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The Battle for Steel in 1959

CHINA will produce 18 million tons of steel this year. This is 7 million tons more than last year, and 1958 recorded a substantial gain of 5.65 million tons over 1957. Raising steel production by 7 million tons in a single year is no easy task. It indeed will be a remarkable event in the annals of steel production. Comparison with the expansion of the steel industry in the industrially developed capitalist countries is revealing.

According to official statistics, it took the United States six years to raise its steel output from 10.81 million tons in 1899 to 20.34 million tons in 1905. Germany spent seven years lifting its steel output from 11.13 million tons in 1906 up to 18.33 million tons in 1913. It took Britain seventeen years, from 1936 to 1953, to push up its steel output from 11.97 million tons to 17.89 million tons. France and Japan still remain far under the 18-million-ton mark.

New China fully appreciates the decisive importance of steel. Summing up the experience gained in 1958, the Sixth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party particularly underscored the policy of effecting an overall leap forward with steel as the key link. As is well known, every branch of the national economy is closely related to the steel industry. There can be no industrialization in any country unless an adequate production of steel is ensured.

Steel, moreover, has quite a lot to do with the advance of agriculture. The long-range fundamental problems confronting China’s agriculture are those of mechanization and electrification. It would be sheer folly to talk about mechanization and electrification of agriculture without an adequate supply of steel.

It can readily be seen that the policy of bringing about a great leap forward all along the line with the steel industry as the central link, is intended to ensure the planned, proportionate development of the different branches of the national economy at top speed. But that is only part of the story. In addition to the integrated giant modern steel mills, scores of medium-sized steel mills and hundreds of small steel works employing both modern and home-style methods of production are being built into a nationwide steel-making network. In this way a firm foundation will be laid for the rapid growth of China’s steel production in the years to come. The significance of turning out 18 million tons of steel this year transcends the material aspect. It illuminates the tremendous potentialities of China’s steel industry and its bright prospects.

Reports are pouring in from various provinces these days indicating that the battle for steel is picking up momentum. Special stress has been laid on stepping up the production of coke, iron ores, refractory materials and metallurgical equipment, all of which are urgently needed to ensure the realization of the 1959 steel plan.

The Chinese people are perfectly aware of the magnitude of the tasks involved in fulfilling this year’s steel target. But profiting by the experience of last year’s nationwide drive for steel, they are confident they are equal to the job.
ROUND THE WEEK

Peking Forum on C.P.S.U. Congress

Peking citizens of all walks of life gathered under the auspices of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association to discuss the achievements of the epoch-making 21st Extraordinary C.P.S.U. Congress. The meeting was presided over by Wu Yu-chang, one of the Association’s Vice-Presidents and a Central Committee member of the Chinese Communist Party, and was attended by leading figures of the democratic parties and mass organizations, by workers and peasants, writers and scientists and members of the People’s Liberation Army.

Wu Yu-chang expressed the view that the Congress will accelerate the building of communism in the Soviet Union and will make an important contribution to developing the international communist movement and strengthening the forces of peace in the world. He said that the rejoicing up and down this country in the last few days testified to the flesh-and-blood ties of friendship and solidarity between the peoples of China and the Soviet Union.

From their varied experiences and backgrounds the speakers discussed the significance of the Congress and the meaning of the Soviet economic development plan for 1959-65 as they understood them. But one and all stressed the need for learning from the Soviet Union. Liu Chang-sheng, who spoke for the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, said that the Chinese workers must seriously learn from their Soviet colleagues and strive to overfulfil the state production plan for 1959. Shao Li-tse, a prominent member of the Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang, stated that the Soviet Seven-Year Plan may be likened to a political cosmic rocket, although its significance cannot be measured just in figures. He said a bigger and better effort must be made to learn more from the Soviet Union to benefit China’s socialist construction.

Many of the speakers condemned the activities of the imperialists and revisionists who have been trying to slander the socialist camp and undermine the solidarity of the socialist countries, especially the solidarity between China and the Soviet Union. Li Teh-chuan, a Vice-President of the National Women’s Federation, said that the Soviet Union and China and indeed all other socialist countries are closely united by Marxism-Leninism. China and the Soviet Union have a common destiny and identical interests. Try as they might, the U.S. imperialists and the Yugoslav modern revisionists would never succeed in sowing dissension between China and the Soviet Union, she declared.

Past Industrial Records Topped

Last week we presented a preliminary round-up of the continuing boom of China’s industry. As we go to press this week, the figures of the State Statistical Bureau are available for a fuller picture of the impressive progress registered in the opening month of 1959.

The rate of increase of China’s industrial production and the percentage of capital construction completed in January have broken all previous records. Industrial output value (not including the handicraft industries and the local industries run by the people’s communes) showed an increase of 93 per cent as compared with January 1958.

According to statistics for only 20 provinces and cities, 31.7 per cent of the capital construction planned for the first quarter of the year was completed in January. This is 160 per cent higher than the results achieved during the same period last year.

The transport services did well too, carrying 87 per cent more goods than in January 1958. Goods trains carried 51 per cent more than last year, and water and highway transport carried about 100 per cent more.

Coke for Steel

In this year’s battle for 18 million tons of steel China must produce more and better coke, iron ore and other metallurgical materials, but coke is decisive at this stage. This was the conclusion of the recent national conference on the iron and steel industry in Peking. The conference called on the entire industry to concentrate all available resources to solve this problem in the first quarter of the year.

Upping coke production is the first important hurdle in the steel race. In quantity alone, China needs twice as much coke this year as in 1958 to raise the production of steel from last year’s 11 million tons to this year’s 18-million-ton target. To get more coke, the potentiality of the existing large modern coke ovens must be fully tapped, but this in itself will not suffice, and not enough new, large coke ovens can be constructed in time.

So, in the drive for more and better coke, it is necessary to launch a campaign for the building of what can be described as “simplified coke oven batteries” alongside the construction of large coke ovens. These “simplified coke oven batteries” have very marked advantages: while they are similar in some ways to the large, modern, mechanized coke ovens, they require a much smaller investment. much less equipment and materials, are easy to operate and can be built in 20 or at most 30 days. All iron and steel works in the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions are now directed not only to have these new types of coke ovens built but commissioned in the next two months.

Another problem, almost as urgent as coke production, is coal dressing. Present coal-dressing capacity is far from adequate to meet the growing needs. As

At a Shanghai steel plant Sketch by Sun T-shih

with coke production, the solution is seen in the building of “simplified coal-dressing plants,” in addition to tapping the potentialities of existing plants and the construction of new ones. These, too, are to be built and commissioned before the end of March, so as to guarantee that the needs of iron smelting will be fully met.

Expanding Coal Output

Expanding its coal-dressing capacity is but one of the measures taken by the coal industry to play its part to the full in the industrial big leap forward this year. The overall target of China’s coal miners is to produce 380 million tons of coal in 1959, which is about 110 million tons more than last year. Most of this will come from the major and medium
coal pits, the backbone of China's coal industry.

The chief way to shoot the national output figure up to 380 million tons is to raise the output capacity of each coal face of the existing coal pits, and to popularize the high output experiences of certain collieries, such as the Tanotsuo coal-mines in Honan Province and the Kailun and Fengfeng coal-mines in Hopei Province.

But a step of great importance for the metallurgical industry and other industries south of the Yangtze is the decision to build new coal centres in south China. This will change the uneven distribution of the coal supplying centres which now lie mainly in north China. It will enable the various economically coordinated areas to be self-sufficient in coal supplies and eliminate the need to send coal from the north to the south. The new coal centres to be constructed include Fengcheng in Kiangsi Province, Fuchi in Hupeh Province and Nanling in Kwangtung Province, all of which bid fair to be rich coalfields. The quality of the coal deposits in these southern provinces has been found to be high too and most of the coal can be used to make coke, which is an added advantage to the development of the iron and steel industry in south China.

Second Year of Xiafang

While many xiafang cadres (assigned to work at the grass-roots levels) are returning to their posts after a spell of work in the countryside, city desk workers in large numbers have also been moving in the opposite direction since January. This is the continuation of the xiafang policy initiated last year, of providing opportunities for office workers to go in rotation to temper themselves in productive labour on the farms, in the factories, or at the offices of local administration. Quite a few are from central government offices but the great majority of them are from the province government bodies and Communist Party organs.

Shantung Province, on the east coast, has sent by far the largest number of people to the grass-roots levels this year, all for a short period of time. Quite a few of them are in positions of leadership and a good number of them are from scientific organizations, hospitals or the press. While in the countryside they work, eat and live with the people, doing their share of physical work and helping the people's communes to review their work, consolidate their growth, streamline their organization and map out development plans. Those who have the ability and experience will take part in the work of the communes' leading organs.

Whereas the xiafang of last year was in most cases for twelve-month periods, this year the time varies from province to province. Hunan Province, for example, will keep its cadres at the grass-roots till after the autumn harvest, while neighbouring Hupeh Province has fixed the length of xiafang for its cadres as follows: some for six months or more, some for a month, and some for a still shorter period of time. The latter involves mostly leading cadres who must go down to the countryside to work and live for a short time to see how they can best meet the needs of the communes in their development.

From the experience of last year, it is clear that the xiafang cadres have done a good job in bringing the leadership and the masses closer together in the countryside and by their efforts and example have given impetus to the "great leap forward," not to mention the great benefits accruing to themselves.

Schools on Wheels

Chengchow, the railway hub in Honan Province, proves that busy as they are, locomotive drivers, stokers, train conductors, mechanics, in fact, all railwaymen working on the trains or at the depots and workshops can take up some kind of study to improve their education. In the last two months, the Chengchow Railway Bureau, which administrates 300 kilometres of the Lunghai Railway, set up some 40 part-time schools for its staff. These consist of primary and secondary schools and even special courses corresponding to university levels. At present more than 97 per cent of its staff are studying at these schools. The older workers mostly study the Chinese language, while the younger workers go in for technical courses.

Because working hours vary, instruction takes various forms and is given at different hours of the day. Sometimes work and study are so arranged that the railwaymen work four days at a stretch and then assemble at a certain point on the railway line to concentrate on two days of study. For the locomotive drivers, train conductors and stokers, the teachers go along on the trains to give them lessons during their spare hours.

In carrying out its spare-time educational schemes, Chengchow makes a point of integrating work with education. The depot heads and station masters thus become school principals, and work section-chefs become student group leaders respectively. With work and education well integrated, normal work and time-tables have not suffered and the workers have been able to make great cultural gains.

In a Multi-national Chou

Tengchuan is one of the counties of the Tai Lai Autonomous Chou in multinational Yunnan Province, southwest China. A chou is an administrative division between a province and a county and the word "Pai" stands for the Pai people, one of the six major nationalities in Yunnan.

It got into the headlines of the national press recently for its success in harmonizing the interests of its various nationalities in the people's communes.

Tengchuan County has a population of some 68,000—Pais, Hans, Huis, Yis, Taish, and Tibetans, with the Pais accounting for more than half of the grand total. The Pais, Hans, Huis and most of the other nationalities inhabit the plains while the Yis live in the mountain areas. Till recently there was one economy in the plains and another in the mountain areas.

In October last year, the people of the various nationalities came together and formed two people's communes by merging their 34 farm co-ops. Each of the two communes now has both plains and mountain areas, and has to look after a mixed economy. At the time of their establishment the communes had to gather in the autumn harvest, proceed with the autumn sowing and on top of that divert part of the manpower to steel-making. All this added up to much more work than in 1957, so there was a shortage of manpower.

The county Communist Party organization and the commune leadership tackled this by taking the labour force of both the plains and the mountain areas as a whole and organizing them accordingly. There was no more barrier between the two economies. The Yis, with the help of commune members of the Pai nationality, concentrated on felling timber and picking potatoes. Some of these products were sent to satisfy the needs of the plains people, while those living on the flat-lands went for the autumn harvest and sowing and pressed on with the tools innovation campaign which was then sweeping all parts of the country.

In this way, the village blacksmiths and carpenters and the peasants of the Han, Pai and Hui nationalities got a steady supply of timber and they succeeded in producing the much-needed new farm tools, wheel-barrows and animal-drawn carts. The Yis sent over a million jin of potatoes down to the valley while the people on the plains furnished the mountain folk with a similar amount of rice.

The communes have united the various nationalities as never before and laid the basis for still greater common efforts and mutual economic development this year.
Sino-Soviet Unity Is Indestructible

Following is an abridged translation of a "Renmin Ribao" (People's Daily) editorial published on February 14, 1959.—Ed.

Today we Chinese people, with deep feelings, warmly celebrate the ninth anniversary of the signing of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance. The great alliance between China and the Soviet Union, which stems from this treaty, has a vast and far-reaching influence on the course of contemporary historical progress. Way back when this treaty was concluded, Comrade Mao Tse-tung pointed out: "Everybody sees that the unity of the peoples of the two great countries, China and the Soviet Union, sealed by the treaty, will be lasting and indestructible and no one can split it. This unity will inevitably contribute not only to the prosperity of the two great countries—China and the Soviet Union—but also to the future of all mankind and the victory of peace and justice throughout the world." History has already borne out, and will continue to bear out, how correct this assertion is.

China and the Soviet Union are two big countries, with common borders. The two countries are inhabited by more than 800 million people, brave and industrious people who constitute nearly one-third of the population of the world. Our two countries cover a vast expanse of land and have immensely rich resources. Pursuing the common road opened up by theGreat October Socialist Revolution, China and the Soviet Union have won brilliant achievements in their construction.

The great principle of proletarian internationalism has been the firm foundation of the unity and friendship between our two countries. Our two countries are closely tied together by common interests and common ideals. During the past nine years, China and the Soviet Union have supported each other and co-operated closely in international affairs and in construction at home. Their fraternal unity has grown steadily. This is in full conformity with the greatest interest of the Chinese and Soviet peoples. It is the most important guarantee of the security and construction of our two countries. It is also the most important guarantee for the consolidation and strengthening of the socialist camp.

The friendship, alliance and firm unity between China and the Soviet Union constitute the most reliable pillar upholding the struggle against aggression and in defense of world peace. Barely a year had passed since the founding of the People's Republic of China when U.S. imperialism launched the war of aggression against Korea and, at the same time, invaded and occupied China's territory, Taiwan. The Chinese people sent their Volunteers to Korea who joined with the Korean people and, with vigorous support from the Soviet Union, together smashed the aggressive scheme of the United States and realized peace in Korea. In 1954, China and the Soviet Union again pooled their efforts in support of the aspirations of the peoples of Indo-China for independence and peace and facilitated the signing of the Geneva Agreements which restored peace in Indo-China. In 1956, imperialism instigated the counter-revolutionary riots in Hungary in a frantic attempt to reinstate capitalism in that country. The Hungarian people, with the all-out support of China, the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, crushed the subversive plots of the reactionaries both at home and abroad. The autumn of 1958 witnessed U.S. imperialism's military provocations and war threats against our country in the Taiwan Straits area. The Chinese people, solidly backed by the Soviet Union and the other fraternal countries and with the support of the various peace-loving countries and peoples, foiled the aggressive plans of U.S. imperialism. People have come to see clearly that during the past few years, whenever imperialism unleashed aggressive war against countries and peoples in Asia and Africa, embarked on armed intervention or subversion against them, seriously menacing the peace of the world, the Soviet and Chinese peoples, each and every time, stood resolutely on the side of the nations and peoples struggling resolutely for their national independence and supported them against imperialist aggression and intervention. Thus, the whole series of imperialist aggressive acts—their war of aggression against Egypt, their subversive scheme against Syria, their support of the rebel gang in Indonesia, their armed invasion of Lebanon and Jordan, and their wild attempts to strangle the revolution of the Iraqi people—have all been powerfully rebuffed. The peoples of these countries, with the support of China and the Soviet Union, the other socialist countries, the peace-loving countries in Asia and Africa and all the people of the world who cherish peace, have reduced the aggressive schemes of the imperialists to ignominious defeat.

The complete unanimity of views between China and the Soviet Union on strengthening the relations of friendship, alliance and mutual assistance between them and on their common struggle to settle international questions peacefully and safeguard world peace, was fully expressed in the communiqué on the meeting between Comrades Mao Tse-tung and N.S. Khrushchov held at the end of July and the beginning of August last year. The communiqué stated that China and the Soviet Union firmly support the national independence movements of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America; that they will continue to do their utmost in working for the easing of international tension and the prevention of the disaster of a new war; that they are determined to continue the efforts to develop their all-round co-operation, to strengthen
further the solidarity of the socialist camp and their solidarity with all other peace-loving countries and peoples; that the Communist Parties of China and the Soviet Union will spare no effort to uphold their solidarity, to safeguard the purity of Marxism-Leninism, to uphold the principles of the Moscow Declarations of the Communist and Workers' Parties of the various countries and wage uncompromising struggle against revisionism. All these are diametrically opposed to the desires of the imperialists and revisionists. The imperialists and revisionists stand in greatest fear of the close unity of, and the common struggle waged by, the two great allies, China and the Soviet Union. They are resorting to all sorts of tricks in an attempt to undermine this unity. Their despicable scheme, however, received a telling blow from the report of Comrade Khrushchov at the 21st Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union which closed a few days ago, as well as from the message of greetings to the Congress signed by Comrade Mao Tse-tung and the speech delivered there by Comrade Chou En-lai.

Today's celebration of the ninth anniversary of the signing of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance quite naturally reminds us Chinese people of the great, selfless help the Soviet Government and people have given to our construction in China. According to the agreements signed during China's First Five-Year Plan, the Soviet Union undertook to help China build 211 huge projects. In August 1958, the two countries signed another agreement on Soviet aid to build or expand another 47 Chinese industrial enterprises. All of these enterprises form the spine of China's construction. To help us build these enterprises, the Soviet Union has given us selfless help ranging from collecting data for the construction of factories, prospecting, selection of factory sites, designing, supplying equipment, advising in actual construction, installation and operation, training personnel, supplying technical data and blueprints, down to the manufacture of new products. The construction of these enterprises played a decisive part in laying the foundation of our country's industrialization during the First Five-Year Plan. They not only raised China's industrial production greatly and enabled us to turn out many products which we were not able to produce in the past, but also helped us train and develop a huge army of technicians. Soviet aid to China's economic construction, both in quantity and scope, is unprecedented in history. We Chinese people have always regarded Soviet aid as one of the important factors that make rapid progress in our country possible. As the communique of the Sixth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party pointed out: "The achievements in economic construction in our country are inseparably linked with the assistance of the Soviet Union and other fraternal countries."

Following friendly negotiations between the leaders of the Soviet Union and China, an agreement on the expansion of economic co-operation between the two countries was concluded on February 7. This is a further development of the friendly co-operation between our two countries. The new industrial enterprises which the Soviet Union is helping us build are all key productive units in the heavy industry branches of our construction. They include giant, technically advanced iron and steel complexes with an annual capacity of several million tons, thermoelectric power plants which help China increase its power output rapidly, giant open-cast collieries, and factories producing extra-heavy type machinery, etc. All of these enterprises, 78 in number, are of the kind which China finds it difficult to build entirely on its own in its present technological state. With the completion of these enterprises, the backbone of China's modern industries will be further strengthened and China will gain time and accelerate the fulfillment of the great task of developing its national economy.

The new Soviet aid to our economic construction is another living example of the lofty spirit of internationalism of the Soviet people and of their genuine friendship for our brother countries. As everyone knows, the recent 21st Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union adopted the Seven-Year (1959-1965) Plan for development of the Soviet national economy. To realize this unprecedentedly great plan, the Soviet Union is confronted with very urgent demands for large investments of capital, equipment and technical forces. The Soviet Union has undertaken the extension of aid to our country at a time when it has quite a heavy task to fulfill in its domestic construction. Nor is this all: Comrade Khrushchov also said at the 21st Congress of the C.P.S.U. that the Soviet Union would, during the Seven-Year Plan, continue to give both economic and technical aid to all the brother countries. The Sino-Soviet agreement on the expansion of economic co-operation forcefully demonstrates that the Soviet Union considers the promotion of the economic development of all the brother countries as its own cause, that it will continue to exert its untiring efforts to bring about a common economic upsurge in all the countries of the socialist camp. The Chinese people express their heartfelt thanks for the great and selfless aid given us by the Soviet Union.

In our hearty celebration of the ninth anniversary of the signing of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance, we Chinese people are
striving to bring about a new, great leap forward in 1959 on the basis of last year's great leap forward. We shall continue our efforts to learn from the advanced experience acquired by the Soviet Union, to achieve still greater, quicker, better and more economical results in building socialism, and further strengthen the friendship, solidarity, mutual aid and co-operation between China and the Soviet Union. We Chinese people will always stand shoulder to shoulder with the Soviet people and carry on to the end the struggle for strengthening the power and unity of the world socialist system, headed by the Soviet Union, and for the cause of world peace and socialism.

Peace and Socialism Will Triumph

Following is the second of two editorials published in "Renmin Ribao" on the 21st Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The first appeared on February 5 and was published in the previous issue of "Peking Review" and the second, which we now present in translation, appeared on February 8, 1959.—Ed.

THE Twenty-first (Extraordinary) Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which was the focus of world attention, concluded triumphantly on February 5. The significance of the Congress goes far beyond the boundaries of the Soviet Union. It has not only shown progressive mankind the happy road leading to communism but also unfolded before all peace-loving people a bright perspective for preserving lasting world peace.

The Seven-Year Plan adopted by the 21st Congress is a plan for the all-out construction of a communist society; it is also a programme of decisive significance for peaceful economic competition between socialism and capitalism. In his concluding speech at the Congress, Comrade N.S. Khrushchov said: "We want to compete with the capitalist countries in peaceful fields — the development of the productive forces, of the country's economic potential, and the improvement of the material and cultural welfare of the people." In its peaceful competition with the capitalist countries, the Soviet Union aims within seven years to surpass or come close to the present level of the United States in the absolute output of the main industrial products, and in another five years or a still shorter period of time, to surpass the United States and lead the world in both absolute output and per-capita output of industrial products.

The coming into effect of the Soviet Seven-Year Plan signifies that economic competition between the Soviet Union and the United States, between the world socialist system and the world capitalist system, has entered a new and decisive stage. Although the world socialist system, which includes the Soviet Union, the most powerful socialist country, today embraces less than one-third of the world's population, its industrial output comes to more than one-third of the world's total and its grain output accounts for nearly one-half of the world's total. With the fulfilment of the Soviet Seven-Year Plan and the high-speed economic development of the other socialist countries, the industrial output of the world socialist system, according to estimates of economists, will be more than half of the world's total. That is to say, the socialist camp which has already attained superiority in terms of popular support, size of population, rate of economic development and development of the newest sciences and technique, will by that time have left the imperialist camp behind in the level of material production. The history of mankind will then have reached a new, fundamental turning point.

In the face of the Soviet plan for peaceful competition, the imperialist camp headed by the United States is now finding it more and more difficult to conceal its panic. Some bourgeois spokesmen in the United States at first denied the reality of the Soviet Seven-Year Plan completely. When they obviously failed to deceive people in this way, some "economists" and "statisticians" played on the theme that the Soviet figures were "exaggerated" while the U.S. figures were "minimized." They hastened to "compile statistics anew," in an effort to prove that "free enterprise" was far superior to socialism. Those in the West who are more sober-minded, however, are not content with utterances like these made in self-consolation. They admit that the Soviet plan will be fulfilled as scheduled and even say that the Soviet Union has somewhat overestimated the rate of development in the United States. Clearly enough, if "free enterprise" is really superior to socialism, why are the imperialist countries afraid of competing peacefully with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries? Why can "free enterprise" beat socialism completely in the competition?

We socialist countries are profoundly convinced of the superiority of our system and of our victory over capitalism in peaceful competition. In the coming seven years, assuming that the industrial production of the various socialist countries maintains the rate of an annual average increase of 11 per cent, as in the past five years, if not higher, and that the capitalist countries also maintain an annual average rate of increase of 3 per cent, as in the past five years, if not lower, then the socialist world will unquestionably surpass the capitalist world.

The socialist countries favour peaceful competition because we have complete confidence in the future, and, more important, because our countries have no aim but to develop production and satisfy the people's constantly growing needs as quickly as possible and to the greatest possible extent. It is fundamentally impossible under any circumstances for socialist countries to encroach on other countries or to interfere in their internal affairs. On the contrary, the socialist countries pursue a peaceful foreign policy, favour peaceful coexistence of countries.
with different social systems and observe the principles of peaceful coexistence. Just as Comrade Khrushchov declared in his concluding speech, "We hold the point of view that the peoples must live in peace irrespective of the social system of their countries and that the issues arising between states must be settled peacefully and not by war."

The views advanced by Comrade Khrushchov in his report on the peaceful solution of a series of pressing problems in current international relations not only represent the will of the Soviet people to safeguard world peace but also reflect the common aspirations of the people of the socialist countries. The Soviet Seven-Year Plan and the reports and speeches delivered at the 21st Congress have most distinctly demonstrated the sincere desire of the Soviet Union for the relaxation of international tension. Comrade Khrushchov especially stressed the urgent necessity for concluding a German peace treaty because it is an important key to European and world peace. He also proposed that a zone of peace covering the Far East and the whole Pacific region be established; that the U.S. end its aggressive policy against China and other peace-loving countries; that the disarmament deadlock be broken, with the big powers concerned reaching agreements on the permanent suspension of the testing, manufacture and use of atomic, hydrogen and rocket weapons; that international trade be widely expanded, etc. All these constructive proposals will undoubtedly be approved by people who truly cherish world peace and social progress. In his report Comrade Khrushchov sincerely expressed the friendship of the socialist countries towards those Asian and African countries which have recently won their national independence. Starting from this friendship, he pointed out the need for all anti-imperialist forces to strengthen their unity and to prevent this unity from being sabotaged by imperialist conspirators. All sincere and far-sighted patriots in the Asian, African and Latin American national independence movements will not ignore the great significance of this advice.

Both Comrade Khrushchov and Comrade Mikoyan, who just visited the United States, spoke on the question of improving relations between the two powers, the Soviet Union and the United States. The latest efforts of the Soviet Government in this respect conform with the aspirations of those who cherish peace. It seems that the group in power in the United States is following a double-faced policy. On the one hand, under pressure from broad sections of the people within the U.S., it had to profess to Mikoyan willingness to end the cold war. On the other hand, as soon as Mikoyan left the United States, it launched a campaign against ending the cold war. It is obvious that this group is not prepared to change the U.S. policy of foreign expansion which has been the root cause of international tension in the thirteen years since the close of World War II. To this day the United States is still occupying by force hundreds of military bases throughout the world and is doing everything possible to foster the militarist forces of West Germany and Japan. In Asia, the United States has occupied the Chinese territory of Taiwan and persisted in a policy of hostility towards the Chinese people, creating tension in the Far East. U.S. forces are stubbornly hanging on in south Korea and obstructing the peaceful unification of Korea. South Viet-nam, under U.S. control, undermines the Geneva Agreements, threatens the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam and oppresses a country like Cambodia which resolutely pursues a policy of peace and neutrality. In the Near and Middle East, the United States, after suffering defeat in its aggression against Lebanon, intensified its activities to undermine the unity of the Arab states. The spearhead of its aggression and subversive activities is still directed against the Iraqi Republic. Meanwhile it is actively negotiating with Turkey, Iran and Pakistan for the signing of bilateral military agreements to compensate for the bankruptcy of the Baghdad Pact. The U.S. and other imperialists are carryng out sanguinary suppression, sabotage and interference against the daily rising national liberation movements of Asia, Africa and Latin America. An example of this is the recent impertinent interference by the U.S. in the internal affairs of Cuba.

But whatever the subjective wishes of the U.S. ruling circles might be, the cries against continuation of the cold war and the demand for a relaxation of international tension are becoming ever louder, and the forces defending peace and opposing war are growing ever stronger. The socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union is the powerful bulwark of peace. Together with the socialist countries are many peace-loving countries, the international working class and its vanguard—the Communist Parties, the national liberation movements of the colonies and semi-colonies and the mass peace movements in all countries throughout the world. All these form a gigantic force in defence of world peace. Because this gigantic peace force exists, the realistic possibility of preventing imperialism from launching a new war has increased. When the Soviet Union's Seven-Year Plan is carried out and as the other socialist countries develop their economies rapidly, after the level of industrial production of the socialist world outstrips that of the capitalist world, it will be still more difficult, or even impossible, for imperialism to start a world war. This prospect will greatly inspire the struggle of the peoples of all countries in defence of peace. But while imperialism has not yet been forced to give up its war schemes, those who cherish peace must never lower their vigilance in the least but must be prepared at all times to destroy completely the desperate adventures of the war maniacs. As Comrade Khrushchov put it, as long as capitalism exists, you will always find people who "against all the dictates of reason" will be ready to rush into some hopeless enterprise. However, in this way they will only hasten the end of the capitalist system. Any attempt at aggression, he went on, will be smashed and the adventurists will find themselves where they deserve to be.

Up to now, the die-hard clique in the imperialist camp has not yet changed its stand of unmitigated hatred for the pillar of world peace—the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union. There are some idiots who, having found that there is no other way out, place their hopes on so-called "changes," "instability," "differences" and "confusion" within the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. But, contrary to their wishful thinking, the 21st Congress showed the unprecedented unity of the Soviet Communist Party. The anti-Party group was completely repudiated and crushed. The 21st Congress also effectively showed once again the unity of all the coun-
tries in the socialist camp and of the international communist movement.

In his report and his concluding speech, Comrade Khrushchov dealt a heavy blow to the despicable trick played by the imperialists and the Yugoslav revisionists in trying to sow discord in the international communist movement and among the various countries of the socialist camp. The imperialists, the Yugoslav revisionists in particular, attempted to use the "socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union" as its ground for attack that all Communist Parties "tail" after Moscow and for slanders to the effect that the Soviet Communist Party "controls" all other Communist Parties. Such nonsense means nothing to Communists. All true Communists sincerely respect the Communist Party of the Soviet Union—the first shock brigade of the international proletariat to break the fetters of international capitalism. It is the Party which led the proletariat of Russia to carry out the first successful socialist revolution and set up the first socialist country without class exploitation in the history of mankind; it is the Party of the economically best developed and most powerful socialist country in the socialist camp; it is the Party which has accumulated the richest experience in revolution and construction and passed many tests; again it is the first Party which today is scaling the heights of communism. Only the enemies of the proletariat and the renegades from Marxism-Leninism, having ulterior motives, will set this role of the Soviet Communist Party as the vanguard, as the core of the unity in the international communist movement, against the equal and independent relations among the Communist Parties of all countries. The slander directed against the Soviet Communist Party in this respect by the Tito clique of Yugoslavia serves precisely to show up in full clarity its own ugly face in betraying proletarian internationalism.

It is not strange at all that the imperialists and the Yugoslav revisionists exert all their efforts to seek and create imaginary "differences" between the Chinese Communist Party and the Soviet Communist Party. They know that the unity of these two Parties and countries is the most powerful bulwark of the solidarity of the socialist camp and of world peace. But all these efforts by the enemy are futile. As the message of greetings to the 21st Congress of the C.P.S.U. signed by Comrade Mao Tse-tung said: "Although the imperialists and modern revisionists are still playing the underhand game of attempting to undermine the internationalist unity of the proletariat, this game will certainly meet, as before, with shameful failure." We Chinese Communists treasure the unity and friendship between the Chinese and the Soviet Parties and between China and the Soviet Union as the apple of our eye. It is the sacred internationalist obligation of us Chinese Communists and all the Chinese people to defend and continuously strengthen this unity and friendship. The firm solidarity and close friendship between our two Parties and countries are unbreakable.

The solidarity of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union and the solidarity of the international communist movement with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union as its core have been further strengthened since the Moscow conference of representatives of Communist and Workers' Parties of various countries in November 1957. The Declaration of this conference has become the charter of the international solidarity of the Communists. The more the Yugoslav revisionists attack the principles of the Declaration of the Moscow conference, the more clear-cut becomes the dividing line between Marxist-Leninists and the revisionists. Comrade Khrushchov pointed out in his report that the main difference between Marxists and revisionists lay in safeguarding and strengthening class unity in opposition to capitalism, and in work for the liberation of the working class and the building of socialism. It is now clear to people that the intensive struggle against revisionism has not weakened the cause of the international working class but further strengthened it.

In its fight against modern revisionism, the international communist movement has safeguarded the purity of Marxism-Leninism and has strengthened its own solidarity to an unprecedented extent. Speeches by delegates from fraternal Parties at the 21st Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union expressed vividly the monolithic solidarity between the Communists and the working class of various countries on the one hand and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet people on the other hand. The speeches also expressed their determination and confidence in the fight for peace, national independence and socialism. More than a hundred years ago, when Marx and Engels jointly wrote the Communist Manifesto, communism was regarded as a "spectre" haunting Europe. Today, communism has grown into the giant of the times and the greatest gospel of mankind. Now the Communist Parties and Workers' Parties in 83 countries of the world represent a powerful force with their 33 million members. The 21st Congress of the C.P.S.U. will inspire Communists throughout the world to consolidate further the solidarity of the international communist movement, strengthen their ties with the masses, smash thoroughly the intrigues of the imperialists and their lackeys, and work for the still greater victory of peace and socialism.

Let us raise high the banner of victory—the banner of peace and socialism—and march on!

In Refutation of Modern Revisionism

A collection of major articles and editorials from the Chinese press criticizing and repudiating modern revisionism that finds concentrated expression in the Programme of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia. Also included is the Resolution on the Moscow Meetings of the Communist and Workers' Parties adopted by the Second Session of the Eighth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party. 92 pp.

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Sino-Soviet Scientific and Technical Co-operation

by CHEN PING

The signing of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance nine years ago was an historic event of great significance. Since then mutual aid and co-operation between the Soviet Union and China has flourished, cementing the fraternal friendship and contributing to the common prosperity of the national economies of the two countries.

Among the varied types of co-operation, technical and scientific co-operation occupies an important place. The Sino-Soviet Agreement on Scientific and Technical Co-operation concluded in October 1954 marked the beginning of planned, long-term co-operation in this field. Under its terms, the Joint Commission of Scientific and Technical Co-operation was set up and a protocol signed by the Academies of Sciences and Academies of Agricultural Sciences of the two countries in December 1957 for direct co-operation.

The scope of technical and scientific co-operation has grown tremendously over the years. From the exchange of technical data it has developed to include exchange of experts and the holding of joint conferences to exchange experiences. At the same time, co-operation on a more direct basis has been introduced. While the major projects are still being handled by the Joint Commission, scientific research institutes of the two countries are also making direct contacts for co-operation.

Soviet Aid to China

Soviet aid to China in the form of scientific and technical co-operation has been great. Much of it has been carried out through the systematic aid the Soviet Union has given to China in the construction of 156 enterprises which was later increased to 211. The U.S.S.R. has also sent to China many experienced experts to give technical assistance and help train large numbers of Chinese engineering, technical and scientific research personnel.

Thanks to this Soviet aid, China has received a wealth of data for capital construction designing, thousands of blueprints for the manufacture of machinery and equipment and data for industrial production. By making use of Soviet experience in production and its scientific and technical achievements, China has been able to solve many technical problems in a relatively short period of time with relatively small resources of technical personnel—without this aid it would have taken China a long time to solve the problems involved by the tedious process of trial and error. Thus China was able, during the First Five-Year Plan (1953-57), to acquire the technical know-how to make many new types of steel products, many heat-resistant and strong alloy steels, and to produce machinery and equipment of the latest types, thereby greatly stepping up the country's industrialization.

Technical help from the Soviet Union proved to be particularly valuable during 1958, when China turned to socialist construction at top speed, striving for an all-round big leap forward in industrial and agricultural production and the development of science and technique.

For example, China made tremendous progress in its iron and steel industry last year. Annual steel output jumped from 5.33 million tons in 1957 to over 11 million tons in 1958. In this extremely fast development of the iron and steel industry, constant technical renovations were necessary. Basing themselves on the latest Soviet experience, Chinese steel makers have raised their efficiency greatly. In designing and constructing its own giant blast furnaces, which play an important role in increasing steel-producing capacity, China has received reference data mainly from the Soviet Union. In much the same way, China has been benefiting from Soviet data for the manufacture of metallurgical equipment and the making of alloy steel.

Since China started its economic construction and particularly during the past year of the great leap forward, its growing engineering and other industries had to manufacture a host of products which China never made before. The technical problems involved were numerous and often quite knotty. Yet in the process of trial production, these difficulties were quickly overcome thanks in part to technical help from the Soviet Union.

A good example of this was the launching of a 10,000-ton ocean-going cargo ship last November. Built by the Talien (Dairen) Shipyard in two months (from the laying of keel to launching), this was quite an engineering feat for China's young shipbuilding industry. As China had no previous experience in building a cargo ship of this size, the technical difficulties in designing were tremendous. The Soviet Union received Chinese designers and engineers in its dockyards and provided China with invaluable data for designing such a ship.

Aid as such covers a wide field and is enormous in quantity. China has received from the Soviet Union aid of different sorts in all fields, from heavy and light industries to agriculture, from forestry and water conservancy to medicine and public health.
New Sino-Soviet Economic-Technical Agreement

A new agreement for extension of economic and technical co-operation between China and the Soviet Union was signed in Moscow on February 7 by Premier Chou En-lai and Chairman of the Council of Ministers N.S. Khrushchev.

The agreement follows on negotiations between the two governments during which they exchanged views on economic questions of mutual interest. Both agreed that the further expansion of their economic and technical co-operation would contribute to the successful realization of China's great work in developing her national economy and further consolidate the unity and strength of the socialist camp.

Under the agreement, China and the Soviet Union will co-operate in the period from 1959 to 1967 in China's construction of 78 giant industrial enterprises in the metallurgical, chemical, coal, petroleum, machine-building, electrical machinery, radio, building materials and other industries and power stations.

The Soviet Union will help with research and designing services based on the most up-to-date Soviet scientific and technical achievements, supply equipment, apparatus and certain specified materials and send Soviet experts to the enterprises to assist in the work of building, assembling and adjusting equipment, and launching the plants. Chinese experts and workers will be received for production and technical practice in various enterprises in the Soviet Union.

China's achievements in developing her national economy, particularly in expanding her machine-building industry and training skilled engineering and technical personnel, permit her to rely on herself in manufacturing the major part of the accessory equipment needed for the enterprises named in the agreement and undertaking the work of surveying, prospecting and designing in connection with certain of these enterprises.

This agreement provides, as did previous agreements, that the Soviet Union will transfer to China gratis the patent rights to products manufactured by these enterprises and will supply the necessary technical data to facilitate the organization of production and manufacture by China of the necessary accessory equipment.

The total value of the equipment to be supplied and the designing and other kinds of technical assistance to be provided by the Soviet Union for these enterprises is about 5,000 million rubles. China will repay this with exports to the Soviet Union in accordance with the existing Sino-Soviet trade agreement.

The new agreement supplements existing agreements on Soviet technical aid to China in realizing her industrialization programme.

In the field of science, Soviet aid to China has been equally fruitful. In July 1958, China's first heavy water type atomic reactor and a cyclotron began to operate, laying a foundation in China for the advance of atomic science and the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. China also trial-produced its first electronic digital computer last year. In both cases, China's success in building up these modern branches of science in such a short time has been inseparable from the disinterested aid of the Soviet Union. These achievements are only the outstanding examples.

A Vast Programme of Co-operation

In this connection, a vast programme of co-operation was mapped out in an agreement signed in 1958. Under its terms, 122 subjects of scientific and technical research of great significance will be carried out in the 1958-1962 period. The Soviet Union, for example, will give aid to China in the theoretical study of physical chemistry, biophysics, and electrophysics, in the study of how to prevent corrosion of metals and prolong the life of machinery, in the techniques of water conservancy works and soil amelioration. While the co-operation envisaged by this agreement is a boon to the scientific development of both countries, it is particularly so to the development of certain branches of science which until now have been either very backward or practically non-existent in China.

China on its part has also passed its experiences in production on to the Soviet Union. In the field of agriculture, China has supplied the Soviet Union with large quantities of seed, such as special cold-resistant wheat, maize and soya beans, and fruit tree saplings and vegetable seeds. Soviet experts have also come to China to study Chinese experiences in sericulture, filature, textile and dyeing industries, etc. The Soviet Union has also received some of China's blueprints for textile machines. Soviet doctors have come to China to make a first-hand study of Chinese acupuncture and cautery and have introduced them to the Soviet clinics with satisfactory results. Other experiences in traditional Chinese medicine and methods of cultivating various medicinal herbs have also been introduced to the Soviet Union.

This scientific and technical co-operation works to the advantage of both sides. When the Yangtse Bridge in Wuhan was under construction, the Soviet Union gave much invaluable technical help. On the basis of Soviet experience, Soviet and Chinese experts jointly designed an oscillating pile driver for sinking reinforced concrete pillars into the river-bed. The device of laying the pylon foundations with the oscillating pile driver proved to be highly successful.

The success of Sino-Soviet scientific and technical co-operation is due to the fact that such co-operation is based on the lofty spirit of proletarian internationalism. By generously sharing advanced techniques and achievements with other fraternal countries, a socialist country looks forward to the development and strengthening of the entire socialist camp and a common economic upsurge. This kind of co-operation is, of course, unknown
among imperialist countries where the latest discoveries and inventions in science and technology are always looked upon as top secrets and sources of profit making. Technical “aid” is often a means by which the imperialist countries extort something from the economically backward countries, keeping the latter politically and economically subservient to them. Among the socialist countries, aid is given with no political or economic strings attached. This is another example of the unrivalled superiority of the socialist system, offering a striking contrast to the hypocrisy, money-mindedness and cutthroat competition that mark the relations among the imperialist countries.

In this new historical epoch of the Soviet Seven-Year Plan of communist construction and China’s rapid development into a highly industrialized socialist country, Sino-Soviet scientific and technical co-operation will play an even more important role. It will make still greater contributions to the fulfillment of the economic development plans of the two countries.

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**Socialist Agriculture Triumphs**

**China Surpasses the U.S. in Cotton**

by YANG HSIEN-TUNG

President of the Agricultural Association of China

In a single year in 1958, China came from far behind to surpass the United States in cotton production. According to latest estimates, China produced 3.35 million tons of ginned cotton in 1958. This is more than double the 1957 figure of 1.64 million tons and more than 30 per cent larger than the 2.55 million tons estimated for the United States in 1958 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. China’s per mu cotton yield of 75 jin in 1958, which was double the 1957 figure of 38 jin, was 7 per cent more than the per mu yield of 70 jin estimated for the United States.

Only nine years ago, in 1949, the year of liberation, China’s cotton output stood at 444,400 tons. This was a mere 12.7 per cent of the U.S. output of 3.5 million tons. In that year, China’s per mu cotton yield was only half the U.S. average. In the nine years since then, U.S. cotton output dropped about 27 per cent; China’s rose 7.5 times! (See chart.) It took New China nine years to raise cotton output from 444,400 tons to 3.35 million tons. By contrast, the United States took 62 years (1849-1911) to cover the same ground. In a single year — last year — China’s cotton crop made a phenomenal leap from 1.64 to 3.35 million tons, the United States took 22 years (1889-1911) to cover the same distance. Here is one more proof of the superiority of the socialist system over the capitalist system.

As a result of last year’s big leap, China was able to reach the targets for cotton production set in the National Programme for Agricultural Development nine years ahead of schedule. This gives each of her 650 million people an average of more than 10 jin of cotton. This may not be a big amount, in comparison with what a socialist China intends to give its people, but it is already more than double the figure for the preceding year, and about four times the pre-liberation figure. It means that this year, the Chinese people will be consuming far more cotton textiles than ever before. In fact the Ministry of Commerce has already decided to raise the planned supply of cotton cloth by one-third this year, to eight metres per person as a basic quota (many piece-goods are quota-free).

The record rate of increase in cotton output and the appearance of large, high-yield tracts of land have utterly exploded the idea that cotton output could only increase gradually by, say, a small percentage each year. They have also disproved the contention that cotton could be profitably grown only in north China. Last year despite the fact that tractors, chemical fertilizers and other modern farm aids were not yet available in large quantities, rich cotton harvests were gathered. On 33 million mu of land, or about two-fifths the total cotton area, the estimated per mu yield of cotton was more than 100 jin. Per mu yields of 200 jin or more were achieved in scores of counties.

February 17, 1959
In many cases, per mu yield rose several times or even scores of times and high yields were achieved in many places traditionally known as low-yield cotton areas. Szuyang County in northern Kiangsu Province, where per mu cotton yields used to be as low as 10 jin in the past, reaped 250 jin from every one of its 201,387 mu of land planted to cotton in 1958. There are many other such examples.

Peasants in the cotton growing areas broke away from tradition and boldly introduced new methods of cultivation such as deep ploughing, early sowing (generally from one week to ten days earlier than in the past), the application of large quantities of fertilizers and intensified irrigation during the later stages of growth. Such measures resulted in fewer buds and flowers dropping off, giving more bolls per plant. In some cases, a single branch bore as many as 10 bolls or more. Such novel methods enriched China’s techniques in cotton planting and opened up new vistas for further increasing cotton output.

The Causes

The weather was not at all favourable last year. In fact, the cotton areas in north China suffered long periods of drought and those in south China were hit first by heavy and continuous rain at the time of sowing and then by drought during the later stages of cotton growth. What then were the main factors behind the achievements outlined above? Victory on the cotton front must be attributed, first of all, to enthusiastic mass effort under a brilliant and hard-working Communist Party leadership. Inspired by the Communist Party's general line for building socialism and with their minds emancipated from blind faith in traditional methods, the peasants went “all out and aimed high to achieve more, faster, better and more economical results in the building of socialism.” It is understandable that there could not have been high yields if the will to achieve them were absent. But of course the will had to be coupled with a spirit of scientific analysis and hard work. Experience accumulated in raising exceptionally high yields in past years was carefully analysed. Lessons learnt were applied and further developed with due consideration for particular local conditions.

The all-round implementation of the eight-point “Charter for Agriculture” which outlines eight basic measures to raise yields has been another important factor in success. 1958 was an epoch-making year in irrigation in China. Irrigation was brought to nearly half its cotton fields. This was double the area irrigated in 1957. The amount of fertilizers (mostly farmstead manures) applied to the cotton fields was greatly increased and the methods of application improved. Depth of ploughing was increased from a dozen centimetres to from 20 to 30 centimetres. Over 94 per cent of the cotton fields were sown with selected seed strains. From 4,000 to 5,000 plants were planted per mu of land, about a thousand more than in the past. Pest and disease control, improved tools and methods of cultivation such as weeding particularly during the later stages of growth, packing the earth round the roots of the plants and pruning, etc. all played their part.

Improved leadership and organization of work was a further guarantee of success. Working groups specializing in cotton were set up to give leadership in the main cotton growing areas, with the secretaries of the Communist Party organizations in the counties, towns and farm co-ops (later, communes) personally assuming responsibility for their work. Production brigades specializing in cotton growing were formed. “Experimental plots” were cultivated; some of them extended over large areas of land. In Hupeh Province, experimental plots made up from 30 to 50 per cent of the total cotton area of the various co-ops and communes. On such plots, bold measures were adopted to drastically raise yields and the rest of the cotton fields benefited considerably from the experience so gained. Co-ordination, mutual help and friendly emulation were organized among the co-ops and communes and regular inspections were made to see to it that the plants were growing well.

Good Prospects

Great as the achievements in 1958 are, the supply of cotton is still far from meeting the ever-growing requirements of the people. China plans to increase cotton production this year to 5 million tons, about 50 per cent more than last year and three times the 1957 output. This is a colossal task. But the big leap in 1958 has laid a firm foundation for further advance. The peasants have a rich fund of new experience to draw upon. With consolidation of the people’s communes, they can more thoroughly implement the eight-point “Charter for Agriculture.” In a word, we can be confident that the great victory planned this year will be achieved.

NOW PRODUCED IN CHINA

50,000-Kilowatt Steam Turbine

The Harbin Steam Turbine Works has produced a 50,000-kilowatt high-temperature, high-pressure steam turbine. This writes finis to the days when China could not manufacture large power-generating equipment. The turbine is more than seven metres long and weighs 150 tons. With a 50,000-kilowatt generator and a 230-ton boiler, it makes up a thermo-electric power-generating unit capable of supplying light to a city with a population of five million. It was constructed in only two and a half months.
The Story of Two Women Doctors

by CHIEN TZE

ONE night, fifty-seven years ago, a girl was born into a family in Amoy, the southern port city in Fukien Province.

“What a pity, another girl!” the family said.

In feudal society women were scorned at the time of birth and this infant girl was no exception. It was only because she was influenced by the modern ideas of her day that she walked out of her feudal family, entered school, graduated from a normal school in her home town and then went north to Peking and studied in P.U.M.C. (Peking Union Medical College). In her ardent quest of knowledge she studied hard, mastered books and assimilated experience, and became well known in her profession. But, in the years before the liberation, she always lived in the little world of her profession, secluded from the masses of people and indifferent to the tempests of the times.

Ten years ago, during the Spring Festival of 1949, Peking was liberated. From the windows of the P.U.M.C. she saw excited faces. But since she customarily secluded herself in her little universe she took little notice. What with the reactionary propaganda spread by the enemy before the liberation, she was suspicious of the Communists. A few days after the People's Liberation Army entered the city, General Lin Piao gave a banquet at Peking Hotel to which she was invited. It was her first contact with Communists. Strange, but the Communists are not so dreadful! This was what ran through her mind. But believing that politics is no concern of a physician, she retired once again to the seclusion of her little universe.

A New Outlook

Thanks to the care and education of the Communist Party and through her participation in the mass political movements (such as the movement against corruption, waste and bureaucracy and the movement to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea) in the early post-liberation years, she began to develop a new outlook. She dedicated herself fully to the people, and was no longer content with exclusive preoccupation with a medical career devoid of a social and class point of view. From this time on she did away with the barriers between medical work and rest days, work time and free time, and placed herself fully at the service of the patients, whenever and wherever needed. She often said: “Life is the most precious thing. When a woman entrusts her life to you, can you take it lightly?”

Once she was asked to sign a decision made by the outpatient department authorizing the removal of the uterus of a young expectant mother. The patient had been pregnant for three months and was suffering from a complex of conditions which normally called for surgery. She looked into the case and found that the young woman who had been married for six years was longing for a child. What a calamity if her hopes would be shattered by surgery. After a careful examination of all the alternatives she decided boldly: “Withhold surgery for the time being, but watch developments very closely.” For months the expectant mother was under strict observation. The time for delivery arrived and she herself performed the necessary surgery. The baby was safely delivered.

“Remembering Lin”

She received a letter: “Dear Doctor: We are deeply moved by your high sense of responsibility towards your work. We have decided to name our baby Nien-Lin (remembering Lin) to thank you.”

She replied: “Not me, it is the Communist Party and the government you should thank.”

Nien-Lin. The Lin refers to Dr. Lin Chiao-chih (Khati Lin), whose story we have been relating. For her devoted services to the people, Dr. Lin Chiao-chih has been elected a people’s deputy to the National People’s Congress and the Peking People’s Congress. She is Vice-Chairman of the Peking Women’s Federation, and a member of the Executive Committee of the National Women’s Federation. She also holds a responsible post in the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

When she had clarified the problem of serving the people, a new problem confronted her — the Communist Party’s call to doctors of the Western school to study traditional Chinese medicine. (See Peking Review, No. 43, 1958, p. 21.)

“What should be studied?” she wondered. The traditional Chinese methods of diagnosis seemed somehow mystical and what’s more, gynaecology and obstetrics were not a regular branch of Chinese medicine. “But since the Communist Party issued this call there must be a reason for it,” she said to herself. Sometimes she heard her patients talk about the effectiveness of Chinese medicine, but she didn’t pay much attention to it.

Last September the Ministry of Public Health sponsored an exhibition of the new achievements of Chinese medicine. It showed how traditional Chinese medicine can treat appendicitis without surgery, use willow wood to replace bone, and cure deaf-mutes with acupuncture and many other things. Is traditional Chinese medicine
A Family Tradition

Years ago, the prevailing atmosphere in an out of the way town in the northeast was still feudal. It was stifling for many people, especially the women, and Wang Chih-ming was one of them. Married at the age of 15, and a widow at 29, in the old society she was like a kite with its string broken.

The cold way she was treated by members of her husband's family turned her thoughts to suicide several times. But death was not an easy choice and the desire to live was strong. "How about going back to my own home?" she thought. At home grandmother was carrying on the family tradition of midwifery and treatment of women's ailments. Far and wide, in cities and towns, many knew about the medical services of the Wang family, which had been handed down to her grandmother through twelve generations. According to the family code the secret prescriptions could be passed on only to the wives of the first sons. "Now that my husband is dead and though I no longer bear the family name of my father, maybe grandmother and mother would have pity on me and let me learn something from them so that I could make a living," she wondered.

Finally she returned to her mother's home and did all sorts of work. She tried hard to please everybody and had to swallow her tears. She waited on grandmother and mother and did miscellaneous work when they treated their patients. She kept her eyes open and finally learnt how to treat the ailments herself. She was illiterate then, could not write out prescriptions and knew nothing about medical theory. But day after day and year after year she made herself useful as assistant to her grandmother and mother. Later both of them died. She and her brother moved from the northeast to Peking and she treated patients while her brother prepared the prescriptions. The secret prescription was miraculously effective. As she accumulated experience her diagnosis became more and more accurate. She made it a rule to treat only the ailments she could cure and gradually she established a reputation in Peking.

After the liberation the government paid great attention to traditional Chinese medicine. In addition to her private practice Dr. Wang Chih-ming was invited to join a traditional Chinese medical clinic, a traditional Chinese hospital and the research institute of traditional Chinese medicine.

On September 18 last year, she unexpectedly received a letter notifying her that she had been appointed a special research associate of the Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine. To join one of the highest bodies for medical research work? Could that be true? But the fact was unmistakable.

Dr. Lin and Dr. Wang

September 20, 1958 was a memorable day. Amid the ceremonial festivities of welcome to the traditional Chinese doctors joining the staff at Xiehe, or the Peking Union Hospital (formerly the P.U.M.C. hospital), Dr. Lin and Dr. Wang met for the first time.

Not long after this, one Sunday morning Dr. Lin and Dr. Wang came to the outpatient department for a consultation on a difficult case. While examining the patient, Dr. Wang talked with her intimately about her life and family. She put her patient completely at her ease. And in this way she got all the necessary details about the case.

Using one finger as her sole medical instrument, she carefully examined the patient and worked out the diagnosis. Dr. Lin read the case history and smiled in agreement after she examined the patient. Although the terms used and methods employed by the two doctors, one Western-trained and the other a traditional practitioner, were entirely different, the diagnosis of both doctors was the same.

On another occasion, Dr. Wang was consulted in treating a patient whose case was diagnosed as the third stage of prolapse of the uterus. Dr. Wang used to treat this disease most expertly. She would gently put a pill which was prepared according to her secret prescription on the uterus and then push it back to position. This done, it would not drop down again. She had successfully treated many such cases since she came to work with Xiehe.

However, after examining the patient, she told the resident doctors that her medicine should not be administered in this case. "It's not simply prolapse of the uterus," she pointed out. "There are other complications."

"Complications?" The other doctors were rather sceptical of her diagnosis. Just then Dr. Lin entered. Dr. Wang showed her the case history and added: "The original diagnosis wasn't wrong. But I just discovered that she had a history of bleeding. I judged from this that there are complications. If my prescription is used, it will cause more serious bleeding."

"Try examination en vivo," Dr. Lin suggested.

Pathological examination showed that there were complications. Carcinoma in situ was the trouble. Dr.
Lin had an even higher opinion of her new colleague after this.

After becoming a research associate of the Academy and joining the work at Xiehe, Dr. Wang noticed that her experience was respected by her colleagues, the doctors of the Western school, and her services were valued by the Communist Party and the people. Her political consciousness deepened.

One day, after work, she went to see Dr. Lin. Holding a prescription in both hands, she said gravely: "Dr. Lin, I am handing you a prescription which my family has kept secret for fourteen generations. It was only because my old folks pitied me, a helpless widow, that they let me share the family's secret. Since liberation, things are so very different for women. I have no more worries about earning a living. Please accept this so that it can do more good for more people; so that doctors here can do research on it and make it still more useful." As she said this, tears welled up in her eyes.

Dr. Lin accepted the prescription with trembling hands. Deeply moved, she answered: "Dr. Wang, I thank you as a deputy of the National People's Congress!"

Medicine based on Dr. Wang's prescription was trial produced in the Chinese Academy of Medical Science. After careful study of the prescription, it was put into use clinically. Many women have been helped by it.

In the course of all this Dr. Lin's understanding continued to grow. Traditional Chinese medicine, which she had formerly regarded as unscientific turned out to be a great treasure house. She now saw how necessary it was to have people with scientific and technical knowledge study it systematically and thoroughly. The policy of calling Western-trained doctors to study Chinese medicine was now clear to her.

From that time on, every Monday and Friday evening witnessed gray-haired, bespectacled Dr. Lin sitting in at the lectures in the Chinese Academy of Medical Science. She soon acquired an elementary knowledge of the theory of the Chinese medical treatment. Chinese doctoring, medicine and acupuncture have been widely introduced in her department of gynecology and obstetrics. A good start was made in integrating Chinese and Western medicine.

China and the World

Nation Celebrates Sino-Soviet Alliance Anniversary

Throughout China, the ninth anniversary of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance on February 14 was celebrated in festive mood. Always an occasion for rejoicing, this year's anniversary took on a special significance, coming as it did in the wake of the recent 21st Congress of the C.P.S.U. and signing of the new Sino-Soviet economic-technical agreement.

In Peking, a gala evening party was sponsored by the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association and its Peking branch. Vice-Premier Chen Yi was among the 1,500 leading personalities in the capital who attended. Wu Yu-chang, Vice-President of the association, presided and the guests included diplomatic representatives from the Soviet Union and other fraternal countries and Soviet experts in Peking.

Chien Ying, Member of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Vice-Head of the Delegation of the Chinese Working People which recently visited the Soviet Union, was the main speaker. So many happy events had occurred recently, she said, that it was with particular joy that China celebrated this anniversary; just as, more than forty years ago, it led the Soviet people in blazing the trail to socialism for all mankind, so now the Communist Party of the Soviet Union with its Seven-Year Plan was erecting before mankind a bridge for the transition to communism.

"The Sino-Soviet alliance," Chien Ying noted, "is an alliance in defence of peace. Over the last nine years, China and the Soviet Union have been closely united, and shoulder to shoulder, they have supported each other in making great contributions to the cause of world peace. We are elated to see this constant strengthening of unity and all-embracing cooperation between China and the Soviet Union. It not only promotes the common prosperity of the two countries, but is an important component of the unity of the whole socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union, the most dependable guarantee of world peace and human progress."

The speaker expressed the heartfelt thanks of the Chinese people for the great and selfless help given by the Soviet Union to China's socialist construction. After listing numerous examples of Soviet assistance, Chien Ying told the meeting, "During our visit to the U.S.S.R. we saw many factories and enterprises busily engaged in making equipment and installations for us. . . . We saw the Soviet people treating our personnel as if they were training their own people. Thousands of Chinese students and apprentices are receiving loving care and enthusiastic help from their Soviet instructors, fellow students and workers."

The meeting warmly applauded the message sent to Andrei Andreiev, President of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Association by Soong Ching Ling, President of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association, in which she said that "the Chinese people, under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, treasure as the apple of their eye the great friendship and solidarity between the Chinese and Soviet peoples. We will always be faithful to this alliance and learn from the great people of the Soviet Union. Let us unite closely for ever and continue to advance triumphantly with heroic strides."

The Soviet Charge d'Affaires ad Interim S.F. Antonov greeted the participants of the meeting and read to it the message sent from Moscow by A. Andreiev to Soong Ching Ling.

This celebration meeting was the largest of a host of activities in Peking. A series of events, concerts, poetry readings, films and reports were held in the capital's Sino-Soviet Friendship Hall. Special activities were arranged for the children. In many parts of the city, photo exhibitions on Sino-Soviet friendship were held, and reports on the Soviet Seven-Year Plan and Soviet help to China's construction drew large audiences in factories, people's communes and schools. At the Peking Heat and Power Plant which was constructed with Soviet assistance, workers gathered to celebrate the anniversary with particular gratitude. Similar meetings were held in the Sino-Soviet Friendship Commune and Tsinghua University, a technological institute which has benefited greatly from help given by Soviet experts. From the Sino-Soviet Friendship Hospital which was presented to China as a Soviet gift, its vice-director wrote a special letter of greetings to his former Soviet co-workers of the early days of the hospital. Many such personal greetings were sent to the U.S.S.R.

Celebrations in other cities and towns throughout China were equally warm. February 17, 1959
and enthusiastic. Thousands of people and Soviet experts working in China attended them. In Chungking, workers of the Chungking Iron and Steel Works turned out three special heats of steel to mark Sino-Soviet friendship. They used the quick method of steel smelting taught them by the Soviet expert who recently visited the works.

The current exhibition of Soviet cartoons in Peking (see page 20) and performances by the Estonian singer T. Kuznik have been attractive parts of current Sino-Soviet cultural activities.

In the field of sports, a team of skaters from the Khorol Soviet Socialist Republic is matching skills in Harbin with Chinese skaters. Skiers from the RSFSR have been giving exhibitions in Kirk in young Chinese skiers.

These nationwide celebrations testify to the great role Sino-Soviet friendship and co-operation plays in every sphere of Chinese life.

Just previous to the anniversary more than eight hundred people, including leading scientists and members of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association, attended the Peking celebrations to mark the 125th anniversary of the birth of the great Russian scientist D. I. Mendeleev.

Trade Agreements

China has signed agreements with the German Democratic Republic and the Mongolian People's Republic for this year's trade and payments. In line with the policy of increased economic co-operation with the fraternal countries, both envisage a bigger turnover than last year. The G.D.R. will supply China with many industrial goods needed for construction. These include complete sets of equipment, machine tools, forging and electric equipment, rolling stock, precision optical instruments, chemicals, etc. China in return will provide the G.D.R. with rice, vegetable oil, silk, tea, food products and light industrial goods.

In trading with Mongolia, China will furnish raw chemicals, building materials, silk, satin and other daily consumer goods in exchange for Mongolian horses, hides, camel hair, antlers, and casings.

Omani Deputy Imam in China

The Deputy Imam of Oman Prince Saleh Ben Issa el Harithy and his party have been visiting China since January 29 and been most warmly greeted as representatives of heroic Oman.

Prince Harithy was received in Peking by Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Premier Chou En-lai. He and his party were welcomed by over a thousand people from all walks of life in the capital at a rally sponsored jointly by the Chinese Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity, the Chinese People's Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the China Islamic Association.

Burban Shahidi, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity and Chairman of the China Islamic Association, speaking at the rally voiced the support of the Chinese people for the just struggle of Oman and their protest against the brutal massacres perpetrated by the British imperialists against the Omani people. "We resolutely demand the immediate cessation of imperialist aggression in Oman and the withdrawal of imperialist aggressive troops," he declared.

Burban warned against the intrigues of the U.S. imperialists. "The U.S. imperialists have had their eyes for a long time on the rich resources of the Middle East," he said. "They are carrying through a double-faced policy on the Omani question, collaborating with Britain for an Anglo-American partition of Oman's rich resources." He expressed confidence that although the imperialists were intensifying their military repression and plots to undermine relations between the socialist countries and the Arab peoples and the solidarity among the Arab countries so as to realize their aim to "divide and rule," the awakened Arab peoples who have fought a prolonged and heroic struggle against imperialism would see through these schemes and defeat them.

Prince Saleh Ben Issa el Harithy in his speech at the rally declared that in their resolute struggle against colonialism the Omani people had received encouragement from the progressive Arab national movement and the Bandung principles which crystallize the experience of the just struggles of the Asian peoples. He underlined the unity of the world movement for freedom, saying that "a victory gained by any country in the struggle against the present-day cancer — imperialism — is a victory for the people of all other countries and a step forward in the cause of human happiness and liberation."

Pointing out that "a friend in need is a friend indeed," Prince Harithy concluded: "Our people, like all other peoples of the Arab countries, consider the great Chinese people our faithful friends in the cause of national independence and national liberation."

Gifts from Prince Sihanouk

Five Citroen cars were presented to Vice-Chairman Chu Teh by the Cambodian Charge d'Affaires Yong Aun in a ceremony in Peking. A gift from Prince Sihanouk, the cars were assembled in Cambodia by the country's young machine-building industry.

Vice-Premier Chen Yi who accepted the gift on behalf of Vice-Chairman Chu Teh congratulated the Cambodian people on their achievements under the leadership of Prince Sihanouk. He expressed the conviction that the growth of Cambodia's national economy would strengthen her independent political position and enable her to administer still bigger defeats to foreign encroachment on the country's sovereignty and independence. No imperialist slander could impair the friendly relations between China and Cambodia because these were founded on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence and confirmed to the common desire of their peoples to carry out sincere friendly co-operation in developing their national economies, Chen Yi said.

Peking Review
CHINESE PRESS OPINION

Afro-Asian Youth Conference Hailed

The successful Afro-Asian Youth Conference which has just closed in Cairo after seven days of sessions has won warm applause in the Chinese press. A Renmin Ribao editorial on February 10 calls it "a big event in the life of Afro-Asian youth as well as the Afro-Asian peoples." The conference, the editorial says, "reflects the eager desire and unbreakable will of millions of young people of the Asian and African countries to win and safeguard national independence and to fight imperialism."

The paper notes the glorious revolutionary tradition of the younger generation on these two continents, so long the victims of imperialism and colonialism, and the valiant part it has been playing in the fight for national liberation. "The days of imperialist colonial system are now numbered. The younger generation of Asia and Africa is fully capable of burying colonialism and greeting the rise of a new peaceful and happy world."

The task before the youth and other people in Asia and Africa is to mobilize still more forces on a wider front for a united, persistent struggle to speed the total collapse of imperialism and colonialism, the editorial states. There are still some 160 million people in the world groaning under colonial rule. U.S. imperialism, the most ferocious enemy of the Asian and African peoples, is working hard to replace the old-time colonial powers like Britain and France and to impose a new colonial yoke on the Asian and African peoples. It uses military pacts, war bases, armed attacks, political intrigues, economic "aid," and subversion to interfere in their internal affairs, impair their independence and rob them of their natural resources. To weaken the national liberation movements, the imperialists are working to divide the Asian and African countries and break their national united fronts. Recent efforts of this kind have been directed particularly against the unity among Arab states.

The editorial endorses the condemnation of the imperialists by the Afro-Asian Youth Conference, for their intrigues against the Arab states, notably Iraq and the United Arab Republic, and for their efforts to provoke the Asian and African peoples into opposing each other.

The resolutions adopted by the conference, the editorial says, "fully reflect the solidarity of the youth and other people of Asia and Africa in their common struggle against imperialism."

Among other editorial comments on the conference is that of Zhongguo Qingnian Bao (China Youth Daily) (February 11). It says that the youth of China are always faithful to the unity of the youth of Asia and Africa and of all the world. Together with all Afro-Asian youth, they firmly support the conference resolutions and will contribute their efforts to their realization.

Crisis in Turkey

The economic crisis looming large in Turkey is the subject of an article in the Renmin Ribao of February 14.

Among the three Muslim countries that remain in the Baghdad Pact bloc, the article notes, Turkey has always been the keenest on the U.S. policy of aggression; it also got the lion's share of American "aid." By the beginning of 1958 Turkey had received military and economic "aid" from the United States to the tune of 2,600 million dollars. But economic conditions in that country have steadily deteriorated.

In early 1958, the Turkish Government on several occasions pressed Washington for more "aid." But it was only when the victorious Iraqi revolution of last July shook the very foundations of U.S. rule in the Middle East that Washington agreed to extend another loan of 234 million dollars to Turkey under very harsh conditions.

On receiving this U.S. "aid," the Turkish Government immediately devalued the lira from 2.8 to the dollar to 9. This has led to a continuous rise in prices. In 1958, Turkey's national debt went up from 8,000 million lira to 13,000 million.

The article cites many facts showing the Turkish people's discontent with this deterioration of economic conditions in their country: students have asked for a raise in educational subsidies; teachers have been on strike; workers are demanding wage increases and the protection of human rights, etc.

THE PASSING SHOW

Castles in Spain

The U.S. has passed out a thousand million dollars in "aid to Spain" in the last five years and hundreds of millions more in bases and personnel wages, reports the New York Post and asks: "What has happened to this money? ... Those who profit from it are a small group of industrialists, financiers and government bigwigs (who) smuggle their profits off to Switzerland. ... Franco Spain is on the verge of economic bankruptcy. As in Batista Cuba, our government ... is allied to tyranny. Where will we stand if the forces of freedom begin their march?"

Better ask Jimenez, Nuri Said ... or just Batista.

Hit and Miss

The great debate on U.S. missile capability rolls on in Washington. Item: At the Senate Armed Services Committee, Defence Secretary McElroy cites facts and figures "beyond belief" to support the thesis that the U.S. can destroy any country. Item: Chief of Naval Operations Arleigh Burke tells the Senate Armed Services Committee that the Navy needs more of everything including missiles because present equipment is rapidly becoming obsolete. He is "very apprehensive about what might happen in the near future." Item: Senator Stuart Symington states that the U.S. is "falling dangerously behind in the missiles race," "the missile gap is not closed but widening." Item: Wernher Von Braun, ex-Hitlerite U.S. Army ballistic missiles chief, says that "it will take the U.S. five years to catch up with the Soviet Union in the development of the ICBM."

Finally Mr. Dulles gives the Senate Foreign Relations Committee "a most enlightening report." Asked if it was "encouraging or discouraging," Senator Gore replies: "Both!"

What's clear is that even with 69 per cent of the budget already going for armaments, the arms manufacturers aren't satisfied. With them it's "Heads we win; tails you lose."
EXHIBITION

Soviet Cartoons

The exhibition of Soviet cartoons at Chungshan Park shows Soviet satirical art as militant and skilled as ever. Some of the great men of the early revolutionary days—Deni, Moor and Rotov—are no longer with us, but we have here Boris Yefimov and Litvinenko, who brought this show to Peking, Dolgoryukov, the Kukrin'ski, Sufertis and others who learnt from them and carried on their work in the ranks of the Soviet press, and now we are hearing from a third generation, like the sons of the Kukrin'ski finishing art school and reinforcing their fathers. The 105 cartoons by seventeen artists shown here are hard-hitting political caricatures on the folly and vices of the imperialists and reactionaries, as well as telling social satires. They have colour, individuality, wit and technique. They hit their mark every time. Frank and penetrating, they blow a fresh breeze into the back rooms of imperialist foreign offices, sending shivers up the exposed shanks of cold war diplomats.

Boris Yefimov's work is well known in China. It is often reproduced in the press and has been the teacher of many of our young cartoonists. He has stood for nearly four decades in the front ranks of the world's cartoonists and is practically the dean of Soviet cartoonists. He began drawing in 1919 for the Red Army's local news sheets but was soon mobilized for the national press. For years he did a cartoon a day for the Izvestia or the Red Star, and for many other papers and magazines. It was good to see his originals. They are typical of his unerring sense in choosing symbols to characterize a political situation and the clarity of line and colour that goes with his forthright conceptions. His In the U.N. Lobby shows Chiang Kai-shek's "representative" in the U.N. as an undersized dwarf decked out in oversized shoes and tail coat, sitting around about calf-high amid the legs of U.N. delegates. His Snail's Pace shows delegates from Washington and London on their way to a disarmament conference. They are riding in a luxurious, streamlined automobile with snails for wheels.

V. G. Litvinenko's cartoons are forceful and usually painted in more sombre, bitter colours. His Chain Reaction shows a U.S. pot-bellied monopoly capitalist holding the neck of a bag of superior profits tight in his hands while the spectre of crisis looms behind him and tightens its grip around his throat. His Their Liberty shows New York's famous statue raising a despairing arm as it stands enfeebled by a serpent with scales of golden dollars. Litvinenko contributes to the Ukrainian magazine Pepper.

There are also cartoons by Dolgoryukov, many of them on revolutionary history and the defeats of the interventionist and Hitlerite forces; and works by Sufertis, Yensen and Galba, all well known for their contributions to the Soviet satirical magazines headed by the famed Crocodile of Moscow. The poster-cartoons produced by the Boyevoi Karandash (Militant Pencil) group of Leningrad which are printed for posting up in public places, are a characteristic Soviet development of the old broadsheets of the early days of cartooning in the eighteenth century. Chinese cartoonists were particularly interested in this use of the cartoon. Agitational, mobilizing, they cover a wide range of themes in foreign politics and domestic affairs. They clearly live up to their name whether it is in attacking the aggressive imperialists abroad or criticizing the bureaucrats and thoughtless youth and anti-social elements that are the left-overs of the old society.

—MI FAN

BOOKS

The Man Who Sold a Ghost

Foreign Languages Press. 164 pp.

Recently published by the Foreign Languages Press of Peking, The Man Who Sold a Ghost will be a welcome addition to the library of all lovers of classical Chinese literature. This is a collection of some of the best Chinese tales and anecdotes from the third to the sixth century. As far as we know, it is the most comprehensive anthology of this sort to have appeared in any foreign language. Most of these tales deal with the supernatural: fairies, deities, ghosts or mortals who are bewitched. Some are folk tales, others are pen-pictures of historical figures.

The four centuries covered by this volume were a dark age in Chinese history. After the break up of the Han dynasty, the empire was split into three kingdoms and there followed long years of famines and wars. Men turned for comfort to Taoist magic and alchemy, or to Buddhism, then becoming a significant factor in Chinese civilization. Many intellectuals became hermits or sought consolation in wine.

What a strange, precarious world that must have been to live in, when any smart woman you met might prove to be a fox fairy, when evil spirits were known to take human form and masquerade as your own sons or brothers, and when rich men spent their fortunes on the search for elixirs of life. Probably there were compensations too in this commingling of the human and the spirit world, as indicated by that charming tale "Husband into Sheep."

A scholar at the capital had a wife who was a jealous scold. She swore at her husband for nothing and pummelled him for a trifle. Moreover she often tied a long rope to his leg and tugged on this whenever she wanted him. The scholar secretly made a plan with a witch. While his wife was sleeping he went out as if to the privy, fastened the rope to a sheep and jumped over the wall. When his wife woke and pulled the rope, it came the sheep. In horror, she sent for the witch . . .

The next time she showed signs of jealousy, her husband dropped on all fours and started bleating. Then she leaped out of bed, barefooted, and swore by her ancestors that never, never would she be jealous again. So she ceased to be a shrew.

These tales are a true mirror of that age with its social unrest, escapist trends and all the problems of feudal families. More than this, they are delightful reading. They were written, of course, not as fiction but as truth, and the matter-of-fact tone adds to their effectiveness. Thus "Woman into Carp" ends:

In the middle of the night it came to him:

"I am bewitched—this is not my wife!"
He seized her and shouted for a torch. The woman shrank and shrivelled, and when he looked she was a carp two feet long.

These tales are compact and evocative, with excellent characterization, and the ghosts are completely human. Some of them behave like unmanhersly hooligans, but others are extremely well-bred. What a civilized encounter that is between Chi Kang and the phantom who loves music.

He was an excellent performer, and a voice from the void called:

"Bravo!"

Chi Kang stopped playing.

"Who are you?"

"I am a dead man. I have been here for thousands of years. When I heard such a sweet and harmonious performance on the lyre I could not help coming to listen, for I use to love music too. Unfortunately I was killed unjustly and my body mutilated, which makes me unfit to be seen. But I greatly admire your playing and would like to watch you if you have no objection. Do go on."

After making some more music, Chi Kang struck his lyre and cried:

"It is growing late. Won't you show yourself? Why should we stand on ceremony?"

Then the ghost appeared, holding its head in its hand.

The anecdotes of famous men at the end of this book are a different category of writing. These concise, stirring narratives give us a glimpse of the life and views of the ruling class of those times. An account like "Prince Tan's Revenge" gives some idea of the great body of early historical writing in China which exists, fully as readable as Plutarch's Lives, but very little of which has hitherto been translated.

These brief tales, which still make enjoyable reading today, exercised an influence on subsequent Chinese literature out of all proportion to their number. Their form was copied right down to the last century, while many of them were adapted and elaborated by later dramatists, poets or novelists.

If we have a criticism of this book, it is that the illustrations are disappointing. The method of illustrating a book with reproductions of works of art of that period is legitimate, but here the execution leaves much to be desired. More variety, more apt and better reproductions could have been hoped for, with some indication of the highly imaginative Buddhist art which breathes so much of the spirit of that age.

— NAI TI

SCIENCE

Transforming the Deserts

An 800-member scientific group has been organized for research and field work to hold China's shifting desert sands in check. This realizes a decision taken at the conference held last November in Hubei, capital of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, which mapped out a programme of work starting in 1959 to check the spread of China's deserts and transform them into wealth-producing areas. Members of the group will shortly be going out in teams to make the necessary surveys in northwest China. One of their objectives will be the Taklamakan Desert. This desert lies in the heart of the Tarim Basin of south Sinkiang and has been penetrated by very few people.

More than 90 per cent of China's total desert area of 1,086,600 square kilometres lies in the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region, Kansu, Chinghai and Shensi Provinces, the Ninghsia Hui Autonomous Region and Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region.

The research group has been formed by the Chinese Academy of Sciences in co-operation with forty central and local government institutions, universities and colleges. It includes research workers in soil science, geography, water conservancy, agronomy, botany, forestry, and animal husbandry. As focal points for research and laboratory work, they will set up six comprehensive experimental stations in various desert areas to start grass planting, afforestation and water conservancy projects.

This year, research work will be focussed on the studying of conditions and laws of desert vegetation, ways and means of planting trees, growing grass, conducting aerial sowing of tree seeds in deserts, irrigation of deserts, tapping underground water resources and artificial rain experiments over desert areas. They will also study the laws governing the formation of deserts and the shifting of sand dunes, the use of sandy land for farming, the climatic effects of afforesting deserts, and the use of solar and wind energy and other new techniques in transforming the deserts.

SPORTS

Speed-Skating Champion

At the international speed-skating championships held in Alma Ata last month, 17-year-old Wang Chin-yu of China sprang a surprise by winning the 5,000-metre event in 8 min. 14.8 sec. This was his debut in international competitions, but Wang rose mightily to the occasion. He beat the world record holder Boris Shilkov of the Soviet Union, the Olympic star Helmut Kunert of the German Democratic Republic, and other crack skaters from Poland, Rumania and Korea.

Wang Chin-yu is a middle school student in the coal-mining town of Hoking near Kiamusze in northeast China. He came second in overall individual standing, close behind Vladimir Gurov of the Soviet Union. Vladimir Geiderik, also of the Soviet Union, placed third, Helmut Kunert came fourth, and Yevgeny Grishin, outstanding Soviet skater, was fifth.

Skating as a national sporting event began in China only in 1953, but the young Chinese skaters gave a good account of themselves at the Alma Ata Championships. The Chinese men's team came second, while the women's team came third. Excluding the competitions they smashed nine of the ten national speed-skating records.

February 17, 1959

Off to plant trees Parchment by Teng Peng-chien
SIDELIGHTS

We devote this week's "Sidelight" to highlights of last week's Spring Festival festivities.

In Peking, even the usually hushed halls of the Palace Museum echoed with gaiety—games, singing and dancing on February 8, the first day of the Spring Festival—the New Year's Day of the lunar calendar.

All of Peking was in carnival mood. There were incessant explosions of firecrackers, lanterns on door posts and attractive window displays in the shops. People in their holiday best visited relatives, took family portraits at photo studios and flocked to the entertainment centres. Theatres and cinemas were packed. While many of Peking's big-name theatrical companies were barn-storming the countryside, performances by amateurs from factories and suburban people's communes added to the holiday theatrical programmes. The Children's Palace had puppet shows, inter-school poetry recitations, football games, chess and concerts by the children themselves.

Festival sports programmes included a pageantry of such traditional Chinese events as the lion dance, stunts on stilts, shadow boxing and Chinese-style wrestling, fencing and quarter-staff displays. The annual 13,300-metre round-the-city race had 1,353 runners competing this year. From a massed start at Tien An Men Square, the runners were cheered on by spectators all along their route round Peking's former "Forbidden City" right back to the Square again.

Bigger crowds than ever thronged the traditional Liulichang Toy Fair. Just outside Peking's Hepingmen Gate (Gate of Peace), in what used to be Haiwang (King of the Seas) Village, Liulichang developed during the past two centuries into the art centre of Peking. Its Spring Festival fair has a tradition of a century or so—it started as an old temple fair—and today it is a central point of attraction during the holidays for young and old alike.

For the children there are toys galore—peasant-made traditional handicraft toys, especially kites, "empty bamboo" (diabolas); lanterns, little merry-go-round affairs with figures from Chinese classical stories, dough figurines, paper wheels and windmills and modern factory-made toys. Stalls of special foods draw their own crowds: glutinous rice balls, a fragrant bean porridge flavoured with a sauce distilled from the petals of the cassia flower, steamed bean curd, fried dumplings, piping hot bowls of tripe, and various north China breads. Another Festival special are especially long sticks of Peking fruit lollipops. Other open-air stalls run Festival sales of Chinese arts and crafts, paintings, carved jade and pottery, vases and hand-painted china dishes and cups, lacquerware and woodcarvings, ivory and metal work, jewellery and carved redwood furniture, and even odd pieces of Sung and Ming dynasty craftsmanship at popular prices.

Many of the peasant-made toys were being sold by the peasants who actually make them. There were some 20 stalls selling diabolas. We interviewed one of the vendors, a peasant who had been making these toys since he was a boy, for the past thirty years. Now he is a member of the Happiness People's Commune on the outskirts of the city. He had made his stock of toys in his commune during his free time and had come to the fair to sell them. He said that, unlike Kuomintang times, he no longer had to depend on the fair for a living. Now it was just a pastime. It was easier to sell now than ever; people had money to buy. The supply of hand-made toys this year lagged behind the heavy demand. Another commune member we spoke with at the fair was Chao Ching-an from the Yenchiao People's Commune 80 li east of the city. He is a 53-year-old peasant who is a papercut artist as well. In his village, he said, most of the people can make papercuts and they paste them on their windows and doors for the Spring Festival. He had brought a stock of papercuts he had

made in his free time to sell to the city fair-goers. His work was displayed on a huge black cloth stretched along the outside wall of a building on the main street of the fair. His gaily coloured "window flowers," as they are called in Chinese, which he designs, cuts out with a knife, and later colours with Chinese paint according to his individual artistic conceptions but still typically and traditionally north China in their flavour, drew knots of people like a magnet. Most of the papercuts had floral patterns and a few of them were Chinese characters for happiness, good luck, felicity and prosperity—which are traditional festival-time wishes adorned with flowers. In the centre of this page we reproduce one of his papercuts, which we bought at the fair, depicting the character fu, which means felicity or happiness. Until five years ago, he told us, he only cut out patterns which the peasant women used for embroidering their cloth slippers. But after liberation he attained the conditions for developing and diversifying his papercut art to its present stage, which now includes a whole new series of floral designs.

In the people's communes, rest, good food and recreational activities were the order of the day everywhere. Each member of the Chaotou People's Commune in Szechuan Province got extra meals and fruits for the holidays in addition to vegetables, fish, wine and pastries, which many took home to cook. It is the Chinese tradition to have "family reunion dinners" at home during the Spring Festival. Most communes offered their members rich dinners. Recreational activities, however, were the merriest ever. A commune near Shanghai organized its own amusement centre where members could enjoy local opera, skits, stunts, song and dance performances, film showings, day and night. In addition to the story-telling and riddle-guessing contests and other traditional forms of competitions, poetry, literary and art exhibitions and contests struck a new note indicative of the cultural revolution that is sweeping China's countryside. In many communes, the Spring Festival holidays were extended.

Another tradition was a key feature of this Spring Festival—greetings and celebrations between the People's Liberation Army and the people. Young Pioneers wrote their beloved "P.L.A.
WHATS ON IN PEKING

— Highlights of Current Entertainment, Exhibitions, etc. —

Programmes are subject to change. Where times are not listed consult theatre or daily press.

PEKING OPERA

UPROOT IN HEAVEN — Monkey Sun Wor-kung defeats the gods of thunder and lightning and other celestial deities who want to subdue him. Produced by the China Peking Opera Theatre.
Feb. 22, 7:00 p.m. Remmin Theatre

HUNG NANG — Some episodes from The West Chamber concerning the vivacious servant-maid Hung Nang. Produced by the Fourth Troop of the Peking Opera Company of Peking.
Feb. 21, 7:00 p.m. Guang He Theatre

PAN CHIN-LIN — An episode from the novel Water Margin (All Men Are Brothers) about the beautiful but ill-fated Pan Chin-lin. Wu Sung, the tiger-killer, punishes the tyrant who has caused her ruin. Produced by the Fourth Troop of the Peking Opera Company of Peking.
Feb. 23, 7:00 p.m. Chang An Theatre

PINGJU OPERA

BITTER FLOWERS — A play about the small farmers who rose against oppressive traitors and landlords at the start of the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggres-sion.
Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m. Da Zhong Theatre

FAMILY Adapted from Tsao Yu's stage version. One of two operas famous novel. A drama of the conflict of the old and the new as represented by the tyrannical head of the Kao family, an upholder of the old feudal ethics, and the younger members of his mouth. Produced by the China Pingju Opera Theatre. Feb. 19 & 20, 7:00 p.m. Da Zhong Theatre

SANLWAN VILLAGE — Adapted from Chao Shu-chi's popular modern novel about changed people and new happenings in the Chinese countryside.
Feb. 21, 7:00 p.m. Da Zhong Theatre

The above three operas are produced by the China Pingju Opera Theatre.

MODERN OPERA

SONG OF THE GRASSLAND — The young Tibetans are very much in love but they belong to two hostile clans. Liberation puts an end to the age-old quarrel that thwarted their love and the two live happily ever after.
Feb. 17, 7:00 p.m. Tiangao Theatre

LA TRAVIATA — Verdi's famous opera produced in Chinese.
Feb. 18-23, 7:00 p.m. Tiangao Theatre

The above three operas are presented by the Central Experimental Opera Theatre.

THEATRE

FRIENDS AND FOES — about the friendship between a Soviet expert and a Chinese worker who has lived in China since 1943. After liberation, they meet again. Working together, they prove to the people in northeast China that they overcome some telling difficulties in rehabilitating the plant and incidently uncover an enemy plot. Produced by the Experimental Theatre of the Central Drama School.
Feb. 17-22, 7:00 p.m. Shipan Theatre

TEMPERED STEEL — adapted from Ai Wu's novel of the same title. The story of three different types of workers of different backgrounds: a Communist, a veteran steel-maker, and a former petty businessman. Produced by the Peking People's Art Theatre.
Feb. 17-19, 7:00 p.m. Shoudu Theatre

THREE BEAUTIES — A play by Tien Han, produced by the China Youth Art Theatre. The story is of three women with different social backgrounds who share a com-mon destiny during the Japanese occupa-tion of Shanghai.
Feb. 16-20, 7:09 p.m. China Youth Art Theatre

MY FAMILY — Adapted from the autobiography of Tao Cheng, mother of a revolutionary family. Her husband and sons live in the city for the people and she too has devoted her life to the revolution. An "optimistic tragedy" of lives filled by boundless confidence in the people's strength. Produced by the Experimental Theatre of Peking.
Feb. 17-22, 7:09 p.m. Minzu Theatre

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION In eleven halls, it shows New China's great achievements in agriculture. Open daily (except Mon.) 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. At San Li Tun, east suburb.

EXHIBITION OF CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY AND PAINTINGS IN TRADITIONAL STYLE — Sponsored by the Peking Research Society of Chinese Paintings. Open daily 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
At Belhui Park

EXHIBITION OF SOVIET CARTOONS — By Boris Yetim, V. G. Litvinenko and other leading Soviet cartoonists. Open daily 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
At Zhongshan Park

THE CENTRAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY is new open. Fossils and models of extinct prehistoric plants and animals are on display. Open daily (except Mon.) 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL MATCHES The visiting Sofia Men's and Women's Volleyball Teams of Bulgaria will play matches in Peking. Feb. 17: Men's Team v. Coal Miners' Team Women's Team v. Tienian Women's Team.
Feb. 18: Men's and Women's Team v. "August 1" Men's and Women's Teams At Peking Gymnasium

FOOTBALL A football team of the Hungarian Army will shortly visit Peking and play matches with "August 1" and "Peking" on Feb. 22 and 23 respectively at the Peking Stadium.

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students and other people volunteered their services for a day or two to give them a rest. They received extra holi-day pay, and top theatrical troupes came to their places of work to give them as enjoyable a programme as they could get anywhere in the best theatres of the city.

The Spring Festival didn't forget to visit the hospital wards either. Visiting hours were a bit longer than usual, and doctors came to bedside armed with chess boards and games instead of stethoscopes.
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