Long Live the People's Communes!

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Recent Archaeological Finds

*China Greets Viet-nam's Anniversary*

Afghan Deputy Prime Minister in Peking
DOCUMENTS OF THE EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE EIGHTH CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA

This booklet contains two documents of the important meeting held from August 2 to 16, 1959: the “Communique of the Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Communist Party of China,” and the “Resolution on Developing the Campaign for Increasing Production and Practising Economy.” Appendix includes an editorial of Renmin Ribao (People’s Daily): “Oppose Rightist Deviation, and Make an All Out Effort to Fulfil the Principal Targets of the Second Five-Year Plan This Year.”

28 pp.

Published by: FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS Pai Wan Chuang, Peking (37), China
Distributed by: GUOZI SHUDIAN P. O. Box 399, Peking, China

A NEW BOOK by Anna Louise Strong

TIBETAN INTERVIEWS

This is the latest book by the well-known American author. It is the result of a series of interviews she had in Peking with people who have an inside knowledge of Tibet and recent events there. Among those she interviewed were the Panchen Lama, Ngapo Ngawang-Jigme, one of the leading statesmen of Tibet, Tibetan students who only recently were serfs, a leading member of the Chinese Buddhist Association and an officer of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army who took part in the suppression of the recent rebellion. She quotes what they told her about the historical background and religious institutions of Tibet and of the evils of its medieval serf system. They were able to tell her from first-hand knowledge how the clique of reactionary serf-owners acting in co-operation with the imperialists and other foreign reactionary forces staged the rebellion in an attempt to preserve their privileges and how this desperate and bloody plot was suppressed by the People’s Liberation Army and the Tibetan people. With this background the reader will appreciate the joy of the Tibetans described by the author when the rebellion was suppressed and a start was made on the carrying out of long overdue reforms. Miss Strong has drawn on other reliable material as well to produce a faithful and detailed report on a question that has been the subject of some of the most fantastic propaganda stories of recent years.

210 pp. Illustrated with many photographs

Published by: NEW WORLD PRESS Peking, China
Distributed by: GUOZI SHUDIAN P. O. Box 399, Peking, China
A Test of Good Faith

WILL the world be plagued by more nuclear explosions? Or will the nuclear tests, with their poisonous effects on the international atmosphere, be stopped? The answers now rest squarely with the United States and other Western powers.

In a statement issued on August 28, the Soviet Government put Washington and London to an acid test of good faith. It said in plain language: The Soviet Union will not resume nuclear explosions if the Western powers do not renew atomic and hydrogen weapon tests. And the Soviet Government is ready to sign an agreement with the U.S. and British Governments immediately to stop testing all types of nuclear weapons permanently.

For all the Western propaganda efforts to complicate and confuse the question, the issue is now clearer than ever. If their professed desire to end nuclear tests were not glib talk, the U.S. and British Governments could conclude an agreement with the Soviet Union to that effect. Or, if they were not ready to stop the testing for good, they could agree to its suspension for a fairly long period of time (certainly not just a couple of months or one or two years). In that case, the Soviet Union will of course refrain from testing. And this, too, will help ease international tension.

The United States, however, announced recently that it would extend its one-year stoppage of nuclear tests, which began last October, by only two months, to the end of this year. This was a gesture necessitated by the mounting pressure of world opinion and the impending exchange of visits between N. S. Khrushchev and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Apart from the brevity of the extension, this U.S. move is rendered meaningless by the busy preparations to detonate more subterranean and high-altitude nuclear explosions. The New York Times, for instance, reported on July 21 that "the Atomic Energy Commission is quietly preparing for immediate resumption of nuclear testing."

The Soviet Union, on its part, has all along worked for immediate, permanent and complete suspension of the testing of all types of nuclear weapons. On March 31, 1958, it unilaterally announced a test suspension and urged the United States and Britain to follow suit. But they refused. On October 30, on the eve of the convening of the Soviet-U.S.-British conference in Geneva for discontinuance of nuclear tests, the Soviet Government again asked for an immediate test ban for all time. This proposal was also turned down by the United States and Britain. And the blocking by their delegates in Geneva to this day has prevented the ten-month-old tripartite talks from accomplishing their mission.

As an important step to free humanity from the spectre of nuclear peril, the banning of nuclear tests is one of the most pressing demands of the peoples of all lands. The Fifth World Conference for the Prohibition of Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, which convened in Japan last month, was further proof of this. And popular opposition is rising in Africa and other parts of the world to French plans for nuclear tests in the Sahara.

The Soviet Union has pointed out a way for the solution of this urgent question. It is high time that the United States and other Western powers accepted an immediate, permanent suspension of nuclear tests.
ROUND THE WEEK

Party’s Call Becomes Nation’s Goal

All democratic parties have warmly endorsed the programme of action charted by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party at its recent Lushan session. Li Chi-shen, Chairman of the Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang, said at a press interview that under the leadership of the Communist Party and Chairman Mao and abiding by the general line for socialist construction, China will continue the trend set by the unprecedented big leap forward in her economy in 1958. The situation at home and abroad favours industrial and agricultural expansion at this fast tempo. If we remain solidly united around the Communist Party and Chairman Mao and hold high the banner of the general line, Li Chi-shen said, we are sure to achieve still greater successes.

Shen Chun-ju, Chairman of the China Democratic League, Huang Yen-pei, Chairman of the China Democratic National Construction Association, and leaders of the other democratic parties spoke in a similar vein. They hailed the Communist Party’s recommendations and called on the members of their organizations to contribute their utmost to the current campaign for greater output and economy.

Throughout the country all sections of the population have been holding meetings to discuss and translate into action the Communique and Resolution of the Party (see Peking Review, No. 35, Sept. 1, 1959)—from organizations representing the women and youth to schools and research bodies, from writers and artists to officers and men of the People’s Liberation Army, from returned overseas Chinese to people of the national minorities, and, of course, industrial workers and commune members who are pushing the country’s output up and production costs down. People are proud of what has been achieved so far this year, but now with the call of the Party to realize the major targets of the Second Five-Year Plan (1958-1962) by the end of 1959 everybody is determined to do still better in the remaining four months. The nation has adopted the Party’s call as its goal.

Marxists and Mass Movements

On September 1 a year ago, all Chinese newspapers published the decision of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party’s Central Committee to double China’s steel output from 5.35 million to 10.7 million tons. From that day onwards the whole nation turned to steel-making to help promote the rapid development of the national economy. In no time a mass steel-making movement was set in motion from one end of the country to the other. A short twelve months ago China’s metallurgical industry existed only in Liaoning, Heilungkiang, Hopei, Shansi, Hupeh and Szechuan Provinces and the two cities of Peking and Shanghai, but today big and small iron and steel works dot practically all the provinces and the hitherto sparsely developed areas inhabited by the national minorities. If there is any one factor which accounts for this phenomenal expansion, the credit must go to this mass movement.

This mass movement of millions engaged in steel-making is an expression of the Communist Party’s general line for socialist construction in action. It has been instrumental in speeding up China’s iron and steel production and the development of her other industries. Determined to rid the country of her legacy of poverty and backwardness as quickly as possible, China’s 650 million people have found this a sure way of achieving their goal. It was the sequel to the other mass movements during the big leap forward which did so much to transform China in 1958—the mass movement for building water conservancy works, which more than doubled the entire irrigated area of the country, the mass movement to develop local industries, the mass movement to form people’s communes. How these movements should be evaluated, how the enthusiasm and energy of the masses should be welcomed and guided for their own benefits, in other words, what constitutes the correct approach of Marxists to all revolutionary movements emanating from the ranks of the people, is a question of prime importance.

The current number of Hongqi (Red Flag), the fortnightly organ of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, carries a symposium on this question, entitled “What Attitude Should Marxists Take Towards Revolutionary Mass Movements?” In an editor’s note, Hongqi says: “The attitude towards mass movements has always been one of the fundamental questions at issue between Marxists and anti-Marxists; it is also a fundamental question as far as the building of socialism is concerned.” To help its readers understand the viewpoint held by classical Marxist writers on this question and to refute the slander of right opportunists against mass movements, the magazine compiled relevant materials on the subject, part one comprising selections from the writings of Mao Tse-tung and part two from the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin.

Renmin Ribao and all the other national dailies have reproduced this symposium, because of the wide interest in pressing ahead with the rapid expansion of industry and agriculture through mass movements in keeping with the all-important policy of “walking on two legs” reaffirmed in the Communist Party’s recent decisions.

Industry Ups Output Again

In industry, this mass movement is best reflected in the practical measures taken by the workers to carry forward the nationwide drive for increased production at lower costs, in response to the call of the Communist Party to fulfil the major goals set for the Second Five-Year Plan this year. Record outputs have been reported from various enterprises. Steel, coal, engineering, the light industries, etc. have all chalked up new gains and the figures show that the upswing is still rising, as reported elsewhere in this number.

Coal, which shares the spotlight with steel, has done particularly well in recent weeks. In the northeast China coal-centre of Puchun, for instance, output rose week by week in August, culminating with the announcement of the Party Communique and Resolution which evoked a tremendous spurt from the coal miners. In the five days ending August 30, average daily output shot up to 64,500 tons, which was 13,500 tons more than the average for the previous five days. The other three major coal-mining areas of Liaoning Province—Fushun, Penki and Peipiao—have all acquitted themselves well, too. On the first of September all four overfulfilled their daily targets, topping the average daily output in August by 17.8 per cent. Other coal-rich provinces—Hopei, Heilungkiang, Shansi, and Honan—have all pledged to excel themselves by raising either their September monthly quotas or raising their annual targets.

Knowing full well that the country can do with a lot more rolling stock, the workers in this industry turned out 2,114 freight cars in August, overfulfilling their August quota by 5.7 per cent. This is an increase of over 600 freight cars as compared with output in July. The August plan for the production of locomotives was also overfulfilled. Turning
out something over 2,000 freight cars in a single month is a very creditable performance but workers in the rolling stock industry are determined to do still better to greet the forthcoming National Day on October 1.

Workers in the capital are also keeping up with the front runners. When the day's output on the first of September was added up many factories were reported to have overfulfilled their production targets set for the day by quite a margin. The remarkable thing about this high output record is that it is being bettered week by week and often day by day and that feats of accelerated output are not monopolized by one factory or by one or two outstanding workers. The emulation drive that is going along with the campaign for greater output and economy, between factories, production brigades and workers is giving great impetus to the national production efforts. It helps the less developed ones catch up and make the maximum contribution to the national economy.

Rural Areas Drive Ahead

This spirit is sweeping the countryside too. When the news of the Party's decisions reached the people's communes the peasants held meetings and warmly supported the measures taken to ensure that the national economy makes a further leap forward in 1959. These meetings, held in the fields and village halls, have sparked a new upsurge in production.

Many communes are still waging the fight against the drought, which has lasted for months in central China; some are wrestling with the water-logged caused by the sudden and concentrated downpours in the north; all are giving as much attention as they can to more effective field management of the land under autumn crops. Despite this heavy pressure of work facing them, the commune members have mapped out plans to raise production still further. Commune production brigades and teams are challenging each other to see who will reap a bigger harvest in the autumn.

At some of the communes daizhao (hand-written posters) on red, green and other bright coloured paper have made their appearance again. Some put up their daizhao to announce planned increases on output; some took the opportunity to repudiate right conservatism which tended to dampen the “leap-forward” spirit; and many are singing the praises of the people's communes which have done so much for them in such a short time. In a word, the whole countryside is astir. The commune members are going all out for a rich harvest of food crops and cotton. The militant call of the Central Committee of the Communist Party is like an invigorating breeze blowing through the rural areas of China inspiring the peasants to greater heights of achievement.

To accomplish the production targets set for agriculture this year, not to speak of topping them, is no easy job. But the communes, consolidated and perfected as an organization in the recent check-up and strengthening campaign, are in a better position than ever. The cadres of the communes have acquired a good deal of experience running a large collective and making the best use of available manpower. The commune members themselves have come to know their organization better and are keenly interested in making their commune a success. The area sown to autumn crops is bigger than last year and field management is better, more timely and thorough than in the past, thanks to more efficient disposition of the manpower on hand. All these are favorable conditions. Add to this the fact that the summer harvest this year was greater than last year's despite the natural calamities. Now that the area planted to autumn crops is bigger, the experience of running the communes richer and the conditions for applying the 8-point Charter for Agriculture still more mature than before, there is every reason for the peasants to expect a rich harvest later in the year.

North China's Largest Reservoir

Last Tuesday the new Miyun Reservoir, which is still under construction in the northeast of Peking, began to function. It had checked the flood waters caused by the heaviest rainfall in a decade on the Chao and Pai Rivers, two of the most dangerous rivers in north China. With the torrents kept in check, some 4 million mu of farmland are now free from what was once a perennial threat of inundation.

The reservoir has attracted quite a number of visitors since the news was announced that it was put into commission although only partially completed. On Friday the diplomatic corps and a number of foreign correspondents in Peking went out to Miyun to see this multi-purpose water conservancy project, to which Beijing Ribao (Peking Daily) devoted its first and second pages on September 2. The diplomats and newspapermen visited the two main dams and took a boat ride on the reservoir.

The Miyun Reservoir lies in the county of the same name, in the northeastern part of the rural section of the Peking municipality. Covering an area of 200 square kilometres, which is 100 times the size of the lake in the Summer Palace in Peking, the Miyun Reservoir will be the largest in north China. It will impound 60 times the amount of water that can be held by the famous Ming Tombs Reservoir. When complete, it will have a hydro-electric power station with a capacity of 90,000 kilowatts.

In normal times a project of this size would take five years to build, but Miyun, a child of the great leap forward of 1958, began construction only a year ago. It is already more than half finished. Its two main dams and seventeen smaller ones are already high enough to control the flood waters brought about by the heavy rainfall in July and August. Some 190,000 members of the people's communes nearby and 10,000 officers and men of the People's Liberation Army and teachers and students of the engineering department of Tsinghua University, who are responsible for the designing, have been at work on the construction site. The whole project will be completed some time next year.

At a mammoth meeting celebrating the victory in damming the flood waters this year, Tan Chen-lin, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party's Central Committee and Vice-Premier, said that the success of the project signifies the triumph of the Party's general line for socialist construction, of the big leap forward and of the people's communes. It is a matter of rejoicing for the people of Peking and Hopei Province as a whole, and indeed for the whole country, he added.
Long Live the People’s Communes!

Following is a translation of the editorial that appeared in “Renmin Ribao” on August 29, 1959. Subheads are ours. – Ed.

TODAY is the first anniversary of the adoption of the historic “Resolution on the Establishment of People’s Communes in the Rural Areas” by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party at its enlarged session held at Peitaio. A year ago, the people’s communes had only just begun to grow in a few areas in China. Now they have been established in all rural areas throughout the country (with the exception of a few national minority areas); they have taken firm root and are advancing along a road of sound development. The people’s commune, this “morning sun rising above the broad horizon of east Asia,” is radiating its great energy and light ever more strongly.

The Peitaio Resolution

The Peitaio resolution made three outstanding contributions to history. First, it analysed the historical background against which the people’s communes came into existence; it foresaw the inevitable trend of their development and laid down the correct policy that the Chinese Communist Party must warmly support and actively lead the people’s commune movement. “The people’s communes,” the resolution pointed out, “are the logical outcome of the march of events. Large, comprehensive people’s communes have made their appearance, and in several places they are already widespread. They have developed very rapidly in some areas. It is highly probable that there will soon be an upsurge in setting up people’s communes throughout the country and their development is irresistible.” History has proved that this estimate, and the positive policy adopted in accordance with this estimate, are absolutely correct.

Secondly, the resolution scientifically defined the economic character of the people’s communes and their future development. Although it held that the people’s communes were the best form of organization for transforming collective ownership into ownership by the whole people in the countryside and for the transition from socialism to communism, it also clearly pointed out that the people’s communes in the present stage “are still socialist in character, where the principle of ‘from each according to his ability and to each according to his work’ prevails.” It pointed out that ownership in the people’s communes “is still collective ownership” and that “the transition from collective ownership to ownership by the whole people is a process” and the completion of which would take a number of years; even after the people’s communes switch over to ownership by the whole people, they will still be socialist in character for a fairly long time. To avoid misunderstanding, the resolution described in detail the conditions needed to bring about the transition from socialism to communism—conditions which do not yet exist in China.

Thirdly, the Peitaio resolution laid down a series of appropriate measures to be taken in setting up people’s communes. In particular it stressed that participation by the peasants must be voluntary and said “compulsion is to be avoided” and “no compulsory or rush steps should be taken.” It also said that in all counties, experiments should first be made in some selected areas and the experience gained should be popularized gradually: “in the early period of merging agricultural co-operatives into people’s communes the method of ‘changing the upper structure while keeping the lower structure unchanged’ may be adopted.” The original organization of production and the system of administration may, for the time being, remain unchanged and continue as before; “it is not necessary to deal with questions of reserved private land plots, scattered fruit trees, share funds and so on in a great hurry; nor is it necessary to adopt clear-cut stipulations on these questions.” “After the establishment of the people’s communes it is not necessary to hurry the change from the original system of distribution, in order to avoid any unfavourable effect on production.” These remarks clearly expose how utterly groundless is the ridiculous talk of the imperialists and a few other people opposed to the people’s commune movement, who deliberately try to create an impression that the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party fanatically wanted to “march to communism in one step” by means of the people’s commune movement, and had to “retreat step by step” in the face of difficulties.

The warm welcome given to the people’s commune movement by the hundreds of millions of peasants who were making big advances in production and the positive support and correct guidance given to it by the Peitaio resolution led to its rapid and great upsurge throughout the country following the publication of the resolution. In less than two months, the mass of the peasants, then organized in more than 700,000 agricultural co-operatives, set up more than 26,000 people’s communes. The switch to the people’s communes was carried out in the rural areas throughout the country. This was an epoch-making event in our country’s history.

The Advantages of the Commune

Less than a year has passed since all this took place. But this new-born social organization — the people’s commune — has already proved with irrefutable facts its immense vitality and incomparable superiority, and its great role in developing our rural economy and culture and in raising the living standards of our peasants.

An unprecedented bumper autumn harvest and the mass movement to produce iron and steel followed im-
mediately on completion of the establishment of people's communes in the countryside. Though allocations of manpower during the harvesting were not so well arranged in many places, so that the crops there were gathered in a rather hurried manner, yet very much bigger crops of grain and cotton were harvested than in the previous year. And on top of this, several million tons of pig iron were turned out by small blast furnaces using modern methods of production and several more million tons of both iron and steel were produced by blast furnaces and puddling furnaces using indigenous methods. At the same time, a gigantic task was fulfilled in transporting over short distances both agricultural produce and the materials involved in iron and steel production. But for the people's communes, it would have been impossible to accomplish such heavy tasks at one and the same time.

Communes Spur Production

During the summer harvest this year, the first since the people's communes were set up, though the weather was bad, we got an even bigger harvest than that of the summer of 1958, the year of the big leap forward. Preliminary figures from Shensi, Hopei, Honan and Kiangsu Provinces show that over 500 jin of wheat have been harvested per mu on more than 650,000 mu. In 1957, the year before the establishment of the people's communes, not a single province throughout the country ever achieved a yield of more than 200 jin of wheat per mu. But this year six provinces and municipalities have already gone beyond this level. This is how things stand in agricultural production. It is the same in industry, forestry, animal husbandry, side-occupations and fishery. Large numbers of plants have been set up throughout the countryside to make farm tools, produce chemical fertilizer by indigenous methods, or process agricultural products. A rough count in February of this year showed that the people's communes had set up more than 86,000 plants to manufacture and repair farm tools. The collective breeding of livestock was greatly developed during the time of the co-operatives but this cannot compare with what has been done by the people's communes. A recent survey in 21 provinces and autonomous regions shows that more than 80 million pigs are being collectively raised by the people's communes, an average of more than 3,000 to each commune. The number of pigs raised privately has also grown rapidly.

Similarly great achievements stand to the credit of the people's communes in the building of water conservancy projects. Apart from large numbers of small reservoirs with a storage capacity of less than 10 million cubic metres each, since last winter the people's communes have built 60 big reservoirs each with a storage capacity of more than 100 million cubic metres and over 1,200 medium-sized reservoirs with a storage capacity of between 10 million and 100 million cubic metres each. This year China has been attacked by the biggest drought and floods that have occurred for dozens of years past; more than 510 million mu of farmland have been affected. But thanks to the many water conservancy projects built by the people's communes, the full mobilization of men and women by the people's communes to fight natural calamities and the co-operation on a broad scale, more than 270 million mu of the land affected by drought have been irrigated and relieved from this serious menace. The community dining-rooms, the nurseries and the "homes of respect for the aged" which have been set up widely in the countryside have played an important role in freeing women for productive work and improving the living standards of the peasants.

In a mass revolutionary movement on such a big scale and advancing so rapidly as the people's commune movement it is, of course, inevitable that while there were great achievements, a few shortcomings should occur. In fact, what is surprising is not that a few shortcomings have occurred, but that the shortcomings have been so few compared with the achievements and have been overcome so quickly. The resolution on the people's communes was made public on September 10 last year. Early in November, the conference called by Comrade Mao Tse-tung in Chengchow already discovered that in certain respects and to a certain degree the movement was deviating from the correct lines laid down in the Peitianho resolution, and remedial measures were taken. After that, the Sixth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Communist Party, held in late November and early December, and the second Chengchow conference (the enlarged meeting of the Party's Political Bureau) held in late February and early March this year, gave detailed instructions for the check-up in the people's communes. These were put into effect within two to three months and the problems that had cropped up in the earlier stages were completely solved. The result is that the overwhelming majority of the cadres and the masses who were for the people's communes right from the start have become more confident than ever, while those few in the rural areas who had previously been sceptical have also been fully won over and their minds put at ease. The masses of the Chinese peasantry rejoice over the people's communes from the bottom of their hearts and sing: "The people's communes are very good indeed! Long live the prosperity of the country and its peaceful people!"

A Continuation of Socialist Revolution

The people's commune movement is a continuation and development of the great socialist revolution in China's countryside. The socialist revolution, like the democratic revolution, must obviously be carried forward to its conclusion. Under the conditions prevailing in our country, the people's commune is a powerful instrument for quickening the growth of our collective economy in the rural areas and eradicating the possibility of any return of capitalism. Since it combines industry, agriculture, trade, education and military affairs and integrates government and commune administration into one, and while its ownership is still collective in character, it nevertheless has certain elements of ownership by the whole people (this is mainly seen in the integration of government and commune administration and the development of commune-run economic activity), and since this system which is socialist in character contains some first shoots of communism, the people's commune under the actual conditions in China is the best form of social organization not only for the transition from collective ownership to ownership by the whole people, but also for the transition from socialism to communism in the future. That is why the appearance of the people's communes in China instantaneously met with the virulent hatred and spite of all the hostile anti-socialist forces. From the very beginning, the imperialists have used the most savage language and the foulest slanders in their attacks on the people's communes.

September 8, 1959
In our own country, the remnants of the reactionary class who have been overthrown and the bourgeois rightists, seeing that their "good old days" are gone for ever, have also cruelly slandered the people's communes in their bitter hatred. Nevertheless, the more they howl, the more the people's communes are proved right. No matter how they calumniate them, they cannot in the least prevent the people's communes from forging ahead.

At this time, when the anniversary of the resolution on the people's communes is being celebrated, when the shortcomings that cropped up in the earlier stages of the people's communes have been overcome and the people's communes are going ahead on a healthy basis, what is worth noting is that apart from the reactionaries at home and abroad there are certain people who are still dissatisfied with and opposed to the people's commune movement. They are those within the ranks of the Chinese people, including certain right-opportunists inside the Communist Party, who are influenced by bourgeois ideology to a rather serious degree. They fail to see that the people's commune movement is the product of a great social movement of the hundreds of millions of Chinese peasants, the product of the big growth of agriculture, the great extension of water conservancy work and the great upsurge of socialist understanding among the peasants which expressed itself in their demand for co-operation on a still broader scale. They cannot see that with the implementation of the principle of "to each according to his work" and with the basic ownership clearly defined as being vested in the production brigades of the people's commune, the organizational form of the people's commune is, in fact, a powerful instrument for the further advancement of socialist collective ownership. They babble that "the people's commune lacks objective material basis. It is not a natural product of objective reality but the fruit of the wishful thinking of a few who have cooked it up out of thin air." They say: "The people's communes were set up too soon and too fast and are in a mess." In a word, they fail to see the advantages of the people's communes and the revolutionary zeal of the hundreds of millions of peasants. They are only interested in the shortcomings of the communes though these were transient and local and have long since been overcome. They have thus placed themselves in opposition to the people, to the great socialist revolution and socialist construction.

Have the people's communes no objective material basis? Are they an unnatural trend in the march of events? Let history answer. The people's commune movement began to grow in certain parts of China in the summer of 1958. The reason why it did so at that particular time is that the rectification movement, the anti-rightist struggle and the education in socialism in 1957 led to an unprecedented upsurge of socialist consciousness and labour enthusiasm among the masses of cadres and people in the rural areas and to a determination to quickly change the economic backwardness of the rural areas and their state of "poverty and blankness." Therefore, since the winter of 1957 (for convenience sake, we will not here go back to the still earlier beginnings of the people's commune as a form of social organization) gigantic undertakings of production and construction developed very quickly, at the centre of which was the large-scale building of water conservancy projects. The preceding organizational form of the advanced agricultural producers' co-operatives, smaller in scale and confined to agriculture, could no longer meet the need to develop production quickly and on a big scale. In many places co-operatives began to merge into bigger ones.

**Inevitable Historical Development**

At the meeting which was called in March of 1958 in Chengtu and attended by some leading members of the Central Committee and the local committees of the Chinese Communist Party, Comrade Mao Tse-tung took this into consideration and proposed appropriate amalgamation of smaller co-operatives in a planned way. This proposal was later formally approved by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. After that, in May, the Second Session of the Eighth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party put forward the general line for building socialism. This general line gave boundless inspiration to the masses of cadres and people in the rural areas. Their morale and determination soared to unprecedented heights, and agricultural production and construction, industry, transport and communications in the service of agriculture, and rural commerce, cultural and educational work and militia activity all advanced rapidly. The peasants demanded a more rational and efficient organization of labour, and the integration of the basic organizations of state power with the economic organizations so as to achieve a stronger unified leadership. This was the very natural way in which a new, large-scale
form of social organization was born in the rural areas, combining industry, agriculture, trade, education and military affairs and integrating government and commune administration. This new form of social organization was entirely a creation of the masses. In its earlier stages, it was given a number of different names. In June the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Comrade Mao Tse-tung selected the name “people’s commune” as one that best expressed the essence of this form of organization and would be most welcome to the masses. It was unanimously adopted at the Peitaiho meeting of the Communist Party in August.

In fact, long before the Peitaiho meeting, some of the pioneering people’s communes such as the Chayashan People’s Commune in Suiping County and the Chiling People’s Commune in Hsinhsiang County, Honan Province, were visited by hundreds of thousands of rural cadres from all parts of the country and an irresistible trend had already grown up to learn from these communes. It was in circumstances of a great development of rural economic activity and a great heightening of the peasants’ political understanding that the upsurge to set up rural people’s communes emerged. Therefore, only those who shut their eyes to facts can assert that this mass movement which conforms to the “course of nature and the ways of the people” was the result of the wishful thinking of a few people who “have cooked it up out of thin air” or that “the communes were set up too soon and too fast and are in a mess.” The emergence of the people’s commune and particularly its growth in the past year have demonstrated that it is an inevitable product of historical development. Though it has only a history of less than a year on a nationwide scale, it has ensured a general increase in per mu yield in agriculture, and made high yields on large tracts of farmland a widespread phenomenon. Not a single commune has collapsed under the rigid test of severe natural calamities. On the contrary, it has been during the battle against natural calamities that the peasants have understood more deeply the superiority of the communes compared to the agricultural co-operatives and have bound their destinies still more firmly to the communes. Marx wrote: “New, higher relations of production never appear before the material conditions of their existence have matured in the womb of the old society itself. Therefore mankind always sets itself only such tasks as it can solve; since, looking at the matter more closely, it will always be found that the task itself arises only when the material conditions for its solution already exist or are at least in the process of formation.” Why don’t those who have doubts about the people’s commune movement make a serious study of the facts of history and this fundamental Marxist view of historical development?

What Is the Nature of the Communes?

At the present time in China there are two kinds of arguments which in essence deny the people’s communes. One asserts that to establish people’s communes, you must put communism into practice, otherwise you cannot establish them. The other believes that the people’s communes are almost the same as the advanced agricultural producers’ co-operatives and it was therefore quite unnecessary to set them up. Those who argue thus can be said to be ignorant of the realities of the people’s communes. True, the name “commune” may be associated with communism, but on the other hand it may not; that is, there can be communes which are not, or are not yet, communist in character. We all know that in modern history there have been all kinds of “communes” of different characters. There have been not only “communes” which were not communist in character in the period of proletarian revolution; but “communes” of a bourgeois-democratic character in periods of bourgeois revolution and bourgeois-democratic revolution. The people’s communes in China today are socialist in character. This has been clear and beyond doubt since the resolution of the Peitaiho meeting of the Communist Party a year ago. Is there anything wrong with organizing people’s communes to promote the socialist collective economy more effectively?

As far as their socialist character is concerned the people’s communes are the same as the advanced agricultural producers’ co-operative. But there are differences between the two in many respects: the advanced agricultural producers’ co-operative is a relatively small collective, the people’s commune is a much larger collective; the co-operative manages agriculture only, the commune manages diversified economic activities; the co-operative is an economic organization, the commune is a unified organization embracing political, economic, military and cultural activities: the co-operative is only the organizer of collective production, while the commune is also the organizer of collective life. More important, in the people’s communes as they stand now, even though the basic form of ownership is vested in the production brigade, which in general corresponds to the advanced agricultural producers’ co-operative, part of the ownership is vested at the commune level; this did not exist before. Direct ownership by the people’s communes, such as is exemplified in enterprises and undertakings run by the commune and the reserve and welfare funds controlled by the commune, does not so far amount to very much, but this represents a great and bright future for China’s rural areas. As the commune is able every year to draw suitable sums for its accumulation fund from the income of the production brigades and also increases it with the profits of commune-run enterprises, in addition to any state investments it may get, there will be not a slow but a very rapid growth in the part that is owned by the commune. Ownership at the commune level already contains some elements of ownership by the whole people. With the development of production and the gradual enlargement of ownership at the commune level, the elements of ownership by the whole people will also grow steadily. Though the transition from collective ownership to ownership by the whole people is still a process that will take a number of years, the people’s commune is undoubtedly the best form of social organization to carry out this transition.

At the same time, though the people’s commune is still socialist in character, it already contains some rudiments of communism which the advanced agricultural producers’ co-operative did not and could not possibly have. There are good reasons for affirming that the people’s commune is not only a most powerful instrument for accelerating socialist construction, but also the best form of social organization for the future transition from socialism to communism. Since the new form of social organization, the people’s commune, is able to develop fully the original
advantages of the advanced agricultural producers' co-operative and overcome certain limitations of the co-operative, and since it contains the germ of even loftier ideals, is there any reason why it should not be set up to replace the advanced agricultural producers' co-operative? Why shouldn't we go one better when we can?

Correct Attitude to New Things

True, the history of the people's communes from its birth to the present is still a short one; its advantages are only just beginning to show themselves and it is only in the initial stages of developing its broad prospects, but can it be made light of merely because it is just in the budding stage? What tree has not grown from a young shoot? "Jeering at the feebleness of the young shoots of the new order, cheap scepticism of the intellectuals and the like—these are, essentially, methods of class struggle of the bourgeoisie against the proletariat, a defence of capitalism against socialism. We must carefully study the new shoots, we must devote the greatest attention to them, do everything to promote their growth and 'nurse' these feeble shoots... The point is to foster each and every shoot of the new; and life will select the most virile." (From Lenin's "A Great Beginning") Here, then, is Lenin's attitude to such young shoots. This is the attitude of all Marxist-Leninists to new things. The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Comrade Mao Tse-tung regard the people's commune movement from this Marxist-Leninist viewpoint.

Exactly one year has passed since the Peitaibao meeting of the Communist Party. It is not yet a year since the people's commune movement spread through China's rural areas. But the people's commune, this newly born social organization, has already passed through serious trials and gathered rich experience. Despite the abuse and damage done them by hostile forces within the country and abroad, despite condemnation and opposition by the right opportunists within the Party, and the great onslaughts of natural calamities, the people's communes have not collapsed. We are, therefore, entitled to say that the people's communes will never collapse. The courageous and industrious Chinese people look to the future, confident of victory. We have every reason to proclaim: Long Live the People's Communes!

The Leap Continues

New Industrial Upsurge

by OUR CORRESPONDENT

THE onrushing industrial tide rises higher. Industrial production was up 65 per cent in value in the first six months of this year compared with the same period last year. Workers throughout the country are continuing to press ahead in this third quarter. Their efforts in the tremendous campaign to increase production and practise economy have received fresh inspiration from the recent call of the Communist Party to reach the major goals of the Second Five-Year Plan this year. Their new achievements are breaking all previous records.

Since the great drive for steel last year the whole country has become steel conscious. Last year not only did output soar but a huge number of small and medium-sized blast furnaces were built, laying the foundations for scores of small and medium-sized steel bases in many parts of the country. Some of China's largest and most modern blast and open-hearth furnaces went into operation. Construction of the giant steel bases at Wuhan and Paotow was speeded up. Hundreds of thousands of new recruits mastered production techniques and invaluable experience was accumulated. 1958 carried production and technical levels in China's steel industry to a new high.

These trends continue. In the first seven months of 1959, steel output (excluding steel made by indigenous methods for local use) reached 6,250,000 tons, a 67 per cent increase over the corresponding period of 1958. The outputs of pig iron and rolled steel were 150 per cent and 30 per cent higher respectively. The quality of products has rapidly improved and costs considerably reduced.

August ushered in a new high tide throughout the industry. Because of the heat, it is usually one of the most unfavourable months for iron- and steel-making. But this year, our iron- and steel-workers turned it into the most productive. Outputs of pig iron, steel and rolled steel, respectively, were 6 per cent, 13 per cent and 10 per cent above the July levels.

Anshan Leads the Way

In this new upsurge, the Anshan Iron and Steel Works, China's biggest steel base, marched in the van. There, administrative personnel have gone out of their offices, donned their canvas overalls, and worked together with the rank and file in the shops. Taking turns, they were on hand round-the-clock, giving personal guidance to production. They called "front-line conferences" to tackle problems on the spot. They sought out, summed up and popularized successful experiences with great effectiveness. As a result of this and the workers' soaring enthusiasm, output climbed steadily. Workers of the 13 rolling mills did particularly well. They overfulfilled the July production plan, topping the June output by 16 per cent. On August 4, they pledged to produce 100,000 tons of rolled steel over and above the third quarter plan and challenged their colleagues at all other rolling mills in the country to do likewise in honour of the National Day. By August 30, they
had already made good their pledge one full month and a day ahead of schedule. They are now working to honour their new pledge — fulfil their annual production plan 17 days ahead of schedule.

A New Round of Emulation

This challenge from Anshan sparked a new round of emulation among rolling mills throughout the country. Workers of 19 rolling mills in Shanghai, China’s second largest steel producing centre, responded to the challenge by pledging to raise their average daily output of rolled steel in the fourth quarter to 60 per cent above the August level and 133 per cent above that of the fourth quarter of last year. Their accomplishments to date leave no doubt that they will make good their pledge. From August 1 to 20, Shanghai’s rolled steel output was 11 per cent higher than in the first 20 days of July. The increase in the second ten days over the first ten days of August was 12.9 per cent. And output keeps on rising.

The emulation in the rolling mills is typical of that throughout the industry. A campaign to increase output, improve quality and reduce costs has been going on among all iron and steel workers for many months. In this emulation drive, the Penki No. 1 Iron Plant and the Talian Steel Mill had to fight hard to keep their lead in blast and electric furnace efficiency. But between August 26 and August 28, the former turned out an astounding average of 2.519 tons of iron per cubic metre of available blast furnace volume per 24 hours, and the iron was 100 per cent up to standard.

Shanghai steel workers excelled in the efficiency with which they operated both converters and open-hearth furnaces. They gained their reputation in a struggle to overcome a whole series of difficulties. To raise output, workers at the No. 6 Steel Mill, for instance, had to break through four “barriers” — reduce the high sulphur content of the pig iron they used, raise the efficiency of the cupolas which lagged behind the converters, lengthen the service life of converters and increase the proportion of top quality steel produced. By hard work and ingenious solutions to the technical problems involved, they succeeded in making the break-through and as a result, produced 1,000 tons of steel above the plan in the first seven months of 1958. Over 98 per cent of the steel they made was up to standard. In August, Shanghai’s steel output exceeded the July figure by more than 40,000 tons and was 2.4 times the output of August 1958. On the single day of August 31, Shanghai produced more steel than the city produced in the entire year of 1948, the pre-liberation peak year.

In Chungking, Taiyuan, Tangshan, Tientsin, Peking, Maanshan and elsewhere the iron and steel workers have emulated such efforts.

The small blast furnaces built on the basis of the numerous indigenous iron smelting furnaces that sprang up last year, now account for half the country’s pig iron production. As a result of the building of such small blast furnaces, the ferrous metallurgical industry in many parts of the country literally shot ahead. Compared with the corresponding period last year, pig iron output increased 6-fold in Anhwei Province, nearly 7-fold in Chekiang Province and almost 17-fold in Kwangtung Province in the first six (or seven) months this year.

In the Coal Mines

The nation’s coal miners have done just as well. They mined more than 220 million tons of coal in the first eight months of this year, 76 per cent more than the same period last year. This means that in eight months, coal miners of the country have surpassed the target originally set for the entire year of 1962 (190-210 million tons) and that this year China will leave Britain even farther behind in coal production.

In the emulation among coal miners for higher output from more work faces, miners pushed up their daily output steadily, this despite heavy downpours of rain in August that posed serious problems at many collieries. Now the situation on the coal front looks better than ever. The reserves of props have greatly increased. Equipment is in better repair and is being utilized more fully. To keep up with the rise in output, the rate of tunnelling was also speeded up. The increases in July and August were 3 per cent and 6 per cent respectively. As a result, more than 250 new work faces have been made ready. More than 100 of these will go into production in September and October.

In the first half of this year, 14 pairs of new shaft mines went into production. More are expected to be completed and commissioned as 400 pairs of shaft mines are now under construction.

Above all, the miners are in high spirits and their enthusiasm waxes higher after the Eighth Plenary Session.
of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. At the Fushun Colliery, one of the country's biggest, miners pledged on August 29 to produce an extra 700,000 tons of coal on top of the tremendous output planned for this year. A new and keener round of emulation is now going on among individual miners, work teams and mining districts.

Engineering Keeps Up Advance

Engineering workers doubled output value in the first six months of 1959 as compared with the same period of 1958. The output of power-generating equipment quadrupled. The machine tool output was 45,000 units, more than double the output of the corresponding period last year. There was a big increase in mining and metallurgical equipment, ball-bearings and various types of engines. For the first time in China's history, the industry turned out such heavy equipment as a 750/550 mm. rolling mill and a 1,200 mm. sheet mill for the metallurgical industry. Also for the first time it supplied a steam boiler to the power industry with an evaporating capacity of 280 tons an hour and a 72,500 kw. water turbine generator unit. Other new products such as a 275-ton travelling crane for a casting shop and a highly efficient 18-spindle unit head borer give an indication of the industry's advances in technology. Backing up agriculture, the industry in the first half of this year provided the people's communes with irrigation and drainage equipment with a total capacity of 1.5 million horsepower, as well as a large number of tractors and combine-harvesters.

The engineering workers kept up this tremendous advance in July and August too. The example of the rolling stock industry is typical. Compared with the monthly average for the previous half year, the Shenyang Rolling Stock Works more than doubled its output of freight cars in July. At the Chengdu Rolling Stock Works labour productivity in the first week of August was three times as high as in the first week of the previous month. In the first 20 days of August, the total freight car output of the country was 135 per cent higher than in the first 20 days of July. Rolling stock workers are now aiming to produce thousands of new freight cars in the coming month, in support of the continued leap forward of the national economy.

The fine spirit demonstrated by the engineering workers is manifest in the “1,000-hour campaign”—a special form of emulation in the machine-building industry in which, machinists strive to complete their quotas for 1,000 hours in a single month. Since there are only some 600 working hours in the month for the three shifts put together, this is achieved by improving techniques and tools and co-ordination among the various shifts. Thus, at the newly built No. 1 Tractor Works in Loyang, operators in three shifts on a drilling machine fulfilled their quota for 6,400 hours in one month by improving tools and devising a jig ideally adapted to their special purpose.

Other branches of heavy industry, chemicals, petroleum, electric power, etc., show much the same pattern of tremendous growth.

Light industry has also done well. Output of the major light industrial products during the first seven months of this year registered increases over the same period last year ranging from 30 to more than 100 per cent. The quality of products has also improved, much to the delight of consumers. An inspection of 99 types of products in Shanghai showed improved quality in 92, and of these, 35, including thermos bottles, alarm clocks, fountain pens and enamelware, showed exceptional improvements in quality. Emulation among plants in the same industry contributed much to this achievement. Shanghai's enamelware plants had fallen behind in quality compared to products from Peking and Sian. In July, emulation to improve quality started among all eleven enamelware plants in the city. They helped each other by comparing notes every five days and swapping experience. This worked miracles. The Hsinhua Enamelware Plant was bottom of the list in quality last year. But in July this year, by studying the strong points of other plants, it took first place with 99.13 per cent of its products certified top grade.

Transport Drive

Transport played a significant role in promoting industrial production. In the first seven months of 1959, the volume of freight carried by rail increased 49 per cent compared with the corresponding period last year; the average number of cars loaded rose by 37.1 per cent and the turn around time for freight trains was cut by practically a third of a day. There was a 17 per cent increase in the number of new locomotives produced and freight cars output went up 18 per cent.

Other transport services also pressed ahead rapidly. The volume of freight carried by steamship and barge increased 75 per cent and the volume of freight carried by lorry rose 94 per cent in the first six months of 1959 compared with the same period of 1958. Railway and highway construction also forged ahead and new highways and air routes were opened.

Nevertheless, the transport services are still hard pressed as the economy booms. To ease the strain transport workers are trying to make the best possible use of available facilities. Efficiency in loading has been greatly enhanced by raising the height of loading platforms. Many machines have also been added to speed up loading and unloading. Inspite of the summer heat and the temporary disruption of certain lines by floods, railway workers loaded 7,000 more freight cars in the first 20 days of August this year than in the entire month of August last year. In the first ten days of August, railway workers loaded an average of 39.9 tons on every freight car, already a very high figure. In the second ten days, this rose to an all-time high of 40.1 tons. Transport capacity has thus been expanded considerably without addition of new facilities.

Transport workers are now striving to move in the third quarter as much of the freight as possible which was originally scheduled to be moved in the fourth quarter, so that they will be in a better position to fulfil fourth quarter tasks which, as a rule, are the heaviest of the year.

The economy continues its big leap forward. The publication of the Resolution of the Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party on Developing the Campaign for Increasing Production and Practising Economy is inspiring every worker in the land to greater efforts. An even greater upsurge in industrial activities is in the making.
China Celebrates Viet-nam's Anniversary

by OUR CORRESPONDENT

EVENTS came thick and fast in Southeast Asia in 1945 following the defeat of imperialist Japan. Among them was the founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam on September 2. That news brought elation to the Chinese revolutionary movement. It was greeted as a big victory for a close neighbour and comrade-in-arms, and for the whole Asian national liberation movement. People's China, like all the rest of progressive mankind, supported the epic struggle of the Viet-namese people against the French colonialists' attempt to stage a comeback. It promptly gave what help it could as the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam took up the tasks of reconstruction after securing peace in 1954.

The advance of the Democratic Republic was rapid. It took only three years for its economy, battered by prolonged war, to be completely rehabilitated. Agricultural production, key to the country's economy, rose sharply, thanks to the land reform which gave nearly 700,000 hectares of land to some 7 million peasants. Today, Democratic Viet-nam's villages have advanced a stage further with over 20 per cent of peasant families in agricultural co-operatives and 65 per cent in mutual-aid teams.

In 1958, a three-year plan of socialist construction was launched; it will create more than 100 large-scale industrial enterprises, 56 of which will produce means of production. The industrialization of Viet-nam has begun.

These successes have greatly improved the livelihood of the people and stimulated the growth of education and culture. Under the "enlightened" French regime over 90 per cent of the Viet-namese people were illiterate. By the end of last year illiteracy was virtually eliminated in north Viet-nam.

It was these memories, these achievements and all the other advances that the Viet-namese people have made under the leadership of the Viet-nam Lao Dong Party and President Ho Chi Minh that were recalled in China during the fourteenth anniversary celebrations of the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam.

In Peking, there was a gala reception by the Viet-namese Charge d'Affaires ad interim Pham Binh which

Chen Yi Condemns U.S. Threat to China and Viet-nam

Vice-Premier Chen Yi severely condemned recent U.S. conspiracies in Laos and throughout Indo-China in a speech at the National Day reception given by the Viet-namese Charge d'Affaires ad interim Pham Binh.

He declared: The U.S. imperialists, persisting in their policy of war and aggression, have all along sabotaged the Geneva agreements, obstructed the peaceful unification of Viet-nam and continued to create tension in Indo-China. Of late, the United States openly instigated the Sannakone government of Laos to sabotage the Geneva agreements, to repudiate the Vientiane agreements the Laotian Government concluded with the former Pathet Lao fighting units, and to unleash and extend the civil war. Simultaneously, the United States has incited Laos to conclude a series of agreements with Thailand and south Viet-nam which are virtually military alliances and meant to draw Laos further into the U.S. military bloc; at the same time, it is sending U.S. military personnel and arms to Laos and setting up and expanding near the borders of China and Viet-nam U.S. military bases and centres from which special agents are sent out.

"As a participant of the Geneva Conference and a close neighbour of Laos, China firmly demands that U.S. activities menacing the security of China and the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam and jeopardizing peace in Indo-China and Southeast Asia be stopped; the Geneva and Vientiane agreements observed; and the independence, unification, peace and neutrality of Laos guaranteed in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva agreements."

"The imperialists and the reactionaries in various countries," Vice-Premier Chen Yi continued, "are used to covering up their own aggressive activities and other ulterior motives by slandering the Socialist countries with charges of aggression and intervention. But, latterly these slanders against China have been particularly unbridled."

"However," the Vice-Premier stressed, "world opinion will not be hoodwinked. China has never encroached on other countries, nor will she tolerate encroachment by other countries.

"In international affairs, we always stand for the settlement of disputes between nations through peaceful negotiations, and for peaceful coexistence and peaceful competition between countries with different social systems. This is our steadfast policy, and no amount of rumours or slanders can blot it out."

September 8, 1959
Premier Chou En-lai and other Chinese government leaders attended. On the eve of the anniversary, a mass meeting at one of the city’s public parks was held jointly by the Chinese people and Viet-namese residents in Peking.

Press, radio and cinemas gave widespread publicity to the achievements of the Viet-namese people. Radio Peking invited the Viet-namese Charge d’Affaires to speak on a nationwide hookup. The press prominently carried the joint messages of congratulations of the Chinese leaders to the Viet-namese leaders and a large number of articles reviewing all aspects of life in People’s Viet-nam.

The sentiments of the Chinese people on this occasion were well expressed by Vice-Premier Shen Yi in a speech at the Viet-namese National Day reception in Peking. Recounting the achievements in the Democratic Republic, he drew attention to the wretched state of affairs in the south of the country where under the control of the

Ngo Dinh Diem regime and its American masters, the economy is deteriorating. “This is further eloquent proof of the incomparable superiority of the socialist system,” he said.

Vice-Premier Chen Yi hailed Viet-nam’s outstanding achievements in the international field where, as he said, it “has strictly adhered to the Geneva agreements, actively striven for the peaceful unification of Viet-nam and unswervingly contributed to the easing of international tension.”

Repeating to Sino-Viet-namese relations, the Vice-Premier declared: “We are very happy to see that in the past year, our two governments and peoples have carried out fraternal mutual aid and co-operation and mutual support in the cause of building socialism. There is no doubt that such ties will grow still stronger as their constructive work is developed with ever greater vigour.”

Japan Penetrates Southeast Asia

by LIAO CHU

The Philippine Foreign Ministry revealed recently that large groups of Japanese businessmen have been coming to Manila continually in the last few months, ostensibly as tourists. According to a report in the Manila Chronicle, about 500 entered the Philippines between August 1958 and April this year. This is only one indication of the growing Japanese economic penetration of the Philippines. A few weeks ago, the Ministry of Public Works in Manila disclosed that Japan has been utilizing the current talks on a loan for the Marikina Dam project to press the Philippine Government to give Japanese contractors the same opportunities that are granted to its own nationals in building dams in that country. Japan has also applied for permission to open banks in the Philippines.

The tentacles of Japanese monopoly capital are spreading to other Southeast Asian countries as well. On May 13, the Kishi government concluded a reparations agreement with the Ngo Dinh Diem clique of south Viet-nam. The total payments to south Viet-nam, including pure reparations, government credit and investments described as “economic co-operation,” amount to $55,600,000. Most of the sum is to finance the construction of a hydro-electric power station. The rest will go for the repair and expansion of an arsenal and the construction of a plant manufacturing urea. Japanese capitalists are competing with each other in making use of the reparations payments as stepping stones for incursions into south Viet-nam.

The “Vacuum” Theory

At the moment, Japanese monopoly capital is paying special attention to Indonesia. Since the signing of a reparations agreement with Indonesia early last year, Japanese industrialists and businessmen have been talking enthusiastically about opening what they call the “treasure house of Asia.” The Toyo Keizai Shinpo, an economic weekly, reported on February 8, 1958 the view of the Japanese monopolies that “since the Dutch influences were ousted, a capital and technical ‘vacuum’ has appeared (in Indonesia). This presents the best chance for Japan to step in.”

Matsunaga Anzaemon, the famous “ace of the Japanese electrical industry,” has worked out a scheme for the development of the hydro-power resources of the Asahan River in North Sumatra, with the aid of the American “Development Loan Fund.”

Japanese textile interests have applied to the Japanese Government to ask Indonesia for contracts to process 100,000 bales of surplus cotton which the United States is to export there. The Nippon Maruzen Petroleum Co. and American United Petroleum, according to a Japanese Kyodo News Agency dispatch from Osaka on May 14, 1959, will soon set up a joint company called UNIMA to develop the oil resources of Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries.

Besides, on its first year’s reparations account with Indonesia which amounts to $32 million, as reported by the Indonesian Antara News Agency on April 14, Japan has delivered nine ships and is to export industrial equipment and light industrial goods. The Japanese Government has also offered to give Indonesia a $70 million loan, the major portion of which, it suggests, should be used for the purchase of Japanese industrial equipment and the rest to buy Japanese textiles and earthenware which have had a slow sale in the world markets.

All these are the most recent facts of the renewed expansion in Southeast Asia, which is a result of the
accelerated growth of Japanese monopoly capital. Japan’s industrial capacity, the rapid growth of which was propelled by U.S. arms orders during the Korean war, is now nearly three times the pre-war level. So her monopolies are out for new overseas markets. And their leading figures, as well as high Tokyo officials, are talking about foreign expansion with ever greater audacity.

Blue Book No. 3 on "Our Diplomatic Situation" issued by the Japanese Foreign Ministry in May 1959 argued, in essence, that Japan needs a sphere of influence in the undeveloped countries such as the United States has in Latin America, or Britain in the Commonwealth preference area. Taizo Ishizaka, the President of the Japanese Federation of Economic Organizations, said in his speech at its general meeting in April 1958: "We are not going to accept our present position with no prerogatives in the Southeast Asian countries."

At a cabinet meeting held on June 2, 1959, according to an Agence France Presse report from Tokyo on the same day, Premier Kishi instructed his government to map out plans "for carrying out economic co-operation with the whole region of Southeast Asia on a long-term basis." The various agreements already signed or to be concluded with the countries of this region will provide for total payment by Japan of about $1,900 million within the next twenty years. This includes $1,012 million in reparations to Burma, the Philippines, Indonesia and south Viet-nam; $735.2 million in "economic co-operation" mostly supplementary to the reparations agreements; and $77.5 million in loans and credit to India and south Viet-nam; and $7 million in economic and technical "aid" to Cambodia and Laos. These disbursements are the backbone of Kishi’s programme for overall economic expansion. Its keynote is the old formula: an industrial Japan plus an agricultural Southeast Asia.

Programme of Exploitation

It is a well-known fact that Japan looks upon Southeast Asia as her main source of raw materials. During the last few years, Southeast Asia has supplied 80 per cent of the 8 million tons of iron ore imported annually by Japan.

In March this year, a delegation from the Japanese iron and steel industry visited India. Besides the joint exploitation of the Rourkela iron mine in Orissa by Indian, Japanese and U.S. capital already agreed upon, Japan has sought a similar arrangement for joint development of the Bailadilla iron mine in Madhya Pradesh. If this plan is accepted, Japan by 1966 will be able to import 8 million tons of iron ore annually from India alone.

Meanwhile, Japan is preparing to exploit iron, antimony and oil resources in Burma, iron and copper mines in the Philippines and tin mines in Thailand. Today in Southeast Asia, 15 different mines are already exploited by Japanese capital.

Japan is actively spreading the misconception that economically undeveloped countries should not build heavy industries, with the aim of blocking the development of the national economies by the Southeast Asian countries to complete their independence. At the conference of its economic attaches posted to Southeast Asian countries held by the Japanese Foreign Ministry in Tokyo last June, as reported in the Japanese press, the thesis was advanced that the foreign currency shortage which plagues most Southeast Asian countries is the result of their "over-emphasis" on industrial construction. It was added that Japan is willing to extend "co-operation" to these countries so that they will be able to develop primary products and increase their exports to Japan.

The Japanese press and radio have lately given great publicity to the "lessons of Japan’s experience" when she began her modern capitalist development in the Meiji Restoration (after 1870) and have called on the Southeast Asian countries to follow suit by giving priority to the development of agriculture and small and medium-sized enterprises. They have also urged the Southeast Asian countries not to ask for Japanese industrial equipment and other means of production in future reparations. The various Japanese delegations that recently toured Southeast Asia sang the same song.

U.S.-Japanese Tie-up

Japanese monopoly capital has consistently sought U.S. support for its expansion in this area. As far back as June 1957, when Premier Kishi conferred with U.S. President Eisenhower on the revision of the Japan-U.S. "Security Treaty," he officially demanded that the U.S. Government back Japan’s claims to the "development of Southeast Asia." Subsequent negotiations on the treaty revision have centred on bargaining about how much economic "assistance" the U.S. would give in return for Japan’s faster rearmament. The nature of this "assistance" was revealed in a statement by Japanese Finance Minister Eisaku Sato (published in the Tokyo Mainichi Shimbun on March 20, 1959) that the revision of the treaty "will win for Japan vigorous support in its economic co-operation with Southeast Asia and assistance in its domestic economic development."

The United States holds out the bait that it will help her expand in Southeast Asia to lure Japan into the revised "Security Treaty," and thus make her a pawn of U.S. aggression in Asia. This was made clear by Eisenhower in his address at Gettysburg College on April 4, 1959 when he said, "Japan is an essential counter-weight to communist strength in Asia" and also that "trade is the key to a durable Japanese economy." Since Japan needs raw materials while Southeast Asia needs manufactured goods, he went on, the two "complement each other markedly."

U.S. support for Japanese expansion has taken various forms. During the last few years, the U.S. International Co-operation Administration purchased scores of millions of U.S. dollars worth of Japanese goods each year as "aid" to certain Southeast Asian countries. This was how Japanese monopoly capital made its debut in south Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Another medium is Japanese processing of U.S. cotton designated for countries in the region. Today, Japanese monopoly capital is attaching an ever greater importance to soliciting U.S. capital for "joint development" of Southeast Asia’s rich resources.

But the most notable fact is that Japan is embarking on the large-scale export of arms and other war materials, mainly to Southeast Asia, with active U.S. support. According to reports by the Tokyo Asahi Shimbun, the United States is to place orders in Japan for more
than 18,000 military trucks, which are to be turned over to several Southeast Asian countries as “military aid.” Besides undertaking the repair and expansion of an arsenal in south Viet-nam as already stated, Japan is seeking orders for warships from Thailand and for jet training planes from Indonesia. The Tokyo Asahi Shim bun (June 9, 1959) reported that Japanese arms manufacturers have set up a special commission for the export of arms to Southeast Asian countries. Uemura Kogoro, Vice-President of the Japanese Federation of Economic Organizations, has mapped out a cunning plan for Japan to buy arms which she herself cannot manufacture from the United States, in return for which the latter will buy Japanese weapons for export to Southeast Asia. With this so-called “Uemura Plan,” the Japanese monopoly capitalists want to kill several birds with one stone. At one and the same time, they hope to hasten the rearrangement of Japan, carry forward their expansion in Southeast Asia, agitate tension in the Far East, and help to bring about armed conflicts, both internal and international, in the region.

Southeast Asian Resistance

Japan’s economic expansion in Southeast Asia has not been plain sailing. First of all, it is meeting opposition from the countries involved.

By consistently following a policy of dumping in trade with them, hoping in this way to make up her big deficit in trade with the United States, Japan last year achieved a favourable trade balance of over $222 million vis-a-vis the Southeast Asian countries—the highest in post-war years. This drew strong protests from the latter. Thailand, over 80 per cent of whose 1958 trade deficit was due to Japanese dumping, made it clear that if Japan did not increase imports of Thai rice and rubber, she would retaliate by raising tariffs and limiting the entry of Japanese goods. Similar demands were raised by Burma, Ceylon, Pakistan and south Viet-nam.

Criticsisms have also been voiced by nations which have accepted Japanese loans or “aid.” According to a report in Tokyo Shim bun (March 18, 1959), the Japanese ambassador to India, Nasu Shiroshi, said that India was most dissatisfied with Japan because the latter had put too many restrictions on the use of the loans given her. As a result, under the three Japanese loans to India totaling $70 million, only one contract has so far been signed — for a sum of $400,000.

When Foreign Minister Fujiyama made his tour of Indo-China last May, the Japanese press reported, Cambodia and Laos sharply questioned the “multifarious conditions” attached to Japanese “technical aid.” In Cambodia, Fujiyama was quite embarrassed when leading officials there contrasted Japanese “aid” with the unconditional Soviet and Chinese assistance given to that country. As to the “economic co-operation” which Japan has extended to other countries, very little has come of it. Four years, for example, have passed since such an agreement was concluded with Burma, but not a single project has been carried out.

Many Japanese diplomats and other officials who have visited Southeast Asia in recent years have ruefully admitted that there is strong national consciousness there, that the atrocities of Japanese militarists during World War II are still fresh in people’s minds, and that it is therefore not easy for Japan to gain an entry.

Contradictions with West

The other obstacle in the way of Japanese expansion lies in the growing contradictions between Japan and the Western imperialist countries, particularly Britain and West Germany. With the formation of the Western European “common market” and subsequently of the “little free trade area,” exclusive blocs have been set up in the markets of Europe and Africa. This makes the economic struggle between the imperialist powers in Southeast Asia more acute than ever. Japan, therefore, has a hard row to hoe because she is still a dwarf compared to her competitors. Her foreign currency reserve, for example, amounts to only about $1,000 million, while West Germany has $6,000 million and Britain $3,200 million.

When Premier Kishi recently toured Europe and Latin America, one of his chief aims was to allay Japan’s conflicts for markets with Britain and West Germany. But he failed. Britain refused to stop her trade war with Japan in Southeast Asia, and turned down Kishi’s appeal for an end to discriminatory treatment of Japanese goods in the Commonwealth. West Germany, while promising Japan nothing, expressed serious dissatisfaction with Japan for her dumping on world markets and her copying of West German goods.

As for the United States, it supports Japanese expansion in Southeast Asia only when the latter is in its own interests and is under U.S. control. U.S. policy towards Japan is, as the saying goes, “Don’t let him fill his belly, nor yet starve him to death.”

It is crystal clear that with present conditions in the world, when the whole imperialist system is dying, when the national liberation movements in Asia are on the upgrade, and when the Japanese people are intensifying their struggle day by day against the reactionary Kishi regime, the ambition of Japanese monopoly capital to rebuild the “Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere” will prove to be nothing but a day-dream.
Navigating the Yangtse Gorges

by HU MIN-CHUN

It was night when our formation of ships sailing down the Yangtse from Chungking approached the famous Yangtse Gorges in a channel marked off by red and white signal lights. Occasional flashes of lightning lit up the pitch-black sky and gave us a better view of our companion ships. Most of them were pushing barges. Some, like ours, had one at the bow, two starboard and two more portside. Others had three barges tied in a line under the "V" at the bow. Each of these ship and barge units measures about 30 metres wide and from 110 to 150 metres long. They chug along like floating warehouses loaded with grain, oil, pigs, ores, pig iron, etc., from Szechuan Province known as the "Kingdom of Heavenly Abundance."

Increasing Traffic

For a better view I went up to the bridge and struck up a conversation with an elderly man of ruddy face and snow-white hair sitting on a high stool. Wang Chang-ken was the man's name. I soon found out, and he was 67 years old, a veteran pilot with 50 years of experience on the Yangtse. He was off duty when I spoke with him.

"Take a look at those barges the ships are pushing." He pointed at our companion ships, puffed at his cigarette, and continued: "In the past, we didn't even dare dream of pushing barges through this narrow, zigzagging course full of reefs and shoals. In those days, a single ship sailing these waters was loaded with a couple of hundred tons of cargo at the most. We sailors prayed to the river gods before each voyage, and were much more thankful if our ship got through these gorges without mishap. But soon after liberation, miracles were worked. With improvements in navigation technique and the installation of navigation aids, ships began to push barges through the gorges. At first, one barge at a time or two at the most. Now it is nothing for a ship to push three or four barges. Some push or tow as many as six. This Yangtse 2006 of ours with the five barges it pushes, carries a total load of more than 40,000 tons. A single run today is equal to 20 runs in the past."

He stopped talking for a while and stared at the turbulent waters which had risen high after the summer rains.

"Magnificent, isn't it? But it only inspired fear in the sailors in the old days. Before liberation when the river rose this high all navigation would stop. Ships would also suspend their voyages when the water was too low. Of course, no ships dared to sail during the night. All in all, ships were out of action for three months out of the year. All the ships had to sail in the daytime, too, and this posed particularly serious problems. Since the ships had to set out in the morning, this not only caused congestion at the wharves, but the ships competed for the channels on the way. Today, as navigation signals have been installed and the channels made safe, big formations of ships and barges sail all year round and round the clock. No wonder the cargo carried in a single month now is greater than that carried in a whole year in the pre-liberation peak years, and the wharves now work rhythmically and smoothly." This tallied with the information I had received before the voyage:

During the ten years since liberation in 1949 the annual volume of freight from Szechuan Province carried on the Yangtse rose 70 times and was roughly 16 times the pre-liberation peak figure. Ships and barges plying the Yangtse in Szechuan increased 4-fold in number and 11-fold in capacity. In the past ten years about 10 million tons of grain and a million head of live pigs were shipped out from the southwest, mainly Szechuan Province, via the Yangtse. Huge quantities of industrial goods and building materials poured into Szechuan from other parts of the country via the same route. Freight charges were reduced year by year. Each ton of cargo downstream cost 30 yuan before liberation. Now it has dropped to slightly more than 8 yuan.

All this is the result of the hard work of the river transport workers. One of their outstanding feats was the development of night navigation, which greatly cuts navigation time. The S.S. Yangtse 2006 set out from Chungking in the afternoon. It rushed through the Yangtse Gorges in the night and reached Yichang, Hupeh Province in the afternoon of the next day. In general, voyage time downstream between Chungking and Yichang has been cut from 2 days to 1 and upstream time from 4-5 to 2-2.5 days.

Night Navigation

I experienced night navigation upstream on my return voyage.

It was about an hour after midnight when our ship entered the Siling Gorge, the easternmost of the Yangtse Gorges, 8.5 kilometres west of Yichang. This is the most dangerous of the three gorges. Squeezed by the sheer cliffs closing in on either side, the turbulent waters swirled and roared on furiously to the accompaniment of howling winds that tore through the gorge. Guided by red and white navigation lights that twinkled in rows like strings of pearls, our ships moved along calmly.

When we entered the Xiaochanho section, the scene was wilder. Wave after wave broke violently and crashed. Huge whirlpools looked as though they would swallow everything in their gaping mouths.
Li Chi-cheng, Master of the S.S. Jiangrong, fixed his eyes on the course ahead, noted the navigation signals on either bank and on the buoys, gave orders to the steersmen. The ship turned now to starboard, now to port and then kept straight ahead, avoiding, blocking, and cutting through the whirlpools and clearing the reefs. Searchlights on the ship threw powerful beams on the way ahead and sideways. Every sailor was intent on his job as the ship darted forward like an arrow.

As we got through the worst section, a sailor told me that for 15 kilometres, the course was full of rocks and when the water rose high, they became dangerous submerged reefs and broke the flow into numerous whirlpools. A single mistake on the part of the master or the steersman could mean disaster. That explained why the steersman was soaked in sweat despite the strong wind.

**A Dream Comes True**

It was dawn when our ship finally left the Siling Gorge behind and entered a broad valley. We sailed in this valley for some 44 kilometres before we entered the Wu Gorge, the longest of the three gorges, known for its quiet depth and breath-taking beauty. Here the river course turned so sharply that at times the way ahead seemed blocked. Yet, after a few turns, new vistas were opened. The twelve peaks of the Wu Mountain rose against a background of white clouds, each with its characteristic beauty. One of these looked like a fairy maid. Legend had it that in ancient times, the fairy maid stood watching on the Wu Mountain. She was deeply grieved by the sight of boatmen who valiantly fought the whirlpools only to be drowned in the treacherous waters. So she summoned numerous birds to fly over the three gorges and guide the boatmen in a safe course through the shoals and reefs.

This legend recalls how long the people dreamt of help to make their voyages on this part of the Yangtse safe. This dream was finally fulfilled after liberation.

Since 1953, some 50 shoals have been removed and 30-odd reefs have been blasted away. This work, dredging the river course and building cofferdams involved the clearing away of 1.3 million cubic metres of stone and silt.

When night falls, 3,000 navigation lights now sparkle on the 648-kilometre stretch of the Yangtse between Chungking and Yichang. Along a stretch of 200 kilometres, electric lights were installed during the first six months of this year. Efforts are being stepped up to introduce electricity along the entire stretch this month.

On my voyage, I noticed many signal posts flashing different signals and directing the ships both up and down the stream. At places where the channel was narrow, red triangles with their apexes pointing downwards warned the ships sailing upstream to wait and make way for those coming downstream. Special fog signal poles forewarn fog ahead. These signal posts are linked by telephone and telegraph and manned round-the-clock.

The last gorge we came to was the Chuting Gorge, the shortest of all (only 8 kilometres), but at the same time the most magnificent. It collects the waters of a large number of Yangtse tributaries in the Szechuan Basin. But it is a very narrow outlet and on the onrushing waters compete to get through. On each bank, sheer cliffs reaching to the sky. The narrow passway they form is, at places, less than 100 metres wide. Here I looked up to the sky as if from the bottom of a well.

Out of the Chuting, it was all plain sailing. We finally docked at Chungking. The waterfront here has changed beyond recognition from what it used to be before liberation. In the past you would see dockers climbing steep slopes, panning under the heavy burdens on their backs. Today, loading and unloading have been essentially mechanized. At the Chiungpo Wharf, the biggest in Chungking, electrically operated conveyors move the cargo directly from ship to warehouse and cranes that hoist scores of tons at a time now do the work of hundreds of men. At the Chaotienmen Wharf there were cable cars for passengers as well as for cargo.

Great are the changes wrought in the past decade, and those that are to come will be even greater. When a tall dam is completed on the Yangtse, the gorges will be submerged in a huge man-made sea. Calmness will descend upon the turbulent waters and whirlpools, and 10,000-ton ships will be able to sail from Yichang to Chungking. Floods on the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtse will be put under control, and vast areas will be brought under irrigation. The electric power generated will be supplied to half the country. Mother Yangtse of tomorrow will be a truly great river harnessed to serve the needs of the people.
ARCHAEOLOGY

Important Recent Finds

Archeology, like other branches of the sciences, has made rapid strides over the past few years. Conducted as part of a systematic scientific programme, its successes have been due in large measure to the fact that field work has been carried out in close co-ordination with the nation's rapidly expanding socialist construction. While excavations are being carried out at many capital construction sites, surveys and excavations are also being made at sites of ancient cities and settlements. Recent excavations throw much revealing light on the development of Chinese culture. In these columns we have described some of the important finds made since liberation; here are some further highlights on new finds since 1956.

Neolithic Cultures

Extremely rich Neolithic remains have been found. In the last three years alone, more than a thousand Neolithic sites were uncovered throughout the country. But so far scientific excavations have been largely confined to those in the Yellow River valley like Shanhaiyuan County in Honan in the basin of the new Samen Gorge Reservoir, and Huaxi, Huayin and Paochi in Shensi. The areas excavated at each of these sites often amount to four or five thousand square metres, which fact enables the archaeologists engaged in the work to study them in all their aspects. Stratigraphical evidence seems to indicate that the Yangshao culture was the oldest of all known Neolithic cultures in the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River, with the Lungshan culture as a close second. The work of the last few years has not only clarified many problems regarding the nature and geographical distribution of these two cultures but also dispelled certain early confusions (see Peking Review, No. 6, 1958).

During the last four years rich Neolithic remains have also been found in the Yangtze Valley. Investigations and excavations undertaken by the newly formed Yangtze River Archaeological Team will help to unravel the riddle regarding the inter-relations between the Neolithic culture of the Yangtze Valley and those of other parts of China. The presence of painted pottery and Lungshan traits among the pottery of the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze clearly indicates influences from the Neolithic cultures of the Yellow River Valley. Frequent finds of the remains of rice also show that the agricultural crops of this area differed greatly from that of north China in Neolithic times where wheat is more often found. Neolithic cultures characterized by hard pottery with stamped designs and stepped adzes have been found all over southeast China. But the stratigraphical evidence obtained in recent years suggests that they were of a much later date than the Neolithic culture of the north. While a bronze culture was flourishing in the Yellow River Valley, south China was still slumbering in the Neolithic era. Excavations show that unlike the Yellow River Valley which concluded its Neolithic Age at least prior to the latter half of the 16th century B.C., the end of the Neolithic Age came to other parts of China at a much later date. In fact in some parts of China the Neolithic Age lingered on until early Han times (3rd century B.C.).

Shang and Chou Relics

Excavations were resumed at Anyang in Honan in 1958. Since then much new material has come to light, including a bronze foundry along with pottery crucibles and fragments that moulds, and a bone workshop with many implements and unfinished products. An interesting find is a clay mould of a well-modelled human face showing prominent Mongoloid features.

Rather unexpectedly, the most exciting tomb find of the Shang-Yin dynasty (c. 16th-11th century B.C.) in recent years was made by a peasant in 1957 in a river bottom at Funan in Anhwei Province. Eight bronze vessels of great beauty both in form and decoration were found here; the most spectacular of them being a large tank (ceremonial wine vessel) with a height of 50.5 cm. Its shoulders are decorated with three dragons whose powerful heads are sculptured in the round and protrude from the side of the vessel. The central part of the body of the vessel is divided by prominent vertical flanges into three identical sections, each dominated by a pair of fierce-looking tigers sharing a single head. Beneath the wide opened mouths of the tigers crouches a frightened and helpless looking man. This is undoubtedly one of the most magnificent of the bronze vessels of the Shang-Yin dynasty ever to come to light in China.

From 1955 to 1957, excavations of considerable significance were conducted at Changshaipo near Sian, the traditional site of the capital of the Western Chou (c. 11th century-771 B.C.). Combining an area of over 5,000 square metres, the excavators have uncovered remains of houses, either circular or rectangular in shape, pottery kilns, storage pits and wells. The objects excavated include pottery, oracle bones, implements of stone, bone, antler and shell as well as a few bronzes. Of particular significance are the finds of some fragments of eight greyish green glazed pottery fune (stemmed cups) similar to those found near Sian, Loyang and Tantu (Kiangsu). A preliminary study of this material has shown that it is already comparable in both paste and firing temperature to the porcelains of nearly a thousand years later, a discovery which is of the utmost significance to the history of Chinese porcelains. Although no remains of the Western Chou capital have yet been accurately identified, the results of the excavations conducted at this site have already shed much new light on the material culture of this little-known period. Some 130 tombs have been uncovered at a nearby necropolis and these include several human sacrifices. An interesting feature of these tombs is that nearly a quarter of them contain a sacrifice of a dog. The chariots excavated from the four chariot pits have either two or four horses each and can be completely restored. Excavations show that the bronze 'tzu tsum' monster mask which has long been regarded as either a mask for some ritual dance or a guardian monster for the tomb is actually an ornament for the head of a horse.

An even more striking Western Chou tomb find was made only a few months ago at Tunchi in southern Anhwei. Unlike the tombs of this period found in other parts of China, the two tombs excavated there apparently have no tomb pit at all. All the funerary objects were simply laid out on a layer of gravel spread right on the surface of the ground and then the earth was piled upon them in a haphazard fashion to form a mound. Among the eighteen bronzes the most unusual are two pieces in the form of a square-shaped base, with five short, solid columns on it; it is perhaps a musical instrument of the percussion type. Some of the decorations on the bronzes are rather uncommon, being highly reminiscent of the stamped geometric designs on the Neolithic hard pottery of southeastern China. Of the utmost importance was the discovery here of seventy-one well-preserved yellowish green and greyish green glazed pottery vessels, all made of fine kaolin clay. The shapes of the vessels are clearly inspired by the bronzes of this period while their decorations are mostly geometric patterns. This is the first discovery of such large quantities of early glazed pottery in China. Its significance to the study of the history of Chinese porcelains can hardly be exaggerated.

Han Architecture

In 1956 and 1957 investigations were made at the site of the ancient city of Changan in Shensi, the capital of the
The remains of the rammed earthen wall show that it was a very large city, square in shape with a circumference of 25 kilometres. Four gates—Pa Cheng, Hsi An, Hsuan Ping and Chih Cheng, each with three entrance passages, were uncovered in 1957. Archaeological evidence reveals that they were all burnt down, probably during the turmoils following the fall of the dynasty in 24 A.D. It was found that of the four gates only the Hsuan Ping Men was later rebuilt in the Eastern Han and the Later Chao (4th century A.D.). South of this site there were remains of a dozen ceremonial buildings. Two of these were excavated during 1958-1959. They both have a central structure built on a square, raised platform, superimposed on another circular platform, with surrounding walls and four gates. The wall itself was further encircled by a ditch. Earlier this year the remains of another unusual group of buildings were uncovered near Sian. Probably constructed for some ceremonial function, it consists of four identical buildings located like the four gates of a city wall at the centre of each side of a square platform. This square, raised platform measures 260 to 280 metres on each side. Each of the four buildings has white-washed walls and a crimson-coloured floor, with 16 pillar bases of white marble distributed in four parallel rows. Small paths of gravel and tile ends decorated with the "animals of the four quarters" have also been unearthed all around the structure. The objects found at the site indicate that they were likewise destroyed by fire at about the same time as the Han capital itself.

A Princess' Tomb

Of the numerous Sui and Tang tomb finds in recent years, those uncovered in the vicinity of Sian are among the most important. In 1957, a tomb dated from the 4th year of the reign of Ta Yeh of the Sui dynasty (608 A.D.) and belonging to a nine-year-old girl who was the granddaughter of an empress of the Northern Chou (557-581 A.D.) was excavated in Sian. It contains a beautifully engraved house-shaped sarcophagus and a fabulous amount of luxurious tomb furniture, including crystal hairpins, head-dress ornaments in gold foil, gold rings and bracelets inset with pearls, various utensils of gold, silver and jade, ornaments of pure white Khotan jade, beautiful porcelain of unusual form and decoration, ornaments and utensils of rare imported glass and a striking necklace of gold and precious stones which was probably of foreign workmanship. There was also a Persian Sassanian silver coin of King Pirous (456-483 A.D.), as well as an en-

tire procession of pottery tomb figures. In recent years a total of 95 Persian Sassanian silver coins of the 6th-7th centuries A.D. have been found, partly from tombs and partly from caches, in Sinkiang, Chingshi, Shensi, Shansi and Honan. In addition, a Sui dynasty tomb near Sian has yielded a Byzantine gold coin of Justin II, the first ever excavated in China. Only a few weeks ago, another find of 947 silver coins belonging to the Persian Sassanian and the later Persian Arabic dynasties was made at Ouch, Sinkiang, almost the westernmost point of China, along with gold bullion in thirteen pieces weighing a total of 1,330 grammes. All these are ample proof that during that period trade contact between China and the West was very close.

Archaeological finds in China since 1956 have been so rich and varied that the above account can do no more than merely mention a few of the most outstanding. The joint efforts of the Ministry of Culture and the Institute of Archaeology to plan and co-ordinate in advance all archaeological work in China have assured the quick, smooth progress of many important archaeological excavations. An increasing number of young archaeologists have been trained every year and the scale of archaeological work is growing. Interest in archaeology is no longer confined to specialists. The steady raising of the general educational level of the people and the scientific work being done at famous construction sites have awakened an ever widening interest in archaeology. Very many amateur archaeological groups have been formed at the village level in areas rich in archaeological remains, such as the Yellow River Valley. These groups immediately report any noteworthy accidental discoveries and the departments concerned go into action right away to ensure proper measures for their preservation and study. This has been one of the most important factors in unearthing and preserving most of the valuable archaeological finds made since liberation.

-- CHII MIN

SPORTS

First National Sports Meet

Sports fans are looking forward eagerly to the First National Sports Meet due to open this coming Sunday, September 13. Nearly 8,000 representatives of 27 nationalities selected from among hundreds of thousands of sportsmen all over the country have poured into the capital to take part in this largest national sports meet ever held in the country. It is part of the grand celebrations marking the tenth anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

The new Peking Workers' Stadium has just been completed for the meet. Covering a total area of thirty-five hectares, this is a thoroughly up-to-date set-up which meets all the requirements of a modern stadium built to international standards. It has seating for 80,000 spectators and, among other facilities, a 490-metre oval track; indoor and outdoor six-lane pools, both fifty metres long; a diving pool and a large practice pool; twelve basketball and volleyball courts; an indoor track; four tennis courts and an artificial lake for rowing in summer and skating in winter. Competition results flashed by the 21,000 bulbs of the 24 by 8 metre electric scoreboard can be seen by spectators sitting in any part of the stadium. Oral announcements can be made through 32 strategically placed "sound columns" of an improved public address system. For games played at night, the field can be illuminated, shadow-free, by floodlights mounted around the grandstand windbreak which rises above the stands at an angle of 15 degrees. Press arrangements include a television studio, booths equipped with telephones, teletype and radio transmitting facilities for correspondents and commen-

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Peking Review
Afghan Deputy-Premier Welcomed

An enthusiastic welcome greeted Sardar Mohammed Naim Khan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, when he arrived in Peking on September 5 on an official visit. At the airport to greet him and his party were Premier Chou En-lai and other government leaders. The visit was commented on editorially by all the leading papers.

Deputy Prime Minister Naim's visit to China marks a new stage in Sino-Afghan relations. It spotlights the common determination of the two neighbours to uphold the Bandung spirit and to oppose all imperialist aggression. There is no doubt, as Premier Chou declared in his speech at the airport, that the visit will strengthen relations between the two countries and contribute to the solidarity of the Asian and African countries.

China and Afghanistan established diplomatic relations in 1955 and since then, relations between them have been of the friendliest. The exchange of visits between Premier Chou En-lai and Prime Minister Daud in 1957 brought the two countries even closer together.

Sino-Afghan cultural ties, which go back over two thousand years and were interrupted in recent times only because of imperialist aggression in Asia, have been revived. Exchanges of delegations have been frequent. In the past year alone, an Afghan cultural mission and a football team toured China and a Chinese cultural delegation and a song and dance troupe visited Afghanistan. A Chinese acrobatic troupe which is now in Afghanistan to take part in the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the country's independence, has been a great success. Sino-Afghan trade too has grown, thanks to the signing of agreements for exchange of goods and payments and reciprocal visits by trade and industrial missions.

Chinese Delegation in Mongolia

A delegation of the Chinese National People's Congress led by Lin Po-chu, Vice-Chairman of its Standing Committee, visited the Mongolian People's Republic between August 28 and September 3.

In Ulan Bator, the Chinese delegation was received by Z. Sambu, President of the Presidium of the Great People's Hural, L. Tsende, Second Secretary of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, and other Mongolian leaders. It visited several of the city's new industrial plants and pastoral and agricultural co-operatives and met many Mongolian workers and livestock breeders.

The delegation's visit was the occasion of a fresh demonstration of Sino-Mongolian friendship and solidarity. Speaking at a mass rally held by Ulan Bator in honour of the Chinese delegation, D. Molomzhams, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers, warmly congratulated the Chinese people on their successes in socialist construction. The Mongolian and Chinese peoples, he said, were working hand in hand in their efforts to build socialism and friendly co-operation was growing apace in the economic and cultural fields. Noting the great efforts China made in relaxing international tension and consolidating Asian and world peace, Vice-Chairman Molomzhams declared that the Mongolian Government held that China's seat in the United Nations should be restored to her and felt confident that the just cause of liberating Taiwan would triumph. Lin Po-chu, in his address to the rally, declared that Sino-Mongolian relations fully reflected the nature of relations between socialist countries, i.e., they not only respected each other, but extended mutual fraternal aid. He expressed gratitude for the fact that the Mongolian people were planning 15 days of festivities to mark the 10th anniversary of the founding of New China.

An interesting sidelight during the delegation's visit was the decision of a livestock breeding co-operative to rename their organization "Mongolian-Chinese Friendship Co-op." The Chinese visitors presented the co-op with gifts of Chinese tractors and other farm machines.

In Peking, the Mongolian Government delegation led by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers U. Tsedenbal was given a warm welcome while en route to Viet-nam and India.

Studying Soviet Experience

The importance which China attaches to the study of Soviet experience in socialist economic construction is strikingly demonstrated by the strong government delegation which is now in the U.S.S.R. to see the Exhibition of Soviet National Economic Achievements. Led by Vice-Premier Ho Chi-ming, the delegation includes Vice-Chairman of the State Economic Commission Kuo Hung-tao, Vice-Chairman of the State Planning Commission Wang Kuang-wei, Vice-Chairman of the State Scientific and Technological Commission Chang Yu-hsuan and other leading officials of industrial ministries and enterprises.

Creative application of Soviet experience has borne rich fruit in every field of work in China. It is a key factor contributing to New China's great achievements. The spirit in which the Soviet Union on its part has passed on its experience was eloquently expressed by A. Zasadko, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., who, speaking at a dinner in honour of the Chinese delegation, said: "We share our experience with you because the Chinese people are our best friends and brothers and the friendship of our two peoples is advancing with the great cause of communism."

On that occasion, Vice-Chairman Zasadko also expressed the joy of the Soviet people at the achievements of the Chinese people reported in the communiqué issued by the Eighth Plenum of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party.

China Peace Council Statement

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War, September 1 was observed in China as a "day of struggle against the danger of a new world war" at the call of the World Peace Council.

A spokesman of the China Peace Committee issued a statement in this connection which expressed the conviction that the popular forces which vanquished fascism in the Second World War will avert the threat of another world war by maintaining their vigilance, strengthening unity and constantly combating the U.S. policy of war and aggression.

He noted that it is the war bloc headed by U.S. imperialism which is obstructing realization of the peaceful aspirations of the peoples of the world. He welcomed the exchange of visits between the heads of governments of the U.S.S.R. and the United States, a result of Soviet initiative to relax international tension and consolidate world peace. People everywhere, he said, are now waiting to see how much good faith the U.S. Government has in relaxing world tension.
U.S.-Made War in Laos

The latest U.S. interventionist moves in Laos, including the dispatch of “emergency aid” in the form of arms and other military equipment to the Phoue Sananikone government, are scathingly denounced in the Peking press.

“Increasing U.S. interference in Laos... is a wanton violation of the Geneva agreements and presents an ever-growing threat to peace in Indo-China,” declares Commentator in Renmin Ribao (August 31). He also draws attention to the fact that the United States is working hard to engineer SEATO intervention in the Laos civil war. The forthcoming meeting of the SEATO countries to be held in Washing- ton at the end of September will reportedly draw up a new “blueprint” for their intervention in Laos. Particularly worthy of note is the fact that at U.S. instigation the Laotian authorities and the Chiang Kai-shek clique in Taiwan are scheming together more closely. Secret talks are being conducted between them and the Laotian Vice-Minister of Social Affairs, now “visiting” Taiwan, has talked a great deal about Laotian-Chiang “co-operation” in the fight against communism. It is crystal clear, notes Commentator, that the U.S. imperialists are making great efforts to expand the fighting and complicate the situation in Laos with a view to extending their control over Laos and the Southeast Asian region, thus posing a threat to the security of China and the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam.

While intensifying its intervention in Laos and expanding the civil war there, Commentator points out, the U.S. has brazenly spread the lie that “the Communists threaten Laos” and “sabotage the security and stability of Laos.” However, such lies designed to conceal their crime of wrecking the Geneva agreements and starting civil war in Laos went bankrupt long ago. It was admitted even by Sir Francis Festing, the Chief of the British Imperial General Staff, that reports about “northern Viet-nam intervention” are quite groundless, as “available evidence did not justify reports that troops were entering Laos from northern Viet-nam.” In an August 10 dispatch, Agence France Presse also reported that up to the present “there has been no proof that they [the Pathet Lao fighting units] were getting war material from abroad.” Thus it can be seen that foreign intervention in Laos and the threat to that country come from the U.S. and its hangers-on, and from them alone. On August 26, the Wall Street Journal frankly admitted that U.S. intervention in Laos is part of its “policy of global intervention.”

In order to eliminate tension in Laos and save peace in that country, Commentator concludes, it is necessary to put an immediate stop to the crimes of the U.S. imperialists in intervening and expanding the civil war in Laos, and to restore the normal activities of the international commission in Laos so as to ensure the thorough implementation of the Geneva and Vientiane agreements. If the U.S. imperialists and the Laotian authorities continue to push the Laotian situation onto a dangerous path, they must be prepared to bear the full responsibility for all serious consequences.

#### CLERK AT WORK

“Wrecking the Geneva Agreements”

“Laos Royal Army”

“We have a few clerical personnel assisting the Laotian army’s administration.”

— U.S. State Department statement

By Chiang Yu-sheng

#### Kishi Leads Japan to Disaster

“Kishi is Leading Japan Up a Blind Alley” is the title of an article by Chen Hsin published in the September 1 issue of Hongqi (Red Flag), fortnightly theoretical magazine of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party.

The article, marking the 14th anniversary of V-J Day, notes that U.S. imperialism, which fattened itself during the Second World War, has replaced German, Italian and Japanese fascism in seeking world hegemony, thus becoming the most vicious enemy of progressive mankind.

It continues: “The rearmament of West Germany and Japan figures prominently in U.S. imperialist plans for a new war of aggression.

“In Asia, U.S. policy in relation to Japan is to occupy and dominate Japan, using Japanese territory as a base for U.S. imperialism in its aggression in Asia, and turning Japan into its northern vanguard against the socialist camp.”

As the most reactionary agent of Japanese monopoly capital, the Kishi government is seeking to revise the Japan-U.S. “Security Treaty” to strengthen their military alliance. “It is ready to undertake more military obligations towards the United States in exchange for U.S. support for the revival of Japanese militarism and its economic expansion overseas. Kishi is tightening his fascist rule internally, while externally, he refuses to subscribe to the policy of neutrality, steps up economic expansion in Southeast Asia by relying on the United States, and follows the U.S. line of hostility towards China.”

The armed strength of Japanese militarism is being restored with U.S. assistance, the article says. Japanese forces have accepted American missiles of the Sidewinder type and are actively preparing for nuclear armament.

Kishi’s policy of toying the U.S. line will certainly bring Japan to a dead end, the writer declares. “The more closely Japan is tied to the U.S. war chariot, the more it will find itself isolated among the Asian countries, which are the victims of Japanese aggression. It will also find it more and more difficult to free itself from economic dependence on the U.S.”

Referring to the dream of the Kishi government to revive the “Great Japanese Empire” by subscribing to the U.S. war policy, the author warns: “Japan’s ruling circles would do well to review the lesson of their defeat. Prior to World War II there was only one socialist country in the world, the Soviet Union. China at that time was a weak semi-feudal, semi-colonial country. Japan occupied Taiwan and northeast China and had its hivelings such as Wang Ching-wei and Ho Ying-ching in China. But even under these conditions, Japanese imperialism was defeated and destroyed in its war against the Chinese people and the people of the world.”

In the present post-war period, the author goes on, when socialism has become a world system, and when the forces of peace and democracy are stronger than ever, it is a sheer ana-
chronism for Japanese reaction to transform Japan into an atomic war base for U.S. aggression in the Far East, to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for the United Nations and to revive militarism in Japan.

Paying tribute to the Japanese people who are fighting staunchly against the reactionary Kishi regime, Chen Hsin concludes: "The Chinese people and all the people of the world who treasure peace and democracy warmly support the just struggle of the Japanese people. With the East wind now prevailing over the West wind, that just struggle of the Japanese people for independence, democracy, peace and neutrality will ultimately triumph."

**Hands Off Montero!**

Remin Ribau's Commentator drew attention on August 30 to the Franco regime's persecution of Simon Sanchez Montero, a leader of the Spanish Communist Party, and other patriotic democrats. They were arrested last June by Franco's men and brutally tortured in fascist jails. Noting that the Franco regime is organizing a "special military tribunal" to try Matese on framed-up charges, Commentator declares that "this is the sort of dirty political conspiracy that the Nazis were always engaged in!"

No matter how much mud the Franco regime throws at the Spanish Communist Party and Montero, Commentator declares, it will not succeed in tarnishing the brilliant history of that party and its policy. The Spanish Communist Party played a leading role in the early revolutionary struggles of the Spanish people. Commentator recalls, and since Franco seized power in 1939, it has fought unsparingly for national independence and democratic freedom and against Franco's fascist tyranny. As to Montero, he has devoted himself, to use his own words, to the struggle for "the freedom and happiness of the Spanish people and the independence and dignity of Spain." "It is not Montero who is guilty," declares Commentator, "it is the blood-stained fascist Franco ruling clique which has betrayed the national interests of Spain. There is the criminal!"

Today, Franco is pursuing a foreign policy of subservience to Washington by concluding military agreements with it and providing it with military bases for atomic war; at home, he is serving the interests of the monopolists by cruelly exploiting and oppressing his own people. Both the working people and intellectuals there are being daily impoverished. His twenty years of fascist rule have driven the increasingly united Spanish people to rise and oppose him, Commentator continues. "All who cherish justice and peace," Commentator declares, "profoundly sympathize with this just struggle of the Spanish people . . . who are working not only for their own freedom and liberation but also for peace in Europe and throughout the world." He concludes: "Our demand is: Stop persecuting Montero and other patriots of Spain! We make this urgent appeal to the people of the world: Save Montero and his fellow Spanish patriots!"

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**WHAT'S ON IN PEKING**

--- Highlights of Current Entertainment, Exhibitions, etc. ---

**THEATRE**

- TSEAI WEN-CHI Kuo Mojio's latest historical play. Tsao Tsao, Prime Minister of the Han Kingdom, enlists the aid of Tsai Wen-chi, who is married to a Han noble, to return him to his scholar-father's work. On their return, the life of one envoy is saved by Wen-chi when he is falsely accused by the other of treason. On the death of her husband, she marries the royal envoy, is happily reunited with her children, and continues her father's work. Produced by the Peking People's Art Theatre. Sept. 9-15, 7:30 p.m. Shoudou Theatre


**FILMS**

- POSTAGE STAMPS EXHIBITIONS Stamps issued in New China, Stamps of the liberated areas before the founding of the People's Republic, Stamps of the socialist countries. Open daily 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. At the Working People's Palace of Culture.

**EXHIBITIONS**

- FUKIEN HANDICRAFTS A varied show of famous Fukien handicrafts: lacquerware, porcelain ware, artificial silk flowers, wood carvings, stone carvings, bamboo articles, etc. Open daily 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. At Beihai Park

- POLISH LANDSCAPE PAINTINGS 119 paintings. Oil paintings, water colours and pen drawings by famous Polish artists from 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century. Open daily 10:00-12:00 a.m., 2:30-5:30 p.m. At Building Construction Exhibition Centre

- BULGARIAN PHOTO EXHIBITIONshowing Bulgaria's achievements in social construction during the past fifteen years. Open daily 10:00-12:00 a.m., 2:00-4:00 p.m. At Beihai Park

**PEKING OPERA**

- YAO CHIH and two other operas by the Fourth Troop of the Peking Opera Company of Peking. The story of Liu Hsiu's iniquity to his supporter, General Yao Chi, once he becomes the ruler of the Eastern Han Empire. Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m. Guoang He Theatre

**KANSU OPERA**

- FENG LO LAKE A Kansu opera, based on a Han dynasty story, produced by the visiting Shau Opera Troupe. Wu Peng, daughter of a fisherman, beats the wicked court officials in a battle of wits, avenges her father's death and saves her fellow villagers from death. Sept. 8 & 9, 7:30 p.m. Reimia Theatre Sept. 8 & 9, 7:30 p.m. Zhaqing He Theatre Sept. 11-15, 7:30 p.m. Chang An Theatre

**FUKEIN OPERA**

- AFTER THE REUNION A tragedy of how two generations of a family become victims of the irrational conceits of feudal morality. Produced by the visiting Fukien Opera Troupe. Sept. 8, 7:30 p.m. Peking Workers' Club

**MODERN OPERA**

- THE YOUNG GUARD A famous Soviet opera adapted from the novel of the same title by Faddeev. Produced in Chinese by the Central Experimental Opera Theatre. Sept. 11-13, 7:30 p.m. Tiansiao Theatre

**CHINESE BALLET**

- THE MAGIC LOTUS LANTERN A modern Chinese ballet based on an ancient Chinese fairy tale. The nymph of Mt. Huashan falls in love with a scholar. Infatuated by her attachment, a monster, her intolerant brother imprisons her. Fifteen years later her lover-child, who has grown up to be a brave warrior, destroys his uncle in combat and sets his mother free. Produced by the Central Experimental Opera Theatre. Sept. 8-15, 7:30 p.m. Tiansiao Theatre

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**The First National Sports Meet**

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- Opening Ceremony on Sept. 15 at the newly built Peking Workers' Stadium.

This week's programme includes:

- **BASKETBALL** Sept. 9, 11 & 14 At Peking Gymnasium, Beihai Stadium and Dong Chang An Jie Grounds
- **FOOTBALL** Sept. 10, 13 & 14 At Peking Workers' Stadium, Peking Stadium and Peking Gymnasium
- **TRACK AND FIELD** Sept. 13 & 14 At Peking Workers' Stadium
- **VOLLEYBALL** Sept. 14 At Dong Chang An Jie Grounds and Working People's Palace of Culture
- **TALENT TENNIS** Sept. 14 At Peking Gymnasium
- **BADMINTON** Sept. 14 At Peking Institute of Physical Culture
- **SWIMMING** Sept. 14 At Peking Gymnasium
- **WEIGHT-LIFTING** Sept. 14 At Peking Gymnasium
- **FENCING** Sept. 14 At Peking Institute of Physical Culture
- **CHESS** Sept. 14 At Beihai Park
- **TENNIS** Sept. 14 At Peking Gymnasium
- **WRESTLING** (Freestyle & Classic) Sept. 14 At Peking Institute of Physical Culture
- **CHINESE WRESTLING** Sept. 14 At Beihai Stadium
- **BASEBALL & SOFTBALL** At Peking Institute of Physical Culture

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September 8, 1959
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