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Slanders Come Home to Roost

Khrushchov-Eisenhower Visits Hailed
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The three decades between the May 4 Movement and the founding of the People’s Republic of China in 1949 saw the emergence of the greatest and most courageous standard-bearer of the new culture, Lu Hsun, and a host of outstanding writers like Kuo Mo-jo, Mac Tun, Tsao Yu and Lao Sheh, and the publication of the immortal work The True Story of Ah Q and other splendid works like The Goddesses, Midnight, and Thunderstorm, to mention only a few. There is an urgent demand from readers to know more about the course of development of Chinese literature in these eventful years. This English translation of A Short History of Modern Chinese Literature by Ting Yi should go far to satisfy this demand.

For many years before his death in 1934 the author was professor of modern Chinese literature at various universities in China and abroad. His book covers the period from the May 4 Movement to the birth of New China in 1949. His clear narrative and concise analysis will help readers to gain a good general knowledge of modern Chinese literature.

About 390 pages

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Slanders Come Home to Roost

THE curtain rang up on a cheap anti-socialist show in Washington when Senate and House in a joint resolution authorized the President of the United States to designate the third week in July as what they called “captive nations week.” On July 26 Eisenhower went on his knees in special prayer for the “enslaved” people. On July 29, he sounded off again at his press conference against the socialist countries. The next day he designated October 7 as a “national day of prayer” for “those who now endure suffering of body, mind or spirit.”

Despite all the high-powered ballyhoo, this latest campaign of slander against the socialist countries has been a flop. Even bourgeois papers in the U.S. have called the provocation “untimely” and “foolish.” In the socialist countries it is scathingly condemned.

Ever since the first socialist state, the Soviet Union, emerged in the world, imperialism has resorted to slander, subversion and war in their desperate attempts to stop the march of the peoples to socialism. All have been in vain, and over the years the peoples of the world have learnt ever more clearly what all this anti-communist talk boils down to. It was behind the smoke-screen of combating communism that Nazi Germany, fascist Italy and militarist Japan banded together and carried on their wars of aggression West and East. After World War II, American imperialism picked up the soiled banner of anti-communism. The stationing of U.S. armed forces and establishment of military bases on foreign soil, armed U.S. invasions of Taiwan, Korea and Lebanon, crude U.S. interference in the internal affairs of other countries, economic aggression under the guise of “foreign aid”—all this has been done under the pretext of “containing communism.”

The lessons of all this have not gone unlearnt. The peoples of Latin America, Africa and Asia who are struggling to achieve or defend their independence know only too well who are the real victims of this reactionary policy of the United States.

Eisenhower and Nixon have paid much lip-service recently to peace. But what is the true worth of their fine words? The joint Congress resolution listed China’s Tibet and many federated republics of the Soviet Union as “captive nations” in an open attempt to deny the sovereignty of China and the Soviet Union on their territories. It labelled the socialist countries “captive nations” and openly pledged U.S. help to them to “recover their freedom and independence.” “Peace” for the ruling circles in the U.S. means overthrowing the socialist states and riveting again the chains of capitalism on free peoples who fought long years to achieve their freedom.

The people of every country have the inalienable right to choose the form of government under which they will live. The peoples of the socialist countries have chosen socialism. That concerns them and them alone. These latest U.S. slanders constitute an intolerable interference in their domestic affairs.

The Congress resolution unblushingly described the U.S. as the “citadel of human freedom.” One glance at the gloomy picture of mass unemployment and the colour bar is enough to expose the hollowness of this sham. By their latest provocation the U.S. slanderers have only succeeded in making a disgraceful spectacle of themselves.
Small Furnaces Make the Grade

Throughout the country iron and steel workers did well in July, raising the quality of their products still further and fulfilling their monthly quotas ahead of schedule. At Anshan, China's largest steel centre, the workers of the five major open-hearth furnaces turned out 11,000 tons of high-grade steel over and above their July targets. Shanghai came to the fore with an 11.5 per cent increase in steel output over June. Tientsin, the north China industrial city, took pride in the achievements of its No. 3 Steel Mill; it fulfilled its July quotas four days ahead of schedule and succeeded in raising desulfurization efficiency of the cupolas from 50 to 80 per cent, thus speeding up the melting process. These are only a few examples of the successes scored by the metallurgical industry in July.

In the development of China's iron and steel industry much attention is paid to small blast furnaces and converters. The Ministry of Metallurgical Industry is popularizing 12 technical measures for increasing the output and raising the quality of pig iron produced by small blast furnaces. These measures, based on the experience gained in the operation of these small furnaces over the past few months, include using washed coal in the production of coke, ore dressing, increasing the temperature and volume of air blast.

It will be remembered that most of these small blast furnaces and converters came into being during the big leap forward of 1958. Although their history is short, they have already shown their worth, with quality rising from month to month. By June an average of 91.03 per cent of all the steel produced by these converters was up to the standard set by the state. Five months before the rate was only 67.86 per cent. Much the same can be said for the steady rise in the quality of pig iron produced by the small blast furnaces.

Professors and Peasants Sum Up

In Shensi Province, professors in the agricultural sciences, agro-technicians and peasants sat around the same table to discuss the factors which accounted for this summer's rich wheat harvest in the province. The men from academic circles spoke more from the theoretic side; the master hands in farming brought current experience and practice to the discussion. This meeting was one of the steps taken by the provincial authorities to size up what can be used in past experience to benefit the autumn sowing.

Shensi, in the northwest, is one of China's major wheat-producing provinces. A particular feature of its success this year, a follow-up on 1958, was the fact that it harvested rich crops of wheat in quite a few instances on what used to be unusually poor farmland. At the conference the farmer-experts, technicians and scientists, each from his own angle, furnished information and put forward their views on the harvest. They made an exhaustive study of how the 8-point charter for agriculture had been applied in Shensi — this constituted the key to the rich harvest — and assessed the effect of each single measure and the interaction of all eight.

The discussions were spirited. There was plenty of give and take between professors and peasants in thrashing out different, and sometimes sharply conflicting, points of view. The conference, among other things, has enabled those who generally work in the laboratories and those who spend the greater part of their days in the fields to learn much from one another.

Many of the peasants have a mine of information on the "how" of farming; for example, they know how to prevent rust in wheat but are quite at a loss in explaining the whys and wherefores of it. Now through their contacts with the scientists they have come to know the causes of rusting and can give a good working scientific explanation of it. The peasants like these arrangements that have brought them together with their colleagues of the test-tubes. They describe the synthesis as "native methods and modern explanations." The same holds true for the men of science whose knowledge has been supplemented by their association with the peasants. Some paraphrase an old saying: "A talk with a peasant is worth a score of books."

Fast Boat on the Tsangpo

From time immemorial the water route between Lhasa and Chetang, a key city in the Loka area, Tibet, could only be traversed by yak-hide coracle. And then only downstream. Small, uneconomical, time-consuming, always threatened by rocks and swift currents, the yak-hide coracle is a primitive craft. On his homeward-bound journey the traveller would have to send his vessel back overland after it had dried in the sun, while he himself would have to return on horseback or foot. Now the Tibetans are within sight of making all this a thing of the past; steamboats will soon ply between the two cities.

The Tibet Military Area Command of the People's Liberation Army recently sent out a team of experts to explore the possibility of navigating by steamboat the water route between Lhasa and Chushui (a point southwest of Lhasa, where the Lhasa River joins the Tsangpo) and between Chushui and Chetang on the Tsangpo River. These pioneers set out in a motor boat down the Lhasa River to Chushui, where they took an 8-ton barge in tow to Chetang, and then made a successful return voyage upstream to Lhasa.

According to the findings of the team, by dredging and deepening some silted up sections of the two rivers, the 230-kilometre waterway between Lhasa and Chetang can be made navigable to ships up to 2,000 tons. Right now boats up to 20 tons, with two or three barges in tow, can ply between the two points without much difficulty. Such tow boats are now being designed. This will be the first time that fleets of power-driven boats will be plying on two of Tibet's best-known rivers. It will greatly facilitate transportation and transport of goods between Lhasa and the Loka area, which hitherto depended mainly on animal transport. Together with the motor highway built in 1957, the development of inland water transport in this part of Tibet will help the Tibetan people to open up the riches in their midst.

Nanling: A Sealed Book No More

The Red Army fears not the trials of a distant march;
To them a thousand mountains, ten thousand rivers are nothing;
To them the Five RIDGES ripple like little waves,
And the mountain peaks of Wumeng roll by like mud balls.

The "Five RIDGES" referred to in these opening lines of one of Chairman Mao Tse-tung's oft-quoted poems were among the first difficult mountain areas the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army passed through after setting out from Kiangsi on its Long March. Stretching across the southern provinces of Kwangtung, Hunan and Kiangsi and the autonomous region of Kwangsi, they are generally known as the Nanling Mountains. Today, the silence of the eastern part of the Nanling range, an area of
some 90,000 square kilometres lying mostly in Kwangtung, is broken once again. For three years Chinese geologists, with the assistance of Soviet experts, have been making an intensive survey of the area. Their work is now nearing completion.

A series of maps providing detailed information about geological formations, mineral resources, stratification, etc., have been prepared. Pinpointing the location of many minerals, they will be of key importance in planning the power stations, water conservancy projects and railways which will be built in these parts. Coal and some twenty other minerals have been found, exploding once and for all the myth that the southern provinces, and Kwangtung in particular, are void of coal.

For hundreds of years past the Nanling Mountains, geologically and topographically among the most complex in China, used to be a closed book. Nobody knew what natural riches lay buried under the earth here. An old map with a one to one million scale was all that was inherited from the old China; it gave the scantiest of general information. The Nanling survey undertaken by the People's Government has proved the secrets of these parts, a milestone in the immense job of completing the geological survey of the 9 million square kilometres of China.

**Yangtse Valley Soil Survey**

In the meantime, another survey has been completed in the Yangtse River Valley, this time of soil structure, part of a nationwide soil survey. Maps on a one to one million scale showing the distribution of various kinds of soils and supplementary maps on a scale of one to two hundred thousand of the Nanyang Basin, the Ichang Plain and the hilly regions of Hunan and Kiangsi, have been drawn up, together with detailed written reports on other aspects of the area's soil.

The Yangtse Valley covers the seven provinces of Szechwan, Hupeh, Hunan, Kiangsi, Anhwei, Chekiang and Kiangsu. It comprises an area of about 1.5 million square kilometres which is one of the richest parts of China. The survey was started in 1956 to provide data for the great project of developing the Yangtse Valley. For three years scientists and their assistants have picked their way through these provinces and studied the ground they trod. They have discovered new varieties of soil and the information collected will introduce certain corrections in soil classifications previously made. Their findings have already led to a number of proposals for the more efficient exploitation of the wealth of the land. These include a scheme for more scientific irrigation of the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtse River.

**The Finishing Touches**

With the first national sports meet only a few weeks away workers are busily putting the finishing touches to the country's biggest sports arena just built in the eastern part of Peking. Already the place has a festive air. Decorative towers are going up together with a colourful colonnade for the flags and pennants that will be unfurled at the grand opening.

Most of the forty-two events will take place in Peking's stadiums, gymnasiums, and swimming pools, but a few will be held in outlying districts. Parachute-jumping, glider and model aeroplane contests will be held at Lianghsiang, hitherto best known for its chestnuts. Apart from the main stadium, eight other places are now being made ship-shape for the occasion.

The cream of the nation's athletic youth will compete in the games. The organizers are completing arrangements to accommodate some 10,000 sportsmen from the provinces, autonomous regions, major cities and the People's Liberation Army. The number of judges, umpires and referees, totalling over a thousand, will also be the biggest ever. More than a hundred doctors and nurses have been detailed for duties during the games.

Practically all sporting equipment needed is "made in China" by Peking, Tientsin and Shanghai sports goods factories. These include 1,200 dozen ping-pong balls; 250 footballs; 300 cycles; 60 sets of parallel bars, and much else. This is another distinguishing feature of the national games this year. In the old days China had to import almost all standard sports goods and equipment for national competitions.

One factory has produced a time-saving gadget for the volleyball tournament—an automatically adjusted net. This can be raised to the standard height for the men's game simply by pushing a button after the conclusion of a women's match. An electric score board to announce the results of each event is another welcome fixture.

Most of the competing teams have already selected their representatives for the games. Peking itself is fielding a strong team of some 400 of its best athletes. The People's Liberation Army is sending a like number. The autonomous regions are girding up their loins, too. Inner Mongolia, which specializes in equestrian events, is expected to give all comers keen competition. All in all, it will be a fine demonstration of the way sport and sporting spirit links the land.
The Japanese People Fight On

The mounting campaign against a military alliance with the United States and against the nuclear armament of the country has become the main focus of political life in Japan. This mass movement began early this year. It has been marked by nationwide rallies, strikes and peace marches. The convocation of the Fifth World Conference for the Prohibition of Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs in Hiroshima is a new climax. We print below a slightly abridged version of the "Renmin Ribao" editorial of August 5, originally entitled "New Upsurge in the Japanese People's Struggle Against the U.S.-Japanese Military Alliance and the Nuclear Arming of Japan." Subheads have been added.—Ed.

The Fifth World Conference for the Prohibition of Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, initiated by the Japanese people, opened formally in Hiroshima today. The major items on its agenda are:

**Prohibition of atomic and hydrogen bombs through East-West consultation.**

**Prevention of the arming of Japan with nuclear weapons.**

**Problems relating to the revision of the Japan-U.S. "Security Treaty."**

Peace-loving people throughout the world regard the Conference as an important landmark of the constantly rising peace movement in Japan. They therefore place high hopes on it.

Japan is the only country which has suffered the calamity of atomic bombing. The Japanese people, to this very day, bear the disastrous consequences of the aggressive war launched by the Japanese militarists. They cannot forget that the latter not only brought untold sufferings to other Asian peoples but imposed relentless oppression and exploitation on the people of their own country, and that the war of aggression they unleashed left 2 million orphans and 1,530,000 widows in Japan. Nor can they forget that 14 years ago, in August 1945, the United States dropped atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing hundreds of thousands of Japanese in one frightful moment, or that, more than five years ago, the U.S. testing of hydrogen bombs at Bikini brought new sufferings to the Japanese people.

Now, with the old wounds still unhealed, the people of Japan are faced with the revival of militarism and the great danger of being plunged into a destructive nuclear war. Japanese and American reactionaries have entered into collusion, to force through the new Japan-U.S. "Security Treaty." Its fundamental aim is to forge an aggressive military alliance between Japan and the United States, revive Japanese militarism and prepare actively to arm Japan with nuclear weapons and turn her into a U.S. nuclear war base in the Far East.

**Mounting Popular Opposition**

Today the struggle, demanding the banning of atomic and hydrogen bombs and opposing the revision of the Japan-U.S. "Security Treaty," has become a mass movement of the broadest kind. Japanese people of all social strata, political parties and groups, ideologies and religious beliefs, are gathering day by day, to form a broad united front the aim of which is to struggle for their vital national interests and the right of their children and their children's children to live. Thirty-five million Japanese in all walks of life have signed the demand for banning nuclear weapons. Last June, a strong force of peace marchers left Tokyo, Niigata and Yoron Island (of the Amami-Oshima group) so as to arrive in Hiroshima before the opening of the World Conference for the Prohibition of Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs. On their way they were enthusiastically welcomed by the city and town authorities, primary and middle school pupils, women's organizations and trade unions.

During the same period four popular "united actions" have been taken to oppose the revision of the Japan-U.S. "Security Treaty." In the fourth, launched on July 25, there were a million participants—in more than 300 cities and towns. The fifth will take place on August 6, in close co-ordination with the convocation of the Hiroshima Conference.

These facts show that the Japanese people's struggle for independence, peace and democracy has reached a new

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*On such "united action" days all forms of protest—strikes, marches, rallies, etc. — were organized throughout the country.*

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**Let's have a drink and a smoke!**

Cartoon by Chiang Yu-sheng

Peking Review
Facts on the Japan-U.S. "Security Treaty" Revision

THE United States is hurrying to conclude a fresh military alliance with Japan. The means is the revision of the present "Security Treaty" between the two. According to the Japanese press, as compared with the current pact, the new treaty will greatly speed Japan's militarization and tie her more closely to the U.S. policy of arms expansion and war preparation.

Under Article 3 of the draft revision, Japan and the United States "separately and jointly, by means of continuous mutual assistance and mutual aid, will maintain and develop their capacity to resist armed attack."

WHILE the current treaty provides for U.S. responsibility for Japan's "defence," the proposed new one openly stipulates that both countries will fight jointly in a new war.

The meaning of this was made clear by Premier Kishi himself when he said: "I believe that any attack on the U.S. bases (in Japan — Ed.) justified or unjustified, is automatically an attack on Japanese territory, Japan's territorial air and her other natural rights."

A KEY point in the war preparations of American reaction is to make Japan a nuclear war base. Both signatories to the treaty are to agree, in an exchange of notes, to "consult" each other on the introduction of U.S. nuclear arms into Japan. This opens the door wide for such introduction. In fact, the Kishi group, in proposing a revision of the Japan-U.S. "Security Treaty," plans for nuclear armament with U.S. assistance.

THOUGH the revision scheme, the U.S. and Japanese reactionaries also harbour the aggressive design of forming a northeast Asia military alliance. The United States intends to include Okinawa and Ogasawara Islands as common "defence" areas in its bilateral military treaties with Japan, the Syngman Rhee clique and the Chiang Kai-shek clique. It thereby links them up in a new military bloc for aggression. Within this bloc, under the tutelage of the United States, Kishi wants Japan to be the "overlord."

high. They show that the movement to win peace and oppose nuclear weapons is becoming linked ever more closely with the struggle against a U.S.-Japan military alliance, thus forming a mighty and irresistible torrent.

Notably, none of the previous post-war Japanese cabinets dared openly to oppose the Japanese people's movement for the banning of the atomic and hydrogen weapons. Now, however, the Kishi cabinet has gone so far as to clash openly with the World Conference whose convocation it tried hard to prevent. The Liberal Democrats, the party in power, also directed their local organizations to "watch" the trend of the nuclear ban movement. Local authorities were instructed not to co-operate with the conference.

The pretext of the Kishi cabinet and the Liberal Democratic Party is that the conference is "politically coloured" because it wants to discuss the revision of the "Security Treaty." This only serves to show that the true aim of their intensified effort to revise the treaty is to expedite the arming of Japan with atomic and hydrogen weapons and to turn her into a U.S. nuclear war base.

Kishi vs. the People

It is clear as daylight that the Kishi cabinet has openly chosen a stand hostile to the Japanese people and is taking a road diametrically against their wishes.

The Japanese people want to take the road of national independence and peaceful neutrality and oppose all military alliances of an aggressive nature. The Kishi cabinet, by contrast, is contentedly subservient to Washington, is all for a military alliance with the United States, allows the continued stationing of U.S. troops in Japan, keeps the U.S. military bases there intact, and betrays the right of the Japanese nation to independence.

The Japanese people want freedom and democracy and oppose fascism. The Kishi cabinet, by contrast, tries to introduce a series of reactionary laws and decrees (such as the "Police Duties Law" and the "Espionage Law"), intensifies the suppression of the democratic movement and is reviving fascist rule in Japan.

The Japanese people aspire to peaceful national economic development and prosperity and oppose the revival of militarism. The Kishi cabinet, by contrast, steps up the revival of militarism, tails after the U.S. policy of arms expansion and war preparations and attempts to embark on imperialist expansion in Southeast Asia.

The Japanese people are firmly opposed to nuclear armament, demand a ban on such weapons and support the Soviet proposal for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Far East and the Pacific region. The Kishi cabinet, by contrast, actively prepares for nuclear armament, has actually allowed the U.S. armed forces to ship nuclear weapons into Japan, is drawing Japan into the U.S. nuclear strategic system and is turning her into a U.S. base of aggression for nuclear war in the Far East.

The Japanese people demand the establishment and development of friendly relations with China and the Soviet Union. The Kishi cabinet, by contrast, persistently follows the U.S. policy of hostility towards China and the Soviet Union, and especially towards China, by persisting in the scheme to create "two Chinas," and doing its best to obstruct the restoration of normal relations with China. All these things show indisputably that the Kishi cabinet is the most reactionary of all post-war governments in Japan; that it is the most vicious of the instruments the Japanese and U.S. monopolist groups have used, since the conclusion of the war, to attack the Japanese people.

Reactionaries Are Weak Within

In the Japanese people's eyes, however, the Kishi government is not as "strong" as the Japanese and U.S. reactionaries make it out to be. On the contrary, it is weak and brittle by its very nature. Its traitorous policy of revising the Japan-U.S. "Security Treaty" is constantly

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arousing more powerful popular opposition. Even inside the ruling bloc, there are some far-sighted people who realize that certain provisions in the new treaty threaten to involve Japan in war. Precisely because of the pressure of the Japanese masses, and of the contradictions inside the Liberal Democratic Party, the conclusion of the new “Security Treaty” has been postponed again and again.

The Kishi cabinet now plans to appropriate huge sums for a big publicity campaign for the new “Security Treaty” with the United States, while at the same time intensifying the suppression of popular opposition. But whatever it does, it will never iron out its fundamental contradictions with the Japanese people. Nor can it stop the conflicts between the different factions of the ruling clique. The recent reorganization of the Kishi cabinet was regarded as a bad omen by the leading bourgeois papers in Japan. The Tokyo Mainichi Shimbun, for example, noted that the third Kishi cabinet could not be regarded as stable.

Sharpening Contradictions

The military alliance, now being prepared, is a reflection of the true relations between the reactionaries of the United States and Japan. They are in collusion, but also try to use each other. U.S. imperialism wants Japan for a pawn in its aggression in the Far East, and a piece on the chessboard of its nuclear strategy. The Japanese monopoly capitalist bloc represented by Kishi, on its part, dreams of realizing its latent imperialist ambition — expansion in Southeast Asia through U.S. help. Clearly, this will mean outing the interests of such old imperialist countries as Britain. For the Southeast Asian countries, it will mean the violation of their national independence and peaceful neutrality.

Kishi’s imperialist policy, therefore, is bound to face the firm opposition of the peoples of other Asian countries. It will inevitably cause tension between Japan and other imperialist countries. Kishi’s recent visit to Europe failed to allay the struggles, both open and concealed, between Japan and some Western nations. This shows that the Kishi government is also becoming more and more isolated in the international arena.

By speeding a military alliance with the United States, the revival of Japanese militarism and the transformation of Japan into a U.S. nuclear war base, the Kishi government can only arrive at a dead end. Early in May this year, the Soviet Government warned sharply to take into full consideration what it means to a land like Japan, with a comparatively small territory and dense population, to be involved in an atomic and rocket arms race. The situation in the world and Asia today is entirely different from a decade ago. Kishi’s hope to emulate old Japanese militarism is vain; it can only lead him up a blind alley.

The People Will Win

The U.S. imperialists, naturally, will never willingly give up control over Japan. And it is most unlikely that Japan’s own reactionary forces will leave the scene voluntarily.

Of late, fearing trouble if it is postponed, the United States has been urging the Japanese Government to sign a new bilateral treaty with it. Acting the master, U.S. Ambassador Douglas MacArthur II keeps pressing the Kishi government for an answer and the early conclusion of such a treaty.

The Kishi government has been using deceit, bribery, divisive tactics and even open suppression against the people, so as to sign the new treaty, when the time is ripe, against their will and desires. The fight ahead will be very difficult, with many ups and downs. But the Japanese people have been tempered in many struggles. They are becoming more politically conscious. Their will to fight is growing with each day. Their aims of struggle too are more clear-cut than ever.

The Fifth World Conference for the Prohibition of Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, defying oppression by....

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**Peking Rally Supports Japanese People’s Struggle**

Firm support for the Japanese people’s struggle against nuclear weapons and for world peace was voiced by some 1,000 representatives of all circles in Peking at a mass rally on August 4. A message of support was sent to the Fifth World Conference for the Prohibition of Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs which convened in Hiroshima.

Demands were made for the removal of all U.S. nuclear war bases and U.S. aggressive troops from Japan, South Korea, China’s territory of Taiwan and other parts of the world. An international agreement to cease nuclear tests and ban nuclear weapons unconditionally and permanently was strongly urged.

Li Teh-chuan, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity, made a speech denouncing the U.S. imperialists and the Kishi clique for their scheme of turning Japan into a U.S. nuclear war base in the Far East by means of a new military pact.

The Japanese people’s opposition to the revival of militarism in Japan, and to the Japan-U.S. “Security Treaty” as a step towards nuclear war, was not only in their own interest but in that of all the peoples of Asia and the world, she said.

Sternly Li Teh-chuan warned the reactionary Kishi clique. Should it decide to serve as an accomplice in U.S. imperialist aggression in Asia and continue its hostile policy towards China, she declared, the result would only be even stronger opposition among the peoples of China, Japan, Asia and the world, and its own shameful defeat.

A great ovation greeted the Japanese speaker, the noted peace partisan Kinkazu Saisonji. He strongly condemned the Kishi government and the U.S. imperialists for persisting in their attempts “to tie Japan tightly to the U.S. imperialist system of atomic strategy.”

Hsu Chih-chen, Vice-President of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, pledged the firm support of the Chinese workers to their brothers in Japan, and to the whole Japanese people in their fight against the U.S. nuclear war policy and their struggle for independence, democracy, peace and neutrality.

The rally was jointly sponsored by the China Peace Committee and the Chinese Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity.
the Kishi government, has decided resolutely to discuss opposition to the revision of the Japan-U.S. "Security Treaty." This shows that the Japanese people are raising still higher the banner of struggle against the U.S.-Japan military alliance and against nuclear armament, and are determined to carry on the fight.

Provided the Japanese people continue to strengthen their unity, and persist in struggle to the end, we believe they will certainly defeat the fierce attacks of the U.S. and Japanese reactionaries, win the final victory, and realize their desires for peace and independence.

Travel Notes

Among the Yao People in Kwangsi

by C. F. YANG

This is the concluding instalment of impressions of a trip to Kwangsi by the editor of "Peking Review."

The Yao mountains glisten like gold.
Rice and corn grow big and plentiful,
Drought and flood are now controlled.
Bumper crops make everybody cheerful.

That's how the Yao and Chuang peoples of Tuan County sang the praises of last year's rich harvest. It was no small achievement. It signified that Tuan had turned a new leaf and entered a new stage of development in its economic life.

Tuan, an autonomous county for the Yao people, is a sparsely-populated district in Kwangsi. You see more rocks and stones than soil. The ratio is reported at 9 to 1. Whether this is literally or figuratively true, I can't say for sure. But I am quite certain of one thing. Wherever I went I saw mountains and mountains. Flood, drought, bad climate and other natural calamities used to play havoc here, and added to the difficulties of the people.

Before 1958, Tuan was long known for its shortages of food grains and had to depend heavily on the shipment of grains from other places. In 1958, the tables were turned completely. For the first time in the long years of its existence Tuan became a grain-surplus county. When I visited the county seat, the magistrate told me with a sense of justifiable pride that they were shipping grain out this year to help other places.

Developing the mountainous areas was no easy job. First of all, it's necessary to build up the people's confidence. Skeptics and pessimists were not without a following among the masses of people. They had the painful experience of the past to buttress their argument. The difficulties seemed overwhelming. The following description of Tuan, long in circulation among the people, is classical:

"Towering mountains and poor soil strike a chill in people's hearts. Everywhere you see barren rocks without a single blade of grass. The mountains are so high that they keep the sun away for more than half of the day. The soil is so sterile that farming is just a waste of time and energy. In times of severe drought, the fields crack, as if cut by a knife. In times of flood, the fields turn into marshes."

That was the bleak picture of the area. To give the people confidence in eventual success through hard work, more than abstract pep talks and general moralizing was required.

A Year of Big Change

The most urgent problem demanding solution was water. In the mountainous districts water was in short supply. Before liberation days, it was said that in some places people used a basin of water for three purposes—to wash their faces and hands, to wash clothes and to cook green fodder for the hogs. In some far off places, the villagers had to walk 20 or 30 li for water. This was a great waste of time and labour. Getting enough drinking water in times of severe drought was a very serious problem, not to speak of getting water for irrigation.

There was another side to the water problem, too. Heavy rains usually led to bad floods. Rushing torrents pouring down from the mountains often washed away much of the topsoil, crops, and even buildings, causing heavy loss of life and property. Soil erosion and floods were big headaches.

Fighting drought and combating floods boiled down to the controlling of water. Shortly after liberation, the People's Government started tackling this tough problem. Large sums of money were spent to dig wells, build ditches and plant trees. In the early months of 1958 especially great efforts were made to step up the construction of water conservancy projects. Throughout the county, a huge army of 150,000 people, close to one-third of the entire population, was out building more dams, ditches and reservoirs, digging more ponds and wells, terracing more mountain slopes, and planting more trees. Nearly two months of hard work completed 1,944 medium-
sized and small water conservancy schemes. As a result, 233,500 mu of land were freed from the danger of drought, 67,000 mu were rid of their traditional curse of water-logging, and the irrigated land was increased by 110,000 mu. Trees were planted over an additional area of 839,000 mu. Thanks to all these efforts, drought and flood have been virtually brought under control.

At the same time, a vigorous drive was initiated to collect more manure and increase the amount of fertilizer and introduce improved farming techniques most suitable for the mountainous districts. Better agricultural tools and rational close planting were also widely adopted. All this helped bring about the bumper harvests in 1958 and opened an entirely new chapter in Tuan's history.

Tuan's economic achievements are indeed impressive. As a journalist, however, I am more politically than economically minded. I was more interested in the successful solution of the national minority problem than in the methods of increasing agricultural production.

**Yao Autonomous County**

Tuan is an autonomous county for the Yao people. Of the county's total population of 560,000, however, the Yaos account for barely one-fourth, numbering only 120,000. The vast majority in the county are Chuangs. The reason Tuan was made an autonomous county for the Yaos despite their relative numerical minority in relation to the total local population is that here in Tuan the largest single Yao community in Kwangsi is located. All in all, there are about 490,000 Yaos in Kwangsi dispersed through more than fifty counties. Even in Tuan, the Yaos constitute small groups in the midst of large communities of Chuangs.

The county magistrpate is a Yao. Among the three deputy magistrates, two are Yaos and one is a Chuang. I was profoundly impressed by the fraternal spirit of close co-operation and teamwork displayed at various levels as well as among the people of various nationalities in Tuan — Yaos, Chuangs, Miao, Hans and Malaos. At the government offices, or out in the fields, I saw people of different nationalities working with single-minded devotion for the same cause. Common interests and common ideals bind them together in splendid brotherhood.

During the delegates' conference of people's communes, many episodes attracted my attention. It was rather late one night. I was sitting at the desk near the window, writing out a full account of an interview I had had with a commune manager early in the morning. Time and again I referred back to the notes I had taken. It was drizzling outside. Glancing out of the window across the yard, I saw two persons facing a wall, sharing the cover of an umbrella.

"What are they doing over there?" I asked myself. Putting down my pen, I walked out. There I found a Chuang girl and a middle-aged Yao woman, the badges on their chests indicating that they were both delegates to the conference of people's communes. The girl was teaching the woman to read the slogans painted on the wall. "Say after me," the girl said with an air of authority as she read the slogan distinctly: "Let's go all out, aim high and achieve greater, faster, better and more economical results in building socialism." She read aloud word by word, then broke the slogan into three sentences and finally linked them up into a whole. She explained in great detail the meaning of the slogan while the middle-aged woman listened attentively.

To some this episode may seem too trivial to talk about. But to me, this moving scene spoke volumes and touched me deeply. It illuminated the harmony and mutual help between the Chuang and Yao peoples. The enthusiasm with which the Chuang girl helped others spotlighted the quality of human relations in socialist society. The eagerness of the Yao woman to learn notwithstanding age and other handicaps put me to shame, especially when I thought of my shilly-shallying in learning the Peking pronunciation properly.

The story of Magistrate Lan Chang-fa of Tuan vividly illustrates the profound changes that the national minority ties in Kwangsi have experienced since liberation. Magistrate Lan, aged 44, is the son of a poverty-stricken Yao peasant. He has been steered in long years of sharp struggle against reaction. For generations, his family groaned under ruthless exploitation and blood-sucking usury. In his boyhood, Chang-fa had to help support the family by cutting and selling firewood and doing odd jobs at home and in the field. Times were hard and life was unbearable. During the lean months, the family knew the pangs of hunger.

**Interview with the Magistrate**

I interviewed Magistrate Lan in his office one late June morning. It was raining outside. Recalling the terrible suffering of his family and that of the Yao people in general in the days before liberation, the magistrate's face darkened. He said: "Those were days of cold, hunger and bitter humiliation. Frustration and utter despair gripped us." Pointing to the mass of dark clouds floating across the sky, he went on: "At times it seemed that everything looked hopelessly gloomy, as gloomy as those black clouds. However, we must live. We had to fight for our very existence. You may probably have heard of the series of uprisings we Yao people launched against reactionary Kuomintang rule. The Kwangsi warlord Pai Chung-hsi felt compelled to appease the restive Yaos by
asking the ‘king’ of the Yaos to become his ‘sworn brother.’”

At the tender age of thirteen, Lan Chang-fa joined a group of fearless Yaos who fought the Kuomintang’s pressganging of Yaos into the army. He was clapped into jail. He got off easily that time because the judge thought he was much too young to create disturbances and told him not to keep company with “undesirable characters” and not “to get into trouble.”

Lan Chang-fa, however, was no passive person. As he grew up, he became more active in fighting Kuomintang reaction. For long years, pressganging and the crushing burden of taxation were the two most hated and intolerable curses of the Yao people. Lan Chang-fa agitated against them among the Yao people. He was in and out of jail many times. On the eve of liberation in 1949, Communist-led guerrilla units established contact with him. Since then he has served in the People’s Liberation Army and in different posts of government administration. Now he is also a people’s deputy to the National People’s Congress.

At the time of liberation, Lan Chang-fa could barely read or write and his understanding of revolution, as he said, was “not yet.” He confided to me: “I don’t mind telling you the truth, comrade. Before liberation, my only thought was to fight Kuomintang pressganging and taxation. That’s all I cared about. I knew exactly what I was fighting against, but I had no clear idea of what I was fighting for. The first time I established contact with the Communist guerrilla units, I very much doubted the efficacy of their hit-and-run tactics. It was only during subsequent operations that I came to see the importance of such tactics. Since then, I have picked up a bit.”

“More important still,” he continued, “is the deepening of my political understanding under the care of the Communist Party and the People’s Government. Now I know much better what revolution means for the national minorities. The change that has come over the minority people is really impressive. Tuan provides a good example.”

Then, Magistrate Lan explained in detail what had been accomplished in Tuan over the years and particularly in 1958. By this time, the rain had ceased and the sun was breaking through the clouds. Pointing to the sun, he said cheerfully, “Life now is full of warmth and we Yao people look upon the Communist Party and Chairman Mao as our sun.”

A bulky briefcase was on his desk. Time and again, the magistrate opened the briefcase and took out documents and papers to check facts and figures. Now he can read and write. Listening to him explaining complex political and economic questions or highly technical problems in a clear way gives you the impression that he is a man who knows what he is talking about and you do not suspect that he was illiterate before liberation.

I have written more or less at length about the situation I found in Tuan because what has happened here is characteristic of the other minority nationalities in Kwangsi.

National Minorities in Kwangsi

The Kwangsi Autonomous Region for the Chiang People has a population of approximately twenty million.
carry out democratic reform and socialist transformation and to develop the economy and culture. At the same time much attention was paid to the training of cadres from among the national minorities. As early as 1951, Lungcheng was turned into an autonomous county for the local minority people. This was the first of its kind ever established in Kwangsi. Subsequent years witnessed the setting up of autonomous counties for Yaus, Miao and Tungs. An autonomous chou was created in western Kwangsi for the Chunags. In places where the minority people lived scattered in small groups, autonomous townships were established. In March 1958, the whole province of Kwangsi was changed into the Kwangsi Autonomous Region for the Chuang People.

Adequate representation of the minority nationalities at all levels of people's congresses and people's government is ensured. A typical example is highly significant. Although the Chiaos have only several hundred people in Kwangsi, they have a people's deputy to the Kwangsi People's Congress. The minority nationalities hail the policy of regional autonomy as "the greatest blessing ever known in history." The Kuomintang's "divide and rule" policy led to dissension and strife among the national minorities. The Communist policy of regional autonomy for the national minorities has brought about unprecedented national solidarity. During my visits to the autonomous counties, I often heard people say, "The Kuomintang played one of us against the other and turned us into enemies. The Communist Party united us into a big harmonious family working for a common cause."

The people of Kwangsi boast a long-standing revolutionary tradition. The Taiping Uprising was first started at Kweiping County, Kwangsi, with the Hans, Chunags, and Yaos fighting shoulder to shoulder against the corrupt Manchu regime. The Taiping revolutionary movement soon spread to other provinces. In 1929, a revolutionary uprising was launched at Poseh, western Kwangsi, under the leadership of the Communist Party. As a result, a revolutionary government controlling eleven counties was set up and the 7th Red Army was created embracing Hans, Chunags, Yaos and Miao. On the eve of liberation, many of the national minority people joined Communist-led guerrilla units which operated successfully in the rear of Kuomintang rule.

The people of various nationalities in Kwangsi joined together on many occasions to fight tyranny. In the course of the struggles they built up strong feelings of friendship. National oppression and discrimination by the reactionary rulers of the past, of course, created suspicion and mutual distrust. But the moment the Kuomintang regime was thrown out and the People's Government was set up, the way was cleared to promote better relations among the people of the different nationalities in Kwangsi.

The minority nationalities in Kwangsi live mostly in the mountainous districts which are relatively backward economically and culturally. Now all this has changed considerably. Electric lights, telephones and long-distance buses are no longer anything new. Factories and mills are humming with activity in the former wilderness. Schools, clinics, cinemas, nurseries and theatres have cropped up everywhere, bringing a better and fuller life to the minority people.

I came away from Kwangsi fully convinced of the efficacy of the policy of regional autonomy for the minority nationalities. What has been accomplished in Kwangsi testifies eloquently to the benefits this policy has brought to the people of China's numerous national minorities.

Agriculture

More Silkworms, More Silks

by HO SHAN

The outlook for silkworm breeding this year is more than good. Most silkworm breeding areas in China reported bigger output of spring cocoons. The national total surpassed last year's spring crop by almost 10 per cent.

Szechuan, one of the major breeding provinces, scored a 22 per cent increase with its spring brood and is busily preparing to get another rich crop this autumn. The Soochow Special Administrative Region in Kiangsu Province produced a spring crop of cocoons big enough to keep its filatures going for six months.

With spring tussah worms the country did even better. Compared with the spring of last year, about 60 per cent more tussah cocoons were produced.

Sinkiang, Liaoning, Kansu, Kiangsi and Honan were in the van: all harvested more silkworm cocoons last spring than in the whole of 1958. Honan made a like record with tussah cocoons.

This, the first big crop of cocoons raised since the establishment of people's communes throughout the country, well demonstrates the advantages of the commune organization in running side-line production. With bigger resources and manpower reserves, communes can run their side-occupations in a more efficient and economical way and this applies to silkworm breeding too. The rich spring crop is the result of effective preparatory work and careful tending of the silkworms in the communes. Most communes in the major silkworm breeding provinces have organized special teams to care for this side-line. Higher standards have been set for the breeding rooms and sheds and greater care is given to the mulberry groves.

Rural communes in the Kashing Special Administrative Region in Cheliang Province, the seaboard province south of the Yangtse, have formed 1,600 breeding teams and widely diffused knowledge of the successful experience of Tehching, its leading county in this field. Kiangsu
CHINESE SILKS

In China breeding silkworms is traditionally a village occupation. The peasants send their cocoons to filatures where the silk is reeled off into silk yarn for the weaving of silk fabrics of many varieties in the silk mills of such famous centres as Hangchow (Chekiang), Soochow (Kiangsu), Shanghai, Nanchung (Szechuan) and Antung (Liaoning).

The national output of silk yarn and textiles dropped catastrophically under the Kuomintang as the output of cocoons sagged from the high of 1931. In 1949, silk textile output was only a fraction of the 1931 figure. Since then it has gained steadily with the increase in output of cocoons. Last year the output of silk yarn was up 20 per cent compared with 1957 and the output of silk textiles was some 30 per cent greater. Silk yarn output was 3.5 times as much as in 1949 while 3.7 times as much silk fabric was produced.

Chinese silk of course has a proud tradition. It has been known throughout the civilized world since ancient times. The breeding of silkworms and weaving of silks began over 1,000 years ago. Chinese silk yarn and silks were the main commodities exported to the West along the famous Silk Road from Kansu to the west. These products and related skills also went east to Korea and Japan. Those ancient skills have been preserved and enhanced.

Chinese silks today are made either of pure silk or a mixture of silk and rayon. Artificial silk fabrics are also being manufactured. Satin, crepe, gauze, brocade and georgette velvet are among the many types of silk fabrics produced. Mixed silk and rayon tapestry satins and Soochow brocades with distinctive Oriental patterns are world famous. Of pure silk fabrics, diaphanous Chinese georgette crepe, soft, sheer crepe de Chine and kabo crepe are always in great demand while its brilliant taffetas, velvets, georgette velvets and georgette with velvet flowers are distinguished fabrics on the markets.

Tussah silk is heavier than ordinary silk and has its own distinctive sheen. It has many valuable physical properties that make it an ideal summer dress material: it has a high capacity to absorb moisture and evaporate, resistance to heat, acids and alkalis. The Shantung and Antung pongees have long been the most famous tussah silk products on the market.

The industry is thus not only producing more but is making a big and successful effort to improve and increase its range of designs and types of products. The silk fabrics that have become well known for women's summer and evening wear are as finely made as ever; they are now complemented by a whole new range of materials for furnishing and other ornamental purposes. The use of silk or spun silk fabrics for industrial uses such as making insulation fabrics, fishing net thread and sieves is an indication of how highly this ancient industry has become in New China. Another sign of its vigour is the opening of new modern enterprises nearer the sources of raw material supplies in Khotan (Sinkiang), Tsopo (Shantung) and Tsuiyzi (Kweichow), and also the opening of enterprises in new silk rearing centres such as Huchow in Kiangsu and Foochow in Fukien.

Province has taken organized measures to improve its breeding sheds and given technical training in short courses to 70,000 members of its sericultural teams. In Kuang-yuan County, Szechuan, commune members were able to save themselves a lot of trouble by using overhead cable conveyors and slides to move the trays of tussahs up the hillside to the oak plantations.

Liaoning Province's plans made its need for tussahs greater than last year but it still managed to meet urgent orders from other provinces for pedigree tussahs. As a result, the southern provinces of Yunnan and Kwangtung were able to start their first experiments in breeding tussahs this year.

A Major Rural Side-line

China has an extremely large area that is suited climatically and in other ways for the growing of mulberry and the breeding of silkworms. This includes some 1,000 counties in 25 provinces and municipalities. Chekiang, Kiangsu, Szechuan and Kwangtung Provinces are the leading silk-worm breeding areas.

Tussah or wild silkworms are reared by the peasants on the oak shrubs that in certain areas grow in profusion on hill slopes. More than 200 counties in 19 provinces and municipalities now engage in tussah breeding, but most of the tussah cocoons come from Liaoning, Shantung, Honan and Kweichow. Tussah production has big latent possibilities. At the moment only one-fifth of the country's tussah feeding trees are being used for this purpose.

China's villages, of course, have a rich store of experience in tending mulberries and raising silkworms. Sericulture in addition gives a fairly quick return on investments and its products command high prices. This has made it one of the best rural side-lines. Moreover, it is readily and profitably combined with other side-occupations. Silkworm pupae and excrement can be used to feed fish while organic precipitants in the fish ponds make good fertilizer for the mulberry. Income from sericulture in the major silk-raising counties generally amounts to one-fifth or in some cases even up to two-fifths of the total agricultural income of farms.

Rapid Recovery

For nearly two decades before liberation the Kuomintang reactionary rule caused a steady decline in the industry. By 1949 the output of silkworm cocoons had declined to less than one-seventh of China's peak production in 1931. Less than 13 per cent of the highest output of tussah cocoons were gathered that year. Since liberation outputs have climbed steadily. By 1957, compared to the 1949 figure, the output of silkworm cocoons had more
than doubled while that of tussah cocoons had more than trebled.

In 1958, compared with 1957, China did pretty well both with home-raised silkworms and wild tussah worms: output of these went up by 24 and 28 per cent respectively. The area of mulberry orchards was 2.5 times as large as in 1949.

Fuller use was made of mulberry trees and silkworm by-products. Teching County, Chekiang, led the way in this field. It set up some 30 workshops to make artificial cotton, pulp from mulberry tree bark and active carbon from silkworm excrement, etc. By year's end income from these sources amounted to two-fifths of the county's total annual income from sale of its cocoons. Other areas are emulating this experience.

Communes have also turned their attention to increasing the number of broods in a year. Shantung Province, for instance, succeeded for the first time in breeding autumn silkworms last year. This broke the past practice of rearing only spring broods in the north. Teching County, in the lead here too, increased its crop from the previous three broods to eight in 1958.

Many other communes are taking further practical steps to get extra broods each year. Last year's experience shows that this can bring about a very rapid increase in the output of the raw material for one of China's most ancient and most prized products—silk.

Report from Tibet

LIFE IN THE LOKA AREA

by TSUNG CHAO-JEN

SOUTH of the Tsangpo River and southeast of Lhasa lies the Loka area. In its green valleys are broad rivers, extensive fields of qingke barley, flax and rape, and tree-girt villages; on the mountain slopes are fine pastures. It is known as the "granary of Tibet."

This was the rebels' base and it was there that they launched their rebellion. They turned the place into a living hell. Rape and murder was a commonplace. They wreaked bloody vengeance on all who opposed the rebellion, serfs and members of the upper strata alike. A serf of Nedong County was killed in cold blood when he refused to let his grain be "requisitioned"; his corpse was exhibited for seven days at a bridge to strike terror into every heart. The manorial estate of Kagyu, a patriotic landowner, was reduced to ruins because he refused to have anything to do with the rebels.

Since the Loka area is a fairly rich agricultural district, every year merchants of the Nagchuka and the Area of 39 Villages came here with salt and other merchandise to exchange for grain. The fertile grasslands at the foot of the Himalayas supply the neighbouring districts with huge quantities of dried meat and butter. But most of the people here, about 70 per cent, were poor and impoverished peasants. Land and other property was concentrated in the hands of the three principal overlords: the monasteries, which owned 39.5 per cent of the land; the nobility, 29.6 per cent; and the kasha (former local government of Tibet) which held 30.9 per cent.

Heavy Tax Levies

The reactionary serf-owners in the Loka area satisfied their lust for power and wealth at a staggering price in human suffering. Farm produce taken away by serf-owners exceeded 80 per cent. Many tax levies were as fantastic as they were ridiculous: a serf household was required to pay a tax when anybody in the household died and anyone who had a rooster had to pay an "egg" tax! There was also a tax for having pottery glazed. In order to live, the serfs borrowed money from their masters at exorbitant interest. Two forms of usury were especially shocking. One was the "generation-after-generation debt": the children and children's children of one who incurred such a debt would have to go on paying interest to the money-lender. The other was the "chain debt": if a debtor ran away or died, his guarantors had to pay off the debt on his behalf. In fact, the aggregate interest on a loan would be several times, scores and even hundreds of times the amount of the loan itself. A debtor often did not even know when the loan was made, which of his ancestors borrowed it and what the amount of the loan itself was.

The Lhagyari Hell

The picture of how the people in the Loka area lived or rather suffered under serfdom, however, is not complete without a visit to Lhagyari, home of the "King of Loka," Lhagyari Namje-jaltsa, after whom the place was named. For generations, this family ruled the people in the Loka area and, in Lhagyari, nearly all the land, grain, livestock, houses and serfs were the family property of the Lhagyaris. The five Lhagyari brothers at home were waited on by 62 ngangsan serfs (house slaves), and many more serfs worked in the fields without remuneration and did ula service (corvée) for them. Early this year, the Lhagyaris set up their rebel "headquarters" in their big mansion to lead the revolt. But the rebellion was short-lived. The P.L.A. made a quick march into the Loka area. When I passed Lhagyari not long ago, the stately five-storeyed mansion of the Lhagyaris was open to the public. All the rooms were lavishly furnished. The wardrobes were filled with fur coats, silks, satins, and woollen fabrics. Many cupboards were stuffed with canned fruits, high-quality wines and tobacco. Jewellery, curios and many other valuables were also in evidence. But it was only when you came to the dark room where a collection of instruments of torture was on display that you realized what was really behind the extravagance of these serf-owners. There were blood-stained stocks that could hold the legs of several serfs at the same time; I saw dozens of human skulls that had been cut open by the "King"; one skull bore the words "Amida Buddha" in the
“King’s” own handwriting: there were a dozen withered arms amputated from serfs. . . . The wealth and high life of the Lhagyaris was built up literally on the skeletons of the poor.

The quelling of the rebellion has put a final end to all this. Today in the Loka area, as elsewhere in Tibet, the people have begun to build a new life.

Around the town of Nedong, once a noted cultural centre in Tibet, men and women who toiled for generations without remuneration on the so-called “self-managed” land of serf-owners, have organized themselves for the first time into mutual-aid teams and are working these farms for their own benefit. These farms formerly belonged to such notorious ringleaders of the rebellion as Surkong Wongching-Galei, Kehmey Sonamwongdui and others. Since the quelling of the rebellion and the announcement by the Military Control Commission that this year the harvest on the farms belonging to the rebels would go to the tillers, the former serfs have gone about their work with enormous enthusiasm.

Humming with Activity

Every effort has been made to help the people of the area recover from the damages they suffered under serfdom and during the rebellion. All public functionaries and the P.L.A. men stationed in the area were mobilized to help with the spring ploughing so that not a plot should lie idle. Those who needed seeds, manpower or draught animals were supplied in time. After all the fields were sown, the people were again helped in many ways to tide over the difficult time before the harvest, such as supplying them with daily necessities at very low prices or giving them direct relief. According to an incomplete survey, poor Tibetans in this area have to date been supplied with over 300,000 jin of grain, more than 70,000 tea bricks and a huge amount of salt and butter either free of charge or at very low prices.

Peasants in Nedong say that this year “four things are within easy reach”: qingke barley, tea, salt and water for irrigation from the many ditches which have been dredged since the quelling of the rebellion. All four were hard to get during the time when the Loka area was a rebel base.

The ferry along the Tsango River hummed with activity. The exchange of goods between the areas north and south of the river, which had been cut off for some time, has been resumed. I met many people from Chonggye going to the north with pottery ware to exchange for grain and salt. Among them was a couple named Sodnam. Many people in Chonggye, they said, earned their living making pottery since what they grew on the land, after the serf-owners had taken their rent and taxes, was not enough to live on. When the rebellion was on even this little business was suspended though they were badly in need of grain and salt. The bandits were seizing whatever they could lay their hands on.

After Nedong, I visited the ancient town of Chetang, the political, economic and cultural centre of the Loka area. Located on a plateau 3,400 metres above sea level, Chetang in late spring is often enveloped in drifts of dust and after rain and wind the mountains in the locality are often covered with a thin coat of snow. When the sun shines after rain, however, this place is as beautiful as any of the mountain villages in places south of the Yangtse.

Chetang in Tibetan means “Playground of the Immortal Monkey” who, as Tibetan legend has it, was the ancestor of the Tibetan people. They regard this as a sacred place but the rebels devastated it. During the rebellion, the rebels forced the people to destroy the highways in an attempt to halt the advance of the People’s Liberation Army. But as soon as the rebels took to their heels, the local people at once rebuilt the road to greet the P.L.A. men.

Chetang is also famous for its hand-made textiles. The people here are noted for their architectural genius and mural painting: they are the builders of the many beautiful monasteries in the mountains between Kongka and Lhuntse. Today this ancient town which was besieged by the bandits during the rebellion is thriving. The shops are crowded with people and within a month the Loka branch of the Tibet Trading Company sold more than 30,000 tea bricks to the public. More than 3,000 people from all parts of the area came to Chetang immediately after the quelling of the rebellion to celebrate their annual Sagahisawa Festival, the traditional time to pray for good harvests. They worshipped at the Tsangdrub Monastery, danced and sang in the lingka (park) and attended the traditional fair where there was a lively trade in all sorts of goods. Although the spring ploughing here was delayed for two weeks because of harassment by the rebels, the actual sowing was done in time, thanks to the help of the P.L.A. men. There is good reason to expect a good harvest. This will go to the tillers to whom the crops now rightly belong. In the Himalaya valleys, the first qingke crop has already been brought in; buckwheat has been planted in its place. On the lower reaches of the Tsangpo, apples, peaches, walnuts and grapes are ready to be plucked.

I found sixty-five pupils studying at a school near a foothill which was once a rebel hide-out. Beside the school is a newly established class to train Tibetan medical personnel. Attending the class are young nangzans 15 to 18 years old. Sanitary conditions in Chetang, too, have improved greatly. Public lavatories have been built in the town and the whole place looks spick and span.

The area of land under cultivation has been increased, a big effort is being put into water conservancy work here and the pale, a kind of Tibetan rug, is being made once again.

Under a Lucky Star

Some time ago, a poor peasant’s wife in Kongka gave birth to triplets. On learning the news the work team of the Communist Party branch in the area sent a representative to greet the family with gifts of tea bricks and tsamba (parished barley flour). Special relief has been extended to the mother and babies. Gone are the days when triplets in Tibet could be regarded as “evils” and killed by the reactionaries in cold blood. Twenty years ago, triplets were born to a poor family in the same area. At the age of three, the triplets were taken away by a reactionary lama of the Daipung Monastery who claimed that these triplets must be “evil spirits.” Later, the triplets were killed by the lama and, plastered with clay, the corpses were turned into miniature idols enshrined in three small monasteries attached to the Daipung Monastery to fool the people. One of them was found after the quelling of the rebellion. It can still

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be seen in Lhasa together with other evidence of the cruelty of the reactionary serf-owners.

Many people here in Kongka said that the present triplets were born “under a lucky star”: they came into the world in the new Tibet and will grow to manhood as free and happy human beings.

A new era has dawned in the Loka area. The long-awaited democratic reforms have begun. Following the recent plenary session of the Preparatory Committee of the Autonomous Region of Tibet which endorsed the reform, peasants’ associations have been organized throughout the area. They are leading the people in the san jan (three anti: anti-rebellion, anti-ula and anti-slavery) and shuang jian (reduction of rents and interests) movement. In the next stage of the reform the land will be redistributed. The peasants of Loka are determined to end the dark and cruel system that oppressed them over the many centuries; they are also working hard to get a bumper harvest in this first year of their new life.

A Mountaineer's Diary

High Conquest—The Second Ascent of Muztagh Ata

by WANG FENG-TUNG

This is the last instalment of an abridged version of the diary of Wang Feng-tung, instructor to the Chinese expedition that reached the summit of the “Father of Ice Mountains” last month. — Ed.

Friday, July 3

Yesterday we made the climb from our base camp at 4,500 metres to Camp I at 5,500 metres in three hours. Everyone is used to such altitudes now; we cook, sing, play cards — without the least sign of mountain sickness.

The weather began to change as soon as we crossed the snow line. The sky clouded over. A bitter wind swept over Muztagh Ata and the mountain, above and below, was lost to view behind the flurry of driven snow flakes.

“Storm, ice and snow, thunder and lightning can only strengthen our will and courage!” is our slogan. At 8:30 in the morning the teams roped together and we continued the ascent, braving the weather.

Our party of more than forty people formed a long line moving through the curtain of snow. Visibility was low: those bringing up the rear couldn’t see the ones fifty metres ahead. We moved in silence; halts were few and far between and we made rapid progress. We negotiated the big ice slope, crossed the region of “ice cascades” and passed countless crevasses without a single accident. But there had been big changes in temperature in the last few days. We met newly formed ice slopes on the way, formed after the thaw by the recent snowfall. Some climbers, in spite of their nailed boots, slipped down the slopes from time to time and managed to climb up again only with the help of the other team members.

The snow fell heavier and heavier, obliterating landmarks. The imposing scenes of the ice cascade region were only faintly visible. Even the snow cornices as tall as three-storied buildings concealed themselves behind the snowy curtain, and appeared suddenly only when one was right up against them.

Dark clouds hung menacingly low; the wind blew hard. It became clear that a more serious snow storm was in the offing. A decision had to be made: either we should bow to the storm and return to Camp I, or race against time, outmarch the storm and get to Camp II, 6,200 metres above sea level. No one wanted to turn back. We determined to press on, quicken our pace and make shorter and fewer halts, two-thirds less than we had made on our last drill climb.

We covered the journey between Camp I and II in three hours, two hours less than during our last drill. By the time we had reached our destination the storm had turned into a blizzard.

Saturday, July 4

Heavy snow detained us at Camp II for the whole day.

When the time came for us to march that morning the camp was still obscured by falling snow.

At noon, the sky was as dark as at the close of day. Many of us grew impatient and wandered out of our tents to discuss the weather in twos and threes. Some looked anxiously into the sky and tried to forecast the weather. The snow fell steadily. It seemed most unlikely that the weather would change.

Shih Chan-chun of the Physical Culture and Sports Commission squatted on his heels outside his tent looking silently into the sky. Someone invited him in to play cards but he made no move and muttered: “No, thanks, I can’t think of anything now but the weather.”

Early in the morning Chao Tse-ching and Hu Teh-ming of the weather group had moved their instruments into the snow outside their tent. Every now and then they would go there to study the readings and record them. They had carried these heavy instruments along with them throughout the march, and they had had to carry on their work when others were resting on the way. We pestered them with questions about the weather but they wouldn’t commit themselves to a definite answer.

It was time for supper; the kerosene stoves in the tents were whistling cheerily. With broad smiles, our weather men packed up their instruments and instead of going for supper, went straight to Shih Chan-chun
who was still squatting on his heels. "Tomorrow the cold air will have passed. The weather will be fine!" they reported.

Sunday, July 5

The sky still looked pretty gloomy in the early morning, but we trusted our weather men. Breakfast over, we got ready for the march.

The temperature was 15°C, below zero.

We left Camp II at nine-thirty. The dark clouds began to disperse. Looking down at the grasslands beneath us, we saw the land basking in the sunshine which had broken through a cleft in the clouds. Everyone was in high spirits.

The ascent from Camp II to Camp III (6,800 metres) involved a gain in altitude of only 600 metres but it was a severe test of the physical strength of the climbers and their ability to endure the intense cold—the gradient was sharp, the march unusually long and to cap all a keen wind disputed our passage.

Cracked by the bitter cold, the lips of Wang Yi-chin, woman climber and our doctor, began to bleed, but she persisted in the climb. She was the weakest in the party, weighing only 50 kilogrammes. We were worried about her and advised her to make a halt but she stoutly refused. The whole party braved the wind and plodded on. The wind blew hard. Snow flakes pelted onto our snow glasses and frosted them over. The clouds, lashed by the wind, whirled about us. Visibility was reduced to a few dozen steps. We marched in silence. Except for the elements all you could hear were the monotone warnings "Look out!" "Crevasse!" "Hold hard!"

As we neared the site of Camp III we came to a crevasse. It was not very wide and all of the first group stepped over it without much difficulty. But it gradually widened as more and more climbers crossed over, and the edge of the snow was trampled down. When it came to the turn of the second group to cross it, the leader had to jump over first and lend a hand to the rest. When the third group reached it only Yen Tung-liang and Hu Teh-ming managed to jump over it; the third climber on the rope had to find a new crossing. He found a snow bridge over the crevasse higher up and crawled over.

The last man on the rope, Liu Chi-ming, tried to walk over it but the snow bridge collapsed under his weight and he fell in the middle of the crossing. The rest of the team, on the alert and dug in with their boots and picks pressed into the snow, held the rope taut with Liu suspended over the crevasse. Then they tried to pull him up and over, but in vain. At that moment, the next rope party arrived. "Drop another rope!" Liu shouted from the abyss. The leader of the party told his Number Two, Chu Yin-hua, nicknamed "Three and a Half Tons" to stand fast while he himself dropped another rope down to Liu and added his strength to the pullers. But this wasn't enough either. With Liu Chi-ming giving directions "Three and a Half Tons" sent down another pick and it was only with people pulling from three directions that Liu was at last manoeuvred out of the gap.

With the gap widened and the snow bridge collapsed, those on the wrong side of it had to find some other way of crossing. This they did by placing four tent poles over the snow bridge. The last twelve climbers, including three women, crawled over the gap on these poles.

By the time the third group reached Camp III it was already seven-thirty in the evening. Our march in the snow had lasted ten hours.

Monday, July 6

Nice weather today. We moved towards our fourth objective 7,200 metres above sea level according to plan.

Yesterday all the men and women of our party arrived at Camp III, but when we woke up in the morning, the condition of some climbers who were suffering from mountain sickness had grown worse. The leaders decided to send four climbers who were particularly seriously affected back to the lower camp site. Peng Shu-li, our tough-bodied coach, was assigned to be their escort. The rest of us continued the ascent. In front of us stretched a vast snow field, soft and loose underfoot. Six experienced climbers acted as pathfinders. The snow was knee-deep and each step was an effort. As they lifted up one foot to take a step the other foot sank deeper into the snow as it took their weight. It practically meant trampling down a path for the others to follow. It was exhausting work and they were wet with sweat even in the intense cold.

As we were approaching the 7,000-metre mark, Thrinlai, a Tibetan woman climber, got a severe headache because of lack of oxygen and the low air pressure. She began to vomit at every few steps. Liu Chi-ming, who had got caught in the crevasse the previous day, also found it difficult to carry on. It seemed as if his feet weighed a ton each, but they both stoutly refused to give in until, soon after they passed the 7,000 metres level, Thrinlai was clearly at the end of her tether while Liu Chi-ming collapsed on the ground. Our weather man Hu Teh-ming who had already advanced to a greater height was called back by our leaders to escort them back to camp. We saw him give a final longing look back at the summit of the "Father of Ice Mountains." The peak seemed so near now. For a moment
there was silence. Then he turned to me and said: "I'll see they get back safely," and we went down.

The going continued to be hard but we were buoyed up by the feeling that every step forward was leading us nearer to our goal. At 20:00 hours Peking time our pathfinders reached Camp IV, 7,200 metres above sea level. Only 346 metres now separated us from the summit.

Since the day before Shen Chieh, the cameraman of the Central Newsreel and Documentary Film Studio, had been suffering from mountain sickness and he had slept badly during the night. On arriving at Camp IV he took off his gloves and snow glasses to get to work on his camera, but within a few minutes his fingers began to swell because of the bitter cold and as he lifted up his camera he suddenly found he couldn't see! His eyes had been exposed too much to the ultra violet light in the last few days while shooting scenes on the way. It was a bitter blow to him. Here he was only 300 metres from the top stricken by snow-blindness and with his hands too swollen for work! Determined to complete his documentary he called in Shih Chan-chun and gave him detailed instructions on how to shoot the scenes he needed at the summit to complete his film.

Tuesday, July 7

We spent a long night at Camp IV. The temperature was 20°C. below zero. We were all very tired after the days' trudge, but at dawn we were again in high spirits; we would reach the summit that day!

Liu Ta-yi, Master of Sports, was assigned the lead, but less than twenty minutes after the march began he was breathing painfully and heavily. He was immediately replaced by Chen Jung-chang, another Master of Sports, our second pathfinder. But he too began to fail after a few steps. Their efforts as pathfinders in the last three days had exhausted them. They had lost a great deal of weight. Mu Ping-suo who had been in the rear volunteered to take their place; he is a veteran mountaineer and knew well how laborious was the task of a pioneer.

Step by step our party moved upward; nearer and nearer we approached the summit. But this was the most strenuous part of the whole ascent. Tsui Chung-yi, leader of one rope party suddenly fell flat on the ground breathless and dizzy from lack of oxygen and the low air pressure. Dojebu, a strong Tibetan climber, was assigned to help him back to camp. The rest continued the ascent. Our next casualty, at a height of 7,900 metres was Yuan Yang, a woman climber and our deputy leader. Someone helped her to her feet and she bravely managed to carry on for a bit more. But the effort was too much for her. After a dozen more steps, she fell for the second time. A Communist, she was determined to stick it out, and even began to struggle forward on her knees inch by inch. But the leaders forced her to desist and I and another climber were assigned to accompany her back to Camp IV and wait there with the others to be picked up on the return trip.

Heavy snow made it difficult for the party to find the summit. The pathfinders mistook a rock to the right for the summit and this mistake cost them an hour's extra march. Finally they located the rocky summit at 7,946 metres above sea level to the left of the track.

The first six to scale the height were all experienced men climbers; they were Shih Chan-chun, Hsu Ching, Chen Jung-chang, Mu Ping-suo, Wang Chen-hua and Lhaba Tsering, a Tibetan member of the team. They waited at the summit for a long time in great anxiety. Then they saw the other rope parties slowly approaching one after the other.

We were proud of our women climbers. They had fought hard through all sorts of hardships to gain the peak of Muztagh Ata. Eight of them had made it. Hsu Ching, leader of the expedition, couldn't repress his excitement. He shook hands with everyone, with tears in his eyes. All were overwhelmed by the joy of victory.

Chung Chen and Wang Kuei-hua, two women climbers, who are students of the Peking Institute of Geology, carefully pocketed a few pieces of rock from the summit as souvenirs.

At 18:20 hours Peking time all those who had reached the peak of Muztagh gathered together in a circle to watch Hsu Ching put a record of the ascent signed by himself on behalf of the whole party, into a metal box; this he placed under a pile of rocks on the very top of the mountain. Then they grouped around Chung Chen, who held the five-starred red flag high in the air, to be photographed by Shih Chan-chun who had been entrusted by our cameraman to film the climax of the documentary on the expedition.

The record which Hsu Ching deposited in the metal box reads:

"The Chinese Men's and Women's Mixed Muztagh Ata Expedition, 33 persons in all, including eight women climbers, reached the summit of Mount Muztagh at 18:20 hours Peking time on July 7, 1959. It is the unanimous desire of the expedition to dedicate this mountaineering exploit to the tenth anniversary of the founding of our People's Republic. Signed: Hsu Ching, Expedition Leader."
Chinese Films for Moscow Festival

Moscow is playing host to a two-week International Film Festival which opened on August 3. A Chinese delegation led by Vice-Minister of Culture Hsia Yen took with it three films: New Story of an Old Soldier, a wide-screen colour feature film; Coral Island, a colour documentary; and an animated cartoon entitled Adventures of the Small Carp.

Not many colour wide-screen films have been made in China, so the team responsible for the New Story of an Old Soldier (produced by the Haven Film Studio, Shanghai) was breaking a good deal of new ground. The film takes the stage back to the year 1948 when the People’s Liberation Army’s offensive against the reactionary Kuomintang army was advancing to victory and the work of rehabilitation and construction was already going ahead in the rear. As the drive south is being mounted, a veteran soldier who has been transferred to work as head of a rural county rushes into a government office and asks to be transferred to Peitahuang, the great wasteland at the northeastern tip of China. He has just heard that a state farm is to be set up there to open up its virgin soil. He says with characteristic frankness: “I should say I’m a bit queer; I’m afraid of heat but not cold.” Entrusted with the task of organizing the farm, he sets out at once with a group of pioneers; tractors and other equipment are transported to his farm, and an agronomist who is to be his deputy in managing the farm later joins him. There are battles against bandits and conservative ideas, but finally the farm is planted firmly on its feet. At the height of the celebrations welcoming the first wheat harvest, he receives an assignment to set up a new farm in another part of the great north wasteland. True pioneer that he is, Lao Chan, the veteran, receives the news with joy—ever ready for a new battle for the future. His comrades of the farm give him a warm and moving send-off.

The character of Lao Chan comes through in this film as one of the liveliest and most lovable in recent productions. Here is a man who is warm-hearted, sincere, unselfish, fearless in the face of difficulties, and willing to do anything for the welfare of the people and the cause of the revolution. He might have been a bit idealized, but he emerges as a warm, real human being. Countless heroes like this have emerged from among the rank and file of the Chinese revolution over the past three decades. These were the pioneers, ready at all times to carry out a new mission, the harder the better, and taking a proper pride in their ability to surmount obstacles and blaze new trails. It was such people with their inexhaustible initiative and energy that brought the revolution to victory ten years ago. The character of this veteran, devoted heart and soul to the cause of the revolution, is brought out in many deft touches and lines. When he asks for the new job he says: “Just issue the order; I’ll get ready quick and set off the following day.” Difficulties are things to be overcome; they can’t frighten him off. The “great north wasteland” faces him and his team with bitter cold, and there are shortages of equipment; but perseverance, inventive ness and iron determination carry them forward. His real difficulty lies in his relationships with men whose characters differ from his own.

There is a clash of personalities between him and the agronomist that is deeply revealing of each. They disagree on whether wheat should or should not be grown on the land the first year it is opened up. The veteran, anxious to send grain to the front suggests cultivating ten thousand mu of wheat without delay. The agronomist, who goes strictly according to the books, opposes it. A heated quarrel ensues, and his quick temper breaks the leash he has put on it. He is furious, not with the agronomist himself, but because he cannot tolerate the way his deputy considers matters. He roars: “It’s a disgrace! When you consider a question you always think of yourself first. How can our cause succeed in that way?” There is no doubt he is a bit too blunt of speech, but it is this candi dness that finally endears him to his colleagues and to the audience. He is finally reconciled with the agronomist who, getting to know him better, gives him all the support he can.

The young writer Li Chun provided the script on which the film is based. Born in the countryside, Li Chun had only a few years of regular schooling, but he made a name for himself in 1953 when his short story Not That Road was published. Since then he has written several other short stories, such as Old Man Meng Kuang-tai and Rain, reflecting the changes that have taken place in China’s countryside. Several other successful film scripts are by his hand. Like New Story of an Old Soldier, they have the authentic feel of the countryside.

Shen Fu, the director, was responsible for some of the best films produced before liberation. Two of his best were: There’s Hope in the People and City Lights. The former is the story of a professor who, through bitter experience, learns that he cannot remain aloof to politics, and joins in the struggle against Japanese aggression. The latter describes the plight of the poor and unemployed in Shanghai in the days before liberation.

Tsui Wei, who plays Lao Chan, is a veteran of the stage. During the anti-Japanese war, he used to act in the “living newspaper” Put Down Your Whip which did so much to rally the people in the fight against the invaders. Many will also remember him as the honest sailor who dared to revolt against Kuomintang tyranny in the film Soul of the Sea. This was awarded a second prize at a recent film festival in Czechoslovakia.

In New Story of an Old Soldier, ably directed by Shen Fu, Tsui has created a memorable character of great charm. No little part of his success is also due to the supporting role of his orderly, played by Sun Yung-ping with very great understanding. The cameraman, Lo Tsung-chou who is a veteran, has fully justified the use of the coloured wide-screen. The grand vistas of the northeast lands give a heroic scope to the film.

Coral Island, a documentary on the life and activities of the people on the islands off China’s southern coast, is very much a cameraman’s piece. Its colouring is beautiful. The animated cartoon, which completes China’s trio of entries, tells the adventures of a school of small carp in their quest for a happy life.

—LI YUNG

SONG and DANCE

Latin American Visitors

The Fantasia Boliviana Song and Dance Troupe led by Hugo Ascarrunz Vargas gave three shows to packed houses in Peking at the end of last month. This is the first Bolivian troupe to visit and tour China. It has a varied programme of folk music, songs and dances which give its audiences glimpses of the life and customs of the Bolivian people. Its dances, especially, are rich with the spirit and colour of the art of the Bolivian people both of the plains and highlands. Its art adviser, Graciela Urgundi de Ascarrunz, who is also head of the National Academy of Dancing in Bolivia, has done much to carry forward the splendid tradition of Bolivian folk art, with an infusion of elements of the modern dance.

August 11, 1959
The "Cebollita" Group

In Pastoral India, a skillful combination of the modern dance with movements peculiar to the folk dances of Bolivia, she herself gave a charming portrayal of a shepherdess dancing happily in the sunshine.

As the title of the troupe suggests, an element of fantasy and poetic romanticism inspires many of its items. Eastern Dance, performed by Carmen Pinto, Gilberto Camberos and others, is a lyric of young people in love. Performed with great warmth, the Cochas, and Sucre dances reveal the influence of the Spanish dance on Bolivian art. Los Toba, an ancient ritual dance, reflects the fearless spirit of the people of the Andean forests. The stage seems to be swept by gusts of wind as couple after couple whirl by to the accompaniment of quick drum beats and running melodies from pan-pipes in Marriage Ceremony on the Highlands. The audience particularly liked this dance, in which Erika Engel played the bride and Gilberto Camberos the bridegroom. La Danzada aroused special interest. This dance originated in the mining town of Oruro, and is one of the most popular in Bolivia. The dancers wear masks, a reminder of the ancient dances of the Indians. It depicts the triumph of good over evil.

The Espinoza sisters gave beautiful renderings of Bolivian folk songs, singing with warmth and feeling. Jaime Medinacelli who played the guitar and Nicasio Garcia who played the charango (a six-stringed musical instrument) were warmly applauded.

The "Cebollita" group brings us a drummer dressed in native style, with a "hat" of long feathers shaped like a parasol, leading a procession of pipe and flute players on to the stage, where they walk gently and rhythmically in patterns as they repeat the same tune over and over again, all with an air of surprising dignity, charm and simplicity.

The performances given by the Fantasia Boliviana will go a long way in promoting friendly relations and better understanding between the Chinese and Bolivian peoples. Chen Yi, Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs; Chu Tu-nan, President of the Chinese People's Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries; Chien Chun-ji, Vice-Minister of Culture, and others attended its Peking premier. At the end of the performance, they went on stage to warmly congratulate the Bolivian artists.

**Soprano from Uruguay**

Virginia Castro, the young Uruguayan soprano, gave two recitals in Peking early last month. She presented a varied selection of songs by composers of Uruguay, Argentina, Spain and Chile.

Her audiences gave her an enthusiastic reception at her two recitals in Peking. The Yunnan folk song which she sang delighted her Chinese audiences. In 1956, when a Chinese cultural delegation visited Uruguay, the young Chinese soprano Liu Shu-fang sang, in one of her performances, a Uruguayan song which she learnt from Virginia Castro. A warm friendship has grown up between them.

**Provincial Troupes in Peking**

Song and dance troupes from Tibet, Sinkiang, Kwangsi, Fukien and four other provinces gave several performances in Peking towards the end of last month. These were part of a series of shows organized by the Ministry of Culture to exchage experience and help raise the general standard of the arts of dancing and singing in the country.

Among the items performed were sixty from a dozen of China's many nationalities. There was a joyous Tibetan harvest dance, and a Miao nationality dance on the same theme from Kweichow, but performed in an entirely different style. A new production combining various Miao folk dances to the accompaniment of the reed-pipe popular in southwestern China. The troupe from Yunnan performed dances of the Tai people celebrating the great leap forward last year. The Chekiang troupe performed the delightful Picking Tea Leaves dance to the accompaniment of traditional music adapted from Shaoshing opera. Many famous singers and musicians from the Uighurs, Tibetans, Miaoos, Chians and Pales presented a number of vocal and instrumental items seldom heard in the capital.

In between and after shows several discussion meetings were sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, the Union of Chinese Musicians, and the Research Society of Dancing. They tackled not only the question of raising the general standard of dancing and singing, but of how to improve the training of soloists, both vocal and instrumental. Much progress has already been made over the past few years in learning from folk dancing, the classical Chinese dance and the Western ballet, but it was generally agreed in the course of the discussion that dancing is still a pretty tender sprout that needs care and support. There needs to be greater variety both in theme and in form.

It was noted that a considerable amount of attention has been paid to group dances, but the solo or dance for two or three dancers and the vocal solo seem to have been neglected. It was decided that efforts should be made to remedy this. The question of developing the dance-drama was also taken up, and it was agreed that further experiments should be made on this basis of the folk dance, the classical Chinese dance and Western ballet with a view to raising the artistic level of this new form of stage art in China. More dances for the children were also called for.
CHINA AND THE WORLD

President Ho Chi Minh in Northwest China

President Ho Chi Minh, on his way home from a vacation in the Soviet Union, made short stays in two of the leading cities in northwest China between August 1 and August 6.

In Urumchi, capital of the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region, the Vietnamese President showed great interest in the busy construction work going on. He visited a tractor plant, an agricultural college and the provincial geological bureau. He drove for miles outside the city to see the reclaimed area of a People's Liberation Army construction corps and a people's commune. He was guest of honor at a performance of national songs and dances by the city's artists.

In Lanchow, President Ho Chi Minh visited the city's big petroleum refinery, a chemical works, and the Lanchow centre of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

In both cities, President Ho was given the warmest welcome. He was entertained at banquets given in his honour by local government and Party leaders.

As we go to press, President Ho Chi Minh is visiting Sian, capital of Shensi Province.

At the Vienna Youth Festival

Tens of thousands of young people from over 100 countries turned Vienna this summer into a city of international friendship. Four hundred of this happy throng were young men and women from China. They took a full part in the fun and games and the crowded programme of Youth Festival performances, competitions and get-togethers of every description.

In between the art and sports contests and more formal activities, the Chinese group found time to visit and entertain many other national groups from every continent. They participated in the serious discussions and forums organized at the Festival such as that on the economic and social problems of the colonial countries which manifested the support of the world's youth for the freedom and independence of all peoples.

They had an interesting meeting with the representatives of American youth and gave an affectionate welcome to that great partisan of peace, Paul Robeson.

The young artists and sportsmen of the Chinese delegation made a good showing in the Festival contests. Seventeen-year-old Yin Chen-tsung won a gold medal (first prize) in the piano contest. Four Chinese entries in the oriental classical dance contests were awarded first prizes. Ahitona from Sinkiang carried off another gold medal for her performance of the folk dance Picking Grapes. A Chinese painting in traditional style and a woodcut won gold medals.

Chinese table tennis players won fresh laurels in Festival tournaments. They carried off the titles for the men's doubles, women's doubles, mixed doubles, and women's singles. In the three latter victories, Hu K'e-min played a brilliant game.

In the basketball tournament, the Chinese team was runner-up.

Chinese Art Troupes Abroad

Several Chinese art troupes on tour abroad this summer are giving a glimpse of China's flourishing art life to audiences in many parts of the world.

In Iraq, a Chinese song and dance ensemble has just completed a series of six public performances to audiences totalling 12,000. Its repertoire of songs and dances of China's nationalities was one of the big attractions in Baghdad's celebrations for the first anniversary of the Iraqi revolution.

Young Chinese artists taking part in the Vienna Youth Festival gave forty performances of Peking operas, songs, dances and variety shows to 160,000 people in the Austrian capital and the various provinces. They have gone on now to give performances in Rumania and Sweden and will later visit the Soviet Union and several other northern European countries.

A Szechuan opera troupe has just arrived for a tour in Poland. This is the first time that this Chinese local opera with its several-hundred-year-old tradition is being presented abroad. The troupe will later visit Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic.

Another famous Chinese local opera group, the Kwangtung Opera Troupe, is visiting the Korean Democratic People's Republic.

Finally, a Chinese acrobatic troupe has just left Peking for visits to Afghanistan and Ceylon.

Visitors in China

The Cuban Women's Delegation has just ended an extended stay in China. In Peking, Shanghai, Hangchow, Shenyang and Anshan, it visited many factories, workers' housing estates, cultural palaces, children's and maternity hospitals and people's communes. It was received by Vice-Premier Chen Yi.

The presence of the delegation aroused great interest. Cuba's courageous struggle against Washington's intervention is being followed with sympathetic concern by the Chinese people. Renmin Ribao carried an interview with members of the delegation and an article by the delegation's leader Violeta Casal describing the heroic exploits of her people in their revolution.

The Bolivian song and dance ensemble, Fantasia Boliviana, is now on a six-week tour of several major cities in north and south China. Besides giving three very successful performances, members of the ensemble took off to meet Chinese artists in Peking and teach them several Bolivian dance numbers.

A cultural delegation from Cyprus, led by Dr. T. Dervis, Chairman of the Cypriot Nationalist Party, made a short visit to Peking between July 30 and August 5. Before his departure, Dr. Dervis in an interview with Sinhhua News Agency expressed the belief that "with the help of all democratic countries in the world, the people of Cyprus will win complete freedom in the end." He also said that he would do his best to strengthen cultural and friendly ties between the Cypriot and Chinese peoples.

Links with North Africa

During their recent visit to Morocco, a group of Chinese Muslim pilgrims led by Mohammad Ma Cho-chou toured Rabat, Casablanca, Fez and nine other cities. They were received by the Moroccan Royal Councillor Mohkhar Soussi and the Chief of the Cabinet of the Ministry for Religious Affairs Tahrar Zembar. The pilgrims had many friendly meetings with Moroccan Imams and visited many mosques. They expressed their support of Chinese Muslims for the independence struggles of the Moroccan and Algerian peoples.

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The All-China Federation of Trade Unions has sent a cable to the General Union of Algerian Workers, expressing condolences over the death of the Algerian trade union leader Aissat Idrir. It severely condemned French brutality which caused Idrir's death and reaffirmed the solidarity of the Chinese workers with their Algerian brothers.

August 11, 1959
Khrushchov-Eisenhower Visits Hailed

Leading Chinese papers unanimously welcome the forthcoming exchange of visits between N. S. Khrushchov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. and the U.S. President Eisenhower. Characterizing this development as "a significant event in current international political life and the fruit of the Soviet Union’s peaceful foreign policy," a Renmin Ribao editorial (August 5) predicts that it will have an important positive effect on the promotion of better understanding between the two countries, on relaxing international tension and in furthering world peace.

Especially great obligations for easing international tension rest on the Soviet Union and the United States as two great powers, the editorial points out. The U.S.S.R. has stood consistently for peaceful coexistence among peoples of all lands; it has steadily pursued a peaceful foreign policy. It has always opposed the arms drive and the policy of "cold war" and advocated a summit meeting of the big powers. It has favoured arms reduction, the prohibition of atomic weapons and closer trade relations and more frequent cultural exchanges between nations. It has been consistently active in improving Soviet-U.S. relations.

The U.S. Government, however, for a long time has maintained a negative or even hostile attitude to the elimination of the "cold war" and an improvement in U.S.-Soviet relations. Official U.S. quarters have time and again obstructed the holding of a conference of the heads of governments of the big powers, persisted in their policy of embargoes and blockades and shown the utmost reluctance to enter into serious talks with Soviet leaders. It is owing to the unremitting efforts made by the Soviet Union and the urgent demand of the peoples of the U.S. and other countries that intercourse and contacts between the Soviet Union and the United States have been increased.

Now at long last the U.S. Government has had to make a joint decision together with the Soviet Government on an exchange of visits between Chairman Khrushchov and President Eisenhower, the editorial states. In view of the stubborn stand taken by the U.S. Government thus far, this is a change and is therefore to be welcomed. Nevertheless, to what extent the U.S. Government is sincere in its desire to promote friendly relations between the two countries, improve the international climate and coexist peacefully and engage in peaceful competition with the socialist camp — this remains to be seen from its future actions.

The decision to exchange visits has met with universal support and favourable reactions among the peoples of the two countries and world public opinion. It is a decision which conforms to the common aspirations of all peace-loving people in the world.

The Chinese people, always concerned about world peace, advocate the development of friendly relations among nations on the basis of peaceful coexistence; they welcome any move which helps to end the "cold war," the editorial declares. The Chinese people warmly support the tremendous efforts made by the Soviet Union to ease international tension. They hope to see Soviet-U.S. relations improved to the benefit of world peace.

Geneva Foreign Ministers’ Conference

In a commentary on August 8, Renmin Ribao discusses the positive significance of the Geneva Foreign Ministers’ Conference which ended on August 5. It declares that although the conference failed to reach agreement on the signing of a German peace treaty and solution of the West Berlin question, it did accomplish useful work. By facilitating a full discussion of questions of vital concern to world peace, it gave the participants a better understanding of each other’s positions and on many questions drew closer the positions of the two sides. This provides favourable conditions for future negotiations.

Throughout the conference, says the commentary, the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic showed their sincerity and earnestness in negotiation. They put forward a number of reasonable and feasible proposals. However, the Western countries, especially the U.S. and West Germany, did all they could to obstruct a peaceful solution to the German question. Faced with the reasonable proposals of the Soviet Union and the G.D.R. and under pressure from world opinion, they were finally compelled to admit the need to alter the abnormal situation existing in West Berlin. This demonstrated that the Western countries have no alternative but to admit that their occupation of West Berlin can only be temporary and not permanent.

From beginning to end, the Geneva Conference reflected the growing international status and prestige of the German Democratic Republic, the commentary notes. The Western countries do not recognize the G.D.R. diplomatically, but they had to enter into discussions with the delegates of that state, thus recognizing it de facto.

The Western countries still adamantly cling to their absurd stand on a number of vital questions of principle, the commentary points out. They refused to face up fully to the fact of the existence of the two German states.

THE PASSING SHOW

"Let's Bargain: Give Me All and We'll Talk About the Rest Later."

Analysing the failure to make headway at the Geneva negotiations to end nuclear tests, the London Observer makes the revealing suggestion that "The real reason why no progress is made may be that we (the West) are approaching the problem from the wrong end. We start by asking for a high degree of inspection and control of Soviet Russia herself. This we know perfectly well is not likely to be agreed to as a first step."

Missile Madness

Pentagon brass hats are doing all they can to fill the "missile gap." But more haste, less speed. In one week last month on Cape Canaveral, U.S.A., four tries to set off an Atlas ICBM failed. Supposed already to be operational, the rocket this time didn't even leave the launching pad. A Jupiter type rocket blew up 150 feet from the launching site observation post and a Polaris had to be blown up soon after launching.
They also stubbornly rejected the proposal of the U.S.S.R. and the G.D.R. to conclude a peace treaty as the starting point for the elimination of the threat of West German militarism and for rapprochement between the two German states with unification to follow. In other words, they wanted to put the cart before the horse, to “unify” Germany first and then conclude a peace treaty. The “unification” they envisage amounts to annexation of the German Democratic Republic.

The unwillingness of the Western countries to see German unification is also shown in their obstruction of any agreement which will bring the two German states closer together. Although they no longer talked about the permanent occupation of West Berlin, they demanded a five-year retention of the status quo in West Berlin, after which they will negotiate. In fact, this is only a new scheme for the permanent occupation of West Berlin.

With the Geneva Conference in recess, the commentary says, the questions of the signing of a German peace treaty and of West Berlin remain on the agenda of international negotiations. All the countries concerned should continue to make efforts for their solution. A summit conference should discuss those questions left unsettled by the Foreign Ministers’ Conference. At a time when the ideas of peaceful coexistence are being upheld by more and more people, such urgent questions as the signing of a German peace treaty and the normalization of the West Berlin situation cannot remain unsettled for long, concludes the commentary.

World Youth Triumphant

As the happy participants of the 7th World Youth Festival wound up the grand finale of their Festival, the Chinese people greeted the success of the Festival and wished its sponsors still greater successes in the future.

RENMIN RIBAO writes in an editorial (August 6) that the Festival promoted mutual understanding and friendship between the youth of many countries. It once again strikingly demonstrated that peace and friendship are the common cause and aim of the strivings of the world’s youth. Despite differences of nationality, race, political views and religious beliefs, all found a common language and foundation for unity in support of peace and friendship, it says. “Down with the arms race!” “Down with threats of atomic war!” “Long live peaceful coexistence and international cooperation!” these have become the common slogans of the world’s youth, declares the editorial.

A further significant victory of the Festival was that it frustrated all the sabotage plots of the enemies of peace. The imperialists in their hostility to international peace and friendship did not hesitate to resort to every kind of dirty trick in order to obstruct and spoil the Festival. But their plots failed. The fact that nearly one million people took part in the Festival shows that peace and friendship cannot be obstructed by the reactionaries.

WHAT’S 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

▲ THE FISHERMAN’S REVENGE and three other operas by the Mei Lan-fang Peking Opera Troupe. Old hero Hai-o En and his daughter Kuei-yang were making a quiet living by fishing, until two unjust tax collectors tried to ruin them. With the help of their friends they give the tyrant and his henchmen a well-deserved punishment.
Aug. 11; 7:20 p.m.; Zhong He Theatre

▲ MARRIAGE IN THE BANDIT’S LAIR and two other operas by the Hsien Hsu-chang Peking Opera Company. Lu Kun-chieh, a nephew of a Szchuan governor, falls in hard times and is obliged to become a travelling show-man. He is befriended by one Ti Luen-kang, and marries Ti’s second daughter. Later, when Lu learns that his father-in-law is a bandit-chief, he decides to escape. Together with his devoted wife, he succeeds in escaping from the mountain stronghold through five closely-guarded points.
Aug. 13; 7:20 p.m.; Ji Xiang Theatre

KUNQU

▲ EXCURSION TO THE GARDEN AND THE STRANGE DREAM An episode from Mou Tan Ting (Dream Lovers of the Peony Pavilion). Tu Li-niang, the heroine, finally marries by a visiting sung and dance troupe from Szchuan.
Aug. 14; 7:20 p.m.; Xi Dan Theatre

(above play and Chuang Kuei Marriage Off His Sister are produced by the North Kunqu Opera Troupe.)

SONG AND DANCE

A programme of Szchuan folk songs and dances of the Tibetan and Yi peoples performed by a visiting song and dance troupe from Szchuan.
Aug. 11; 7:20 p.m., Renmin Theatre

THEATRE

▲ MY FAMILY adapted from the autobiography of Tao Cheng-yu, a mother of a revolutionary family. Her husband and sons perished in the cause; she herself staunchly under the leadership of the Communist Party, carries on till victory and after. Produced by the Experimental Theatre of Peking.
Aug. 10-16; 7:20 p.m.; Minzhu Theatre

▲ YANG CHING-YU A moving story about the life and death of the heroic General Yang Ching-yu who led the people in the northeast in the struggle against the Japanese invaders during the 1930’s. Produced by a drama troupe from Kiro.
Aug. 12-16; 7:20 p.m.; Shian Theatre

▲ OPPRESSION , THREE DOLLARS, TILL MADAME RETURNS Three comedies by T’ang Hsi-liu, China’s well-known playwright. Produced by the Peking People’s Art Theatre.
Aug. 11-15; 7:20 p.m.; Shoudu Theatre

▲ SHIMA (ISLAND) A famous Japanese play. A dramatic denunciation of the American atomic bomb which has caused the Japanese people so much suffering over the many years that have passed since the first atomic holocaust in Hiroshima.
Aug. 11-14; 7:20 p.m.; China Youth Art Theatre

FILMS

▲ IN 24 HOURS describes the achievements gained in 24 hours in a rural county. A Chinese feature film produced by the Peking Film Studio.
Aug. 11; Shoudu, Xie Jie Kou, Peking Exhibition Centre Cinema
Aug. 14-16; Xie Jie Kou, Guang He Theatre
Aug. 17-18; Shoudu, Xi Dan Theatre

▲ ESPALDAS MOJADADAS (WEAKBACKS) Deceived by American propaganda, a group of Mexican workers stealthily cross the border into the United States. Undercover by real life, they thankfully return to their motherland. A Mexican film dubbed in Chinese.
Aug. 14-17; Da Hua, Jiao Dao Kou, Ertong, Shoudu, Xie Jie Kou, Peking Exhibition Centre Cinema, Guang An Men, Zhongyanga

▲ RIO ESCONDIDO (THE LOST RIVER) A Mexican feature film telling about how a group of village doctors fight against the small-pox as well as the villanous village head. Dubbed in Chinese.
Aug. 14-18; Da Hua, Jiao Dao Kou, Ertong, Shoudu, Xie Jie Kou, Peking Exhibition Centre Cinema, Guang An Men, Zhongyanga

▲ CONRADES-IN-ARMS. The film shows the growth of the great comrades-in-arms between the Chinese People’s Volunteers and the Korean People’s Army in the fight against the U.S. aggressors. A Korean film dubbed in Chinese.
Aug. 15-18; Shoudu Theatre, Peking Theatre, Shengdi, Xi Dan Theatre

EXHIBITIONS

▲ THE “FLYING HORSE” EXHIBITION of the Korean Democratic People’s Republic. It shows the rapid strides made in every field of economy and culture since last year. Graphs, charts, photos, models, and cinema shows. Open daily 9:00-12:00 a.m., 1:30-7:00 p.m.
At Cultural Palace

▲ EXHIBITION OF HO T’IEN-CH’UEN’S PAINTINGS 110, a well-known painter in the traditional Chinese school, shows more than 300 of his paintings. Beginning on Aug. 11. Open daily 9:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
At the Gallery of the Artists’ Union

VARIETY EVENING

Join the “Garden Party” at the Beihai Park. Enjoy the fireworks, Peking opera, ping-pong opera, qiqu, aerobatics, song and dance performances, cinema, and concert on the lake set with lotus lanterns.

August 11, 1959

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