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The Rise of the Chinese People’s Communes

by Anna Louise Strong

The growth of people’s communes in China has attracted worldwide attention. What are the facts? In this booklet Anna Louise Strong, the well-known American writer, gives an eyewitness account of various communes she visited in different parts of China. She relates how the people’s communes first came into being, how they appear to her today and where they are going. The facts she cites can leave no reader in doubt about the vitality and the great meaning of this new form of social organization that has appeared in socialist China.

130 pages

Illustrated

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Technical Transformation of Agriculture

ONE of the most talked about economic topics in China these days is the technical transformation of agriculture.

This means to mechanize farming, extend water conservancy works throughout the farmlands, the use of chemical fertilizers and other farm chemicals on an extensive scale, and the electrification of agriculture. It calls for growing industrial aid to agriculture in the form of tractors, motor vehicles, drainage and irrigation equipment, sowing machines, harvesters, chemical fertilizers, petroleum, electric power, and other things.

Re-equipment agriculture with modern technique is a big step forward indeed. It will lighten the manual work of the peasants, raise the productivity of farm labour and boost agricultural output. It will strengthen the relations between industry and agriculture and the ties between the workers and the peasants.

Thanks to the Communist Party's policy of simultaneously developing industry and agriculture, China's agriculture has made great strides during the past ten years. In 1958 it began a big leap and this has continued this year. But China's agriculture, where manual work predominates, is still technically backward. On the background of the high-speed development of industry the effect of this backwardness in agriculture will be increasingly felt in the national economy as a whole.

In the early years of the People's Republic, when our industry was not in a position to equip agriculture with machines and chemicals, the Communist Party launched the agricultural co-operation movement. This released the rural productive forces and developed agriculture. Last year the countryside switched to people's communes which brought the rural economy to a new high level of development.

Now the preliminary foundation for socialist industrialization has been laid and the people's communes have paved the way for modern techniques in the countryside. We are now able to re-equip agriculture with modern technology while industrialization speeds ahead.

Industry and agriculture are interdependent and the growth of the one promotes the other. In China, with its vast land area and huge population, the development of agriculture is of decisive importance. The expansion of agriculture means a greater market for industrial products, a greater supply of raw materials for light industry, a bigger accumulation of funds for industrial development, and the steady improvement of the people's welfare.

The technical transformation of agriculture cannot be realized overnight. It will have to be done step by step but it must be done vigorously. This is a long-term strategy. In implementing it the Chinese people will have to carry out fully the policies of building large, medium and small-sized enterprises simultaneously and of using both modern and indigenous production methods. At the present time the stress is on the building of medium and small-sized enterprises. While we will build a number of large and modern enterprises we will also be building many more medium and small-sized enterprises, such as small chemical fertilizer plants, coal mines, power stations, engineering works, etc. using both modern and indigenous methods.

The Chinese people, guided by the general line, are building their land into a great socialist country at top speed. They will see to it that the tremendous perspectives for agriculture are a living reality before many years have passed.
Planning Higher Output

A national conference on industrial production was held in Peking under the joint auspices of the Communist Party's Central Committee and the State Council. It sought ways and means to overfulfill the targets of industrial production and transport for the rest of this year, planned production for 1960 — especially for the first quarter — and reflected the new upsurge in the current vigorous mass movement for production. The discussions spelt out how much has been achieved in industry and transport since the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party ended its plenary session at Lushan with the call to the nation for greater output and economy.

The characteristics of the new upsurge, the conference pointed out, are: Forward leaps are taking place simultaneously in various fields: in agriculture, trade and transport as well as industry. Industrial production is rising week by week in a steady upward trend. The goal of “more, faster, better, and more economical” results has been achieved, highlighted by high output, good quality, and low cost. Medium and small industrial enterprises have displayed their value and vigour. There has been close co-ordination between the current mass movement for production and the improvement of management in the enterprises and the development of technical innovations and the technical revolution.

The conference urged that appropriate arrangements be made to guarantee that the demand of the rural areas for industrial products is met in the coming months so as to enable agricultural production to continue to take big strides forward.

Back to the Production Lines

The delegates to the "Conference of Heroes of Labour" (October 26-November 8) — more than 6,500 in all — are on their way back to work. From their gathering in Peking they carry away not only a clearer perspective and reinforced enthusiasm for work, but newly acquired know-how as well. If the first stage of the conference was concentrated on wu zhu (thinking out loud in the realm of principles and policy), as we reported last week, the second stage was devoted mainly to wu shi (dealing with the concrete). On November 2, the conference broke up into 39 groups according to trades to facilitate the practical exchange of experiences.

The spirit of mutual help prevailed at these meetings. After a session of the machinists, close to 100 lathe turners crowded round Chu Shu-tzu, a 21-year-old woman lathe turner from Shantung Province, to copy drawings of the ingenious cutting tools and fixtures she has devised. At another gathering, Li Jung, a post office clerk from Harbin, demonstrated her method of letter-sorting, and immediately afterwards Peking post office workers put on rubber gloves and tried the method. They plan to master it within ten days. Many outstanding miners went out to the Chingshi Colliery in the suburbs of Peking to demonstrate their methods of coal-caving, tunnelling, moving the conveyors, etc. In this way quite a few delegates found the answers to problems of their work.

Advanced experiences were perfected even as they were pooled. Thus the method of four groups of builders working on a mine described by a Szechuan worker was improved at the meeting by suggestions from a worker from Yunnan.

All of the outstanding workers have given their best and "reaped a bumper harvest" of advanced experience. They will pass on their newly acquired know-how as well as the spirit of the conference to their fellow workers. A chain reaction has started and the fruits will be evident on the production lines in the days to come.

Rich Autumn Harvests

Throughout the country the gathering of the autumn harvest is coming to an end. In the countryside, you can see broad smiles on people's faces. From more than 800 million mu of farmland planted to autumn crops the people's communes are bringing in a harvest richer than the record one of the big leap year of 1958. In the North China provinces an excellent rice crop has been reaped from 30 million mu of land, with many areas obtaining increases in yield ranging from 30 to 40 per cent. Both in per mu yield and total output, the peasants in North China have bettered last year's amazing record — and this from 540 million mu of maize, millet, sorghum and other coarse grains. At the moment the commune members in North China are busily

New Steel Records

China's steel-workers have chalked up fresh triumphs in the battle to fulfil and overfulfill the national target of 12 million tons of steel this year. According to an announcement by the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry, the output of steel, iron and rolled steel in October was 14, 13, and 15 per cent higher, respectively, than in September. The upward trend continues from week to week.

In the major iron and steel enterprises, including those at Anshan, Penki, Taiyuan and Chunting, the average daily output per cubic metre of available volume of big and medium-sized blast furnaces has improved on previous records. The small blast furnaces in the provinces are doing a good job, too, and the coefficient of utilization continues to rise. At the leading steel centre of Anshan, October was a record month. The workers there produced 13,000 tons of steel, 6,400 tons of pig iron and 48,000 tons of rolled steel over and above the monthly plan. Shanghai, China's second biggest steel producer, exceeded output in the peak month of September by 23 per cent and rolled steel by 29 per cent, to cite but two examples.

While the country's major iron and steel works were estimating their October achievements a new force joined their ranks. It is the No. 2 giant open-hearth furnace which has just been commissioned at the new steel centre of Wuhuan on the middle reaches of the Yangtze River. This new open-hearth furnace, which was built with Soviet assistance, ranks among the largest in the world. Highly automated and installed with the most up-to-date equipment, the new furnace is twice as big as the No. 1 open-hearth furnace which began operation at the end of September. The first stage of construction for the iron-smelting system of the Wuhuan Iron and Steel Works has by and large been completed and, with the commissioning of the No. 2 open-hearth furnace, the system for steel-making is taking shape.

Woodcut by Tung Chi-chung
gathering in a rich crop of potatoes and sweet potatoes from 100 million mu of land.

In South China, the yield from the late rice crop is expected to exceed that of the early rice crop in per mu yield on 100 million mu of land. High yields have been obtained from extensive tracts of land, not from just a few small experimental plots.

The rich harvests this year have been reaped despite adverse weather conditions in many provinces. In some of the northern provinces, when the rice shoots were planted the peasants faced the most serious drought in living memory and then, just as the crop was beginning to grow sturdy, rainstorms came to play havoc with the plants. But natural calamities notwithstanding, the people's communes turned their advantages — their command of great resources in manpower and materials — to full account and beat back the onslaughts of nature.

To a certain extent, this is also true of the areas inhabited by the people of the national minorities. In the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region the total output of maize, millet and other grain crops on more than 9 million mu of land is estimated to be 20 per cent bigger than last year. In the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region the total output of wheat will be 30 per cent higher. In Tibet, where a million serfs have freed themselves from the fetters of serfdom, reports from the major agricultural regions along the Tsango, Lhasa, Nyang and Nyangchu Rivers indicate that the harvest is much bigger than in previous years. This is due in no small measure to the enthusiasm for greater production displayed by the Tibetan peasants since the Communist Party announced the policy of "harvests to the tillers."

Water Conservancy Drive

The joint directive of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and the State Council on water conservancy and the accumulation and manufacture of fertilizers has given a new lift to water conservancy work.

Some 30 million members of the people's communes are at present taking part in the campaign. In Hopei, China's leading cotton-producing province, more than 3 million people are turning out every day to build dykes, canals and reservoirs and dig wells and ponds.

This national effort in building water conservancy works is a continuation of the mass campaign initiated in the winter of 1957 which gave rise to the big leap forward of the national economy last year. But compared with 1957 or last year, the peasants started earlier this year and are grappling with something much bigger. When they have finished with the harvesting, ploughing and cultivation for the autumn season, the campaign will get into full swing. It is expected to outstrip all previous campaigns in scope and magnitude.

The policy guiding this mass water conservancy campaign is the same as before, popularly known as the "three emphases"— emphasis on detaining water, emphasis on small projects and emphasis on the people's communes building these projects. This policy has yielded great results. The latest example is provided by the communes of the Linyi region of Shantung Province on the east coast. Here the joint efforts of 110 communes which have followed this policy succeeded in building six huge reservoirs, with an average storage capacity of 200 million cubic metres of water, in less than six months each, instead of the two or even three years that were required before the days of the communes.

Training Commune Technicians

With agriculture taking such leaps forward, the people's communes are looking ahead to the day when peasants will also be agro-technicians. Tractors are becoming available in greater numbers and the mechanization and electrification envisaged for the expansion of agriculture in China has sparked the development of agricultural middle schools in the countryside. These new half-study, half-work schools, which came into being last year, kill two birds with one stone. They train technicians for the communes and at the same time satisfy the desires of rural primary school graduates for a secondary education.

Chekiang Province, for example, is developing this new type of school vigorously to meet the new needs of the big leap forward in agriculture. There are three agricultural middle schools, on an average, to every two people's communes in the province, and where the idea has taken early and firm root there are as many as three such schools to a commune.

At the agricultural middle schools in this east China province, there are about 20 to 24 hours of classroom work weekly, while a similar amount of time is devoted to labour in the fields. To enable the schools to implement effectively the policy of combining education with productive labour, the people's communes in Chekiang have put aside suitable plots of land and farm tools for the use of both teachers and students, averaging from half a mu to one mu of land per person.

Brisk Sales

One of the immediate results of the rapid expansion of industrial and agricultural production is prosperity on the market in both town and countryside. The peasants, having produced more since the coming of the people's communes, are selling more to the state, more grain, more cotton, more vegetable oil, and more tobacco and other farm produce. In some provinces, Kweichow in the southwest, for example, the state has been able to complete the bulk purchases ahead of schedule. This means not only a steady supply of staple foods to the urban population, whose needs are growing with the expanding economy, but also adequate raw materials for light industry.

The factories, on the other hand, are making a bigger supply of goods available to the consumers. According to the Ministry of Commerce, total retail sales in China in September were 17 per cent greater than in August. Of 60-odd principal commodities on sale, the supply during the period from January to September of this year was generally greater than in the corresponding period last year — in the case of clothing, for example, greater by as much as 30 per cent. There was more toilet articles, bicycles, fountain pens, clocks, radio sets, etc., and greater variety.

Autumn has always been a busy season — particularly so this year. Since September the shops in the major and medium cities and in the industrial and mining areas have been stocking a greater number of goods, from one to two thousand items more than last year. Sales are brisk and more stock is rolling in.

The shops in the rural areas are following suit. The reason is that the members of the people's communes are deriving greater incomes from the development of a diversified rural economy and trade circles expect that the purchasing power of the rural areas will rise still higher in the months to come.

C.P.P.C.C. in Lhasa

Tibet has set up a new committee recently to prepare for the convening of a Chinese people's political consultative conference. 17 representatives from various sections of the population have been chosen to serve on this committee, eleven of whom are Tibetans. Chang Chu Khung is Chairman of the committee and Sampa Tsewang-Renten, Vicer-Chairman. When the Tibet chapter of the C.P.P.C.C. comes into being it will contribute to the united effort of building a new, democratic and socialist Tibet.

November 10, 1959
Speeding Up the Technical Transformation Of China's Agriculture

by PO I-PO

Following is a translation of an article by Po I-po, Vice-Premier of the State Council, that appeared in "Hongqi" (Red Flag), No. 20, 1959. It was published under the title "Strive to Carry Out the Great Task of the Technical Transformation of Agriculture More Swiftly." Subheads are ours. — Ed.

The reorganizing of agriculture on a co-operative basis was completed in 1956, in accordance with the policy of co-ordinating the advance of agricultural co-operation in our country with the advance of socialist industrialization put forward by Comrade Mao Tse-tung in his report On the Question of Agricultural Co-operation. On the basis of the consolidation of the agricultural producers' co-operatives and the rapid growth of agricultural production, and guided by the beacon light of the Party's general line for building socialism, the advance to the people's communes took place throughout the countryside in 1958. The people's commune movement has further released the agricultural productive forces and brought about a big leap forward in agricultural production just as in the case of industrial production. The development of agriculture has thus further served the needs of the rapid development of industry and promoted its growth. To enable industry and agriculture to be all the better adapted to each other's needs and to advance swiftly and uninterruptedly, our present task is to bring about the technical transformation, mechanization and electrification of agriculture in a vigorous and steady way while pressing ahead energetically with socialist industrialization. This is the new content under new circumstances of the Party's policy of the simultaneous development of industry and agriculture while giving priority to the development of heavy industry. To put it concretely, this means that a change will be made in our agricultural production from the predominant use of hand-operated and animal-drawn implements to the predominant use of machinery, from the predominant use of manpower and animal traction to the predominant use of mechanical power and electricity, from the predominant use of fertilizers processed by manual labour to the predominant use of machine-made fertilizers (including chemical and organic fertilizers), so as to get our agriculture out of its present state of technical backwardness and on to a modern technical base within a fairly short time.

The process of changing China from a backward agricultural country into an advanced socialist industrial country involves the gradual transformation of her vast agricultural population into an industrial population. In the course of socialist industrialization, to make it possible for agricultural development to meet the needs of, and thereby promote the growth of industry and other branches of the national economy, we must, on the one hand, turn out more and more agricultural products and steadily increase their marketable portion, and on the other hand, reduce the amount of labour power employed in agriculture and raise agricultural labour productivity.

New Situation

The accomplishment of agricultural co-operation and the establishment of people's communes has steadily transformed the relations of production in the countryside, with the result that agriculture in our country has made an uninterrupted advance even though the farm tools used are in the main hand-operated. In 1958, our grain output was 500,000 million jin, and our cotton output, 42 million dan, an average of 770 jin of grain and 6.46 jin of cotton per person; this was 190 jin and 1.31 jin respectively more than in 1957. This is undoubtedly quite a big leap forward. But in order to meet the grain needs of all the people fairly fully and provide enough fodder for a growing number of livestock, we must at least increase our present grain output more than twofold. To provide the needs of the people in clothing relatively fully, we must at least increase our present cotton output by about threefold so far as supply of the people's needs in cotton cloth, cotton yarn and cotton wool is concerned, quite apart from any positive measures that may be taken to develop the production of synthetic fibres. There must be even greater increases in the output of other farm products and animal products too. This is one side of the picture.

Another side of the picture is that in 1958, as a result of the big leap in industry, agriculture and other undertakings, China began to change from a country with a surplus of labour power into one where there was a relative shortage of labour power. The labour power newly enlisted in the cities failed to satisfy the needs of development of urban industry and other work; furthermore, since the switch-over to people's communes in the rural areas, a shortage of labour power still made itself felt despite the fact that large numbers of women had been released from household chores and had gone into rural production and construction. Take the Hung-kuang People's Commune at Ning-chin County, Hopei Province, for example. Compared with the period 1956-
1957, the amount of labour power engaged in soil amelioration in the period 1957-1958 doubled, the amount of labour power employed in work connected with fertilizers increased fourfold, and the amount of labour power engaged in water conservancy projects increased still more. In this period, with the development of methods of intensive and careful cultivation, the amount of labour power engaged in cultivation of each mu of wheat field increased on an average by 3.6 times, the average increase of labour power for every mu of cotton field was 66 per cent and there were also considerable increases of labour power in the cultivation of other principal farm crops. Previous to this, the commune had 18,938 people each representing a full or partial unit of labour power. From September to December 1958, nearly 2,000 people were sent to the cities to help the government's industrial construction while over 2,000 were transferred to the industrial enterprises run by the commune or to other jobs, with the result that the commune had less labour power available for agricultural production. Though the commune has started technical innovation and improved its organization of labour power since last year and though since this spring a part of the labour power working in the commune-run industries has been drawn back to join in agricultural production, the commune still has difficulties in allocating labour power, in addition to a shortage of draught animals.

Resolving the Contradiction

These two types of situation make us realize that in the course of the development of our national economy, a new contradiction has become more and more evident, that is, while national construction and the people's livelihood require us to double agricultural production or increase it several fold, the labour power available for agricultural production, judging both by the present situation and long-range tendencies, will not increase but, on the contrary, will steadily decrease. This is a new and important problem that confronts us. We must have a clear-cut policy to solve it.

How shall we solve this contradiction and this problem? Of course, we should do all we can to bring forth more latent labour power by further enhancing the labour enthusiasm of the members of the communes, rationally utilizing labour power, improving the organization of labour power, popularizing advanced methods of production, improving management systems, strengthening labour discipline, and so on, and as a matter of fact, we have already achieved remarkable results in these respects. But we must also understand that under present conditions where the use of hand-operated tools prevails in production by the broad masses of the peasants, there are certain limitations to this way of mobilizing latent labour power. Therefore, the fundamental way of solving this contradiction is to speed up the technical transformation and the mechanization and electrification of agriculture.

The realization of the technical transformation of agriculture is urgently required by agriculture itself and by industry as well; it is eagerly demanded by the broad masses of the peasants themselves and by the broad masses of the workers too. Of course, this cannot be done under the conditions of an individual economy. During the time of the agricultural co-operative movement, when our industrial foundation was still very weak and our co-operatives were relatively small in size, the technical transformation of agriculture was carried out only on a limited scale aimed at setting examples. Now, with the success of the people's commune movement and the completion of the preliminary foundation for socialist industrialization, favourable conditions have been created for the mechanization and electrification of agriculture.

Communes Speed Mechanization

Compared with the advanced agricultural producers' co-operative, the people's commune has a larger organization, with a wider range of activities and a higher degree of collectivization; it can develop diversified undertakings and run a diversified rural economy. Within the people's commune, ownership at the production brigade level is the basic form at present, but already part of the ownership is vested in the commune level. Each year the commune is able to draw suitable sums for its accumulation funds from the income of the production brigades, develop commune-run undertakings and map out a unified plan for production and construction for the commune as a whole. All this will help to speed up the mechanization and electrification of agriculture and fully develop the efficiency of farming machines.

Industry's support to agriculture has been greatly strengthened. We are now able to produce in fairly large quantities tractors and lorries which were not produced before and draining and irrigation machines and chemical fertilizers which before were only produced in small quantities. We can also supply the countryside with a fairly large amount of iron, steel, coal, petroleum, chemicals, electricity, and other industrial products. Furthermore, as a result of the great leap forward of industry in 1958, medium-sized and small enterprises characterized by simple methods of production have been set up extensively throughout the length and breadth of the country. More than 80,000 factories for manufacturing and repairing farm tools have been built by the people's communes alone. Such industries, run by the county governments or people's communes, give a mighty impetus to the rapid development of the technical transformation of agriculture.

In short, the demand for the technical transformation of agriculture is becoming more and more urgent, and the conditions for the carrying out of such a transformation are more and more favourable. We must, therefore, take active steps to promote the technical transformation of agriculture and make it advance side by side with socialist industrialization; we must help the over 500 million Chinese peasants who have been organized on a firm economic basis to master modern farming techniques so that they will double agricultural production or increase it several times and also increase agricultural labour productivity by several, or even several scores of times. In this way we will be able to increase substantially the income of the peasants, rapidly enlarge the accumulation funds of the people's communes and of the state and greatly extend the domestic market for industry. At the same time, along with the industrialization of the country and of the people's communes and the mechanization and electrification of agriculture, our people's communes will be steadily consolidated and developed on an even richer material and technical basis. After a certain period of
time, when conditions are completely ripe, the transition
from socialist collective ownership to socialist ownership
by the whole people will be realized first, to be followed
by the transition from socialism to communism. By then
the Chinese countryside will not only provide the people
with an unlimited amount of grain, industrial raw
materials, animal products and local specialties, but will
release a labour force hundreds of millions strong. No
other country is able to mobilize such a massive labour
force. By relying on this force we can develop our in-
dustry, transport, science and culture and all other needed
undertakings on a far greater scale than now, and create
boundless material and spiritual wealth for China and the
world as a whole.

Industrialization and Agriculture

Some people think that socialist industrialization is
the prerequisite for the technical transformation of
agriculture and that once industrialization is accomplished
the technical transformation of agriculture will materialize
by itself. Basing themselves on this viewpoint, they
maintain that efforts should, for the time being, be
concentrated on industrial development with little or no at-
tention to the technical transformation of agriculture.
This viewpoint is wrong beyond doubt. At the time when
agricultural co-operation had not yet been completed and
our industrial foundation was still very weak, our task
was to co-ordinate the speed of the agricultural co-
operative movement with that of socialist industrialization
and to promote industrialization through agricultural co-
operation. At that time, the Central Committee of the
Party and Comrade Mao Tse-tung criticized the erroneous
views of thinking that mechanization must precede co-
operation, of separating and isolating socialist industrializa-
tion and agricultural co-operation from each other, and
of emphasizing only the former at the expense of the latter.
This criticism was absolutely necessary at that
time, because over-emphasis on the technical transforma-
tion of agriculture would inevitably lead to a slackening
and postponing of co-operation and adversely affect in-
dustrialization. But today, we are facing a new situation
and new tasks. The erroneous views which we should
criticize are obviously not of the above-mentioned type.
We should, instead, criticize the erroneous views of fail-
ing to promote energetically the technical transformation
of agriculture so as to consolidate the people's communes
and promote industrial development, of separating and
isolating socialist industrialization and the technical
transformation of agriculture from each other, of
emphasizing only the former at the expense of the latter.
For, if we emphasize only socialist industrialization while
paying little or no attention to the technical transforma-
tion of agriculture, if we pay attention only to industrial
development while failing to take energetic steps to speed
up the technical transformation of agriculture and per-
manently restricting our agriculture to the level of manual
production, it will not only be impossible to develop our
agricultural production at a still quicker rate but even
difficult to maintain its present leap forward tempo and
therefore bring about a continued leap forward in our
industry.

Some people think that stepping up the technical
transformation of agriculture now will result in decentral-
izing the use of construction funds and means of
production and will thus hinder the rapid development
of industry. This, too, is wrong, because they fail to see
that, by allocating a certain amount of funds for agricul-
tural development, the state can get more marketable
grain and industrial crops to accelerate the growth of light
industry, and that, when the tempo of development of
agriculture and light industry is quickened, the state can
accumulate more funds and thus enable heavy industry to
advance at a quicker rate. Comrade Mao Tse-tung
pointed out quite some time ago: "But it is not so clearly
understood that agriculture provides heavy industry with
an important market. This fact, however, will be more
readily appreciated as the gradual progress of technological
improvement and modernization of agriculture calls for
more and more machinery, fertilizers, water conservancy
and electric power projects and transport facilities for the
farms, as well as fuel and building materials for the rural
consumers." This statement by Comrade Mao Tse-tung was
further borne out in the big leap forward of 1958. In 1958,
industry supplied agriculture with a total of 3,150 million
yuan worth of major means of production, or more than
half the total of 5,190 million yuan worth of the means
of production provided in the First Five-Year Plan period.
In that same year, a total of about 14,000 million yuan
worth of raw materials was provided for industry by
agriculture, which also exceeded the figure for any one
year of the First Five-Year Plan period. That is why in
1958 we were able to increase our agricultural and indus-
trial production by 25 and 66 per cent respectively, an
increase that surpassed any previous year. This shows
that, by increasing investments in agriculture and supply-
ing it with more means of production, the state can speed
up the growth of agricultural production which, in its
turn, will give a fresh impetus to the growth of industry.
It also shows that, by giving powerful support to agricul-
ture, industry can also get more powerful support from
agriculture.

In the final analysis, these people are wrong because
they do not understand that in socialist industrialization
it is not enough merely to build a well-integrated indus-
trial system. Technical transformation must be introduced
in various branches of the national economy, and par-
ticularly agriculture, through this system. Nor do these
people understand that the task of socialist industrializa-
tion should equip not only the various branches of
industry with advanced technique, but agriculture and
other branches of the national economy with modern,
large-scale production techniques. For the mechaniza-
tion and electrification of agriculture is part of so-
cialist industrialization. Socialist industrialization itself
requires the technical transformation of agriculture and
other branches of the national economy; this is also an
unavoidable task that the various departments of heavy
industry must take up. It is wrong to think that heavy
industry can develop in isolation from light industry, or
industry can develop in isolation from agriculture.

Simultaneous Development

It is inconceivable that in a country as large as ours,
in which four-fifths of a population of over 650 million
are peasants, a well-integrated system of socialist industry

*Mao Tse-tung: On the Correct Handling of Contradic-
tions Among the People, Foreign Languages Press, Peking,
1959, p. 68.
can be built without tackling the technical transformation of agriculture at the same time. Neither is it conceivable for a large country like ours to permit the recurring situation in which industry expands by leaps and bounds while agriculture develops at a snail’s pace. In such a country, if we only hop “on one leg” or hobble “on one and a half legs,” four-fifths of the population will feel that there is no scope for their energies. If we do this, no all-round, vigorous, stirring mass movements on the industrial and agricultural fronts can be launched. And our national construction may become something in which only a small number of people are involved, withdrawn from the majority.

The policy of our Party to develop simultaneously industry and agriculture and to develop simultaneously heavy and light industries while giving priority to the development of heavy industry reflects the important law that socialist economy requires planned and proportionate development. By carrying it out, we will be able to avoid all lop-sided development in socialist construction. It will bring into full play the initiative of our over 650 million people, whether they are workers or peasants, lead to stirring and vigorous mass movements on all the fronts of the national economy, and enable industry and agriculture to expand at high speed and in step with each other. Thus an all-round big leap forward in the national economy will be brought about.

It is generally known that antagonism between industry and agriculture, and between town and country is among the characteristics of capitalism. Capitalism, seeking super-profits, also needs to transform its agriculture technically, and within certain limits and to a certain degree it may succeed in this. But it can do so only at the cost of bankrupting the overwhelming majority of the peasants and throwing them out of work. By contrast, the process of socialist industrialization is bound to be one that equips agriculture with new technique, increases its productive forces, and gradually narrows down the difference between town and country, and further cements and develops the alliance of workers and peasants. While it is true that the socialist system cannot be based on the existence side by side of two forms of ownership — socialist public ownership and private ownership based on individual economy — it is also not permissible for modern production methods in industry and manual labour in agriculture to coexist for long. In China, more than 500 million of our over 650 million people are peasants who work with hand-operated implements. Productivity of labour is very low, so is the portion of farm produce that goes to the market. This is a legacy from the old China, a sign of our country’s economic backwardness. Now that we have laid the preliminary foundation for socialist industrialization, and the people’s communes have been established in the rural areas, and that it is not only necessary but possible for socialist industrialization and the technical transformation of agriculture to proceed simultaneously, we will be making a serious mistake if we do not actively carry out the technical transformation of agriculture. We should view socialist industrialization and the technical transformation of agriculture as correlated things, and see to it that they keep in step. It is certain that without a modernized industry there can be no modernized agriculture, also that without a modernized agriculture it would be difficult for us to develop a modernized industry quickly and without interruption. The more agriculture is modernized, the greater its support to industry and the more quickly industry will be made to develop. As a result of agricultural co-operation and the success of the people’s communes, our worker-peasant alliance is now firmly established, with socialist public ownership as its economic base. While speeding up socialist industrialization, so long as we vigorously and steadily carry out the technical transformation of agriculture, using machines wherever possible, so as to change the whole aspect of the social economy — so long as we do this, we can further consolidate our worker-peasant alliance on the material and technical basis of industrial and agricultural production at equally modernized levels. The accomplishment of this will create the conditions for realizing our noble ideal — the elimination of the distinction between town and countryside, and between the workers and the peasants.

Gradual and Vigorous

It is after passing through the three successive stages of the mutual-aid team, the elementary co-operative and the co-operative of the advanced type that our agricultural co-operative movement has reached the stage of the people’s communes. The technical transformation of our agriculture will also be carried out gradually, in step with the development of our industry, going through a process of change from the old to the new, from the elementary to the more advanced, from small to large numbers. This process, we assume, will take roughly ten years beginning from now. In the first four years or so, an initial foundation may be laid. Another three years should bring us half-way to the final solution — which is set for about the tenth year. This means that in 1969 or thereabouts, all the land in our country which can be cultivated by machines will be worked, in the main, with mechanical instead of animal traction; and where irrigation by machines is needed it will in the main replace human labour. In rural transportation, human and animal traction will practically disappear, giving place largely to motor vehicles. The processing of agricultural and subsidiary products will be partly or wholly mechanized. The nation will produce sufficient chemical fertilizers to apply seven or eight times as much to every mu of land, on the average, as at present. This will enable us to exercise more initiative in the struggle with nature, and effect a fundamental change in our agriculture.

Our rural areas have a big population and are spread across our whole vast country; local natural and economic conditions differ; and the support which agriculture receives from industry is increasing only gradually. For these reasons the technical transformation, mechanization and electrification of agriculture should be vigorously but also gradually carried out. At the present stage, the use of new-type machines and improved farm tools, of modern and indigenous farm tools must go hand in hand. For the next four years, mechanization should in the main be carried out by stages and in groups where conditions per-
mit; in the majority of rural areas, improved and semi-
mechanized farm tools will be used on a large scale. In
seven years' time, modern machines will be widely used,
while improved and semi-mechanized tools will still play
a part.

How are we to carry out during the Second Five-Year
Plan the policy of the simultaneous adoption of new-type
machines and improved tools, of modern and indigenous
farm tools, while advancing the technical transformation
of agriculture?

Mechanization: On the one hand, in the majority
of areas and branches of agricultural production, the tools
now in use for farming, water-carrying, transport and
the processing of agricultural and subsidiary products must
be improved; and at the same time we must study, design
and trial-manufacture different types of modern as well
as semi-mechanized equipment. In each county, special
administrative region, province, municipality, or autonom-
ous region, research institutes for farming and other
tools should be set up, to carry on research and experi-
ments in their improvement. On the other hand, in places
where land is plentiful and labour is short, where trans-
port is readily accessible, and where the portion of the
farm produce going to the market is high (e.g., land-
reclamation areas, highly industrialized areas, the suburbs
of big cities and industrial crops growing areas, etc.), the
mechanization of agriculture must be actively undertaken,
with the primary emphasis on replacing exceptionally
strenuous manual labor by machinery.

Power: In the majority of areas and branches of
agricultural production, the chief thing is to make rational
use of available manpower, animal-tractor and power
from water, wind and other sources — and at the same
time to make great and serious efforts to protect and
breed various drought animals. On the other hand, where
the conditions exist, machine-generated power should, if
possible, be used, and power stations of medium and small
sizes built.

Fertilizer: On the one hand, livestock-breeding must
be developed on a large scale, animal manure, green
manure and other organic fertilizers must be increased;
and at the same time all local facilities must be utilized
to manufacture fairly effective indigenous chemical fer-
tilizers. On the other hand, the state should vigorously
develop the chemical fertilizer industry, to increase the
production of all types of chemical fertilizers at a fast pace.
In the use of such fertilizers, priority must go to the indus-
trial and food crops most vital to the national economy
and the people's livelihood.

Both when improving farm tools and introducing
modern machinery, attention should be given to the
suitability of time and place, and their gradual populariza-
tion should always be preceded by trials. A stereotyped
and headlong approach, neglecting differing local agricul-
tural conditions and requirements, can obviously do harm.
Particularly should we remember that our peasants possess
rich experience accumulated in a prolonged struggle for
production, and a fine tradition of intensive and careful
cultivation. Both have been further developed since the
formulation of the "Eight-Point Charter for Agriculture." In
the technical transformation of agriculture, the rich
experience and traditions of our peasants should be as-
similated and developed, not neglected or wilfully thrown
aside.

More Industrial Enterprises

In harmony with the principle of using new-type
machines and improved farm tools, and modern and
indigenous implements simultaneously in the technical
transformation of agriculture, the industries which sup-
port agriculture should also simultaneously develop large,
medium-sized and small plants.

Large industrial enterprises are the main support of
agriculture. We should actively develop those big indus-
tries which serve agriculture, expanding or building fac-
tories that make agricultural machines, tractors, engines,
chemical fertilizers, insecticides, lorries, etc. We should
do all we can to increase the output of industrial products
(including such fuels as petroleum) needed for the tech-
nical transformation of agriculture and pay attention to
the improvement of their quality so as gradually to arm
farming with modern technology.

Large numbers of industrial enterprises of medium
and small sizes, especially those run by counties and com-
mones, are the local forces supporting agriculture. They
are important and not to be overlooked. Widely scattered
and close to rural areas, they are better adapted to serv-
ing specific local needs. They not only make improved
farm tools and turn out other means of production for
agriculture — supplementing the big industries — but can
also repair agricultural machinery and other equipment.
At the same time, they can share local manpower with
agriculture and fully utilize those scattered natural
resources which big enterprises cannot use. We should
develop such enterprises vigorously. We should also
further make clear to them the policy that they should
serve production and construction in agriculture. Thus
they can shoulder increasingly more and greater respon-
sibilities in the technical transformation of agriculture.

To accelerate the technical transformation of agricul-
ture, the big industrial units, besides supplying agriculture
with various sorts of machinery, power, fuel and chemical
fertilizers, should do all they can to help the growth of
the medium-sized and small ones (including those run by
counties and communes). They should furnish them with
new or replaced equipment and the necessary raw and
other materials, train technical personnel for them, etc.,
so as to improve their techniques and heighten their
capacity to serve the technical transformation of agricul-
ture.

To transform all of rural China which is so vast and
so backward in productive techniques into a technically
modernized countryside — this is an extremely difficult
task. The question now is to strengthen the leadership
of the Party and to make overall plans. The various
government departments concerned at every level — cen-
tral, provincial, municipal, regional, county, commune,
etc. — should make concrete overall plans based on actual
conditions. These comprise the steps to be taken in the
technical transformation of agriculture, the simultaneous
development of modern machines and improved tools, the
division of work and co-ordination among large, medium-
sized and small industrial enterprises, the mutual sup-
port of industry and agriculture, the mutual support
between cities and countryside, the training of technical personnel and the development of scientific experimentation.

We have the Party’s general line for building socialism by going all out, aiming high and achieving greater, faster, better, and more economical results. We also have a set of policies of “walking on two legs.” We have the firm will of hundreds of millions of people to achieve socialist industrialization and the technical transformation of agriculture. We have an industrial force with its main and local detachments, mutually coordinated. We have, further, the people’s commune, a social organization of great vitality. Having all these, there is no doubt at all that we will be able to accomplish the great historic task of the technical transformation of our agriculture in the scheduled time.

China Celebrates the 42nd Anniversary Of the October Revolution

by OUR CORRESPONDENT

With Soviet achievements in communist construction and Sino-Soviet friendship as the central themes, the Chinese people have been celebrating the 42nd anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. A great variety of activities have been taking place — friendship rallies and parties, exhibitions, concerts, plays, radio and television programmes throughout the length and breadth of the country, in the industrial Northeast and in the far South, in Peking, Shanghai, Tientsin and in the distant Southwest and Northwest. A Soviet Film Week is packing cinemas in 27 major cities.

The reception given by the newly arrived Soviet Ambassador, Stepan Chervonenko, was a high point of anniversary activities in the capital. Chu Teh, Chou En-lai, Lin Piao, Teng Hsiao-ping and many other leaders of the Chinese Government and Communist Party were among the distinguished guests. Tung Pi-wu, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Vice-Chairman of the People’s Republic of China, was the principal guest speaker (see full text of his speech on the following page).

Rally in Peking

A grand eve-of-anniversary rally was attended by more than 1,500 leading government and people’s representatives in the Huai Jen Tang Hall. In his opening address here, Peng Chen, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, hailed the anniversary of the October Revolution as a common festival of all the working people, the oppressed nations and progressive mankind. That revolution, he said, shook the very foundations of imperialist world domination; its example has inspired the exploited and oppressed nations of the world to rise and fight for their liberation. With the victory of October, the victory of the peoples of the world was assured.

Peng Chen stressed the world significance of the giant steps the Soviet Union has made in communist construction. The achievements of the Soviet people in implementing their Seven-Year Plan, he said, are another tremendous contribution to world peace and the cause of socialism; the Soviet people are unfolding before the world a wondrous vision of communism and are inspiring more and more people to struggle for the noble cause of communism.

Peng Chen pointed out that the October Revolution built a bridge between the proletarian revolutionary movement and the national liberation movement; in their struggle against imperialist oppression the popular masses in Asia, Africa and Latin America are by no means isolated, they have the support of the socialist countries headed by the Soviet Union and also of the proletariat and working people in the imperialist countries; despite the sabotage and obstruction they will still have to face from the imperialists and the reactionaries in their countries and although their forward march will meet difficulties and setbacks, their heroic struggle will certainly win final victory. He said: “The most important political task at the present time is to safeguard peace and prevent war. Under the banner of the defence of peace, people of all nationalities and social strata in all countries have formed the broadest united front and the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union stands in the forefront of that struggle for peace.”

Peng Chen declared that the unity of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union and of the international communist movement with the Soviet Communist Party as its centre is an important guarantee of world peace, and is in the fundamental interests of working people the world over. This unbreakable unity based on Marxism-Leninism, he said, is growing and developing in strength. The attempts of the imperialists and modern revisionists to undermine the unity of the countries of the socialist camp, of the international communist movement and of the peoples of the world have failed and are bound to fail. Peng Chen predicted, tumultuous applause greeted his concluding words: “The Chinese and Soviet peoples are the closest of brothers and the most steadfast comrades-in-arms; they will be closely united for ever!”

Soviet Ambassador Stepan Chervonenko in his address too praised Sino-Soviet friendship. He declared the fact that the Chinese people were celebrating the festival day of the Soviet people with the same joy as the Soviet people had recently celebrated China’s national anniversary was a moving demonstration of the friendship between

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two fraternal peoples—a friendship which stands the tests of both victories and trials.

The Soviet Ambassador gave the audience a lively account of the great successes of the Soviet Union in communistic construction, stressing the great benefits this has brought the Soviet people and its significant impact on world developments. In accordance with Lenin's principles of peaceful coexistence and the development of friendly relations with all countries, he declared that the Soviet people are making all necessary efforts to strengthen the cause of peace and end the "cold war." In this respect, he stressed, the recent visit of Chairman Khrushchev to the United States and his proposals at the United Nations for total disarmament has a special significance for the future of the world. Khrushchev's recent speech at the Supreme Soviet on the international situation, the Ambassador continued, is new proof of the untiring efforts made by the Soviet Union to relax international tension and consolidate world peace.

Ambassador Chervonenko concluded: "Broad common interests in the struggle to build a brilliant communist future link our two parties and peoples together. Our friendship is built on these Leninist principles of socialist internationalism: equality, mutual respect for national interests, non-interference and fraternal mutual aid."

What lent special warmth to the October celebrations throughout China was the profound gratitude of the Chinese people for the selfless and many-sided aid the Soviet people are giving to China's construction. The State Council and Academy of Sciences and many Chinese enterprises and factories held special receptions and parties for the Soviet experts now working in China. The Chinese press has carried many moving reports of the internationalist spirit displayed by Soviet experts written by their Chinese colleagues, and expressions of gratitude to the Soviet people for the magnificent spirit and extent of Soviet aid.

Moreover, the great successes achieved by the Soviet Union in the field of development of the most advanced branches of science are something unattainable by any capitalist country. The great feats of the Soviet Union in launching a succession of cosmic rockets and setting up an automatic inter-planetary station marked the beginning of man's ascent to other heavenly bodies. All this fully and powerfully demonstrates the incomparable superiority of the socialist system.

The great Soviet people have incessantly made important contributions to the noble cause of safeguarding world peace. Comrade Khrushchev's visit to the United States in September this year has exerted a positive and far-reaching influence in favour of the relaxation of international tension and the cause of safeguarding world peace. During his visit in the United States, Comrade Khrushchev put forward a proposal for general and complete disarmament before the General Assembly of the United Nations, thus opening a new avenue for the disarmament question. Several days ago, the Third Session of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. adopted a resolution calling on the parliaments of all countries to work for the relaxation of international tension and the realization of general and complete disarmament. The Chinese Government and people fully support this peace proposal which conforms to the desire of the people of the world, and are willing to work for its thorough realization together with the Soviet people and people of other countries. At present, the international situation is continuing to develop in a direction in favour of peace and socialism. The forces of peace of the world have greatly exceeded the imperialist forces of war. The East wind is further prevailing over the West wind. In the face of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union and the peace-loving peoples of the whole world, the policy of war and aggression of the imperialist

Vice-Chairman Tung Pi-wu's Speech at the Soviet Ambassador's Reception

Following is the text of a speech made by Vice-Chairman Tung Pi-wu at the Soviet Ambassador's reception on November 7. — Ed.

TODAY is the 42nd anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. With great elation and pleasure, we celebrate this glorious festival of the working people of the whole world, together with the great Soviet people. First of all, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese people and the Government of the People's Republic of China, to extend our warmest and heartiest congratulations to the fraternal Soviet people and the Government of the Soviet Union.

The Great October Socialist Revolution marked a turning point in human history; it opened up for mankind the broad road from capitalism to communism. Under the leadership of the glorious Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Soviet people victoriously carried out the unprecedented and earth-shaking great revolution, thus turning the ideal of socialism into reality. In the past 42 years, the Soviet people, through strenuous and glorious struggles, established and consolidated the Soviet state and have, in a short historical period, built the backward and impoverished tsarist Russia into an advanced, mighty and prosperous socialist country. Now, under the correct leadership of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party headed by Comrade Khrushchev, the Soviet people have entered a new stage of historical development, that of the extensive building of communism. All the Soviet people are fighting for the fulfillment of the Seven-Year Plan far ahead of schedule with tremendous political and labour enthusiasm. It can be affirmed that it will not be long before the Soviet Union will overtake and surpass the United States in the total output and the average per capita output of industry and agriculture.
countries headed by the United States will certainly suffer even worse defeat.

The Chinese revolution is a continuation of the Great October Revolution. In the past ten years, under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and Comrade Mao Tse-tung, the Chinese people have won great victories one after another in the cause of socialist revolution and socialist construction. The Chinese people have always enjoyed the fraternal support of the Soviet people in their revolutionary struggles and socialist construction. Please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people, to take this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to the Soviet Government and people.

In the last 10 years, the long-existing profound friendship between the Chinese and the Soviet peoples has undergone an all-round and thorough-going development. Not long ago, the Soviet Party and Government Delegation headed by Comrade Khrushchov has been to our country to take part in the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the founding of our country, demonstrating once again the fraternal friendship between our two countries. All the schemes of the reactionary forces headed by U.S. imperialism to undermine Sino-Soviet unity have suffered and will continue to suffer ignominious defeat. The great unity between China and the Soviet Union based on Marxism-Leninism is unbreakable. The traditional friendship between the Chinese and Soviet peoples and the friendly solidarity of the big socialist family headed by the Soviet Union will be constantly strengthened and consolidated.

Comrades and friends! In this festival of the whole world, I propose a toast

to the Great October Socialist Revolution,
to the Soviet Communist Party and the Soviet Government,
to the Soviet people building communism,
to the increasing consolidation and growing strength of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union,
to the everlasting and indestructible friendship between the Chinese and Soviet peoples,
to a lasting world peace,
to the health of Comrade Khrushchov and

to the health of Comrade Voroshilov!

Great Developments in China’s Cultural Revolution

by LU TING-YI

Following is a translation of excerpts from a speech made at the recent National Conference of Outstanding Groups and Workers in Socialist Construction by Lu Ting-yi, Alternate Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, and Vice-Premier. The speech was originally entitled “Oppose Right Deviations, Go All Out in Vigorously Developing the Cultural Revolution in Coordination with the Campaign to Increase Production and Practise Economy.” Subheadings are ours. —Ed.

THE current situation on the economic front in our country is very good. The situation on the cultural and educational front is also very good. Since the Central Committee of the Communist Party put forward the policy that “education should serve working-class politics, should be combined with productive labour, and should be led by the Party,” and the principle of developing culture and education by “walking on two legs,” a profound revolution has taken place in education in our country and there have been enormous developments in cultural and educational work. China now has 1,017,000 students enrolled in full-time, half-day and spare-time institutions of higher learning. The target originally set for the Second Five-Year Plan has already been fulfilled. There has also been a tremendous development of the various kinds of secondary and primary schools. There are 12,850,000 students studying in the regular full-time secondary schools, agricultural middle schools and vocational and specialized secondary schools (including normal middle schools). In all, 87 per cent of school-age children are attending school. Great achievements have been made in the patriotic health campaign which has the wiping out of the four pests, the universal practice of hygiene and elimination of the major diseases as its central tasks. Following the development and consolidation of the people’s communes, a medical and public health network has been started up in all the rural areas of the country, and medical facilities and public health services in the countryside have been greatly improved. Culture and art flourish as never before. Physical culture and sports, broadcasting and other cultural and educational undertakings have also grown exceedingly quickly. Our working people are bringing about a rapid change in those backward features of old China — its “poverty and blankness.” The worker and peasant masses are arming themselves with socialist and communist ideas and with modern scientific and cultural knowledge. A huge army of intellectuals who are both politically progressive and professionally proficient is coming into being.

The Goal of the Cultural Revolution

In May 1958, the Second Session of the Eighth Congress of the Communist Party put before the Party and the whole nation the tasks of the technical and cultural

*Flies, mosquitoes, rats and grain-destroying sparrows.—Ed.

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revolutions. The cultural revolution, as Chairman Mao Tse-tung describes it, means making the masses of our workers and peasants intellectual as well as our intellectuals labourers, too. Only after the workers and peasants on the one hand and intellectuals on the other have both made up for what they lack is it possible to bring about a thorough change in the irrational state of affairs handed down from the old society, to put an end to the lack of culture on the part of the mass of workers and peasants, and uproot the bourgeois ideology of the intellectuals. This is an extremely deep-going revolution. Practice has increasingly proved the complete correctness of the policy of cultural revolution laid down by the Party.

Let us look at how things stand with regard to training intellectuals to be working people. Our intellectuals have changed a great deal since the rectification campaign and the struggle against the rightists in 1957, and with the thorough implementation of the Party’s educational policy. Factories, mines and enterprises are operating the system whereby cadres take part in labour and workers participate in management. In the educational field, many schools have set up factories and farms. Students become workers when they go to work in the factories, peasants when they go to work on the farms, and are students again when they return to their classrooms. Productive labour has enabled our young students to come into closer contact with the mass of workers and peasants, and “to transform their old class standpoints and become ‘red’ ideologically.” By combining education with labour, theory and practice are better integrated, the quality of teaching and study is raised and scientific research stimulated. It also helps to eradicate the great harm of divorcing theory from practice left over to us from bourgeois education.

Education for the Workers and Peasants

Tremendous achievements have been made in the way of giving a good education to our workers and peasants. Through practical work in socialist construction, the mass of workers and peasants have become increasingly and more keenly aware of the fact that they must raise their cultural and technical level quickly in order to achieve greater, faster, better and more economical results in building socialism. “Socialism is paradise, and culture is the staircase to it,” and “technical proficiency acts like magic, yet without culture you can’t master it”; these sayings of the workers and peasants well express their eagerness for culture. The facts prove that when the workers and peasants master culture, science and technology, it is like adding wings to a steed: production goes ahead more swiftly; they are able to give fuller play to their initiative and rich experience in production; and socialist construction leaps ahead. Thanks to the leadership and concern shown in this matter by the Communist Party, a considerable number of scientific and technical personnel has emerged from among the workers and peasants since the founding of the People’s Republic. This number is growing steadily. Step by step they will storm the fortresses of culture and science and make themselves masters there.

The rapid development of industry and agriculture requires large numbers of technical personnel and workers with a communist consciousness as well as cultural and scientific knowledge. It is therefore our duty to go all out, aim high and achieve greater, faster, better and more economical results in developing the cultural revolution extensively in accordance with the Party’s general line for building socialism, to raise as quickly as possible the communist political consciousness and the cultural and scientific level of the mass of workers and peasants, and fulfil the great historic task of making our workers and peasants intellectuals as well. Experience in the big leap forward proved that to attain this goal, it is necessary to thoroughly oppose right deviations, to have overall planning, to launch mass movements on a large scale and fully implement the policy of “walking on two legs.” In developing education, “walking on two legs” means to mobilize the Party and the whole nation to run schools according to the principles of combining uniformity with variety, popularization with a raising of quality, and central overall planning with proper authority vested in the localities. In other words, it means mobilizing active factors and forces in all sections of society to set up more cultural institutions and schools at the highest speed and at minimum cost, to satisfy the needs of the masses and of national construction, by the simultaneous development of schools run by the state and by factories, mines, enterprises, government offices and people’s communes; the simultaneous development of general and vocational education, of child and adult education, of school education and self-study (including correspondence courses and radio broadcast lessons), and of schools charging fees and those giving free tuition. The rapid progress in culture and education last year and this year is a victory of the policy of “walking on two legs.” In a short period of a few months, tens of thousands of spare-time schools, agricultural middle schools, ordinary secondary and primary schools and kindergartens were set up throughout the country. In most parts of China, the general situation is that every production brigade in the people’s communes has its own kindergarten and primary school, most of the people’s communes have their own junior middle schools, most of the counties their own senior middle schools, most of the special administrative regions their own specialized secondary schools and institutions of higher learning, and the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, all kinds of institutions of higher learning run by themselves. This fact is a powerful refutation of right deviationist views that in the cultural revolution it is impossible to launch mass movements, to get greater, faster, better and more economical results and to “walk on two legs.”

Wiping Out Illiteracy

In 1958, the literacy campaign also made enormous advances. Last year alone, more than a hundred million young and middle-aged people took part in the literacy campaign and about 50 million learnt to read and write. This proves that it is possible to wipe out illiteracy very rapidly. Of the remaining more than 80 million young and middle-aged illiterates, only a small proportion were entirely letter-blind. This means that the situation is favourable for our future work in wiping out illiteracy. The proportion of illiterates in factories, mines and enterprises is generally 20 to 30 per cent. With the exception of those few units which have larger proportions of illiterates, all the rest can wipe out illiteracy in the
main this winter or next spring, provided they make the necessary effort. At the same time, spare-time schools, both primary and secondary, must be set up on an extensive scale for those newly literate so that they can consolidate what they have learnt and continue to raise their cultural level.

Universal primary education should be instituted for all school-age children. With a further effort, it should not be too difficult to raise the ratio of children in school from this year’s 87 per cent to 95 per cent. Making primary education universal also demands “walking on two legs” and the use of various forms of organization. The introduction of universal junior middle school education will follow as a natural trend of development. To realize this goal soon, the policy of “walking on two legs” must be persisted in, that is, full-time and half-day junior middle schools and broadcast courses should be run in cities, while rural areas should develop agricultural middle schools and all kinds of vocational schools.

The popularization of education among workers and employees is an important factor in developing the technical revolution, raising labour productivity and speeding up socialist construction. Although there has been a tremendous advance in the cultural level of the workers and employees in factories, mines and enterprises compared with pre-liberation times, we are still faced with a heavy and difficult task in the field of education. If we succeed in wiping out illiteracy in our factories, mines and enterprises and, in a few years, succeed in giving a middle school education to our young and middle-aged workers and employees who already have a primary school education, and a college education to those with a middle school education who can profitably undertake further studies, this will play a great part in the industrial development and technical progress of our country. It will also serve as a good foundation for introducing higher education among the broad masses of workers and employees in the future. It is our hope that factories, mines and enterprises as well as various regions of the country will make an all-out effort in drawing up plans for the development of education among the workers and employees according to actual possibilities. Since factory and mining enterprises are mainly engaged in production, the principle of “linking education with actual production, unified arrangement, teaching students according to their educational background and occupations, flexibility and variety” must be followed in running education there. As to the content, methods and systems of education, they must be decided in the light of the special features of production in these places. The factories and mining enterprises as a rule have relatively strong technical forces so they can set up half-day and spare-time schools at all levels; larger factories and mines can also set up spare-time colleges while some other factories and mines can do the same in co-operation with neighbouring institutions of higher learning.

Cultivating the Communist Man

At present, educational undertakings in factories and mining enterprises are run by the trade unions under the leadership of the relevant Party committees with the active help of the educational and other related government departments. For this purpose the trade unions at all levels have appropriated quite large funds. This is quite a good thing. But the funds appropriated by the trade unions alone are not enough, factories and mining enterprises must also set aside a part of their “factory reserve funds” to finance such educational undertakings. Socialist factories and mining enterprises must not only produce material goods and create new products but also do their best to cultivate new, communist men. This is where our socialist factories and mining enterprises differ fundamentally from capitalist factories and mining enterprises. The cultural, technical level, political consciousness and moral quality of men, as labourers or managerial personnel, have a direct bearing on, and directly determine, the production of material goods. It is the duty of our factories, mines and enterprises to see to it that all our workers and employees attain, step by step, a high level of communist political consciousness, moral quality and a high cultural and scientific level. This is a very great revolutionary task which we must work for consistently. Accordingly, we must not only completely overcome the tendency for education to be divorced from production and reality which prevailed in schools in the past, but also the tendency to “pay attention to things and not to men,” to ignore ideological and political education and pay no attention to elevating the workers’ level of cultural and scientific knowledge such as prevailed in some factories and mining enterprises in the past. In factories, mines and enterprises, production must be combined with education.

Training Technicians and Teachers

The fostering and building of a strong army of working class industrial and technical cadres is important and indispensable to completion of socialist construction in our country. It is also important for a steady rise in our technical level and of labour productivity to ensure the continued high-speed growth of industry in our country. There has been a big increase in the number of our engineers and technicians in the last few years. To date, there are around a million of them in the country but this still lags far behind the demand. The principle of “walking on two legs” must also be applied, therefore, in the training of engineers and technicians. It is the duty of every suitably equipped factory, mine, and enterprise to do all it can to set up various kinds of schools and train engineers and technicians. It is also the duty of engineering colleges and secondary technical schools, if they have the facilities, to set up spare-time schools and correspondence schools to train additional industrial cadres as well as running their own regular schools well.

In addition to technical forces in industry, we must also train technicians for agriculture to mechanize farming, extend water conservancy works throughout the farmlands, and bring about the “chemicalization” (the extensive use of chemical fertilizer and other farm chemicals), and electrification of agriculture. Today, there are only 170,000 agricultural technicians in the country. But we need a million senior and intermediate grade agricultural technicians and a still larger number of junior technicians. This is a very big task which has to be done very quickly.

The training and replenishment of teaching staff is a key factor in ensuring the rapid development of education and raising its quality. The question of the mo-
ment is the inadequate supply of teachers. The only way out is to adhere to the same policy of “walking on two legs” in training of teachers. A very glorious and great task in the cultural revolution falls to the lot of our teachers. We are confident that they will live up to the people’s expectations and have still more outstanding achievements to their credit.

We must also achieve corresponding developments in our scientific, technical, cultural, art, health, physical cultural and sports, and other cultural and educational undertakings. We must rapidly catch up with the world’s most advanced levels in science and technology. Comrades, advanced workers: you must not only fulfill your production tasks in an excellent manner, but also continue to make an all-out effort in your scientific and technical studies, topple old idols, think and do things boldly, make inventions and rapidly scale the summits of science and technology. Guided by the principle of serving the workers, peasants and soldiers, serving socialism, by the principle of “letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend,” we must make our literature and art flourish still more abundantly and create still better works. With these principles, we must continue to elevate the ideological and artistic level of our films and theatres, energetically expand the cinema network both in the towns and the countryside, continue to raise the quality of our publications, and suitably increase their quantity to meet the demands of readers. The cultural and artistic activities of the masses and their creations must be greatly encouraged by following the principle of carrying out these activities according to the need, by the masses on their own initiative and in non-working hours. This will enliven the cultural life of the masses of workers and peasants and stir up the enthusiasm of the masses in production. In public health, we must carry on the mass patriotic health campaign; strengthen the unity between the doctors of the Western school and those of traditional Chinese medicine; further energetically develop and improve our work in the prevention of disease and medical treatment in cities, factories and mines and in the rural people’s communes; and take better care of the people’s health to ensure the continued big leap forward in socialist construction. In physical culture and sports, we must continue to carry out the policy of combining popularization with elevation, develop mass sports movements so as to further improve the people’s health and better serve production and national defence construction.

**Politics in Command**

In all the sphere of culture and education, in the fields of health, physical culture and sports and the press, etc., politics must be in command and the leadership of the Party committee must be followed; “culture for culture’s sake and education for education’s sake” will never do. It is necessary to follow the mass line, to combine the work of the experts with that of the masses and never try to rely merely on the experts. We are of the opinion that experts must be both politically progressive and professionally competent, that they must link themselves with the masses and accept Party leadership. To listen or not to listen to the Party leadership, to listen or not to listen to what Chairman Mao Tse-tung says: this is the political demarcation line between us and the bourgeoisie. Here there should not be the slightest confusion. We must fight firmly against any tendency opposing the Party leadership.

These are some of the main tasks in the cultural revolution. Let all the advanced workers in the country and the whole Chinese working class, together with the whole population, under the leadership of the great Chinese Communist Party and Comrade Mao Tse-tung, great leader of all our nationalities, hold still higher the red banner of the general line for socialist construction and further develop the technical and cultural revolutions on the basis of the great victories gained last year and this year.

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**Sino-Soviet Friendship**

**The Lanchow-Sinkiang Railway**

by PEI CHI

WHEN the 2,349-kilometre-long Lanchow-Sinkiang Railway is completed, the railway distance between Peking and Moscow will be greatly shortened.

Following the route of the Old Silk Road from Lanchow up the Kansu Corridor, this new trunk line traverses the desert into the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region to Hami, passes north of the Turfan depression, crosses the Tienshan to Urumchi, continues northwestern then through the Ala Pass to the Soviet border, where it meets the railway from Aktogai on the Turksib Railway. When completed it will supplement the two lines now being used, the one running through China’s Northeast to the Soviet border and the other, a shorter one, via Ulan Bator in the Mongolian People’s Republic.

A glance at the route of the new line shows the great importance it has in speeding up the development of China’s Northwest and the Sinkiang region, and in strengthening the ties between these areas and the rest of the country.

Work on the line is going ahead at a fast clip. To date 1,177 kilometres of the track are open to traffic from Lanchow to Weiya in Sinkiang. The roadbed, bridges, and culverts on the Weiya-Urumchi section have been built. The section from Urumchi to the Soviet border has been sur-
veyed and part of the roadbed made. The Soviet section between Aktogai and the Chinese border was opened to traffic on July 1 this year.

The new railway has some notable features. Most of it is being laid on tablelands 1,000 metres above sea level and it traverses exceptionally difficult terrain: high mountains, deep canyons, deserts, alkali flats, swamps and earthquake zones. It crosses the Yellow River and the Wushiaoling Range whose peaks rise 3,000 metres above sea level. Seven tunnels had to be cut on the Wushiaoling section and in places the roadbed had to be built up to a height of 40 metres. Several hundred bridges and culverts, large and small, had to be built across the many streams in the Shanshan area. The crossing of the Tienshan Mountains demanded some first-rate surveying and arduous work. Between Lake Ebi Nor and the Sino-Soviet border, the track crosses a twenty-kilometre stretch of swamp. Except in the oases, very few people live near the line of the railway, so not only was it necessary to bring up building materials from distant bases, but in many cases food supplies and daily necessities for the builders. On some stretches even water had to be brought to them by lorry from sources of kilometres away.

Tunnelling in the Wushiaoling Mountains was a particularly arduous operation in the sub-zero weather of the winter of 1953. By 1958, the year of the big leap in China's national construction, the builders had already pushed the roadbed to the Tienshan in Sinkiang.

To make the Tienshan crossing, twelve tunnels had to be built with a total length of 4,450 metres within a distance of ten kilometres. Cutting these tunnels proved to be a particularly difficult job because they run through ancient quartzite strata full of joints. By improving methods of excavation and raising efficiency scores of times in successive emulation drives, however, they completed the job on December 25, twenty-five days ahead of schedule.

Soviet Help

Soviet experts gave invaluable help in speeding up the surveying, designing and actual construction of the new line. Their suggestions also resulted in very considerable economies. A change of route suggested by them in the vicinity of Changye alone gave a saving of more than a million yuan. In 1955, they helped to make an aerial survey for the route between Yumen and the Sinkiang border. What would have taken a whole year by ground survey was actually done in two months, and in addition, Chinese technicians were trained in Soviet aerial survey methods. In 1953 on their advice and with their help a temporary bridge across the Yellow River was built in three months. This greatly speeded up the forward movement of construction materials and equipment and greatly reduced costs. Crude oil from Yumen could be brought by rail to the Lanchow refinery much earlier than expected. Originally it had been planned to start with a permanent bridge over the Yellow River. This would have taken at least a year to finish and in the meantime all materials and equipment for construction west of the river would have had to be carried by lorries over a round-about, time-consuming route.

The new line is already giving a fresh impetus to the development of such new industrial cities as Lanchow, Yungteng, Chiuchuan and Yumen. Since the line reached Yumen in July 1956 this former desert settlement has grown into a booming town with factories, residential quarters, schools, restaurants, a hospital and other public services. With the extension of the line to Weiya, just over the Sinkiang border, crude oil from the great Karamai oilfield is being shipped eastwards faster and cheaper than before. The famous melons of Hami, raisins from Turfan and other special products in the region are now being made available in large quantities and more cheaply to the people in other parts of the country and even abroad.

The line has given an immediate boost to living standards of the national minority peoples living along its route. In the Tienchu Tibetan Autonomous County in Kansu the average market price for nearly a thousand items of industrial goods has dropped by 3.7 per cent since this line reached it. In 1953, thirty jin of wool exchanged for one bolt of white cotton cloth there; now a bolt can be got for only 21 jin of wool.

The railway fulfills a dream of many decades for the various national minority peoples in Northwest China, and particularly those of Sinkiang. They call it the "Road to Happiness." As construction moves ahead local help is always enthusiastically offered. Between August and October last year, 7,000 people from local government offices and the Urumchi municipality, students, men and officers of the People's Liberation Army helped to build a 90-kilometre stretch of roadbed.

With the question of feeder lines now becoming actual, the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region last year set up a railway bureau in Urumchi that is planning construction of a network of railways linked with the Lanchow-Aktogai Line.
Loyang’s Tractor Works
by CHEN PO-SAN

China began her mass production of tractors with the official commissioning of the No. 1 Tractor Works in Loyang, Honan Province on November 1.

A grand inauguration, held to celebrate the occasion on that day in Loyang, was attended by Tan Chen-lin, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Vice-Premier of the State Council, many ministers and vice-ministers, and trade union, women and youth leaders. A Soviet delegation headed by S. J. Fomin, and Soviet experts who have helped in the building of the works, also took part in the ceremony.

In his speech at the ceremony, Vice-Premier Tan Chen-lin described the works as a large, first-rate industrial undertaking equipped with the most up-to-date technique. Its completion and start of production, he added, marked the beginning of China’s progress to the modernization of agriculture over the next ten years. The works, said Tan Chen-lin, would be a key force in the nationwide technical transformation of agriculture. On behalf of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and the State Council, he extended hearty thanks to the great Communist Party and the Government of the Soviet Union for the help given.

“Dongfanghong” Tractors

The Loyang tractor works has an annual production capacity of 15,000 diesel caterpillar tractors of 54 horsepower. Even before completion it had begun to turn out its “Dongfanghong” (The East Is Red) tractors for all parts of the country. These have been warmly welcomed by the peasants. Durable and easy to operate, they are not only useful for deep ploughing, sowing, cultivating and harvesting; with minor adjustments, they can run threshing machines, pump water, generate power and serve other purposes.

Since the universal establishment of rural people’s communes, the scale of organization and scope of production in China’s agriculture have widened. The degree of its collectivization is higher, and more capital funds have been accumulated. Both production and capital construction can be planned in a unified way. All these are factors favourable to the mechanization and electrification of agriculture.

The birth of the Loyang tractor works, therefore, is a happy and timely thing for the 500 million Chinese peasants. They celebrate it as the opening of a great new era of which they have long dreamt, when they will “plough without oxen and light lamps without burning oil.”

The No. 1 Tractor Works is also a symbol of the friendship between the peoples of China and the Soviet Union, which has given selfless and comprehensive assistance in all stages of its construction. Several Soviet designing institutes worked jointly to help plan it; 57 Soviet enterprises manufactured equipment for it; 38 Soviet experts came to help on the spot; and nearly 200 of the Chinese personnel of the Loyang works went to the U.S.S.R. for training.

The tractor works is likewise a result of a nationwide co-operative effort by China’s own industries. Apart from Soviet items, it has much equipment made by some 130 plants throughout the country. To fill out the technical staff, plants in Shanghai, Changchun and other industrial centres transferred 1,500 skilled workers to Loyang, and more than 140 factories trained workers and technical personnel for the plant.

A Modern Engineering Giant

The tractor works is a big, modernized engineering enterprise, located in a virtually self-contained industrial town that produces nearly everything that goes into a tractor. All the working processes in the plant are mechanized. It has 222 conveyer-borne production lines, bringing engines, chassis and other elements, at a concerted tempo, to the general assembly line.

Besides equipment from outside, the machine shops of the works itself before going into production made a great many of its tools and installations, including milling machines, converters and electrical furnaces (comprising 20 per cent of its standardized and 97 per cent of its non-standardized equipment).

On October 1, 1955, when the foundation of the tractor works was laid, the site was a vast field grown with crops. Now, it is covered with huge workshops, railway lines and residential blocks for its workers and their families, with kindergartens, schools, a spare-time college, clubs, department stores and other facilities.

The major part of the plant was completed in the two years of 1956 and 1958. Zealously racing against time, the builders finished many of the projects in record time. Construction of the 22,500-square-metre engine plant—a key part of the project—was completed in 38 days, and the 12,870-square-metre fuel system plant was completed in 33 days. Ordinarily it would take 6 to 12 months to build each of these plants.

Since last year, trial production has gone on simultaneously with construction. Workers and employees of the No. 1 Tractor Works have now basically mastered the necessary techniques and ensured the smooth functioning of the conveyer lines. By the time of commissioning 902 tractors had been made.

With the start of formal production, the workers have pledged to fulfil their 1959 plan ahead of schedule and make all the preparations for a bigger leap forward in 1960. This is their response to the call of the Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung for greater speed in the mechanization of China’s agriculture.
Profiles of Labour Heroes

by OUR CORRESPONDENT

More than 6,500 outstanding workers and representatives of outstanding groups were in Peking for the “National Conference of Heroes of Labour.” To give our readers some idea of what sort of people these heroes are, our correspondent has interviewed seven of them. Here, in brief, are their stories. — Ed.

Li Shao-kuei
Head of No. 7 Open-hearth Furnace, Anshan Iron and Steel Works

ONE morning several months ago, some molten slag escaped from Anshan’s No. 9 Open-hearth Furnace and rushed towards a pile of some 30 oxygen cylinders. This was a rare accident. It occurred because the workers had tried to save a heat of steel from abnormally low carbon content by charging the open-hearth with molten iron. Just as the oxygen cylinders were in imminent danger of exploding, a veteran worker rushed down towards them from the furnace-face. Totally disregarding his own safety, he doused the cylinders with water. With the help of other workers, as fearless as himself, he went on to cool the slag and a serious accident was avoided.

The veteran worker was Li Shao-kuei, head of the No. 7 Open-hearth Furnace. He was paying a visit to No. 9 Furnace in his spare time, to help its crew with a technical problem.

The name of Li Shao-kuei evokes deep respect among steel-workers not only in Anshan but all over the country. Born in a farm labourer’s poverty-stricken family, he entered the Anshan Mill at 18. In the decade since liberation, he has risen from unskilled worker to expert steel-maker, and head of a big modern open-hearth furnace. His furnace was rated one of the best-performing in the steel city and won a special citation from the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry. His former apprentices—and there are many—have become heads of modern open-hearth furnaces in Anshan, the rising new steel base of Wuhan, and many other places.

Huang Jung-chang
Deputy-Director, Converter Plant, Chungking Iron and Steel Works

HUANG Jung-chang’s life-story has taken him from carpenter to mechanical engineer, deputy plant director, national outstanding worker and a deputy to the National People’s Congress. Since 1951, he has blueprinted and built more than 70 machines—some new inventions, some remodeled, some copied from those made elsewhere. He has mechanized all the manual processes in the plant’s carpentry shop and partly mechanized it in firebrick-making, transport and masonry. The devices he has introduced since 1958, when the big leap forward began, have brought a saving of 2.4 million man-days a year.

Huang, orphaned at 12, led a nightmarish life in the old society. In 1949, when the country was liberated, he was a carpenter of average skill. The rapid improvement of life in the new society taught him that, once masters of their own destiny, the workers can create heaven on earth with their labour. So he worked hard to improve production methods, to make this labour more effective.

Huang’s conviction was fortified by a great inspiration. When Chairman Mao Tse-tung visited the Chungking Iron and Steel Works in 1958, he saw the workers laboriously carrying the steel plates. He asked the workers whether they could mechanize transport. Huang, who was deeply moved by his concern, immediately approached the plant’s Communist Party committee. With their support, he began to design and construct the necessary equipment. In little more than a year, the “mechanization group” he headed had installed 15 heavy hoists and conveyors. Speaking at the recent “National Conference of Heroes,” Huang was able to report to Chairman Mao that the workers had realized his wish.
Pang Kuan-hsiang
Coal-miner, Fushan Colliery

SOME people may think coal-cutting a job which only calls for brawn; but Pang Kuan-hsiang has shown conclusively how big a part a daring brain can play. In blasting in the Fushan Colliery, in the past, holes were never drilled beyond a certain depth, and just so many grammes of dynamite were allowed for each charge. "Why couldn’t we drill deeper and put in more?" Pang argued incessantly with everyone he met. The Party told him to try it.

Pang’s experiments, carried on with the help of Chou Kuang-jui, a mine technician, bore startling fruit: they got half as much again as the normal output from an 80-metre work-face by drilling 2.2 metres, blasting with 300 gm. in each charge and increasing the elevation of extraction to 2.5 metres.

Pang is like a full charge of dynamite himself. He has blasted through out-worn taboos and inhibitions in the last few years and infused all his co-workers with his daring spirit. The repeated new records of daily output his team has set: 1,276 tons from an 80-metre work-face during the big leap forward last year and 2,121 tons in August this year, touched off emulation drives which pushed forward production in the whole country.

Now a national labour hero, a deputy to the National People’s Congress and a Communist Party member, this poor peasant’s son who supported his family at 13 and was later, among other things, a rickshaw puller, is an example of the boldness in thought, speech and action which is the best way of serving socialist construction.

Lo Tung
Chief of a Foods Warehouse, Yulin County, Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region

THIS 71-year-old ex-Red Army man who took part in the Long March does not believe in sparing elbow-grease. Every day at dawn, he goes to the warehouse, checks inventory and sweeps and cleans. On windy or rainy nights, he gets up to see if everything is in order. During the big leap forward since 1958, Lo has invented new ways of sealed-up storage. As a result not a single item of goods in his keeping suffered damage from rain. Old as he is, he prefers to do the actual work himself, even though he is supposed to be in semi-retirement. During the busy season for purchasing farm produce, he sends all his men out to the field and takes care of the warehouse alone.

Old Lo Tung also sees to it that not even the smallest item of state property is wasted. In two years he has saved several thousand jin of chemical fertilizers merely by scraping the remains from emptied bags, which are generally thrown away as useless things. By making sure that containers are emptied to the last drop, he has also saved some 10,000 jin of peanut oil for the state.

"The credit must go to the Party, the people and Chairman Mao Tse-tung who have educated me. I am only doing what an ordinary Party member should do." These were the old man’s modest words as he told his own story to the Heroes’ Conference.

Tien Ching-chi
Lathe Turner, Chengtu Measuring and Cutting Tool Works

"TECHNICAL revolution must be uninterrupted, like the social revolution." That is the motto of 28-year-old lathe turner Tien Ching-chi who, in the 20 months since February 1958, has finished six years and nine months’ worth of work.

He did it by introducing no less than 400 technical innovations, one of which raised the efficiency of an operation 400 times. The 24 workers in the team he heads, with his help and influenced by his enterprising spirit, have all fulfilled their 1960 quota. Seventeen of them have been named “red-flag bearers,” “clever girls” or “distinguished apprentices.” The team itself was elected an “advanced collective” (for Chengtu city) in 1958.

Recently, in his leisure time, Tien visited the Chengtu Electric Motor Works six times to help workers there solve a number of technical problems. This helped productive efficiency in the plant to rise by 40 per cent in something like a month. The total value of the works’ output in September was double that of August.

"In the vicinity of the more advanced, no one will lag behind." This is the general mood of the Szechuan workers in a province-wide campaign to emulate Tien
Chao Meng-tao has been working in the spinning shop of the Northwest No. 1 State Cotton Mill since May 1952 and the remarkable thing about her is that from that time on she has consistently overfulfilled the state plan month by month. She has saved some 12,000 liang of cotton in production and has helped 12 other workers in her shop attain the level of advanced mill hands. "Chao is a true Party member," people in the mill say.

The following is typical of her style of work. Tang Sai-chuan, a green hand working on a difficult machine, turned out some 70-80 liang of scavenger waste a day. Chao offered to take over Tang's machine herself. Others in her team advised her not to, lest she lose the contest she had just entered. She replied: "As a Party member, it's the cause of the Party that I'm after, certainly not personal gains. I must help Tang even if I turn out to be the loser." Working on Tang's machine, Chao prepared well every day before work started, and in close cooperation with those in charge of bobbins, finally managed to fulfil the daily plan. This year alone, she has changed machines seven times with other workers and all of them have thus been enabled to fulfil their plans.

Chao not only helps the workers in her own team, but other teams as well. Before this year ends she plans to help another 14 workers attain the level of advanced mill hands while fulfilling and overfulfilling the state plan herself every day and every month.

Su Chang-fu

Lorry Driver, P.L.A. Production and Construction Corps, Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region

"WHOEVER goes to the river often can't help getting his shoes wet. Whoever drives a lorry for long must run into mechanical trouble." So say some lorry drivers. But not Su Chang-fu, whose ZIS-150 has run more than 500,000 kilometres without overhaul and remains spick and span. In the eight years since 1951, he has hauled 1.68 million ton-kilometres and saved 23 sets of tyres and 5,800 kilogrammes of petrol. For this, he has been awarded the titles of "Meritorious Communist" and "Model Worker, Special Class." In 1958, the Soviet Likhachev Motor Works—maker of the famous "ZIS" (now "ZIL") vehicles—gave him a certificate of honour for his record distance run without major repairs.

There is nothing fortuitous about Su's achievement. Deeply devoted to his job as part of socialist construction, he gives his ZIS a regular meticulous check and does not leave a single screw untightened. As he says: "If you don't mend a small hole in your suit, it soon gets to be a big one."

To avoid shake, Su ties the body of his lorry tight to the frame when it runs unloaded. When he parks with load, he cushions the body with a prop. And, of course, he observes traffic regulations strictly and never takes chances.

Lorry drivers throughout the country are emulating Su Chang-fu. His new goal: 600,000 kilometres without overhaul.

Sketches by Shen Chin-sheng, Chao Yu-pin, Kao Chao, Yu Yu-chu-ku and Wang To-kuan

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November 10, 1959
"Red Flag Folk Songs"

In the creative atmosphere of the big leap last year, folk songs flourished like bamboo shoots watered by a spring rain. "Poetry expresses the sentiments and songs speak with the voice of the heart," runs an old Chinese saying. The new folk songs reflect the irresistible spirit of a people leaping out of the past and into the future. Let's see who stands higher, that heavenly Lord or I! is one line recently written by a peasant poet.

"They disdain all old traditions and customs that stand in their way," writes the poet, Kuo Mo-jo, and the literary critic, Chou Yang, in their foreword as co-editors of Hongqi (Red Flag) Folk Songs.* "Poetry has been reunited with labour on the basis of new socialist and communist ideas. It is in this sense that our new folk songs can be called the first fruits of popular communist literature. This is the new folk poetry of socialist times."

Always attaching great importance to the songs of the people the Communist Party early last year set a move on foot to collect the new crop of the big leap as soon as it began to appear. Within a matter of months, many selections were published by various provinces, cities and counties and even by individual communes and factories, production teams and workshops. These collections brought together and popularized the best folk songs of the various areas. Now Hongqi Folk Songs presents a representative selection that meets the needs of the general reader and has been chosen, as

* Hongqi Folk Songs; Hongqi Press, Peking, p. 372.

the foreword says, "for their freshness of outlook and beauty of form."

The three hundred verses in this selection are arranged in four sections. The first is entitled "Songs in Praise of the Party." With so much to be thankful for, there is naturally much laudatory verse these days. The people have invented a wealth of images to sing the praises of the Party and of Chairman Mao. Here is one from the Kwangtung peasants:

Chairman Mao is infinitely kind,
Ten thousand songs are not enough to praise him.

With trees as pens, the sky as paper
And an ocean of ink,
Much would still be left unwritten.

Last year the peasants did miracles in building water conservancy works; they also set going the tremendous movement for creating the rural people's communes. These and the mass campaign to make steel and the work of China's defence forces were the themes of innumerable good folk songs. Selections from these make up the second, third and fourth sections of the Red Flag collection.

The much reprinted song entitled I Am Coming! is reprinted again, and rightly:

There's no Jade Emperor in heaven.
There's no Dragon King below.
I'm the Jade Emperor!
I'm the Dragon King!
Make room for me, you mountains and hills!
I'm coming!

After thousands of years of the popular concept of the unquestioned, unchallengeable power of the celestial rulers, these six short lines create a new image of a giant Man, a collective image of China's working people in power.

The new folk songs make considerable use of the legendary and mythological figures and lore, but the poets of the people today have a much wider vocabulary of imagery than in the past. Some project their revolutionary ideas and feelings through a simple, forthright portrayal of real life, others use poetic exaggerations of reality. An example of the latter is this Hupeh folk song:

Baskets filled to overflowing,
The carrying pole is bent in a dancing curve.

See here, mother of my children,
I am carrying two mountains!

Real life is interwoven with poetic exaggeration. With the last two lines written as if the carrier were directly addressing his wife, the poetic feeling of the song suddenly deepens and it evokes a whole train of intimate associations.

Two illustrations (above and below) from the Hongqi Folk Songs by Hsia Tung-kuan and Mi Ku

The verses selected show a considerable diversity of style and mode of expression but the most popular forms appear to be the traditional five-character and seven-character metre, that is, five or seven characters to a line with four or more lines to a verse. Yet some of the most popular verses have original forms of their own, such as the already quoted I Am Coming!, the popular Little Boat (see Peking Review, No. 34) and Dredging the River in the Moonlight from Chekiang, which reads:

Dredging the river by the light of the moon,—thousands of baskets of silt.
Our poles are curved like the crescent moon.
Shh...shh...we glide along swift as a flight of wild geese.
The north wind screeches. Pearls of sweat form on our faces.
This year we'll manure the land with a thousand jin of silt.
Next year we'll reap another ten thousand dan of grain.

If the subject matter of these poems shows great variety, so too does the poetic approach to the theme. In Missing My Mother there is not a single word saying what an active commune member the speaker is, but after reading the four lines one knows she really is an activist. This Anhwei poem reads:

Away from my mother for long, I miss her.
Returned, I see her and my heart is at rest.
Yet I wake up at midnight and my heart beats eagerly again:
Tomorrow our commune will dredge a new pond.

A Basket shows by the changes that have taken place in its use how life has improved:

Grandma used to use this basket
When she went a-begging with daddy.

Mother used to use this basket
To gather herbs in a famine.

Sister-in-law used to use this basket
When she sent golden bread to the farm.

Now, I am carrying this basket
Of hot rolls made by the commune cooks.

The people's commune is good, good,
The goodness of the Party is sky high.

This selection recommends itself. Its content is rich; the style, form and approach of these folk poems forms a variegated, gay pattern. The editors have arranged them to advantage. Each piece by itself is a significant expression of popular feeling. Taken together they form a unique tribute to the big leap.

The volume is richly illustrated with paintings, woodcuts, drawings and sketches by many leading artists.

— CHUNG HO

CINEMA

Soviet Film Week

A Soviet Film Week is now being held in twenty-seven of China's major cities in honour of the forty-second anniversary of the Great October Revolution. About a dozen films are on the programme, colour features and cartoons, which fully uphold the reputation of the Soviet cinema for artistry and richness of content. Some of the films in the present selection, like In the Days of October, The Volunteers and A Man's Fate, trace the difficult path the Soviet people have traversed in building the first socialist state in the world; others, like Poem of the Sea, The Young Years, and Call of the Sky, describe the happy, active life they are leading now and the still brighter future they are striving for.

Ever since they became acquainted with Soviet films in the early days of their great revolution in the 1920s, Chinese audiences have found profound inspiration and encouragement in them. They have been a most important means of promoting cultural interchange and closer ties of friendship and collaboration between the two peoples.

In the Days of October, produced last year by the Leningrad Film Studio, is a new contribution to the rich store of films on the October Revolution. Director S. Vassiliev, who wrote the script together with N. Odin, has delved into files and historical records, letters, diaries and memoirs, to recast with great success those memorable days from an angle which has not received much attention before. Covering the nineteen days from October 20 to November 7 in 1917, the film centres round the question of the armed rising and seizure of political power. It shows Lenin as a revolutionary leader of genius who correctly voiced the aspirations and demands of the people, assessed their potentialities and, grasping the salient features of the complex circumstances at the time, takes the right decision and carries it through with unwavering resolve and timeliness.

The film begins with shots of Lenin's return to Petrograd from Finland. With the Tsar overthrown and the Kerensky bourgeois Provisional Government in power, the Mensheviks and Socialist-Revolutionaries held that the revolution had succeeded. But the Bolsheviks had greater aims. The overwhelming majority of workers, peasants and soldiers wholeheartedly supported the Bolsheviks and the Soviets. The revolution that overthrew the Tsar was developing inexorably into a revolution of the proletariat aiming at the complete elimination of oppression and exploitation. Uprisings broke out all over the land; soldiers at the front sent representatives to the capital demanding immediate peace, the workers organized their Red Guards and prepared for new battles. The Kerensky government had to reactionary generals, backed by the American and British imperialists, prepared to put down this new revolution and strangle the Bolshevik Party that led it. It is in this setting that the film begins and develops the story.

One of its merits is that it has reproduced historical events with great authenticity and artistry. The scenes, for instance, showing the intense struggle in the Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party on the question of armed uprising and seizure of power as proposed by Lenin are vividly and forcibly projected on the screen. A great deal of careful research went into the re-creation of the characteristics and viewpoints of the comrades who attended the historic meeting on Oct. 23 which passed the resolution to seize power. V. Chestnov, playing the leading role, has succeeded in re-creating a Lenin whose daring, wisdom and resoluteness at this crucial hour convinced the great majority of his comrades of the need to seize power at once. Lenin, as the film relates, was supported by Sverdlov, Dzerzhinsky and Stalin but was opposed by the traitors Zinoviev and Kamenev. Each speech and the way it is spoken completely reveals the speaker's stand. Masterly touches such as these can only be achieved by a director whose ability and painstaking research enable him to bring out all the nuances of this historic event. Lenin's speech at the meeting, delivered in his characteristically sharp and incisive manner, is particularly forceful: "The only way to seize political power is armed uprising. And I wish to repeat: to procrastinate is a crime!" This intricate struggle within the Party, and the successful overthrow of the Provisional Government under Kerensky are faithfully and dramatically reproduced. But this is much more than a historical film; it is a paean of praise to the heroes of the people in those difficult years; it is another splendid and lasting tribute to the great Lenin who, by his correct appraisal of the situation and his correct attitude towards the aspirations, demands and revolutionary fervour of the masses, led them forward to victory.

With the victory of the October Revolution, the Soviet people undertook the arduous task of building socialism in their land. No less heroic are the stories of those who devoted all they had to this new task of the revolution. The Volunteers tells one such moving story. Set in the early 'thirties the film centres round the life-stories of five members of the Komsomol who volunteer with hundreds of thousands of other young people to build Moscow's first metro. Like Y. Dolmatovsky's long poem on which it is based, the film contains many scenes of great lyrical beauty. In the Sokolinki Park in Moscow on an evening in spring, a young couple stands in a pavilion enjoying the night scene on the lake before them. They are Rada and Lyola, two of the five Komsomol members who have volunteered to build the subway. They stroll along a path in the park and then disappear slowly in the distance. Over twenty years later, in the same place, on just such another evening another couple is enjoying the lake scene. The young man with his sweetheart is Rada and Lyola's son. More than twenty years have passed, and great changes have taken place. All this has been the fruit of great and heroic efforts. The film is a series of closely knit episodes, poems of the exploits of the five Komsomol members. It is through the efforts of such pioneers as they that the park has been made more beautiful, that the young people are living a happier and richer life than their parents. It is in this sense that these and the other films being shown during this week have a special meaning for the Chinese people now building socialism in their own country.

— LI YUNG

November 10, 1959
SIDELIGHTS

"The Golden Fist." When the noted Soviet poet N. S. Tikhonov recently attended New China's tenth anniversary celebrations as head of the delegation of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Association, he brought the Chinese people a most valuable gift—a foot-high model of a clenched fist made of wood and painted with gold. It originally decorated the top of the big flag of the Yi Ho Tuan (Boxers) in their valiant fight against the invasion of eight imperialist powers in 1900. When the rebellion was brutally suppressed, it was carried off to Berlin by German soldiers as a "war trophy." During World War II, when the Soviet troops liberated Berlin, Red Army soldiers brought it to Moscow. It is now with the Preparatory Committee for the Central Museum of Revolutionary History in Peking, a valuable relic of China's revolutionary struggles and yet another expression of Sino-Soviet friendship.

Reunion in Peking. Broad smiles lit the faces of the labour heroes and heroines in the vestibule of the Great Hall of the People during a recess one day. There were many happy reunions. Three young girls hugged each other excitedly—eight years ago they were all at the No. 2 Middle School in Tsingtao. After graduation they had each gone their different ways. Now they met again—one an outstanding worker at a textile mill in Tsingtao, another a technician at an architectural designing institute in Sian, the third a government worker in Peking. Two delegates who attracted attention were a brother and a sister from Tientsin—one an outstanding doctor, his sister an excellent shop assistant. Another reunion was between a lathe turner from Harbin, known for his numerous technical innovations who has trained many "apprentices," and one of his former apprentices, now an outstanding worker at the conference in her own right.

Clay Modeller Chang Tells His Story. "Clay Modeller Chang" and "Dough Modeller Tang," are respected figures in China today. But their art, which is the source of their fame, brought them nothing but trouble in the old days. This is what Chang Ching-ku, famous maker of clay figurines from Tientsin, known as "Clay Modeller Chang," says of his life in the past ten years: "My grandfather was a virtual prisoner in the palace of a powerful prince and forced to make clay imitations of everything there down to dogs and cats. He finally ran away and went into hiding. In my younger days, I wasn't much better off. Kuomintang officials, policemen and all sorts of other riffraff strutted in and took anything that pleased them without so much as a 'by your leave.' I never had a free day to look over my work and develop my art. When the Communist Party came in 1949, things changed. We old artists were sought out and given jobs with decent salaries. From a broken-down hovel I moved into a big modern house. Every year I have had paid holidays at Peitihao, the Western Hills, and other resorts. But what makes me happiest is the honour paid to my art and to all of us folk artists. The Party gave us every opportunity to develop our work. I took courses in the Central Institute of Fine Arts and studied life at a host of places. Recently a colour film was specially made about me and my art, which was shown all over the country. Now I'm thinking of writing a book— with some help, of course, because I haven't had much schooling—to pass on my experiences to the young people, to express my gratitude to the Communist Party, which has done so much for our art and us folk artists."

"Learn from Ya-chun, Catch Up with Ya-chun!" A widespread movement among young Peking workers these days is known as "learn from Ya-chun, catch up with Ya-chun, and reach 1960 ahead of time." Liu Ya-chun is a 13-year-old girl factory worker at Chasthsinlent. Three years ago, the day she entered the factory, the young girl with braids had vainly tried to hide her red-striped armband—sign of a Young Pioneer group leader—which she had forgotten to take off. After two years of apprenticeship she entered the ranks of the skilled workers in May. But in the 16 months she has been working independently, she turned out 300,000 products without a reject, thus completing 37 months of work quota in 16. When asked the secret of her success, the young girl smiled shyly and said: "Well, I've always wanted to become a worker." This had, in fact, been her firm decision ever since she sat on the knees of her father—a worker of thirty years—and listened wide-eyed to stories of the workers' revolutionary tradition. After two years of high school, she had decided it was time for her to realize her ambition. She qualified and was accepted. What she was too modest to add, however, was her great love of her work. Avid learning—from the elder workers, from books, from all sources, detailed plans made for every job she was assigned, precise execution, after work hours spent in preparation for work and checking, and thinking up ways to shorten work processes and raise efficiency—these were other factors which brought about the startling results. Learning from her sterling qualities as a socialist worker has already brought over 800 workers in Peking "into 1960" or even 1961 in the few weeks in October since the movement started, and that's only the beginning.

News for Film Fans. China's cinema industry has accomplished another major feat—the successful production of panoramic and stereoscopic films by the Chinese Research Institute of Cinema Science and Technique. Experimental panoramic films—the recent National Day parade and First National Sports Meet were two themes in this medium—will be worth a public exhibition in the near future. A colour, wide-screen stereoscopic film on the famous Kweslin landscapes in the Kwangsi Autonomous Region for the Chiang People, in South China, also showed good results. All the equipment used in the panoramic film production was produced domestically. China is now the third country after the Soviet Union and the United States with the technical know-how to produce this new equipment.

Figures depicting a scene in the classical novel Dream of the Red Chamber by Clay Modeller Chang.
CHINESE PRESS OPINION

Kishi's Reparations to South Viet-nam

The Kishi government’s war reparations agreement with the south Viet-nam authorities, now under discussion in the Japanese Diet, is a new step in the preparations for war now being made within the framework of the U.S.-Japanese military alliance, says Remin Ribao's Commentator (November 2).

These so-called Japanese reparations and the “economic co-operation” loan to south Viet-nam will be used to build munition factories and a power plant serving military bases in south Viet-nam, Commentator notes. That is why the Kishi government’s attempt to get Diet approval for the agreement has come up against such strong opposition. The progressive parties and popular organizations in Japan have expressed their determination to block the passage of this agreement in the Diet. “This just stands has the full support of the Chinese people,” Commentator declares.

The agreement infringes on the interests of the Viet-namese people and is a serious violation of the Geneva agreements, Commentator points out. The Japanese occupation of Indo-China during World War II caused serious loss of life and property in both north and south Viet-nam. The Japanese Government must be held responsible for compensation to all the Viet-namese people. But the Kishi government has entirely ignored the people in north Viet-nam who suffered most of the ravages of war.

Under the Geneva agreements the south Viet-nam authorities are responsible only for administration in south Viet-nam; they are therefore not competent to negotiate on war reparations in the name of the entire Viet-namese people. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam has reiterated that it will not recognize any agreements between the Kishi government and the Ngo Dinh Diem clique and reserves the right to claim reparations from the Japanese Government.

This illegal war reparations agreement should be regarded as an important act in the new set-up of the Japan-U.S. military alliance, Commentator says. In Indo-China the U.S. is instigating the Sannakone government of Laos to intensify persecution of the patriotic and progressive forces and to extend the civil war; Kishi, too, has stretched his tentacles to Laos. At the same time the U.S. is instigating south Viet-nam to step up preparations for war, to conclude a military alliance with Laos and turning south Viet-nam into a base of aggression. Kishi is called upon to play an important role in the U.S. imperialists’ endeavours to aggravate the situation in Indo-China. Through these “war reparations,” the Kishi government is helping to increase the military strength of south Viet-nam.

Japan and south Viet-nam are serving as the two arms of the U.S. in its aggression against and schemes to control Asia, Commentator notes. But the great enthusiasm displayed by Kishi is not confined to compliance with the overall strategic needs of the U.S.; he is contriving to use U.S. support to expand Japan’s influence in Southeast Asia. The war reparations agreements Japan has signed with Burma, the Philippines and Indonesia led to large-scale exports of Japanese capital and commodities to these countries. And now Japan and south Viet-nam are planning to sign trade agreements which will enable Japan to seize the south Viet-nam market and push its economic expansion in this area.

Congo Against Colonialism

The recent strikes in the Congo are a continuation and development of the Congo people’s struggle against colonialism which flared up in January this year, says an article in Remin Ribao (Nov. 4). In April, it recalls, the several political parties headed by the Congo National Movement Party which met at Lulua and to define the aim of their struggle demanded establishment of a government of the Congo people in 1961. This showed that the struggle of the Congo people for independence and freedom had entered a new stage and that Belgian colonial rule is tottering.

To maintain their rule in the Congo, the article recalls, the Belgian authorities resorted this year to further bloody acts of suppression. They again put forward their scheme for an “independent” Congo and fake elections in the vain hope of camouflaging their colonial regime so as to continue to exploit and rule the Congo people. The Congolese, however, have rejoined with a boycott of the “elections” and the demand for immediate independence.

Developments in the Congo have sharpened the contradictions inside the ruling bloc in Belgium. In the last twelve months or so, the Belgian cabinet has three times changed its minister for the Congo and for Ruanda-Urundi affairs. Political unrest in Belgium is spreading.

To tide over their difficulties, the Belgian authorities are asking for “aid” from other imperialist countries, and particularly from the United States. The United States already has large investments in the Congo and enjoys the right of exploiting 90 per cent of the uranium mines there. This is why it has always given Belgian support in suppressing the national independence movement in the Congo, and has thereby steadily expanded its own colonial interests there.

Now it has gone a step further in supplanting Belgium in the Congo.

The rapid development of the Congolese national revolutionary forces and the progress of their struggle has got the ruling bloc in Belgium sunk deep in a quagmire from which it cannot extricate itself. No matter what efforts it makes and in spite of U.S. support, it cannot change this situation. The day is not far off when the Congo people who have had enough of oppression and exploitation will take the destiny of the Congo into their hands, the article concludes.

THE PASSING SHOW

A la Yankee

French military authorities in Laos are complaining that American instructors are overstepping their duty in training soldiers of the Royal Laotian Army and “teaching them more than they were supposed to learn,” reports AP. A French general inspecting recruits was angered because they saluted him in the American instead of the French style.

The Way to a Representative’s Vote Is Through His Stomach

Representative Clare Hoffman (Rep. Michigan) who admits he is hand in glove with the bosses’ organizations: the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in helping to push through the reactionary new antilabour laws in the U.S., says: “I have gone along with these two groups, and they are fine. They give some of the most pleasing dinners downtown that you have ever tasted.”

November 10, 1959
China and the World

Fruits of Sino-Soviet Co-operation

Friendly co-operation between China and the Soviet Union has developed to such an extent that today there is hardly a single field of activity in Chinese life where it has not left its imprint. Soviet economic aid to China's socialist construction is well known; there are other facets of Sino-Soviet cultural co-operation, that, though less well known, are nonetheless spectacular.

Soviet books provided the lion's share of Chinese translations of foreign works during the past ten years. Altogether some 20,000 titles in 200 million copies were published, covering a wide range of subjects. These include the masterpieces of the great Russian writers Pushkin, Nekrasov, Tolstoy and Chekhov and important scientific books such as The Selected Works of Pavlov and the Complete Works of Michurin. Ninety-six of Maxim Gorky's works have been printed in editions totalling more than two million copies. How the Steel Was Tempered by Nikolai Ostrovski, The Young Guard by A. Fadeyev and From Moscow by Vasili Azhanyev are three of the many Soviet novels which have enjoyed immense popularity in Chinese editions. Sales of some of them have already passed the million mark.

During the same period, in Russian and other languages of the Soviet peoples, the Soviet Union published 696 titles by Chinese authors to a total of some 32.7 million copies. These include The Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung, and the works of Lu Hsun, Chu Chi-pai, Kuo Mo-Jo, Mao Tun, Lao Sheh and Chao Shu-li.

Both China and the Soviet Union publish special magazines for their readers in each other's countries. Named Friendship (Druzhba) is the name of the Chinese magazine, Sutzhonggouhao is the Soviet magazine), they are doing a great deal to cement the ties of friendship between the two peoples.

Wind from the East, a widescreen film epic of Sino-Soviet friendship, now being shown in Peking, is the joint work of the Chinese and Soviet film industries. It is the latest and most ambitious of many such joint efforts. The Chinese Ministry of Culture has awarded medals of honour to Soviet participants in the film.

Thanks to the efforts of Chinese artists, many Soviet plays and operas have been introduced to Chinese audiences. The Soviet opera The Young Guards by the composer Meitus, and the plays The Russians by K. Simonov and Optimistic Tragedy by Vsevolod Vishnevsky are current attractions in Peking's theatrical life.

In the Soviet Union, the Chinese ballet The Magic Lotus Lantern and Soviet ballets with Chinese themes such as Hsi-erh (based on The White-Haired Girl), The Red Poppy and Friendship Road have been performed in several of the republics.

Artists of both countries have been unstinting in the help they have given each other in this cultural exchange.

The Soviet Union, which has been giving invaluable technical assistance to China in her socialist construction, sent more than 7,000 experts in many fields to work in China. Between October 1949 and the end of 1968, more than 30,000 Chinese trainees received practical training in Soviet factories and enterprises. Between 1950 and 1958, more than 14,000 Chinese students went to study in the Soviet Union; more than 8,500 have already returned to reinforce China's cadre of technical personnel.

Brisk Business at Canton Fair

Brisk business transactions are going on in Canton at the 1959 Chinese Export Commodities Fair (autumn session) which opened on November 1. The first three days' transactions averaged some 21 million yuan (more than 3 million pounds sterling) a day, double that at last autumn's fair. The biggest sales are in Chinese silk, soya beans, pottery, dried and fresh fruits, aquatic products, cotton piece goods, newsprint, cement, tinned goods, machinery, industrial and scientific instruments, and various consumer goods.

During the first three days, more than 1,000 businessmen from Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe and Australia, as well as from Hong Kong and Macao, visited the fair. More visitors are expected. Representatives of Chinese commercial firms are on hand to handle both sales and purchases.

Housed in the newly built exhibition hall, the fair is the biggest yet held in Canton. More than 20,000 items are displayed. This is 2,000 more than were exhibited at the previous autumn fair, and is a good reflection of China's economic achievements in the past year.

The fair will last for one month.

Growing Contacts with Brazil

Although China and Brazil have many things in common and the Chinese people have always looked upon the struggles of the Brazilian people with the greatest sympathy, contacts between the two countries have been negligible because of imperialist obstruction. But things are now changing. Two recent events were straws in the wind, indicating China's growing contacts with Brazil.

One was the visit by the Brazilian Communist Party Delegation led by General Secretary Luiz Carlos Prestes. The delegation was received by Chairman Mao Tse-tung while in Tsian, Shantung Province.

The other was the series of activities in Peking commemorating the 50th anniversary of the death of the great Brazilian realist writer Euclides da Cunha. Da Cunha's classical work Os Sertoes was translated and published in Chinese while the October issue of World Literature carried articles on the writer's life and translations of his works. There were also special radio programmes and exhibitions on Latin American culture. But most notable of all was the Peking commemoration meeting. The presence of a large group of noted Chinese writers and representatives of various cultural circles, the address by the writer Chou Er-fu in which he gave a stirring account of Da Cunha's life and works and expressed the Chinese people's support for the Brazilian people's struggle to safeguard their national independence and the presentation by a Chinese troupe of the modern Brazilian play Aesop were all part of a moving demonstration of Chinese-Brazilian friendship.

China-G.D.R. Friendship Activities

An exhibition of the German Democratic Republic's decade of achievements which recently closed in Peking had attracted large crowds of visitors. The artistic display of charts, pictures and German products showed the impressive
industrial growth of the G.D.R. and the prosperous life in the people's state.

Meanwhile the Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra continues to tour China's leading cities, bringing a distinguished programme of musical entertainment to the Chinese people and enhancing the friendship between the two peoples. A G.D.R. swimming and polo team and a field handball team are also visiting China.

**China Backs Kamerun Cause**

Early this year the Chinese people demonstrated their solidarity with the independence cause of the Kamerun people with a mass meeting in Peking to mark "Kamerun Day." Now, when Felix Rol, a member of the committee of the Kamerun People (U.F.C.), is visiting China as a guest of the Chinese Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity, more than 1,000 representatives of people of all walks of life once again met to greet this distinguished representative of the Kamerun people and hear his report on the anti-colonialist struggle of his people. They also heard a speech by Burhan Shahidi, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity, who stressed that a common struggle against imperialism and colonialism unites the Chinese and Kamerun peoples.

**VISITORS**

Dr. Hewlett Johnson, Dean of Canterbury.

Arudj Kartawinata, Second Deputy Speaker of the Indonesian Parliament and Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Islamic Union Party.

Dr. A. V. Baliga, President of the Indosoviet Cultural Society.

Dr. German Quiroga-Galdo, former President of the Bolivian Chamber of Deputies.

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**V:'AT'S ON IN PEKING**

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

**THEATRE**

**A Taming of the Dragans and Tigers** A new play about the big leap forward in China's countryside. Produced by the China Youth Art Theatre. It describes how the people of a village braved the dangers in the mountains to set raw material for their furnaces in last year's drive for steel.

Nov. 10-12, 7:30 p.m. China Youth Art Theatre

**A Young Guard** A new play adapted from the novel of the same title by Fadzey. Produced in China by the Chinese Children's Theatre.

Nov. 10-23, 7:30 p.m. Peking Theatre

**The Optimistic Tragedy** A play by V. Vakhnenkov, the Soviet playwright, about the heroism of the Soviet people who laid down their lives defending the young Soviet Union against the white guards and foreign imperialist interventionists. Produced in Chinese by the visiting Harbin Drama Theatre.

Nov. 13-14, 7:30 p.m. Shoudu Theatre

**In the Name of the Revolution** A powerful Soviet play which tells of the warm concern shown by Lenin and his comrades-in-arms Dzerzhinsky for the young revolutionary generation and how they endured their revolutionary guidance. Young insurgents became staunch fighters for the people. Produced by the visiting Harbin Drama Theatre.

Nov. 15-16, 7:30 p.m. Shoudu Theatre

**POEM OF THE SEA** A widescreen colour film about the communist spirit of the Soviet people when, in the course of communist construction, a village has to be submerged beneath the waters of an artificial sea and the villagers have to move to their new homes.

**CALL OF THE SKY** Science fiction in colour. Soviet scientists find a way to the planet Mars.

(All these Soviet films are dubbed in Chinese.)

**EXHIBITIONS**

**A National Exhibition of Industry and Communications** Open daily (except Mon.) 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

At Peking Exhibition Centre

**A National Agricultural Exhibition** Open daily (except Mon.) 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

At Agricultural Exhibition Centre

**A Soviet Graphic Art Exhibition** Celebrating the 4th anniversary of the Great October Revolution.

Open daily till Nov. 12, 9:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

At the Gallery of the Artists' Union

**A Soviet Nationalities Folk Art and Handicraft Exhibition**

Open 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

At the Working People's Palace of Culture

**A Fourth National Exhibition of Graphic Art Woodcuts in Black and White and in Colour, Etchings, Lithographs, etc.** From all over China.

Open daily 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

At Summer Palace

**JUGGLING**

The Shanghai Juggling Troupe is now visiting Peking and will give its thrilling performances Nov. 10-13, 7:30 p.m. at Guang He Theatre.

**SPORTS**

The Soviet State Basketball Team will soon visit Peking and compete with Chinese teams on Nov. 13, 14 & 15 at Peking Gymnasium. Don't miss it!

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