said to have been revised and collated by Confucius and thus has all along been regarded as one of the six Confucian classics.

The *Book of Odes* comprises works of 500 years from the early Western Chou to the Spring and Autumn Period (11th to 6th century B.C.). It includes many folk songs by the labouring people decrying the harsh exploitation, heavy corvée and military services imposed on them, or lampooning and exposing the dissipation and cruelty of the ruling classes.

Some of the pieces were written by either officials or aristocrats in disgrace among the ruling classes, who had been, more often than not, subjected to inequitable treatment or cruel persecution in the complex class struggle. They therefore produced works denouncing the court and exposing the stupidity of the rulers and the dark political rule. Some of the works, though in honour of the ruling classes' religious rites and ancestor worship or in praise of the exploits of certain rulers, nevertheless are of great historical value because from a certain angle they reflect the conditions of production and the political system of the time.

"The Tyrant Bids His Lady Farewell"

This is a famous historical Peking opera telling how Hsiang Yu, the Overlord of Western Chu, bids a last farewell to his lady Yu before preparing for a battle he is certain to lose.

Towards the end of the Chin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.), following a peasant uprising led by Chen Sheng and Wu Kuang, Liu Pang (first emperor of the Western Han Dynasty who reigned from 206 to 195 B.C.) and Hsiang Yu mustered their forces and joined in the fray. Hsiang Yu warring against Chin repeatedly routed the main forces of his adversary and won resounding fame throughout the country. But Hsiang Yu, scion of an old aristocratic family, cruel by nature, buried alive or slaughtered large numbers of the defeated enemy troops on many occasions. After overthrowing the Chin power, he restored the system of fiefs far and wide. Banking on his strong forces, he enfeoffed himself as Overlord of Western Chu but failed to gain support because he was mulish and opinionated.

In the ensuing fight against Liu Pang, his last remaining adviser left him in disgust. Hsiang Yu's forces started out much stronger, but repeated trials of strength turned the scales in favour of Liu Pang. In 202 B.C. Hsiang Yu's forces were hemmed in at Kaihsia (now Lingpi County of Anhwei Province). His army was decimated and food supplies depleted. Realizing that all was up with him, he spent the night drinking in his tent while he vented his feelings in songs of sorrow and regret. He said his last farewell to Yu, who committed suicide that night. Hsiang Yu himself cut his own throat in the battle the following day.

Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries

An Important Session

AFTER meeting for five and a half days in Belgrade, the foreign ministers of non-aligned countries wound up their business on July 30. Yugoslavia, the host country, and most of the countries attending the conference made positive contributions. Yugoslavia's President Tito, one of the founders of the non-aligned movement, delivered an important speech at the opening session which was warmly received by the delegates. Participants had wide-ranging and frank debates on current major international questions and problems confronting the non-aligned movement. After rejecting all kinds of interference coming from inside the conference hall and outside, the conference achieved fruitful results when it finally adopted a declaration and a programme of action for mutual co-operation between the non-aligned and developing countries.

The conference made a major contribution by reaffirming and upholding the principles and aim of the non-aligned movement and preserving its unity. In his address to the conference, President Tito pointed out that "the non-aligned movement is an independent, unified and self-reliant factor in world politics" and that "the policy of non-alignment is to combat imperialism, neocolonialism, racism and other forms of foreign domination and exploitation. It opposes the policy of force, political and economic hegemony and all forms of foreign intervention and subordinate relations."

The same principles and aim were also reiterated by delegates of many countries in their speeches. The proceedings made it clear that the strong desire to uphold the principles and preserve unity dominated the conference and foiled the attempts made by some to change the character of the non-aligned movement and undermine its unity.

The declaration adopted by the conference once again reiterates the principles and aim of the movement and emphasizes as the orientation of its struggle the opposition to imperialism, colonialism, hegemonism and all forms of foreign exploitation and domination. It proclaims that "the policy of blocs and military alliances is resolutely rejected as are all policies directed towards dividing the world into spheres of influence." It points out that the non-aligned countries must work to enhance unity and thwart any attempt to break it.

The programme of action adopted by the conference calls on the member nations to cement unity, increase mutual aid and co-operation, strive for the establishment of a new international economic order and co-ordinate their actions on a number of economic issues.

The conference gave full expression to the common aspirations and demands of the non-aligned countries and the people of the world.

The conference was held at a time when the contention between the superpowers for world domination has become increasingly sharp. That superpower which dons the guise of "socialism" in particular has for a long time been engaged in frenzied aggression, intervention and subversive activities in Africa, the Red Sea area and some parts of Asia. It has gravely jeopardized the independence, sovereignty and security of the non-aligned nations and the countries of the third world, undermined stability and peace in these regions and increased the threat of war. As a result, the non-aligned movement is confronted with new complexities which were reflected at the conference.

In the course of the conference, Soviet social-imperialism through its surrogates tried to deflect the conference from its charted course and break the unity of the movement. They acted as apologists of Soviet social-imperialism. The call for opposition to hegemonism, one of them alleged, "places imperialism on a par with

socialism" or, to quote another surrogate, "uses the catchword anti-hegemonism as a smoke-screen for their own hegemonist ambitions."

At the same time, these surrogates levelled attacks, not on imperialism and hegemonism, but on some non-aligned nations which are the victims of imperialism and hegemonism. The behaviour of the Soviet surrogates was deservedly exposed and censured by delegates to the conference. Many condemned in their speeches the Soviet and Cuban aggression and intervention in Africa and strongly demanded that Cuba pull out its armed forces from Africa. Their statements won widespread approval.

The numerous non-aligned countries constitute an important part of the third world. China which has always sympathized with and supported the principles and aim of the non-aligned movement naturally takes a keen interest in its growth. The Chinese people resolutely support the policy of independence, peace and non-alignment pursued by the non-aligned nations and their just struggle against imperialism, colonialism, hegemonism and all forms of foreign domination. Like other countries and people of the third world, they firmly believe that the non-aligned movement will continue to advance in unity in the struggle against external interference and divisive activities and play an ever more important role in international affairs.

("Renmin Ribao" Commentator, August 4)

Report From Belgrade

ON July 30, the foreign ministers of non-aligned countries ended their meeting at Belgrade's newly built Sava Conference Hall. Over 110 delegations of representatives of the 86 countries of the non-aligned movement, observers and guests took part in the proceedings. When one recalls that 17 years ago only 25 countries were represented here at the First Conference of Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries, one can fully appreciate the giant strides the non-aligned movement has made.

The five-and-a-half-day conference gave convincing proof that most of the delegates

were firm in their determination to hold aloft the banner of the non-aligned movement. Addressing the conference, Ho Dam, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, stressed that the non-aligned countries must adhere to the policy of non-alignment, safeguard their own independence and firmly oppose the manoeuvres of the dominationist forces to drive the non-aligned countries into their spheres of influence. Deputy Prime Minister of Democratic Kampuchea Ieng Sary pointed out that the non-aligned countries must make further efforts and resolutely struggle to "safeguard the purity of the principles of non-alignment and safeguard the non-aligned movement and make it more independent and free from the influence of any blocs."

However, there were attempts to change the basic policy of the non-aligned movement and make it a "natural ally" and "reserve force" of the Soviet Union. The moving spirit was Cuba, which has been flexing its military muscles in Africa. Cuba's ravings caused much disgust at the conference. The delegate from Gabon said that to talk about the non-aligned movement as a "natural ally" of a certain country "is against the principles of the non-aligned movement." The representative of the Central African Empire said: "We do not believe in the least that a certain country — whatever its ideology — is the natural ally of African countries." The Liberian delegate pointed out that someone was trying to turn the non-aligned movement into an instrument by which to impose on others the ideology of a power bloc. He called on members of the non-aligned movement to make a determined stand against these attempts. The representatives of Morocco, Zaire, Somalia and many other countries also came forward to denounce Cuba's splitting tactic.

A slogan with the idea of unity being the source of the movement's strength, written in several languages — English, French, Arabic, Spanish and Serbian — hung over the presidium of the conference. It caught the attention of many delegates who stressed it in their speeches. The Peruvian delegate pointed out that the strength of the non-aligned movement lies in unity and mutual assistance and, first of all, in the independence of the movement.

Any action which goes against this line, he declared, can harm the movement's future. The Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka emphasized the need to maintain the movement's unity and oppose any move designed to divide the ranks of the non-aligned countries.

Besides debating on the movement's policy, the speeches of more than 80 foreign ministers and representatives also discussed various urgent world questions. Among them were: support for the just struggle of Palestine, support for the peoples of southern Africa in their struggle against racism, the question of the peaceful reunification of Korea, the disarmament problem, and establishment of a new world economic order. The mere fact that these questions were taken up in Belgrade made one feel that nothing could stop people from supporting just struggles, opposing the contention between the two hegemonic powers, and fighting for liberation and unity.

With speeches dealing with such a wide range of subjects, there naturally were disputes between member countries, with opposing views sometimes becoming very sharp. However, most people adhered to the view that the method of peaceful consultation be used to resolve differences with each other.

Nothing strange about differences. The Yugoslav newspaper *Politika* commented: "There is no way to hide differences and the Belgrade meeting is no magic wand which will make differences disappear." The important thing is to seek common points through democratic dialogue.

Apart from normal differences of opinion, a few isolated passages of gibberish were also heard. Suffice it to cite one example. It was about Vietnamese troops crossing into another country's territory to kill and loot, but the Vietnamese delegate had the effrontery to slander Kampuchea as the "aggressor."

Proceedings throughout the conference are an indication of the present state of the non-aligned movement. As President Tito pointed out at the opening ceremony: "Today, all kinds of pressure aimed at undermining the unity of the non-aligned movement are on the increase. . . . It is necessary for us to get united to oppose this act. The essence of non-align-

ment, all our interest and the interests of every nation demand us to do so."

(*Ting Hsiang-chi, Hsinhua Correspondent.*)

TASS' Distorted Reports

THE recent Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries adhered to the orientation of the non-aligned movement to combat imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism and foiled the scheme to split the movement. But TASS, the Kremlin's mouthpiece, distorted and emasculated with ulterior motives these important aspects of the conference.

Prior to the opening of the conference, the Soviet Union and its Trojan Horse in the non-aligned movement, Cuba, worked hand in glove to alter the character and orientation of the non-aligned movement. With this in mind, the declaration adopted at the conference points out the "necessity to oppose attempts inside and outside the movement to weaken the movement or divert it from its basic principles." However, TASS didn't say a word about this passage in its reports on the declaration.

The declaration notes that the non-aligned movement is shown to be "actively fighting imperialism, expansionism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, including both apartheid and Zionism, exploitation, the policy of force and all forms of foreign domination and hegemony." In its reports, TASS had the cheek to state that the declaration "emphatically points out the necessity to actively combat imperialism, colonialism and neocolonialism, racism and Zionism" and then surreptitiously deleted the word "hegemony."

The declaration emphasizes: "The policy of blocs and military alliances is resolutely rejected [by the non-aligned countries] as are all policies directed towards dividing the world into spheres of influence." TASS also kept mum about this.

It was not negligence on the part of TASS to avoid mentioning the above-quoted important contents in its reports. It revealed the guilty conscience of the Soviet authorities. Despite the fact that the Soviet Union categorically denied

its pursuance of hegemonism and, sometimes, went so far as to rail at other countries for pushing hegemonism, it is known to all that it is none other than the Soviet Union itself which has been feverishly pursuing over the years a global policy of hegemonism, military alliances and unbridled expansion of spheres of influence. Herein lies the reason why Moscow is as afraid of hearing opposition to hegemonism and scramble for spheres of influence as bats are afraid of daylight.

The declaration solemnly denounces any attempt to split the unity of the non-aligned movement by anyone and on whatever pretext. This is another major victory of the conference. No wonder TASS kept silent about this. In pushing its policy of hegemony and expansion, the Soviet Union deliberately divided the non-aligned countries into "progressive" and "reactionary," and did its utmost to split and sabotage the non-aligned movement. This paragraph of the declaration undoubtedly deals a telling blow to the Soviet Union.

It is noteworthy that only the Cuban representative, the Soviet agent, claimed at the confer-

ence that the Soviet Union is the natural ally of the non-aligned countries. Followers are few. TASS purposely advertised in its reports that many participants in the conference insisted on further developing co-operation with the socialist countries, the closest natural allies of the non-aligned movement.

TASS' distorted reports show that the Soviet Union is unreconciled to the failure of its attempt to change the basic principles of the non-aligned movement and split the movement. It tries to create the impression by underhanded means like the TASS reports that the non-aligned movement has given up its policies of opposing hegemonism and division of the world into spheres of influence, and its basic principle of resolute rejection of bloc policy and military alliances, and that more and more non-aligned countries want to form an alliance with the Soviet "community." The TASS reports serve to show that the Soviet Union, far from being the "natural ally" of the non-aligned countries as it has styled itself, is the fierce enemy of the non-aligned movement, for on a number of basic problems it runs counter to the movement.

(Hsinhua commentary, August 2)

Venezuela

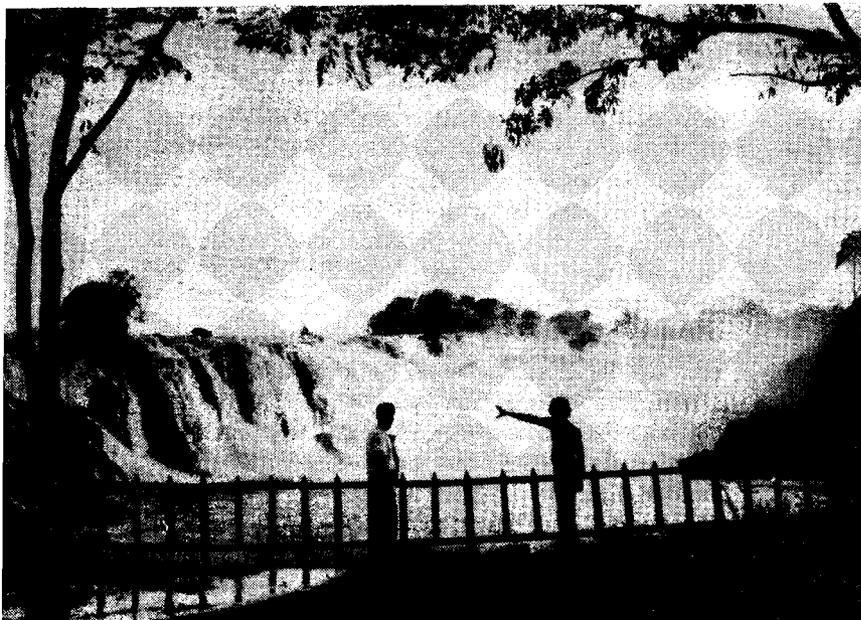
Change From Oil to Diversified Economy

BOOSTING its petroleum industry and, at the same time, developing other industries, agriculture and animal husbandry, Venezuela has in recent years attained initial success in changing its economy from emphasis on the oil industry.

"Oil Country" of Latin America

Venezuela, one of the world's leading oil producers and exporters, is known as the "oil country" of Latin America. Petroleum accounts for 95 per cent of the country's foreign exchange and 70 per cent of its state revenue. A series of measures taken by the Venezuelan Government after the nationalization of the petroleum industry in 1976 to safeguard the

nation's resources, economic rights and interests have led to progress in prospecting for mineral resources, increasing the oil-extraction rate of wells and improving enterprise management. In the past, foreign capital abandoned any well which would yield less than 150 barrels of oil per day, but now a well is still producing even if it has a daily capacity of only 100 barrels. Not to place undue emphasis on a high output of crude oil, Venezuela keeps daily production below a ceiling of 2.2 million barrels. Efforts are pooled to raise refining capability and develop the petrochemical industry. As oil refineries and petrochemical equipment have been established or in-



Caroni River Falls.

creased, the proportion of oil refined at home has gone up and petrochemical spin-offs have multiplied. The oil industry is beginning to take on a new look.

Petroleum exploitation in Venezuela began in 1917. A "blowout" at the Barrosos No. 2 well occurred on December 14, 1922 with oil belching out at an estimated average of 100,000 barrels a day. This was an indication that Venezuela has gargantuan oil resources and their rich potentialities for extraction. Unfortunately, Venezuela fell a prey to the rivalry among foreign monopolies. Exploiting local cheap labour, they made so exorbitant profits that they were virtually plundering the oil. Between 1962 and 1974, their profits topped 10,400 million dollars. As oil production was developed in a lopsided way, agriculture deteriorated, other industries stagnated and labouring people were poverty-stricken.

Once talking about the economic development of the third world countries, President Perez said: It is unreasonable that two-thirds of the world population should provide excess welfare for the big powers. It is precisely this will and aspiration to defend national independence and maintain national economic rights and interests that led the Venezuelan Government to announce on January 1, 1976 the nationalization of petroleum industry. This put an end to more than half a century of

control of Venezuela's petroleum economy by monopoly capital and laid the foundation for the rational exploitation and utilization of petroleum resources as well as the all-round development of the national economy.

A Burgeoning Industrial Area

Venezuela is now using a large amount of oil revenue to develop its national basic industries, agriculture and animal husbandry. This its people call "sowing oil." A case in point is Guayana on the plateau belt south of the Orinoco River. It is a rising industrial area with large tracts of virgin forest, rich iron, coal and alumina deposits and abundant water resources. In the past Venezuela had no metallurgical industry of its own and had to sell mineral ores abroad. But things have changed since a steel mill with an annual output of 5 million tons and an alumina plant producing 280,000 tons a year were established in Guayana. Developing the area is the first step taken by the Venezuelan Government to diversify the national economy with oil revenues. The aim is to have Guayana's industry catch up with the national oil industry in total output value in order to overcome as soon as possible dependence on an oil economy.

While developing basic industries the Venezuelan Government has also made efforts to develop agriculture and animal husbandry. It has increased investments in these fields, granted agricultural credits, raised the prices of some farm products, repaired and constructed water conservancy projects and built rural roads. In 1977 the total rice output jumped to 400,000 tons, a 45 per cent increase over 1976, and the total maize yield reached 900,000 tons, a 69 per cent rise. This has brought a big change as Venezuela no longer has to import large quantities of food grains to feed its people.

These measures, highly conducive to Venezuela's national economic development, have made the two superpowers feel unhappy. At present, not reconciled to being driven out, one seeks every possible occasion to make

trouble, while the other casts covetous eyes on the rich resources of Latin America and tries to have a finger in the pie. The Venezuelan people, with the overall situation at heart, are prepared for the struggle ahead. One Venezuelan put it well: The road ahead is sure

to be tortuous. But under our feet lie fertile soil and abundant natural resources. And occupying them are an industrious and brave people. After driving out the foreign blood-suckers, we are sure we can bring prosperity and happiness to our country.

Viet Nam Continues to Expel Chinese Residents

ON August 1 Vietnamese security personnel, acting on the order of their superiors, fired shots near the Friendship Pass (Yu Yi Kuan) on the Sino-Vietnamese border, and 2,000 victimized Chinese residents were driven over the border to China.

At about 6 p.m. that day, scores of Vietnamese security people were bussed in a dozen or so coaches to the pass whereupon they started grabbing the valuables and personal belongings of the Chinese nationals stranded there. Some tried to reason with these security men, only to be beaten up by them. Then a string of shots rang out to create tension. Pandemonium ensued. Several thousand Chinese milling about on the highway panicked, many abandoning their things and tents in a frightened dash over the boundary to the Chinese side. Early in the morning of the following day, Vietnamese security personnel set fire to the sheds the stranded Chinese had put up to shelter them from rain. They wanted to make sure that this was a point of no return for the victimized Chinese.

This serious incident once again proves that it is not China that "incites" its nationals to return home as accused by the Vietnamese authorities. It is the Vietnamese authorities that are carrying on a policy of persecution and expulsion of Chinese nationals.

From the beginning of this year to early July, the Vietnamese authorities have expelled well over 100,000 victimized Chinese to China by land, and this has made things very difficult

for China in the way of resettlement, border control and the normal production pursuits of the local population. What is more, the Vietnamese side planted intelligence agents among the expelled Chinese to stir up trouble in the Chinese border areas. In the circumstances, the Chinese side decided to enforce the stipulations of the Sino-Vietnamese Border Control Accord as of July 12. This is not to "close the pass" but to implement the accord which requires Chinese nationals to produce certificates issued by the Chinese Embassy in Hanoi and exit visas granted by the Vietnamese side before they return to China. This is in full conformity with customary international practice.

However, after July 12, the Vietnamese side persisted in expelling Chinese by various means. Between July 12 and 28, over 4,000 Chinese were driven to the Sino-Vietnamese border. Some of them decided to go to Hanoi to apply to the Chinese Embassy for certificates to make the journey home. But the Vietnamese side placed obstacles in their way. Those who had gone through the formalities with the Chinese Embassy had their certificates taken from them without any reason being given. Thus they couldn't return to their country without a hitch. The Vietnamese side also did not allow those who chose to go back to the places where they had come from. Over 3,000 Chinese were stranded near Yu Yi Kuan and exposed to the elements in abject conditions. It is clear that this state of affairs has been brought by the Vietnamese side with an ulterior motive.

Economic Appeasement

Question: What is economic appeasement about? Why does it amount to rearing a tiger which eventually devours its benefactor?

Answer by Fang Ming, a researcher on international questions: Economic appeasement is a policy advocated by present-day appeasers in the West to "placate" the Soviet Union economically. They preach that by the so-called economic co-operation in which the West grants the Soviet Union huge loans, food grain and expertise, the Soviet Union will be "softened up" and become "restrained and moderate." In other words, some people in the West try to "ease" tensions between the West and the Soviet Union by pandering to the Soviet Union economically. They harbour the illusion that this will induce the Soviet Union to stop its contention with the United States for world hegemony and abandon its threatened attack on Western Europe.

Another argument is that a constant flow of advanced technology to the Soviet Union will entangle it in a "web of benefits" from economic and technical co-operation with the West. This, it is asserted, will make the Soviets think twice before making a move, "affect" Soviet action and "promote" "stability" in relations between the Soviet Union and the United States.

This sort of economic appeasement is greatly detrimental to Western Europe and the world's people. Instead of curbing the Soviet arms expansion and war preparations, it can only further strengthen the Soviet social-imperialist war machine and aggravate the danger of war. The Western countries, in the long run, are in for a painful reckoning.

It is clear to all that in its rivalry for world hegemony with the other superpower, Soviet social-imperialism has not the strength to sustain its wild ambitions. Grave economic difficulties have always been the Achilles' heel for the So-

viet Union. It is precisely through "economic co-operation" or the export of technology that the Western countries have gradually filled the gaps in Soviet strength and fortified it for more expansionist moves abroad.

The West has extended enormous loans at low interest rates to the Soviet Union which is in drastic financial straits because of its arms drive and war preparations. The Bank for International Settlements disclosed that the Soviet Union had owed the West over 26,000 million dollars by 1976, nearly 17 times the 1970 figure.

And the United States has been supplying grain to the Soviet Union gripped by unstable grain output for years in succession because of chronic agricultural problems. Western statistics show that the Soviet Union imported more than 83 million tons of grain in 1972-1976 alone. Grain exports from the West have helped the Soviet Union not only extricate itself from agricultural predicament during the years of crop failure but also supplement and build up its strategic grain reserves. The West, in fact, has provided favourable conditions for the Soviet military buildup.

What merits great attention is that under the cloak of "strengthening economic co-operation," the Soviet Union has made every effort to obtain sophisticated equipment and technology from the West. In the last 5-6 years alone, it imported 15,000 million dollars' worth of equipment and expertise from the West. In 1976, for example, machinery and transport vehicles accounted for well over one-third of the total exports from the Western countries to the Soviet Union. Importation of such equipment and technology fills in the deficiencies of the Soviet Union which lags behind in industrial expertise; moreover, many of the imports either serve military purposes or can directly be put to use in military industry in the event of war. For instance, by buying the U.S. precision grind-

ing machines capable of producing miniature ball bearings, the Soviet Union has improved its technology in making multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles (MIRVs). The designing of jet engines and electronic control systems provided by the European countries have helped the Soviet Union develop its "Backfire Bombers." A truck plant, built with financial help from many Western countries and capable of producing 200,000 multiple-axle trucks a year, is now turning out trucks in large numbers to equip Soviet troops stationed in Eastern Europe. The massive transfusion of Western technology and industrial equipment has made it possible for the Soviet Union to further expand its strength, economically and militarily.

An article in the U.S. weekly *The Human Events* in May quoted Westerners as saying that, to a large extent, the supply of technology and equipment to the Soviet Union by the West has narrowed key gaps in the strategic and technical fields, made up for Moscow's deficiencies in the multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles, enhanced its capability in long-range guided missiles and improved its military transport capability. They hold that the West, in so doing, is courting grave dangers.

Facts are unmistakably clear. Have Western technology and equipment and enormous sums of money in fact "restrained" Soviet moves a bit? Not at all. On the contrary, the Soviet Union, far from drawing in its horns, has in the last few years become more relentless in its expansion abroad. Its military threat to Western Europe is growing, as are its aggressive and interventionist activities in Africa where it takes an inch and reaches out for a mile. In 1976, it launched armed intervention in Angola with its military personnel and Cuban mercenaries and in 1977 Soviet-paid mercenaries invaded Zaire. More recently, in cahoots with Cuban mercenaries it has extended its tentacles into the Horn of Africa. Last May the Soviet Union and Cuba once again engineered the invasion of Zaire. These incidents have made the continent a hot spot of sharp contention between the two hegemonic powers. Soviet social-imperialist ambitious drive for hegemony is only too conspicuous: It is trying to seize more footholds in Africa and the Middle East, control the entrance to the Red Sea, press south-

ward to the Cape of Good Hope and dominate the principal navigation routes in the Atlantic so as to outflank Western Europe. This should be enough to prove how unrealistic it is to think of "containing" or "softening up" the Soviet Union by means of so-called economic benefits and export of technique.

It is also ridiculous to maintain that a constant flow of technology to the Soviet Union can "promote" the "stability" of Soviet-U.S. relations. The Soviet Union and the United States are the two superpowers locked in fierce contention. One, on the offensive, wants to expand, while the other, on the defensive, wants to safeguard its vested interests in the world. The contradictions between them are irreconcilable and their relations cannot possibly be stable. With further growth of Soviet economic and military strength, the Soviet-U.S. contention for hegemony will become more and more intensified. How can their relations be "stabilized"?

Some people in the West regard their trade with the Soviet Union as a chance to make a fortune and consider the export of capital and technology to the Soviet Union as a good remedy for the economic problems in their countries. This is a form of political short-sightedness which fails to heed the ultimate consequences.

Historical experience merits attention. Prior to World War II, when Germany was rearming in preparation for a war of aggression, the United States, Britain, France and other countries bolstered it up. They provided Hitlerite Germany with huge loans, technology, industrial raw materials and equipment. The United States also adopted similar tactics towards the Japanese militarists in the Far East. The result was, as a Chinese saying goes, that a person lifts a rock only to drop it on his own toes. The forces of fascist aggression were augmented and the launching of a world war by the fascist camp was hastened.

More and more people in the West are now beginning to see the possible consequences of economic appeasement. As the U.S. *Daily News* pointed out the Western countries are "selling Russians the rope to hang us." "For a few bucks, we are willing to give the Soviets the means to destroy us." The publication added: "We are becoming our own executioners."

ROUND THE WORLD

SECURITY COUNCIL

Chen Chu Speaks on Namibia Question

The U.N. Security Council adopted two resolutions on Namibia on July 27.

The first requests the Secretary-General to appoint a special U.N. representative for Namibia to ensure an early independence of Namibia through free elections held under U.N. supervision. The second declares that the territorial integrity and unity of Namibia must be assured through the reintegration of Walvis Bay, a port of strategic importance, within its territory. In August 1977, the racist regime of South Africa flagrantly declared that Walvis Bay was no longer part of Namibia and that it belonged to South Africa.

After the voting, Chinese Representative Chen Chu pointed out that the Pretoria racist regime had finally been forced to end its illegal occupation of Namibia and commit itself to a phased withdrawal of its troops. This, he said, is the result of the protracted struggle, particularly armed struggle, carried on by the Namibian people with the support of the entire African people and the people throughout the world.

Chen Chu said that the Security Council's first draft reso-

lution only "takes note of the proposal for a settlement of the Namibian situation" (see *Peking Review* No. 29) submitted by the five Western countries (Britain, the United States, Canada, West Germany and France) without asking the Security Council to approve the "proposal" in question. Therefore, the Chinese delegation's affirmative vote for the first draft resolution does not signify its approval of or total endorsement of the "proposal." In fact, this "proposal" has serious defects. In the first place, China has always held a different position in principle with respect to the dispatch of United Nations forces, and hence it has serious reservations on the content of the "proposal" concerning the dispatch of the so-called "United Nations transition assistance group." At the same time, it holds that the Security Council should enjoin the South African racist authorities to withdraw all their military and police forces as well as their administration from Namibia immediately, totally and unconditionally, put an end to their illegal occupation of Namibia and transfer political power to the Namibian people. But the "proposal" of the five countries would allow the South African racist regime to retain in Namibia "during the transition period" part of its military force and all its police force as well as the whole administration

headed by the Administrator-General appointed by South Africa, etc. Furthermore, at present the gradual withdrawal of the South African racist regime's military forces from Namibia still remains a mere commitment in word and an agreement on paper, but not yet something real. The "proposal" of the five has not only failed to give support to the Namibian people's armed force, but has taken an unjust attitude in its approach. Under these circumstances, it is imperative to heighten one's vigilance a hundred-fold, and prevent the South African racists from manipulating the elections and carrying on sabotage, the Chinese representative stated.

Chen Chu said further that while China supports the second draft resolution, it must be pointed out that such wording in the draft resolution as "the initiation of steps necessary to ensure early reintegration of Walvis Bay into Namibia" is ambiguous. Consequently, China also has serious reservations in this regard. In its view, the Security Council must never allow the South African racist regime to use this for prolonging and perpetuating its forcible occupation of Walvis Bay. Chen Chu reaffirmed China's resolute support to the demand of the Namibian people for the immediate recovery of Walvis Bay.

VIETNAMESE VICE-FOREIGN
MINISTER

Fruitless Tour

Phan Hien went on a tour of Thailand, Japan, Singapore,

Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia from July 3 to 26. On this junket, the Vietnamese Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs tried his diplomatic best to deny that Viet Nam has put itself under the wing of the Soviet Union, that Viet Nam has committed aggression against Kampuchea and conducted anti-China activities and that Viet Nam plays the role of a "Cuba in Asia."

Shortly before Phan Hien's visit abroad, Viet Nam put forward a proposal to create "a zone of peace, genuine independence and neutrality" in Southeast Asia. An obvious attempt to replace the ASEAN idea of creating "a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality," this "new proposal" was seen at once for what it was worth — a manoeuvre. ASEAN diplomatic circles and public opinion questioned whether this proposal implied that the independence of some Southeast Asian nations was not genuine and called for "greater vigilance." As things were not moving in a direction they desired, the Vietnamese leaders hurriedly covered up their traces. During his visit to Thailand, Phan Hien, regardless of what was plainly a contradiction of a former statement, interpreted on July 25 the Vietnamese proposal as the formation of "a zone of peace, independence, freedom and neutrality." However, the more he quibbled, the more he was exposed. Officials and newspapers of the ASEAN member nations issued state-

ments and commentaries reaffirming the ASEAN concept of "a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality." Phan Hien's visit failed to produce any result.

During his stay in Japan, Phan Hien also revealed the change in Hanoi's former stand of fiercely attacking the "Japan-U.S. security treaty" and the Manila Declaration made last year by Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda. He said instead that Viet Nam highly evaluated the Japanese Prime Minister's Manila Declaration and had an "understanding" of the Japan-U.S. security treaty. However, while Phan Hien made these flattering statements, the Vietnamese paper *Guan Doi Nhan Dan* put out an article saying that Washington "attaches special importance to the role of Japan" in realizing its schemes in the Asian and Pacific region and that the "Japanese militarists also have their own fond dream for the future."

While in Japan, Phan Hien repeatedly indicated that Viet Nam was ready to hold negotiations with the United States on the normalization of relations at any time and place and without any preconditions. He also expressed the hope that Japan would mediate between Viet Nam and the United States.

AFRICA

Third Games in Algiers

The Third African Games, the biggest ever on the continent,

was held in Algiers between July 13 and 28. Over 3,000 participants, men and women, from 45 countries competed in 12 events, including track and field, swimming and ball games. The games was to promote friendship and understanding and make contributions towards the struggle for African unity and against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism.

The games reflected the rapid development of sports in Africa. Sixteen new records were set up and 25 records of the African games improved on. Tunisia, Nigeria and the host country Algeria did particularly well.

During the games, leaders of sports circles from some African countries stressed once again the need of setting up a new order for international sports. Africa, it was pointed out, has made swift progress in sports and men and women of great calibre in this field have been coming to the fore, and yet Africa does not have a say internationally on sports matters. A number of international sports organizations manipulated by the developed countries, the superpowers in particular, tend to deprive the African countries of their right to take part in this or that event. At the same time, they try to prevent African athletes from playing their role in international sports competition. This situation, it was again pointed out, must not be allowed to go on.

ON THE HOME FRONT

Home Market Picking Up

CHINA'S market has taken on a new look since the shattering of the "gang of four" in October 1976. Sales of books, stationery and goods in the more expensive categories have shot up.

In the first half of this year, 1,500 kinds of books on science and technology, totalling 5.77 million copies, were sold in Peking's Hsinhua Bookstores — an 85 per cent increase over the same period last year. Such a volume of transactions would have been inconceivable during the days when the "gang of four" was on the rampage.

Last May Day, more than 30 literary works which had been banned by the "gang of four" were made available; some of them were Chinese, others, translations of foreign books. Within one and a half months, over 6 million copies were sold in Peking.

Statistics of the Peking Stationery Company show that on the average a student now uses 21 notebooks a term whereas in 1965, the year before the Great Cultural Revolution, he needed only 11. In 1976 when there was serious interference by the "gang of four," a student used only 6.5 notebooks.

Customers have a greater variety of food, clothing and other consumer goods to choose from. In the first half of this year, Peking sold 200,000 embroidered dacron blouses, a 150 per cent increase over the same period last year. Not long ago the Peking Clothing Research Institute held spring-summer and autumn-winter

sample exhibitions. More than 500 styles for men, women and children were shown at the spring-summer exhibition and 80 patterns for blouses, shirts, pants, skirts and other women's garments were selected for manufacture.

Thanks to increased purchasing power, sales of TV sets all over China in the first six months of this year more than doubled those of the corresponding period last year; and sales of wristwatches, sewing machines and bicycles increased 40 per cent. Still the demand grows.

Statistics of the Ministry of Commerce show that in the first half of this year, volumes of purchases, sales and stocks were on the increase. Compared with the corresponding period last year, purchases increased by 22 per cent and sales by 11 per cent. The ministry says that activity on the home market is just beginning to pick up and development varies from place to place. The market will be more brisk as the economy develops.

Leading Cadres Study Science

IN order to speed up socialist modernization, all leading cadres at various levels in China are studying works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Chairman Mao's works, and also making great efforts to improve their knowledge of science and technology so that they can give more effective guidance in their work. The provincial Party committee and the provincial revolutionary committee of Anhwei have set

aside time on Fridays to study science.

Not long ago, Professor Chang Wen-yu, director of the High Energy Physics Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, was invited to give a lecture there. Many of the 4,000 people who attended the lecture were cadres over 60 or 70 years old who have been waging revolution for several decades. Comrade Wan Li, first secretary of the provincial Party committee, was among them.

The lectures, of which seven have already been held since mid-April, cover a wide range of subjects including agronomy, sources of energy, materials, electronic computers, lasers, space technology, high energy physics and genetic engineering.

Wan Li said that we are determined to end the backwardness of our country in science and culture in our generation. He called on the leading cadres to set an example in studying science and technology. Wang Jui-yun, 60-year-old director of the province's bureau of agriculture and forestry, said that continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat demands of us veteran cadres to be familiar with scientific knowledge. He paid great attention to the lectures, kept detailed notes and carefully reviewed the material in his spare time. He read widely on crop cultivation, plant protection and soil improvement.

The provincial commission of science and technology, the provincial bureau of metallurgy and 18 other units have been running foreign languages classes, evening schools and spare-time colleges according to

the needs of their own fields of work.

The province's industrial and communications departments have organized more than 200 of their leading cadres to visit laser projects, a controlled thermonuclear fusion project and large electronic computers in order to help them organize the scientific and technological courses which are related to their work.

Between last December and April of this year, 30 societies of natural sciences in the province, which were disbanded by the "gang of four," have restored their activities. Up to now, these societies have sponsored more than 160 lectures attended by a total audience of 40,000.

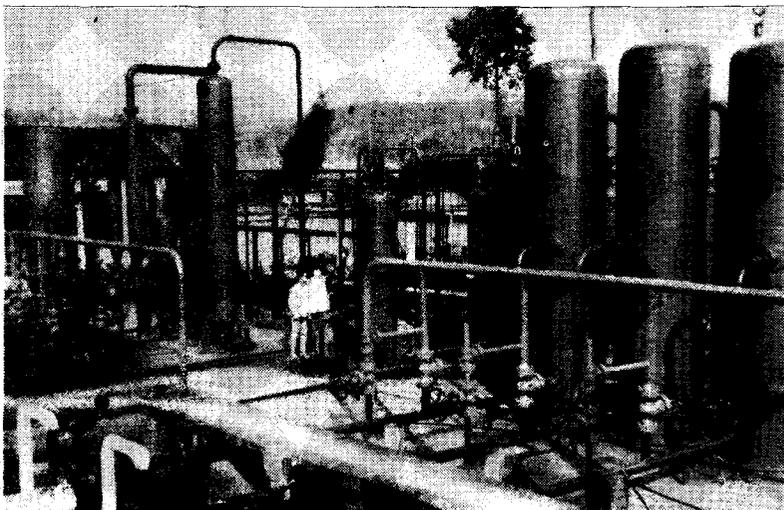
Natural Gasfields in Szechuan

THE daily output of natural gas in Luchow, southwest China, far exceeds the pre-liberation total annual output of the whole country.

Luchow is located in southern Szechuan Province where there are rich deposits of natural gas. Since 1956, dozens of natural gasfields have been found, hundreds of gas wells sunk, a group of storage and transporting stations built and dozens of gas pipelines laid there.

Although the people of this province used natural gas to refine salt more than 1,000 years ago, extraction and utilization of this energy resource on a large scale did not really begin until after the founding of New China. Now there are five natural gasfields in Szechuan, and Luchow gasfield is one of them.

Natural gas is transported through pipelines to other cities



A natural gas storage station in Szechuan.

to be used as raw material or fuel to produce chemical fertilizer and carbon black, or to generate electric power. It is used in iron and steel, machine-building, plastics, chemical fibre and rubber production. A 300-kilometre-long pipeline has been laid from Luchow to Chengtu, capital of Szechuan Province.

With the development of the gas industry, Luchow has set up a big chemical works with an annual production capacity of 400,000 tons of synthetic ammonia and 640,000 tons of urea. Two gas chemical works have been built in Kweichow and Yunnan Provinces to the southeast and southwest of Luchow.

Serve the People

Armless Technician. An electrician at the Taching Oilfield who lost both arms as a result of accidental contact with live electric wiring in 1976 has declined the leadership's offer to convalesce at home and insisted on returning to work.

During the 16 months since resuming work, 39-year-old Keng Yu-ting has not missed a single day or been late even once. He was with his fellow workers when they readjusted high-voltage power lines and equipment and gave them technical lessons. He was awarded the title of Model Technician.

During his long hospitalization, Keng made painful efforts to practise standing and walking in order to resume work as early as possible. After he was discharged from the hospital, the oilfield leadership requested his wife, a warehouse keeper in the oilfield, to stay at home to take care of him, with both of them on full pay. The couple declined the offer.

At first he tried to learn to write by holding a pen with his teeth, but the handle was too slippery, so his comrades made a special device out of organic glass for him. Holding this special pen in his mouth, he now can take notes, jot down scientific and technical information and draw charts.

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