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SPRING FESTIVAL

The nation is still in holiday mood as we go to press. Peking thoroughly enjoyed itself in four days of holiday-making. News is coming in of the good time that all enjoyed in every corner of the land.

The Spring Festival this year fell on Monday, February 5. But there were many dances, parties and other entertainments on the Saturday before and more on Sunday, a normal weekend holiday, the eve of the festival. In the nation's capital, Monday dawned a day of warm sunshine, with an unusually bright sky. That got this holiday of holidays off to an ideal start. A rich bill of special radio and TV broadcasts, art exhibitions, shows, concerts and parties ensured that everyone would enjoy the holiday.

The Chinese people have been observing the Spring Festival or Chinese lunar New Year for more than 2,000 years. Times change, and customs and habits with them, but much of the time-honoured traditions are still observed today, passed down from generation to generation. There were the traditional New Year's Eve dinners when members of families gathered from far and near for happy family reunions. There were the visits to kinsfolk and friends to offer New Year greetings; there were the toasts drunk to each other's health and to the nation's growing prosperity. And, of course, there were the firecrackers which ripped the night with flares and explosions and ushered in the new year. This year too could be described in the words of the Sung Dynasty scholar and statesman Wang An-shih: "The old year is sent off amidst exploding firecrackers, the spring breeze brings warmth to the "tun" where we drink."

Good Time for All

Weeks before the festival began, industrial and trade departments saw to it that the shops had their shelves stocked with special "New Year goods" in good time for the festival. Factories, in addition, stepped up their production of consumer goods for city and countryside. In January, Shanghai shipped out more than 8,400 tons of 150 different sorts of consumer goods and more than a million yuan worth of toys to other cities and provinces. Foochow's factories and cooperatives, famous for their fireworks, turned out a bigger than ever choice of fireworks and firecrackers for this year's festival.

Every department contributed to make this Spring Festival a happy time for all. Passenger traffic at this time is always the heaviest in the year. "On festivals I think doubly of those I hold dear," as the great Tang poet Wang Wei wrote. Railway and transport departments all over the country had to make arrangements for millions of people travelling home for happy family reunions. To smooth their way they sent out conductors to schools, factories, mines and government offices to sell tickets in advance. Thousands of extra passenger trains, cars and buses were laid on. Steamers plying between inland ports extended their services to cope with the holiday rush. Trade departments also made special arrangements with hotels, inns and restaurants on the busier routes to ensure the comfort of travelling holiday-makers.

Celebrations in Peking

There was a buoyant and joyous atmosphere in China's capital. Crimson palace lanterns and flags adorned the Tien An Men (Gate of Heavenly Peace) and many buildings in the city: Shops on Wangfuching Street, Peking's main shopping centre, put on lavish window displays. One of the big handicraft stores arranged a brightly lit pageant of gorgeous Chinese lanterns of every shape and colour. The children's department store put on an enticing show of toys which held the children spellbound. Peking's many parks and exhibition halls were thronged with holiday-makers. Many made their way to Zhongshan Park to see the flower show there; lovers of antiques took the opportunity to visit the Palace Museum which was open to the public for three days free of charge. For art lovers there were the exhibitions of original works of ancient and modern painting and calligraphy at Jung Pao Chai — the famous woodblock printers, the annual "Welcome
Spring" exhibition of paintings at the Beihai Park, and an exhibition of exquisite jade and porcelain carvings by two master craftsmen at the Gallery of the Artists' Union. For the children, a favourite haunt was, of course, the zoo.

The highlight of the celebrations in Peking was the festival get-together sponsored by the General Political Department of the Chinese People's Liberation Army and held on Monday evening in the magnificent Great Hall of the People. Chairman Mao Tse-tung, Chairman Liu Shao-chi, Chou En-lai, Chu Teh, Tung Pi-wu, Chen Yun, Lin Piao, Teng Hsiao-ping and other Communist Party and government leaders joined the gathering and celebrated the Spring Festival together with 40,000 armymen and civilians in the capital. A tremendous shout of "Long live Chairman Mao!" and cheers welcomed Chairman Mao, Chairman Liu and the other leaders as they entered the hall, waving their hands in festival greetings to the happy crowd. The brilliantly lit Great Hall of the People shone like a jewel in the heart of the city. Inside, it was jolly as only a great people's get-together can be.

At another party held on the previous evening in the Great Hall of the People, Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Vice-Chairmen Liu Shao-chi, Chou En-lai, Chu Teh and Lin Piao of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party celebrated the festival with a representative gathering of the citizens of the capital. Together with them, Chairman Mao and the other leaders enjoyed a happy evening of superb performances of Peking opera, dances and acrobatics. The hosts at this party were the Peking Municipal Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and the Peking Municipal People's Council.

The many other festival celebrations in the city and countryside by various enterprises, schools, government offices and people's communes are too numerous to list. The miners at Chinghsii Colliery, for instance, after enjoying a sumptuous New Year's Eve dinner, thronged to their clubhouse to watch a special performance by the well-known Mei Lan-fang Peking Opera Troupe and the China Pingju Opera Theatre, and on the next day leading cadres of the colliery turned out in force to visit the miners and offer their greetings. There were gala celebrations too in the rural people's communes on the city's outskirts, with performances by their own amateur troupes or by professional groups from the city. At the Evergreen People's Commune on the western outskirts, the famous vegetable-grower and national model peasant Li Mo-lin hit on a cozy place to hold a party with his team-mates—in a hothouse! There they talked shop and swapped experience over their wine and delicacies till the early hours.

Like Fish and Water

The Chinese people often use the phrase "like fish and water" to describe a close relationship, and that exactly describes the relation between the Chinese people and their own army—the People's Liberation Army. "Family" get-togethers of the people and their army were naturally a feature of the Spring Festival. They took the form of all kinds of festivities in Peking, Shanghai, Tientsin, Shenyang, Canton, Urumchi and other places across the land. Units stationed in the capital held get-togethers with government and Party cadres and people of all walks of life; thousands of dependents of armymen and fallen heroes joined in these entertainments.

In the countryside, the villages and farms resounded with the beating of cymbals and drums during the festival. While units of the P.L.A. sent out mobile cinema teams and song and dance troupes to perform for the commune members, the latter in turn organized teams to perform yangge dances, the traditional lion and dragon-lantern dances or improvised shows for their army friends. Many households invited servicemen to their homes and treated them like members of the family. For the minority peoples in many places, the Spring Festival has also become a gala day. They celebrated this year's festival with gusto together with their Han brothers.

A Whole People on Holiday

This Spring Festival, the biggest traditional festival of the year, found the whole nation on holiday. Festival attractions differed from city to city.

In Shanghai, the Great World, one of the city's amusement centres, was packed to overflowing during the holiday, with more than 10,000 visitors each day. The Chenghuangmiao bazaar in the downtown area, with its fascinating lantern fair, attracted an even greater crowd. While the factories and enterprises in the city held their own festivities, many organized teams which went to the villages to celebrate the festival together with members of the rural people's communes—a fine tradition of worker-peasant solidarity dating back to the early years of the revolutionary civil war.

The Spring Festival was marked with equally joyous celebrations in Tientsin, Harbin, Urumchi, Kunming, Lhasa and, in fact, in every city and village throughout the land. For the Tibetans, it was a "double happiness," for the Spring Festival and the Tibetan New Year both fell on the same day this year—February 5.

With happy memories of this grand holiday fresh in their minds, the people are now going back to work. With vigour and confidence, refreshed in mind and body, knowing well that "a year's plan starts with spring," as the old Chinese saying goes, they are getting back to their jobs determined to achieve greater successes this spring and in the coming months of the year.
Two Conferences, One Truth
by COMMENTATOR

Following is a slightly abridged translation of a "Renmin Ribao" commentary published on February 3. Subheads are ours.—Ed.

The Latin American peoples and U.S. imperialism are locked in a sharp, fierce struggle. Two recent conferences clearly reflect this conflict: the Latin American Peoples' Congress in Havana and the American Foreign Ministers' Conference at Punta del Este, Uruguay.

The Latin American Peoples' Congress adopted a "Declaration of the Peoples" in defence of Cuba, roundly condemning U.S. imperialism for using the American Foreign Ministers' Conference to plot intervention against that country. The Punta del Este conference, on its part, under U.S. pressure adopted "resolutions" directed against Cuba and for intervention in Cuba. The former was a conference uniting the Latin American peoples to defend Cuba, uphold the right to self-determination and deal with U.S. aggression and intervention. The latter was a meeting to cook up interventionist schemes to strangle the Cuban revolution. These two conferences, diametrically opposed in character, have thrown into sharp relief the struggle between the Latin American peoples and U.S. imperialism, a blow-for-blow fight between aggression and resistance to aggression, intervention and resistance to intervention. This struggle is intense.

The victory of the Cuban revolution has dealt a severe blow against the criminal domination the United States exercises over Latin America. The Latin American peoples look on the Cuban revolution as an example to follow. "Take the Cuban road" has become their militant slogan. This development in the Latin American situation has thrown U.S. imperialism into a panic. That is why, from the very first day of the victory of the Cuban people, U.S. imperialism has resorted to all conceivable means, political, economic and military, in its aggression and intervention against Cuba. Its aim is to overthrow the Cuban revolutionary state power and restore reactionary U.S. rule over that country. Since Kennedy came to power, U.S. aggression and intervention against Cuba has been intensified. The Giron Beach invasion, part of the record of Kennedy's war adventures, ended in utter fiasco. But U.S. imperialism has refused to take its defeat lying down. Hence the Punta del Este conference: this was a sinister step taken by Kennedy to use the Organization of American States for collective intervention against Cuba and thus arrest the growth of the national and democratic movements in the Latin American countries.

The Punta del Este Conference

At the Punta del Este conference, the United States proposed that the Latin American countries sever both diplomatic and economic relations with Cuba, and expel it from the "Inter-American system," isolate it and impose sanctions against it. It also proposed to set up a "special committee" to interfere in the internal affairs of Cuba and the other Latin American countries. All kinds of pressures, political as well as economic, were brought to bear upon the participating countries by U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk both at conference meetings and behind the scenes. However, because many countries disapproved of "sanctions" against Cuba, the U.S. premeditated plan of intervention in Cuba could not be fully realized. It turned out that resolutions to exclude Cuba from the "Inter-American system" and impose an arms embargo on it were all that could be forced through with a bare "majority" under Washington's pressure.

By means of these resolutions and under the smokescreen of "anti-communism," U.S. imperialism aims to interfere in Cuba's internal affairs and encroach upon its sovereignty and independence, to deprive the Latin American peoples of their right to self-determination, to find an excuse for launching another armed invasion of Cuba and to suppress the national and democratic movements in all the other Latin American countries. As Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro has pointed out, U.S. imperialism was attempting to create a precedent at the Punta del Este conference that no Latin American people should have the right to carry out revolution, thereby denying them of sovereign rights. This desperate attempt on the part of the United States once again bears out the fact that it is the deadly enemy of the Cuban and other Latin American peoples.

The Havana Congress

Against the Punta del Este conference, the Latin American peoples have convened a Havana congress in support of Cuba. It adopted a "Declaration of the Peoples" which solemnly announces that "the peoples are the masters of their own destiny"; that "the right to self-determination and non-intervention are not to be mutilated, dominated or restricted by any tactics or measures." It repudiates the slander about the Cuban revolution's alleged threat to other countries by pointing out that "the Cuban revolution does not threaten anyone; it is a people's revolution which does not constitute any danger to the American continent"; and that, "on the contrary, it is the government in Washington which has disturbed the serenity of this continent and jeopardized its peace through repeated interventions, military bases and military treaties."

The Declaration also emphasizes that "in the scope of this continent, it is impossible to achieve national liberation without eliminating U.S. imperialism"; it points out with full confidence that "this powerful enemy [U.S. imperialism] will surely be defeated by the unremitting, heroic struggles of all the patriotic forces of the Latin American peoples and by their timely and concerted actions." The Havana congress has thus fully manifested the determination of the 200 million people of Latin Ameri-
China Reaffirms Support for Cuba
— Chou En-lai’s Message to Fidel Castro and the Cuban People’s General Assembly —

Greeting the Second Cuban People’s General Assembly which was held on February 4 in Havana, the Chinese people have in unequivocal terms reaffirmed their resolute support for the Cuban people. Messages of greetings were sent from Peking to the Havana assembly by the China-Latin America Friendship Association, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, organizations of women, youth and students as well as other national people’s organizations. The message sent on February 3 by Premier Chou En-lai reads:

“At this time when U.S. imperialism, flouting the will of 200 million Latin Americans, has manoeuvred the American Foreign Ministers’ Conference into adopting resolutions for intervention in Cuba, I, on behalf of all the Chinese people, reaffirm to Your Excellency and to the General Assembly of the Cuban People, our most resolute support for the heroic Cuban people and strong condemnation of U.S. imperialism for its unscrupulous intervention and aggression against Cuba and other Latin American countries.

“The interventionist resolutions adopted against Cuba by the American Foreign Ministers’ Conference as a result of manipulation by U.S. imperialism are also aimed at paving the way for further intervention against the sovereignty of the Latin American countries by U.S. imperialism. They grossly violate the generally accepted principles of non-intervention and self-determination and are entirely illegal. They have further exposed the monstrous features of U.S. imperialism. U.S. imperialism has even openly torn up the treaties it has itself imposed on the Latin American countries; this tells the people of the world once again that imperialism always betrays its word. The Latin American peoples, the people of the whole world must maintain keen vigilance against U.S. imperialism.

“The Cuban revolution represents the true interests of the Cuban people and the hope of all the Latin American peoples. No force can compel the Cuban people to submit or retreat. The plot of U.S. imperialism to isolate and strangle the Cuban revolution is doomed to failure. Cuba will stand firm for ever in the Americas; the Cuban revolution will continue to advance. The final victory will certainly go to the heroic Cuban people and the united Latin American peoples in their courageous fight against U.S. imperialism.”

One Truth: Life-and-Death Struggle Against U.S. Imperialism

From opposite directions, the Havana congress and the Punta del Este conference bring out the same truth: a life-and-death struggle, i.e., a struggle between aggression and resistance to aggression, between intervention and resistance to intervention, is now going on between the Latin American peoples and U.S. imperialism which is intent upon enslaving them. To achieve national liberation and democratic freedoms and to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, the Latin American peoples must overthrow the reactionary rule of U.S. imperialism and its lackeys. More and more people in Latin America have come to realize this truth. The proceedings of the Latin American Peoples’ Congress are eloquent proof of this.

U.S. imperialism has vainly attempted to use the Punta del Este resolutions to carry through its plot to isolate Cuba. But who has been isolated after all? Let’s see what happened inside and outside the conference.

Although a resolution to expel Cuba from O.A.S. was passed by the conference, this does not by any means indicate that U.S. imperialism has gained a victory. When this resolution was put to vote, the Cuban delegate expressed resolute opposition to it, and the delegates of Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Ecuador which together account for 70 per cent of the Latin American population abstained. This shows how unpopular is the U.S. imperialist plot to apply sanctions against Cuba. The London Times has pointed out that what the United States gained from the conference is much less than what it hoped for. The British Daily Herald says that although a resolution to expel Cuba had been adopted, the Latin American countries refused U.S. Secretary of State Rusk’s original plans for political and economic sanctions against Cuba. This was “looked upon as a big defeat for Dean Rusk.”

Massive Support for Cuba

During the Punta del Este conference, a new wave of mass action in support of Cuba and against U.S. imperialism swept the Latin American continent. In country after country, the people came out on strike and staged mass rallies and demonstrations. From the Havana congress hall, the voice of support for Cuba reaches out to the remotest corners of Latin America.

Delgado, President of the Venezuelan Leftist Revolutionary Movement, declared: “We revolutionary men and women of Latin America will defend, shoulder to shoulder, the sovereignty of the Cuban people, whose struggle has inspired our liberation struggle.” The leader of the Ecuador People’s Revolutionary Action Party Araujo said: “We must take up arms to defend Cuba when the first bullet is fired.” “The Latin American peoples,” stated Chilean Senator Allende, “will defend the Cuban revolution to the last drop of their blood.” Francisco Juliao, leader of the Brazilian Peasants’ League, said: “Should Cuba be under attack, we shall light a conflagration in Latin America which will burn up U.S. imperialism once for all.”

Washington Stands Isolated

All this shows that Cuba is not isolated. Rather, it is U.S. imperialism, trying by every means to isolate Cuba
and strangle the Cuban revolution, that is isolated. True, U.S. imperialism has forced the Punta del Este conference to pass a resolution excluding Cuba from the “Inter-American system.” But this will not harm the Cuban revolution! A heroic Cuba stands firm for ever in the Americas! A common fate and common struggles bind the Cuban people closely together with the other Latin American peoples. No plot, no force whatsoever, can divide them. The nefarious aim of U.S. imperialism to isolate Cuba will never be realized.

U.S. imperialism banks on the Punta del Este resolutions to avert its own crisis in Latin America. A vain hope! As the general report of the Havana congress points out, “the revolution of the peoples cannot be checked.” In the fire of the struggle of the Latin American peoples against U.S. imperialism, the resolutions of the Punta del Este conference will eventually be reduced to cinders.

The people of the whole world stand on the side of the Cuban people, on the side of the Latin American peoples. The Chinese people have always resolutely supported the Cuban revolution and the national and democratic movements in the Latin American countries. In his congratulatory message to the Latin American Peoples’ Congress, Premier Chou En-lai reiterated that “the Chinese Government and people will for ever remain a most reliable friend of the Latin American peoples in their struggle.” We are convinced that the U.S. imperialist scheme, drawn up at Punta del Este, for intervention against Cuba and the other Latin American countries will end in defeat; while, with the backing of the people of the whole world, the Cuban revolution and the national and democratic movements in the Latin American countries will advance step by step and score victory after victory. The future belongs to the 200 million Latin American people who dare to struggle and wrest victory for themselves!

A Pair of Kennedys
by ISRAEL EPSTEIN

THE persecution of the Communist Party of the United States is under the personal charge of the Attorney-General of the United States, Robert F. Kennedy, who is carrying on this fascist action on behalf of the U.S. Government headed by his elder brother, President John F. Kennedy. This is not surprising. Robert Kennedy, a close lieutenant and political adviser to his brother for many years, was born in 1925 and is still a “youth.” But he is already old in his career as a political policeman, a rabid reactionary, a hound of progressives and of labour unions at home and a fabricator of anti-communist hysteria and particularly of false anti-Soviet “spy” scares.

Today this junior Kennedy may well be called the chief of President Kennedy’s “department of dirty tricks,” one of the main operators on the other side, the real side, behind his brother’s sometimes smooth words. His activity is much wider than his official post as Attorney-General might indicate. And the judgement that the persecution of the U.S. Communists is a preparation both for fascism at home and for war adventures abroad finds additional confirmation in the fact that these two trends are interwoven in Robert F. Kennedy’s whole career and his present activity, both of which are so closely tied up with the record and current programme of the man who is now President of the United States.

Fascist by Upbringing, Ideas and Character

Let us trace his record, as given in the American journals.

The Kennedy brothers were children of wealth and reaction. Joseph P. Kennedy, the father for whom they have always professed the greatest respect, admiration and love, developed a fortune based on saloons in the city of Boston into a still bigger fortune based on manipulations on the stock exchange. In the days of the rise of Hitler, he was outspokenly pro-Hitler, one of the most vociferous of the American partisans of the Munich Pact of 1938 by which the reactionaries of the world tried to channel the aggression of German imperialism exclusively against the Soviet Union. At the same time, in U.S. internal politics, he was one of the leaders and financiers of the “America First Committee,” a major purpose of which was to impose fascism in the United States itself. It was because of his scandalous and open pro-Hitlerism and enmity to collaboration with the Soviet Union, even in a war against a common enemy, that the father, Joseph Kennedy, was removed by Roosevelt from the post of U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain which he once held. But he did not abandon his political ideas or ambitions; instead he pursued them by consciously grooming his sons with all the training and position his money could buy, for high political office in the United States. John, the present President, grew up along the “political scientist” line, and began by writing a book reflecting his father’s, and his own, political ideas. Robert, the present Attorney-General, trained in the tricky kind of law that makes success for American politicians, pairing with his brother, has put his knowledge to use in a consistently gangster-like and reactionary way ever since. “Relentless and aggressive, . . . made many enemies,” Time magazine says of his activities and nature. “Cold, tough, ruthless, ferocious,” says the National Guardian. The New York Herald Tribune records that even in his college days his chief characteristics were “not studying” and “fierce combativeness,” and says that, more recently, one of his favourite “sports” was “throwing fully-clothed guests into the swimming pool” at his rich home. In short, we have here a fascist bully type in early upbringing, in ideas, and in individual make-up.

Political Policeman, Anti-Chinese, Anti-Soviet

After graduating from law school in 1951, Robert Kennedy, then aged 26, with a fortune of $1 million plus
the income from a $100,000 trust fund, both settled on him by his father, went straight into the Department of Justice. And his first assignment was to build a "legal" framework for a political police provocation that was reactionary internally and anti-Chinese and anti-Soviet in its international aspect. This job was to build a fake case, with materials supplied by the F.B.I. for the prosecution of Owen Lattimore, American professor who had been a U.S. government official in China under Roosevelt, on charges of being a "Soviet spy." The long prosecution of Lattimore, which did not prove the nonsensical "Soviet spy" charge, was part of the deliberately created hysteria to further the war in Korea and a re-invasion of China after the liberation. In close collaboration with the F.B.I., whose chief, J. Edgar Hoover, became his close sponsor, Kennedy was active in the widespread planting of newspaper stories to the effect that, through "internal treason" and not through the action of the Chinese people, the United States had "lost China"—which must now be reconquered. At the same time, this campaign was part of the intimidation of all but the most reactionary opinions at home, and of the manufacture of war sentiment against the U.S.S.R. The work of Robert Kennedy on the police side of this dirty campaign was co-ordinated with that of John Kennedy, who was then a member of the House of Representatives, on the "political" side. Already in 1949, the present President had made a speech in which he charged that there had been "treason in the White House" in the years under President Roosevelt, when the United States had been allied with the Soviet Union against fascism. It is this speech which the Kennedys do not like to remember, now that the present administration demagogically poses as the heir to the "liberal Roosevelt tradition."

The Kennedys and McCarthy

From his work on the Lattimore case, Robert Kennedy took leave in 1952 to manage the campaign of his brother John for election to the U.S. Senate. After this succeed, Robert Kennedy returned to Washington and to his beloved hounding of progressives, as counsel for the investigating committee headed by the notorious Senator McCarthy, whom U.S. newspapers describe as "a close friend of his father." There was also a bond of affection, or of common outlook, between Senator John Kennedy, who is now President, and the fascist McCarthy. At any rate, in 1954, when popular pressure forced even the U.S. Government to dissociate itself from McCarthy and the Senate passed a vote of censure against him, Senator John Kennedy did not join. Since then, in his effort to pose as a "liberal," he has tried to explain this by the fact that he was ill in hospital at the time. But U.S. Senate procedures allow for absent members to record their stand, and this Kennedy avoided doing. In the course of a squabble within the Democratic Party, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, widow of the World War II President of the United States, commented on this behaviour with sharp sarcasm. Recalling that Kennedy had written a book called Profiles in Courage, she remarked that he himself had lacked the courage to stand up against the universally hated McCarthy. The question, however, seems to have been one not of courage but of affinity.

The Two Kennedys Bait the Labour Unions

The Democratic Party won control of the Senate in 1954, and the chairmanship of the McCarthy committee was inherited by the Democratic Party's Senator McClellan. Robert Kennedy was promoted to be its chief counsel. In the succeeding years he was busy in this committee, and in others, hounding various labour unions on the pretext of "ferreting out corruption" in their ranks. As he himself later explained in a book, his key purpose was to get the unions more closely under the control of the capitalist state. Thus Robert Kennedy became known as an unscrupulous and vindictive enemy of trade unionism, who in committee hearings disregarded even the inadequate safeguards of the rights of witnesses provided for by U.S. law.

In this activity too, Robert Kennedy's moves were closely linked with those of John F. Kennedy. Under cover of the "investigations" carried on by brother Robert, John F. Kennedy became one of the authors and active proponents of the Kennedy-Landrum-Griffin Act, one of the most vicious acts that shackles U.S. labour. This law compels unions to submit their accounts to government audit, forces them to swear that none of their officers are Communists on pain of high fines, and so on.

The Kennedy Brothers in Power

In 1959, Senator John F. Kennedy began to campaign for the presidency, Robert Kennedy became his campaign manager. Even among the hardened Democratic Party politicians he was hated for his rude, dictatorial ways. John F. Kennedy, on becoming President, at once appointed his brother Attorney-General. And the new Attorney-General, bringing executive authority to his consuming passion—hatred of all Communists, workers and progressives—became the chief prosecutor and chief political policeman in the United States—and prepared to become Lord High Executioner. He now controls and directs the F.B.I., having become the superior of his former sponsor, J. Edgar Hoover.

As Attorney-General, Robert Kennedy is the chief enforcement officer for all the anti-communist and anti-labour laws of the United States. In these respects he can be expected to be, and indeed has proved himself to be a very hard man. He is also supposed, by the official duties of his office, to enforce the observance of the rights of citizens. But in this respect he is proving "soft" indeed, and he has already declared that even the Eisenhower Administration was too "rash" in its feeble and empty gestures, forced by public opinions, to defend the rights of Negroes. Kennedy himself declared in Look magazine of March 28, 1961, that he would never approve of using U.S. troops to enforce anti-segregation laws against fascist mobs, as even Eisenhower had pretended to do.

While engaging in the anti-communist witch-hunt and the fascization of the United States as Attorney-General, Robert Kennedy is serving his brother and his class, in other ways. This young fascist thug was reputed
to have been President Kennedy’s chief adviser in picking his cabinet. He sat in on the decision to invade Cuba in April 1961, and, after the invasion failed, was deputed by his brother the President to investigate the Central Intelligence Agency to see that the next time an invasion was tried, it would not fail as the first one did. From the internal political police, Robert Kennedy is spreading his activity to international intelligence and subversion.

The linkage between internal red-baiting and worldwide warmongering has thus been the persistent feature of Robert Kennedy's career. At the present moment, he is setting out on a trip, on behalf of his brother, to a number of countries including Japan, West Germany and Iran. So his activity in the foreign field is growing.

Two in One

The two Kennedys, taken together, are a vicious and dangerous team in the service of U.S. imperialism. The combination reminds me, and I am sure will remind all others who have been in the United States and experienced persecution there, of the practice of the F.B.I. — America’s political police — of always going in pairs. One of the F.B.I. men generally acts tough, to frighten the person they want to interview. The second is the “gentleman.” If the victim gets alarmed, he reassures him, so as to trap him, in “normal conversation,” into damaging admissions. If the victim is obstinate and talks back to the “tough,” the “gentleman” assumes another role. He begins to look disapprovingly at the “tough,” and to try to show that he is “different” and can be talked to reasonably. In short, the pair represent two sides of the same trap, sometimes even exchanging roles, but always working towards the same end.

The two Kennedys, in a somewhat similar manner, represent the dual tactics of U.S. imperialism. Today, the elder brother talks demagogically about “peace,” “coexistence,” “free choice” and so on. Meanwhile the younger does the dirty jobs of suppression and intrigue and sharpens the knife which the elder, when the time comes, wants to pick up himself to “finish the job.”

Sharpening Imperialist Antagonisms

A World of Contradictions

by HSILIN-SHENG

“The uneven course of development of capitalism is continuously changing the balance of forces between the imperialist countries. The narrower the sphere of imperialist domination, the stronger the antagonisms between the imperialist powers.”

—The 1960 Moscow Statement of Communist and Workers’ Parties

Of late, the Western world presents a scene of feverish diplomatic activity. What do all these contacts and diplomatic parleys portend? Their main purpose is clearly to try to solve the following two problems: firstly, to shape their strategy in dealing with the Soviet Union and the socialist camp and to form a “united front” against the socialist countries, particularly on the West Berlin and German questions; secondly, to resolve the contradictions inside the imperialist camp. The results of these talks show that, although the Western countries unanimously favour a “policy of strength” towards the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, when they come to questions involving their own interests, the inter-imperialist contradictions are simply irreconcilable.

Struggle for Leadership

Although the United States, Britain, France and West Germany have a common policy of hostility towards the socialist camp, they differ as to how to carry this policy out. Both Washington and Whitehall believe that, while threatening the socialist countries with war, there is no harm in trying to achieve their ends through negotiation. France, on the other hand, thinks that now is not the time for negotiation. The Western press describes this as a difference between the “flexible” Anglo-U.S. stand, advocating talks with the Soviet Union, and the contrary “stiff” French stand. Actually, it is nothing of the kind. The United States, for instance, does not seriously envisage a settlement of the West Berlin and German questions through negotiations. Its Secretary of State Dean Rusk made this clear when he declared last December at the annual NATO council meeting that “negotiations per se were not a sign of weakness, and did not mean that something was being given away because one can always say no in negotiations.” The differences among the Western countries do not arise from their varying attitudes towards negotiation, but from the contradictions among them in their struggle for leadership. These differences are essentially a manifestation of the resistance put up by some West European countries to U.S. domination.

It is common knowledge that the “Berlin crisis” was cooked up by the United States, not only as a lever for stepping up war preparations but also as a pretext for tightening its grip over its West European “allies.” Using the need to cope with “Soviet threats” as an excuse, the Kennedy Administration wants its “allies” to subordinate their policies to the U.S. programme for arms drive and place their armed forces under Pentagon control. At the same time, under the pretext that they should “agree upon a common policy . . .” Washington tries to force the
West European countries to follow its lead in diplomatic affairs. These U.S. demands have met with stiff resistance from its "allies."

Mounting Opposition to U.S. Control

The British Government is seeking a full share in the leadership of the Western bloc. Though, on the West Berlin question, it is inclined to adopt the double-dealing tactics of "relying on strength" and holding talks at the same time, Whitehall has all along been half-hearted about the military commitments Kennedy has allocated to it. The French Government is even more "reacquitant." Fighting for big power status, de Gaulle has always refused to recognize Kennedy's right to be the sole spokesman for the West and has used the Bonn-Paris axis to counterpose the United States and Britain. The fact that Paris is making difficulties for the United States on the question of the West Berlin talks, is a kind of blackmail to achieve the French aim. Meanwhile, it also reflects more or less the attitude of the West German Government on this matter. West Germany, while stepping up its efforts to get its hands on atomic armaments and make itself a big military power, has always claimed that "there is nothing to negotiate" over West Berlin. It fears that any negotiation on the German question will stand in the way of its hopes for military hegemony. West Germany does not have the say in Western affairs it would like and has been using France to offset the attempts of the United States and Britain to dominate the Western partnership. De Gaulle supports Adenauer in this, in return for Adenauer's support for his schemes. Although Adenauer, after he received all sorts of guarantees from Kennedy during their talks at the close of last year, has agreed more or less to the principle of holding negotiations on the West Berlin question, he is actually always assuming a twofaced attitude of seemingly agreeing with the Anglo-Americans in public while in reality, sympathizing with de Gaulle.

What's Kennedy Up To?

It will be remembered that on taking over the reins of government, Kennedy assigned himself the tasks of patching up the cracks in the NATO bloc, tightening U.S. control over the West European countries and "unifying" them under his leadership. His ambition is to become the "commander-in-chief" of a "grand alliance for freedom." In his State of the Union Message delivered last month, Kennedy put out the idea of "the emergence of a new Europe . . . being matched by the emergence of new ties across the Atlantic," and that there should be daily co-operation between Washington and its junior partners to achieve, among other things, "concerted diplomatic positions."

In dealing with his "allies," Kennedy has over the last year resorted to much harsher and more cunning means than his predecessor. Militarily, Kennedy has withdrawn Eisenhower's plan to make NATO the "fourth nuclear striking power." He is asking his "allies" to make "sacrifices," to give up their "independent nuclear power" and strengthen their conventional forces so as not only to maintain the U.S. nuclear monopoly, but also to increase the capability of the imperialist bloc to wage "limited wars"; thus, he hopes, to make the West European countries subordinate themselves to U.S. global strategy. Politically, the Kennedy Administration is strongly resisting the demand of its "allies" to share the leadership; it dismisses de Gaulle's proposal to establish a "Big Three leadership" as something utterly impossible and, by shelving the slogan of Anglo-American "interdependence," has cold-shouldered Britain. In East-West diplomatic contacts, the United States is even more anxious to edge Britain and France out, proclaiming that it is the U.S. President who should speak on behalf of the "Western alliance." Economically, the U.S. Government is desperately trying to shift the burden of its crisis onto the backs of its partners and boost its economic expansion overseas at their expense. Under the pretext of "joint assistance" Kennedy brings all manner of pressures to bear upon his "allies" to provide funds for the "foreign aid" programme, a programme of expansion for U.S. neo-colonialism. By pushing the old colonialist countries out of the Congo and elsewhere Washington seeks to gain Africa for itself. Its tactics are the same in Asia. It does all this by posing as a "friend of the national-independence movement."

To achieve his aims, Kennedy has gone all out to exploit the contradictions among the West European countries, sometimes playing up the Washington-Bonn axis and slighting Britain and France, sometimes flirting with de Gaulle and turning a cold shoulder to Britain, at other times publicizing the Anglo-American alliance and putting the screws on Paris and Bonn, Kennedy even resorts to subversive means in his dealings with his "allies." Last April, France's fascist brasshats staged an armed revolt in Algeria against de Gaulle. The moving spirit behind the scenes was none other than Washington.

Junior Partners in Revolt

In the face of Washington's tough new tactics in dealing with its "allies," the West European countries have been putting up an increasingly stiff resistance to U.S. control.

The de Gaulle government, which has never for a moment abandoned its ambitious idea of taking part in a "Big Three leadership," has declared that Kennedy has no authority to speak on behalf of the "free world"; at the same time, it is energetically organizing a French-led "political alliance" of the "common market" countries, which it hopes will become "the third force" on a par with the United States and Britain. France is not ready to give up its atomic weapons—not even Kennedy's personal visit to Paris last year succeeded in making de Gaulle change his mind on this. And when Kennedy wrote to tell de Gaulle at the beginning of this year that he did not advocate "the European countries developing their own nuclear weapons," the French President coldly disposed of Kennedy's arguments, adding that he was determined to go ahead and build up his own striking force. In Britain, U.S. diplomatic blunders have been exploited to show Washington's incompetence, and the idea that Britain must play a bigger role has been assiduously propagated. And even Adenauer, who owes his advancement to Washington since World War II, once declared that the United States must not "impose its will" on others. These contradictions developed further at the last annual NATO council meeting. New attacks were made on the U.S. monopoly of nuclear weapons. On the eve of that gathering, the French Prime Minister, Debre, without any advance notice,
denounced "with surprising vigour" the U.S. policy of speaking only in its own interest in matters concerning "atomic defence." The Bonn government, too, has become even more enthusiastic of late in the matter of nuclear armaments, repeatedly demanding some change in the situation in which only the American President has the authority to order the use of atomic weapons. Because West Germany, under treaty restrictions, is, to this day, not itself allowed to manufacture atomic weapons, its only hope of obtaining them is under the pretext of the "collective defence" of the NATO bloc, especially through the former U.S. project to make NATO the "fourth nuclear striking power." Thus, at the NATO council meeting, the West German Defence Minister Strauss put forward a proposal designed not only to end U.S. control over nuclear weapons but also to force Britain and France to hand theirs over to the NATO command. Britain, for its part, strongly favours maintaining the status quo in which the nuclear weapons are under U.S.-British control; but, it is ready, if necessary, in order to win over de Gaulle and split the Bonn-Paris axis, to recognize France's status as an atomic power and thus keep West Germany in the status of a second-rate military power.

France is in need of West German support, but it does not wish to see West Germany surpass it in military strength. Hence the British-French initiative in opposing the Strauss plan at the NATO council meeting. The United States did not reject the West German proposal outright but it did see it as being foiled by British and French objections. The West German Government, backed by its own strength and not yet discouraged, has, however, insisted that a decision on this "would have to be made by NATO in one way or another" within this year.

The fiercest conflicts between the old and new colonialisms flared up when the council meeting discussed the Congo question. The Congo has, for a long time, been a bone of contention between the U.S., British, French and Belgian imperialists. The United States, under the U.N. flag, has been doing its best to squeeze out the British, French and Belgian influences there. These countries, on the other hand, are resisting the United States through their puppets, the Tshombe clique in Katanga. With Lord Home, Britain's Foreign Secretary, declaring that he was "not at all happy about anything in the Congo," Britain refused to provide bombs for the "U.N. forces" in the Congo and even threatened to withdraw, in the wake of France, its financial support for the "U.N. forces." Thus, the United States found itself under the joint attack of the old colonialist countries, and its Secretary of State stood isolated at the NATO council meeting. However, the United States refused to back down. As Kennedy has disclosed in his January 11 State of the Union Message, to establish exclusive U.S. control over the Congo through the United Nations "is the objective of our [U.S.] policy in this important area." To him, United Nations is his "hope" and his "instrument" in advancing the neo-colonialism of the United States. This, of course, will further intensify the conflicts.

U.S. Hegemony Further Weakened

The development of these contradictions among the imperialist countries clearly indicates a further weakening of U.S. leadership in the Western world. The United States not only finds it increasingly difficult to maintain its control over the West European countries, but for the first time in postwar history, has come under such a ferocious joint attack from its NATO "allies." This is no mere accident, but a logical outcome of the uneven development of capitalism. In recent years, the United States has lost the indisputable economic superiority it enjoyed over the other capitalist countries in the early postwar years. The rate of U.S. industrial advance is falling below that of most of the West European countries, thus greatly reducing its economic status in the capitalist world. The deterioration of the U.S. position and the relative increase in the economic strength of the West European countries have changed the post-war balance of power within the imperialist camp. Immediately after World War II, the United States enjoyed a position of unquestioned dominance, this is no longer so. A number of West European countries whose economic strength has grown—West Germany and France, in particular—are energetically demanding a new status and a redistribution of "spheres of influence," more in accordance with their increased strength vis-a-vis the United States. These changes furthermore are taking place in a situation where the East wind is prevailing over the West wind; this cannot but further aggravate the contradictions among the imperialist countries and further weaken the position of the United States as the "chief" of the "Western alliance."

As the leading position of the United States becomes more unstable, the Kennedy Administration is acting ever more desperately to bolster up its tottering rule and tighten its control over its "allies," but the West European countries are putting up a mounting resistance. It is not without reason that the well-known U.S. commentator

February 9, 1962
Walter Lippmann came to the following conclusion: "The relative position of the United States in the worldwide balance of forces has declined markedly... in the management of our [U.S.] alliances, our [U.S.] diplomacy has become increasingly ineffectual..." "It would be vain to suppose that anyone can restore the American paramountcy built upon the nuclear monopoly of the postwar days."

**Economic Expansion**

**Japan's New Offensive in Southeast Asia**

by WAN FENG

**The** Japanese monopoly capitalist economy is developing faster and on a far bigger scale than it did in the days before Japan launched its last war on the Asian mainland, in the Pacific and in Southeast Asia. And now once again the forces of Japanese militarism and monopoly capitalism are intensifying their expansionist activities in Southeast Asia. The Southeast Asian trip made last November by the Japanese Prime Minister Ikeda is fresh evidence that Japan's rulers, at the behest of U.S. imperialism, are engaged in a new economic offensive in this area.

**Many Irons in the Fire**

Japan's postwar expansionist activities in Southeast Asia have taken many forms. In the first place, it has been trying to make that area a dumping ground for its goods. It milks that area of large amounts of foreign currency to make up part of the deficit resulting from its trade pattern subordinated to the interests of the United States. Japanese trade with Southeast Asia has grown fast. The volume of its exports to that area in 1959 was four and a half times as much as it was in 1936 or over 35 times as much as in 1946, the year following Japan's defeat in World War II. The figure for 1960 was 32 per cent bigger than in 1959.

Japan has always maintained a favourable balance in its trade with Southeast Asia, amounting to U.S. $1,848 million in the 1950s. This trade, which is not based on the principle of equality, the exchange of equal values and a balance of imports and exports, as is the trade between the socialist countries, has gravely undermined the national economies of the Southeast Asian countries concerned.

Japan is even using its war reparations to pave the way for commodity dumping and capital investments in Southeast Asia. These war reparations, amounting to over U.S. $1,000 million, of which nearly U.S. $300 million have already been paid, are a lever with which Japanese monopoly capital has enlarged its Southeast Asian markets and wormed its way into major branches of the economies of these countries.

Another important means of economic penetration is "technical assistance" and "technical co-operation." By these means, Japanese concerns are not only able to get substantial returns from the granting of patent rights and get hold of the shares of enterprises receiving such "assistance" and "co-operation," but also secure such benefits as a guaranteed supply of raw materials, the chance to promote the sales of their goods and the opportunity to exercise control over those enterprises. Up to March 1960, Japan had signed 133 "technical co-operation" agreements with foreign businesses and 89 of these were with enterprises in Southeast Asia. Ninety per cent of the Japanese technicians sent overseas are concentrated in these areas. It has also set up many kinds of "technical centres" in Southeast Asia ostensibly to train, advise and pass on technical skills to the peoples of the area. These outposts too are designed to facilitate further expansion. The tough terms of loan agreements are also a means by which Japan tries to turn a number of Southeast Asian countries and areas into debtors so as to facilitate the plundering of their natural resources. Japan is pouring capital investment into Southeast Asia. In 1961, its private investments alone amounted to U.S. $41 million or double the amount of the previous year.

As a result of all these activities, Japanese monopoly capital now not only occupies an important position in the Southeast Asian markets but also directly controls up to a score of important mining areas producing iron, copper, tin and bauxite.

Another method of economic penetration involves the setting up of joint enterprises with the nationals of the Southeast Asian countries. Such businesses range from iron and steel works and oil refineries to factories making toothpaste or gourmet powder. The big Japanese monopoly concerns also have in mind certain giant "comprehensive development projects" for Southeast Asia, which are designed to facilitate their economic dominance over the area. There is, for instance, the "Mekong River Development Project." For Thailand, they have made a plan to generate electric power. They have worked out a general railway development plan for the Philippines and Cambodia. They have a plan to exploit natural gas in Indonesia and another to produce urea fertilizer in India.

In a television talk he gave just before his visit to four Southeast Asian countries last November, Ikeda made no secret of his intentions. "There need be no worry that the plan to double our national income may result in overproduction if we invest overseas in Southeast Asia," he said. "Japan," he declared, "once sank a lot of money in Korea, Taiwan and Manchuria [northeastern China]. Now is the time to do our best to follow the way of our predecessors and forbears."

**State Monopoly Capital — The Dominant Factor**

The Ikeda government has a foreign exchange crisis on its hands. To solve this and prevent it from snarling...
up its grandiose plan "to double the national income," and above all to provide a further outlet for Japan's aggressively expanding monopoly capitalism and to plunder Southeast Asia's natural resources, the Ikeda government is pressing forward with its expansionist ambitions in that area. It is seeking to carry on these expansionist activities in a better planned way with state monopoly capital playing the leading role. While making skilful use of its reparations payments to foster its expansionist policy and granting canny loans to various Southeast Asian countries, it is organizing its monopoly capitalists and other domestic forces to set up many more "overseas technical centres" and other semi-government or government organizations for economic infiltration. It is raising an "Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund" with a capital of U.S. $100 million. At the request of monopoly capital it is planning to establish an "Economic Co-operation Board" so as to place Japan's overseas economic expansion under the centralized leadership of a government organ as was done during wartime.

Taking their cue from Washington, the Japanese militarists and monopoly capitalists have worked out a plan for their own "peace corps." Scheduled to begin this year, under the name of "teams for the development of overseas industrial co-operation," between one to two thousand Japanese will be sent to the Asian-African regions, but the main emphasis will be on Southeast Asia.

Meanwhile, the big Japanese monopoly concerns are themselves organizing in and beyond Southeast Asia 

Pen Probes

It Begins at Home

As the following triplet shows, some news stories when read together often tell a lot more than when read separately.

Item 1: Reuter, reporting on the crude pressure the U.S. is putting on the Latin American countries at the O.A.S. conference at Punta del Este to force them into a joint intervention against Cuba, says: "President Kennedy can either open his purse generously for the Alliance for Progress or close it if Latin America fails to follow his lead."

Item 2: The London Times correspondent reports on the latest U.S. dirty deal in Japan. More than ten years ago the U.S. occupation authorities imported a considerable amount of surplus food grains from the States to Japan under what were called "Government Appropriations for Relief in Occupied Areas" and "Economic Rehabilitation of Occupied Areas" programmes. The Japanese Diet officially thanked the U.S. for this "generous unconditional aid." But it turned out that these low-grade foodstuffs were sold at high prices on the Japanese market and the proceeds used to buy into important Japanese enterprises. Then, following the signing of the San Francisco "Peace Treaty" in 1951, Washington suddenly called on the Japanese to pay for this food to the amount of $640 million. After eight years of haggling the Ikeda government has now got the U.S. to accept $490 million in liquidation of this "debt." It will be paying it off for the next 15 years at 2.5 per cent annual interest.

Item 3: Newsweek announces that at the close of 1961 U.S. consumers were $290,000 million in debt, representing mortgages on their homes, unpaid instalments on all sorts of goods and services from cars, furniture to medical bills. "The hardest blows of all fall on the debtors who need credit for just the bare necessities of life and who can least afford the cost"; it is with them that merchants use "blatant advertising to push shoddy, overpriced merchandise and usurious credit terms." Banks, companies and stores are all in this blood-sucking business; they made more profits from extending credits to consumers than from the sale of goods.

Usury begins at home, though it is being exported abroad on a grand scale.

THE PASSING SHOW

Calling All Stockholders

When John A. McCone, the new chief of the C.I.A., the U.S. espionage organization, was confirmed in his appointment by the Senate last month, questions were raised as to whether his extensive oil and shipping interests might not cause a "conflict of interest" and influence his decisions in his "sensitive post." Senator Richard B. Russell, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, answered critics with: "Senators themselves hold stock," and there was "much more likelihood of conflict of interest with a Senator than with the Director of Central Intelligence."

McCone, by the way, admits to owning one million dollars of Standard Oil (California) stock and to an annual income of several million dollars from his shipping companies which serve oil and other corporations. Corporation heads naturally like their privilege of looking through C.I.A. files, reports the columnist Drew Pearson.

Entertainment

The National Association for Better Radio and Television tabulated the items shown during one week by seven television stations in the city of Los Angeles. In that time viewers saw '144 murders, 143 attempted murders, 35 'justifiable' killings, 14 druggings, 13 kidnappings, four attempted lynchings, one massacre scene with hundreds killed, several mass gun battles, innumerable prolonged and brutal fights, dynamiting, etc.'
enterprises jointly operated by Japanese and native capital. In this way, Japan's oil monopoly interests have penetrated into the oil fields of Indonesia's North Sumatra. The big iron and steel monopolies (Kobe, Yahata, Kawasaki, Fuji, etc.) have begun building iron and steel works in co-operation with local capital in India, Malaya and Singapore. The aim, of course, is to get control of the economic lifelines of these countries by getting a hold on these key branches of the economy. Expecting that war will break out in South Viet Nam, the Japanese merchants of death are working hard to export arms to Southeast Asia. There is no secret about the fact that Japan is supplying arms and ammunition to the Laotian rebels.

A U.S. Accomplice

In this aggressive economic drive into Southeast Asia steered by the Ikeda government, Japan is playing the role of an accomplice of U.S. aggression, a pawn in Washington's plans for economic expansion.

U.S. imperialism has suffered repeated setbacks in trying to implement its policies of war and aggression in Asia. Its economic expansion has also run into great difficulties. That is why it is anxious to enlist the help of the Japanese militarists and monopoly capitalists in its colonialist aggression in Southeast Asia; it wants to use them as a kind of "advance detachment" in its operation to force its way into the nationalist countries and push out the old West European colonialists.

During their talks in June 1961, Kennedy and Ikeda discussed how Japan should play its part in helping to exploit the "underdeveloped" regions according to U.S. expectations. During the Rusk-Ikeda talks in the following November, the U.S. Secretary of State especially discussed with Ikeda the situation in Laos, south Viet Nam and other Southeast Asian countries. Rusk wanted arrangements for Japan to give "aid" especially to those countries which didn't want to accept U.S. "aid." When he specifically named Cambodia and other Southeast Asian countries which adhere to a policy of peace and neutrality, Ikeda promptly promised to co-operate. The Yomiuri Shim bun had earlier revealed that the Japanese Foreign Ministry already worked out a new plan for Southeast Asian expansion, holding that with the failure of the U.S. imperialists' aggressive plans in Laos, the burning question of the day is how to help the United States check the spread of "neutrality" in Southeast Asia and facilitate Japan's own infiltration into this area.

Close Ties With India

Japanese expansionist plans naturally also look beyond Southeast Asia. An important element in those plans is to step up its economic penetration into India and forge closer political ties with that country. India is both a main supplier of iron ore to Japan and a principal market for Japan's heavy industrial goods. More than half of Japan's exports to India last year were iron and steel goods and 28.9 per cent were machinery. Japan also provided India with a direct loan of U.S. $80 million during the first two years of the latter's Third Five-Year Plan. In recent years Japanese monopoly enterprises have forced their way into India, increasing their investments there and forming more and more joint Indian-Japanese enterprises, thereby enabling Japan simultaneously to exploit cheap Indian labour and siphon off its natural wealth.

But the hideous crimes committed by Japanese militarism against the peoples of Southeast Asia in the last war are still fresh in their memories. During these recent years Japan's new expansionist activities with their compound of cunning and pressure have on more than one occasion provoked bitter popular anger. These activities are causing great damage to the economic interests of the Southeast Asian peoples concerned. Such activities are also aggravating the contradictions between Japan and the "classical" colonialisms of the West European countries, contradictions which will deepen and become more acute in the future.

The Japanese militarists hope to make their old dream of a "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere" come true by acting as accomplices of U.S. imperialism in its aggression, by acting as its pawn in its expansionist activities. But their dreams are doomed to fail. It will be bitter fruit indeed that they will reap from this sowing.

Report From Hopei

Making Floods Relieve Droughts

by TENG TZU-CHANG

HOPEI, one of north China's farming provinces, had more than its share of both droughts and cloudbursts last year. But the people fought back and their achievements make another heroic chapter in the past years' battles against natural calamities. Except for a few of the worst hit areas, the greater part of Hopei reaped a relatively good autumn harvest.

The spring sowing went ahead smoothly in spite of a serious drought. This was because some 3,000 million cubic metres of water stored in reservoirs and ponds kept the fields adequately irrigated. Then in the summer came heavy rains. The same amount of rain falling in the past would have raised the rivers high above the danger mark and caused widespread damage, but last year the province's chain of water storage reservoirs, ponds, drainage channels and pumps kept things in most places under fairly good control. The huge numbers of water conservancy works Hopei built in the past 13 years, and particularly in the past four since the establishment of the rural people's communes, ensured an outstanding triumph over adversity.

Cotton and wheat producing Hopei is bounded on the east by the Pohai Bay, and by mountains on the north and west, while the North China Plain stretches to the south.
and southeast. The Haiho River system, next only to the Yellow River in importance in north China, drains three-fourths of the province. Its tributaries converge like the ribs of a fan with its pivot on Tientsin, whence the main river flows into the sea.

While the bulk of its annual rainfall comes in the summer and causes frequent floods and water-logging, dry weather at springtime often delays the spring sowing. Most of Hopei’s rivers rise in mountain regions which were sparsely covered by plants in the past; as a result, when the summer rains fall, the surface water, unchecked, pours down in silt-laden freshests, filling and overfilling the rivers which in their turn flood out over the plain ravaging the crops.

In the 500 years between 1368 and 1956, the province endured 406 droughts and 309 floods; an average of two droughts and two floods every three years. The big floods often devastated dozens of counties, ruined crops over a vast area and endangered or took the lives of millions of people. During the 1939 flood, boats plied along the streets of Tientsin for weeks. But drought or flood, it was the working people who were the main sufferers. The inept old regimes were powerless to stop these disasters.

Since the founding of the People’s Republic, construction of water conservancy works has gone ahead steadily. A tremendous effort has been put into this work by the people led by the Chinese Communist Party and People’s Government. What has been achieved proves to all that there is a way to combat these natural calamities successfully and the people are full of hope, working to the day when these scourges can be completely overcome. Even when disaster strikes, as it still may, things are very different to what they were.

Guiding Principles

Hopei’s weather pattern of too much water in the summer and insufficient rainfall in the spring points to the need to store the excess water of the flood season for use during the dry spells. Flood control is therefore the key in planning water conservancy projects for this area. The stress is on storage of water and on the building of a multitude of small projects. This policy is well suited to the general conditions of Hopei. It does not, of course, preclude the building of big and medium-sized projects by the government.

It is clear that the job of building a comprehensive anti-drought and flood network can only be done by relying on the people and that the work to realize the whole plan must fit in with the needs of their farming. The provincial authorities has decided that the small projects must form the basis of the whole scheme with medium-sized projects as the “centres of strength” supplemented by big engineering works where necessary.

This comprehensive programme with its principles was put forward in 1953. Soon after the movement to organize rural people’s communes swept the province. The universal establishment of communes in the countryside touched off an unprecedented campaign to build water conservancy works. Construction went ahead on a massive scale throughout the winter of 1956 and the following spring.

Brilliant Achievements

It is impossible in the compass of a short article to list the work done. Figures can tell only part of the tale of heroic and successful effort. Before liberation there was not a single big reservoir on the Haiho and its tributaries. By the end of 1957, two large reservoirs had been built. But in the past four years, 39 larger reservoirs have been built. Many smaller ones have been completed too.

The work done to harness the Haiho and control floods in its drainage area was on the scale of a great mass campaign. Between 1958 and 1961 the People’s Government invested in Hopei’s water conservancy works four times as much as in the eight preceding years. The amount of earth and stone removed was 7.5 times the previous 8-year total. The preliminary plan for the control of the Haiho was completed well ahead of schedule.

A great number of auxiliary works and installations were completed at the same time: irrigation and drainage channels and ditches, wells, dams and sluice gates and the installation of mechanical water-lifting devices and so on. There was a big increase in the use of electrical and other power units. The gross power capacity of such installations jumped from 7,800 to 500,000 h.p. between 1958 and 1961. In 1957, Hopei had 59 large irrigation areas covering some 10,000 mu apiece. Today it has 421 such areas. The amount of irrigated farmland in the province increased by more than 70 per cent in this period.
There has been an imaginative extension of irrigation works in many of the provincial mountain districts that formerly suffered severely from drought. The commune members of these districts have toppled cliffs and tunnelled the hills to bring water to their upland fields. Considerable areas of Hopei mountain farmland have been brought under irrigation for the first time in history solving at the same time the chronic problem of water for domestic purposes for the farmers and for their animals.

In the low-lying areas along the coastal plain the threat of water-logging has been greatly reduced by the building of new and the extension of old canals draining water out to the sea. Mechanical pumps of large capacity now play a big role in draining these lowlands.

**Big Benefits**

It is this solid and well-planned work that has enabled Hopei to come so well out of the severe tests of the past year. The highland farms in the catchment area of the Haiho can now be regarded as safe from any ordinary threat of flood. The peasants there are confident that they can hold even the excessive cloudbursts in check. In the plains, the rivers have been to a large extent bridged even if not fully harnessed. Between 1959 and 1961 it is estimated that Hopei's reservoirs protected from possible flood damage, 20 million mu of farmland as well as roads and industrial establishments. There were other tangible savings too: a large section of the huge amounts of flood control and prevention materials that were expended practically every year in the past and the time and labour of the thousands of flood fighters who were usually called out to patrol the dykes.

Last July, the Tsangchow Special Administrative Region presented a good example of what the new anti-flood measures can do. At that time the region was hit by a big rainstorm and several million mu of crops were inundated. Four or five years ago it would have taken seven or eight months till the next spring for this water to drain off. The drainage facilities now available, however, cleared the water-logged areas by September and the winter wheat was sown on time.

The Tientsin Special Administrative Region gives a good example of how measures good for fighting drought can be turned to advantage in fighting flood. This region suffered chronically, in turn, from drought and water-logging. As a result it was not self-supporting in grain.

In the past four years it has built itself 300 electric pumping stations to protect its farmlands. When drought struck the area last spring these stations were called into action. In four counties alone they pumped water to 300,000 mu of farmland and beat the drought. When heavy summer downpours flooded a million mu of farmland the action was reversed and within a week two-thirds of the affected area was drained dry. Thanks largely to such measures the region's output of food grain has risen steadily and swiftly. Last year it produced sufficient grain to feed its own population and had large quantities of surplus grain to sell to the state as well.

The farmers of Hopei are working with high hopes of getting a good harvest this year. They have much more water stored in their reservoirs than last year. Thousands of new channels, wells and sluice gates have been built since the beginning of this winter. The peasants in the central part of the province have extended the area served by one irrigation network alone to another 150,000 mu of land. Everywhere skilled hands are looking over the mechanical parts of their flood and drought prevention systems. Hopei's farmers are determined that everything will be shipshape for a good agricultural year in 1962.

**Music**

**The Central Philharmonic Society**

by MENG CHAO-LIN

The gaiety of the traditional Spring Festival was enhanced in Peking by a series of concerts given by the Central Philharmonic Society. The occasion was an especially memorable one: the performance of the society's 100th programme. It included orchestral and choral pieces and vocal and instrumental solos.

Central Philharmonic concerts have become an established institution. In the five years and more since its founding in 1956, the orchestra, chorus and soloists of the Central Philharmonic, along with many other musical bodies, have done much to popularize the musical arts among Chinese audiences; the more than 2,400 performances given have steadily extended the ranks of music-lovers throughout the country.

**Its Repertoire and Musicians**

In five short years, the symphony orchestra has built up an impressive repertoire, including such world classics as Beethoven's Third (Eroica), Fifth (Fate) and Ninth (Chorale) Symphonies; the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth (Pathétique) Symphonies of Tchaikovsky and Dvorak's New World Symphony as well as important modern works like Shostakovich's Fifth and Eleventh (1905) Symphonies and Prokofiev's Seventh Symphony. It was quite an event when the chorus rendered selections from Mozart's Requiem in 1956. Its repertoire also includes many full-length cantatas, oratorios and a cappellas. A great number of the world’s favourite concert pieces have also been presented by the society's soloists. Many works by Chinese composers had their premiere at Central Philharmonic concerts.

The society has some 200 musicians and singers. Quite a number of them have become widely known at home and some abroad also. Its conductors Li Teh-lun and Yen Liang-kun are accomplished musicians who helped shape the Central Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra into a fine ensemble. They did postgraduate work at the
famous Moscow Conservatoire of Music under Professors N.P. Anosov and V.G. Sokolov respectively. During the War of Liberation (1946-49), Li Teh-lun was conductor of the Yenan Central Orchestra, the Liberated Areas' first symphony orchestra. Later he was for a time conductor of the Central Experimental Opera. He was with David Oistrakh, world-famous violinist, during the latter's tour in China. Those who have heard Yen Liang-kun in person or on disc are impressed by the subtlety of nuance which he gets from the orchestra and the delicacy and precision of touch in the details. This is well demonstrated in his conducting of Beethoven's Choral Symphony. He is particularly well equipped for conducting choral singing.

Among the society's outstanding vocalists are Liu Shu-fang (dramatic-lyric soprano), Wei Chi-hsien (baritone), Chang Li-chuan (lyric-coloratura soprano), Sun Chia-hsin (coloratura soprano) and Liang Mei-chen (soprano). Both Wei and Liang distinguished themselves in the difficult solo parts in the choral finale of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Violinist Lin Ke-han's recent rendition of the Sibelius Concerto was warmly acclaimed. His colleagues Yang Ping-sun and Szetu Hua-cheng (the orchestra's concert master) have also concertized with success; and so have flutist Li Hsueh-chuan and versatile pianist Fang Kuo-ching, who is also the orchestra's drummer, xylophonist and accordion player.

The society has its own composers too. Among them are the veteran composer Cheng Lu-cheng (March of the People's Liberation Army and In Praise of Yenan), the well-known woman composer Chu Hsi-hsien (The Hearts of the World's People Beat as One) and Chang Wen-kang (The Flying Tiger Mountain Cantata).

**Varied Activities**

Modern symphonic music never took root on Chinese soil before liberation. In those days, there wasn’t a single professional chorus, and the Shanghai Municipal Council Orchestra was essentially a foreign organization. Most of its members, including the conductor, were foreigners; it shunned works by Chinese composers and did not cater to the Chinese public.

The Central Philharmonic Society is altogether a different type of organization. Guided by Mao Tse-tung's teachings and the policy of the Chinese Communist Party on the arts and literature, its activities are designed to serve the people building socialism under the leadership of the vanguard of the proletariat. Catering to the broadest masses of the people, in addition to introducing fine foreign music to the public, it strives for a national style and to foster a music that mirrors and inspires the life and revolutionary struggle of the Chinese people.

The Central Philharmonic serves its public in many ways. Varied programmes cater to people with diverse tastes and preferences. In addition to its regular concerts, the Central Philharmonic also gives popular concerts, solo recitals and special concerts devoted to new compositions, selections from operas, waltzes or concertos. Commemorative concerts have been given to mark the anniversaries of great musicians — Beethoven, Mozart, Dvorak, Glinka, Bela Bartok and Liszt as well as Hsien Hsin-hai and Nieh Erh, the noted Chinese progressive musicians. Programme notes for these special concerts are often written by well-known music critics or, in case of concerts of new works, by the composers themselves.

**Rapport With Audiences**

At all times it is borne in mind that music is for the people, not for some small group of cognoscenti; that popularization must go hand in hand with developing the level of musical appreciation. The constant aim is therefore to maintain a close rapport with audiences. Performances are often preceded by brief and informal talks on the music to be played. A great deal of popular musical educational work is done over the radio, TV and in lectures. Many among its audiences have become fans who won't miss a single concert. One of the Central Philharmonic's most faithful groups of fans are the members of the amateur Workers' Orchestra of the Peking Automatic Telephone and Electric Works. They have become good friends with the society's members and improved their own playing so much with their help that they even gave a joint public performance.

The Philharmonic does not by any means limit its activities to the capital. Its members have toured more than 100 cities and towns in over 20 provinces and autonomous regions. Its concert groups have pioneered the way to isolated settlements deep in the heart of northeast China's great forests where no other art troupe has ever yet gone. They have also travelled as far afield as Hainan Island in the south, Sinkiang in the northwest, Yunnan and Kweichow in the southwest, and to the Fukien front. They have brought popular programmes to

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the very doorsteps of factory workers and miners, to lumberjacks, farmers and the men of the nation’s defence forces. It is small wonder that they are fondly called the “Light cavalry of the art front.”

The audiences of the Central Philharmonic are much larger than those who actually go to its concerts. Its programmes are regularly broadcast or telecast and many of its fine performances are now available on discs. The Red Army Base Area Cantata by Chu Hsi-hsien, Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, Lo Chung-jung’s First Symphony and a number of solo pieces are among the best-selling records in the country. The orchestra has also provided music for 35 films, including such outstanding features as Song of Youth, The Long March, Storm and A Revolutionary Family. The music for Uncle Tom’s Cabin recently staged by the Central Academy of Dramatic Arts was also played by the Central Philharmonic ensemble.

New Works Introduced

The society has championed many new compositions of its own and “outside” Chinese composers. The violinist-composer Ma Ssu-tsung’s (Sitsong Ma) Second Symphony, one of the more significant new works that draw their themes from the revolutionary struggle of the Chinese people, his now well-known Song of the Forest; Li Huan-chih’s Spring Festival Suite and First Symphony, Cheng Lu-cheng’s Happiness Farm Cantata, Chu Hsi-hsien’s Red Army Base Area Cantata, Lo Chung-jung’s First Symphony, Tu Ming-hsin’s Monument to the People’s Heroes Cantata and Hsin Hu-kwang’s symphonic poem Gadamarin ... were all introduced to the public at Central Philharmonic concerts. Many young fledgling composers have also had a chance of getting their compositions performed at Philharmonic concerts.

Performing members of the Philharmonic have also on several occasions pooled their efforts as amateur composers and produced interesting works. In their symphonic poem Mu Kuei-jung Takes Command based on the popular Peking opera story of the warrior-maid of the Sung Dynasty, who heroically defended the country against foreign invasion, they experimented with techniques borrowed from the Peking opera with notable success. Two other symphonic poems Storm and Defend Yenan, the symphony Long Live the People’s Communes and the cantata Peking Leaps Ahead have also been well received. They have also experimented with the orchestration of popular folk tunes and melodies adapted from local operas. These have delighted many.

With music flourishing in China, there is an increasing number of ensembles and the ranks of concert artists are expanding rapidly. The Central Philharmonic has worked with many of them. It has given joint concerts with the Central Broadcasting Chorus, the People’s Liberation Army Chorus, the Peking Quyi Troupe and other art groups. Violinists Ma Ssu-tsung and Lin Ke-chang, ‘cellist Lin Ke-min, pianists Wu Lo-yi, Chou Kuang-jen and Li Ming-chiang, vocalist Cheng Hsing-li and the famous quyi singer Wei Hsi-kuei have appeared with the Philharmonic as guest soloists. In return, Li Teh-jun was guest conductor of the Central Opera and Dance Drama Theatre in its recent production of Puccini’s Madame Butterfly. Yen Liang-kun too led the orchestra of the same theatre in a recent concert.

The Central Philharmonic has had the valuable and enjoyable experience of co-operating with such distinguished visiting foreign musicians as Ivanov, Stepanov, Anosov and Dubrovsky (conductors), David Oistrakh and Klimgov (violinists), and Seredyakov and Nicolayeva (pianists), all from the Soviet Union; the Brazilian pianist Estrela; and Professor Bungartz from the German Democratic Republic. Joint performances have been given with the Soviet State Symphony Orchestra, the Dresden Symphony Orchestra, the Cuban Ballet Troupe, the Ballet Rambert from Britain and the Japanese Central Chorus. A number of the Philharmonic’s musicians have also toured the Soviet Union, the other socialist countries, in Western Europe, Scandinavia, Asia, Africa and Latin America, bringing Chinese music to a wide public abroad and bringing home new compositions from abroad and inspiring and cherished memories of the hospitality of their hosts. All these activities have been an invaluable aid in enriching the art of Chinese musicians and in promoting international friendship among musicians and peoples.

Towards a National Style

The Central Philharmonic Society is young. The average age of its members is just under 30. Although most of them received professional training at the various conservatories, they still lack experience. But they have made rapid progress since 1956 through hard work and mutual help. Every member has a chance to play at the private audition concerts and get friendly, constructive criticism and suggestions from his or her colleagues. The lessons given the younger members by the more accomplished musicians of the society have proved an invaluable help. Eight years ago, for example, the young vocalist Lo Tien-chan was an ordinary school girl from Canton. With the help of the Philharmonic’s more experienced singers, she has become a promising contralto who is already very popular with concertgoers.

As symphonic and choral music is still new in China, much can be and has been learnt from the best in foreign countries. But the aim is to develop a national style in the creative and performing arts. Musicians devote much effort to the study of Chinese national and folk music. They often perform national music and analyse its stylistic characteristics. Some of them learnt directly from masters of the Peking opera, kunqu opera and other local operas. While concertizing in other parts of the country, they never missed a chance of getting acquainted with local operatic and folk music, and hearing the performances of the many national and local orchestras performing on traditional Chinese instruments. Some vocalists have incorporated the techniques of local operatic singing into their own singing with interesting and positive results. Instrumentalists too have gained from studying the style of national instrument playing—bowing, fingering, and particularly the glissando. In short, a fine beginning has been made. With hard work and growing artistic skill and sensitivity the Central Philharmonic Society and its members are developing surely and steadily into a fine and mature body of musicians.
The fishermen, equally determined, put down their load and laughing, hurried away.

The two fish, weighing about 60 jin, were a token of thanks from a grateful fishing people's commune. A sharp-eyed sentry had spotted the shoals and, ever on the alert to be of service to the people, had the news promptly telephoned to the fishermen.

Next day, a squad of smiling soldiers called on the busy fisherman with a letter of thanks from Commander Yang together with payment for the two fish and a big load of fresh-cut vegetables from the P.L.A. unit's own garden.

Peasant Gives Lecture. After several modest refusals, Wang Fu-tsai, a peasant from the Nanshanlu People's Commune on the outskirts of Peking was finally persuaded to give a lecture. His class was made up of 4th and 5th year students of the Peking College of Agriculture. In vivid, down-to-earth language, the elderly peasant described how he got his good wheat yields.

Wang Fu-tsai, a keen, observant man with a critical mind and a passionate love for the land, has spent a lifetime tilling the soil. Illiterate until nine years ago, he now reads what farmers are doing elsewhere and keeps his own notes on field trials of crops carried out by his production team. The peasants in his district all speak highly of him and his practical knowledge that brings in solid results at harvest time. He is always ready to pass on what he knows but when his growing reputation led to an invitation to address the students, he was clearly taken aback. That was only at first. Now he is completely at ease in the lecture room, knowing that just as university students can teach him, he too can help them out of the fund of his many years' experience in north China wheat farming. He is just one of many veteran peasants all over China who are adding their rich field experience to book knowledge.

Peking Goldfish. The successful goldfish keeper, so it's said, must rise early, take his net to pond or creek outside the city and collect aquatic insects, worms, and mosquito larvae, if he is lucky, for his fastidious charges. Goldfish thrive on the best food and care. The most careful attention plus patience, selective interbreeding over the years, has produced the present great variety of colours and shapes in the Peking goldfish. Experienced breeders can now get their goldfish, even the rarer varieties, to breed twice a year. This helps to fill the great demand for these much wanted pets. Telescopic eyes, silver-caps, bubble-eyes and other varieties, rarely within the reach of most collectors in the past, now delight fanciers in thousands of worker's homes today.

Peking has long been famous for its goldfish but keeping them was never such a widespread hobby as it is today. Well-stocked aquariums were found only in the palaces and homes of the wealthy. Now, there are large aquariums, far better than those of the past, in many public parks and gardens.

Goldfish, as always, were favourite presents this Spring Festival. This is a fish often depicted in the embrace of a chubby baby on Spring Festival pictures. It symbolizes fruitfulness and good fortune.

Northernmost Town. Heilo on the banks of the Heilungkiang River has risen like the Phoenix from its ashes. Razed to the ground by retreating Japanese invaders towards the end of World War II this northernmost town in China is today a flourishing river port of 40,000. It has 40 factories, a big power station, a cement plant, 7 cinemas and theatres and running water piped to every house along its tree-lined streets. Cargo and passenger ships built in its new shipyards join the bustling river traffic. On the city's outskirts sable, musk-rat, arctic fox and other valuable fur-bearing animals are raised. Heilo today is bigger and busier far than in its first heyday when gold was discovered near there some 70 years ago.
SONG AND DANCE

A New Art Ensemble Makes Its Debut

A new song and dance troupe, the Tung Fang (the East) Art Ensemble, made its debut last Monday at Peking's China Youth Art Theatre. With a sparkling and varied programme of songs and dances from 21 countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, the new company provided what proved to be one of the most attractive of the stage entertainments held in the capital during the Chinese lunar New Year festival. Many guests from Asian, African and Latin American countries now visiting Peking saw and warmly applauded the first performance. Many more enjoyed the show on television.

The premiere opened with the Balinese dance Pendet, traditionally performed in Indonesia as a dance of blessing and a prelude to a performance. Six young women, each carrying a flower bowl in her hand and with a stick of burning incense fixed in her high coiffure, threw flower petals from their bowls as they danced to give blessings and thanks to their audience.

This serene and graceful opening was followed by a light and lively Tajik dance of the Soviet Union spiritedly performed by Ayitula, the young Chinese Uighur dancer who is an International Youth Festival gold medallist.

The popular Japanese folk dance Melody Yagibushi, done to the accompaniment of songs, the beating of drums and the playing of flutes, next carried the audience to the foot of Mount Fuji.

The well-known soloist Chang Chun danced the Indian Ball Dance with youthful gaiety and great charm. She has no ball in her hand, but by dance and pantomime creates a lively picture of a young girl playing with a ball, darting after it, catching it dexterously, losing and finding it. Joy, another solo danced by Tsui Mei-shan, showed the delighted mood of a young Korean girl in a forest just awakened to the first rays of the dawn. Tsui Mei-shan is another International Youth Festival gold medallist.

Other items on the programme included a Cambodian classical dance, Pakistan's Footbells, the Ceylonese girls' Jar Dance, Cuba's Zapateo, Ethiopia's Harvest Dances, and folk songs of Burma, Argentina, Brazil and Guatemala.

The dance Drinking From the Same River, inspired by a poem of the same title on Sino-Burmese friendship, by Vice-Premier Chen Yi, depicts the meeting of a Chinese girl of the Tai nationality with her Burmese girl friend from across the river. They come to draw water, each in her own national fashion, the Chinese with two buckets and a carrying pole and the Burmese with a jar gracefully carried on her head; they splash water merrily on each other and by means of the flowing water exchange gifts—the bright-coloured flowers of their head-dresses. The young Chinese girl was danced by Tao Mei-lan of the Tai nationality and the Burmese maiden by Chang Chun. The dances of the two were markedly different in style—the one Chinese, the other, Burmese—but the music has skilfully blended Chinese and Burmese melodies together to weave the dance movements into a harmonious whole.

A Nepalese dance in praise of the warm Sino-Nepalese friendship was danced by Ayitula. A Guinean dance, expressing the joy and hope of the Guinean people as they celebrate their independence, brought this attractive and exotic programme to an end.

Chinese dancers began to learn Burmese, Indian and Indonesian dancing as early as 1954 when visiting Chinese art troupes toured these countries. The 17 items they brought back were later arranged into one programme and presented, with considerable success, on the Chinese stage. In 1957, an oriental dance class was set up in the Peking School of Dancing and four well-known dancers, among whom was Wajan Likes, were invited from Indonesia to teach. In 1960, a Burmese cultural troupe visited China and one of its leading members Daw Khin Nyun was also invited to teach the oriental dancing class. Similarly, China's young dancers have availed themselves of every opportunity to learn from other visiting artists or during their own visits abroad. In this way, over the years they have accumulated a repertoire of more than 80 songs and dances from 23 different countries.

The new art ensemble, inaugurated just three weeks ago, has now more
than a hundred members from seven different nationalities. Attached to it is a class training pupils under and over the age of ten. With the experience already gained this new generation will be well-versed in the dancing and the musical arts of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

ARCHAEOLOGY

New Light on Old Shanghai

Nine ancient cultural sites discovered in quick succession since 1958 on the outskirts of Shanghai and yielding rich finds of relics dating back to the Bronze Age and late Neolithic times make it clear that the alluvial plain in the vicinity of Shanghai was formed at least 2,500 years ago. Scholars both in China and abroad have until recently thought that this plain was laid down at a much later date.

Located in Shanghai, Sungkiang and Chingpu Counties to the southwest of the municipality of Shanghai, the nine sites all provide archaeological evidence of histories extending back two or three thousand years. The Chingpu site revealed three historical layers. The top layer belongs to the Spring and Autumn Period (770-475 B.C.) and the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.). The pottery vessels unearthed here include containers with geometric designs, bowls covered with a bluish green glaze and sacrificial vessels with pierced hole decorations. The middle layer is thought to have been a graveyard of some ancient clan. It has more than 50 graves and the burial objects found consist of awls, needles and arrowheads made of bone, spades and adzes made of stone, pottery spinning-wheels, jars, cups and other vessels as well as a number of jade ornaments which archaeologists think were worn at the time as tinkling pendants. Bone arrowheads were found in the lowest stratum and pottery vessels. Some of these latter are red sandy wares and clay wares. Simple in form and decoration, they are thought to belong also to late New Stone (Neolithic) times.

Another site unearthed to the southeast of this site has yielded many stone implements and weapons such as hoes, sickles, axes, chisels, adzes, spearheads and arrowheads, and also pottery of various types. These things appear to be of a later date than those of the middle layer of the Chingpu site, but still belong to the later period of the New Stone Age.

The largest of the nine sites is that uncovered at Machiao, about 22 kilometres away from Shanghai municipality. Among the 500 and more pieces of pottery and jade ornaments found here are a bronze knife and a few small bronze objects. The pottery is more complex in form and design, and more finely made. It includes pieces of considerable beauty. Some of the designs show a similarity to those found on bronzes of the Shang and Chou Dynasties (c. 1600-221 B.C.).

Taken together these relics give a much fuller picture of the early Bronze Culture of the Shanghai area. The experts have drawn attention to the connections which this culture has with the Chinglenkang and Hushu Cultures discovered in the Lower Yangtze Region after the liberation, and the Liangchu Culture found in the same area before the liberation.

SHORT NOTES

“Welcome Spring” Festival in Canton

The Cultural Park of Canton opened its Festival of Spring on the lunar New Year’s Eve. Gorgeous centerpiece of the show is the Flower Bazaar which, though an annual affair, is bigger this year than ever before. Its peach blossoms and packed banks of peonies, camellias and daffodils, prize orchids and countless other flowers have been drawing huge crowds of holiday-makers since the moment it opened.

On sale are flowers from the city’s outskirts as well as flowers especially sent in to the bazaar from various other parts of the country. To satisfy the local love of flowers, city florists went as far afield as Hotse in Shan-tung to get the peonies, for which that place is famous, and to Fukien for Changchow daffodils. The brightly-lit and gaily decorated avenues inside the park are lined with stalls selling ivory carvings and other famous handicraft products, scrolls of spring good wishes and greetings and New Year pictures, as well as goldfish of more than 60 rare varieties brought from Shanghai, Peking, Soochow and Hangchow. Food stalls sell those famous traditional Cantonese delicacies and sweets. And there are several small-sized exhibitions showing paintings and calligraphy by local artists.
Chen Yi Condemns New U.S. Aggressive Acts

The latest U.S. imperialist acts of aggression and interference in the Congo, Cuba and Laos were roundly condemned by Vice-Premier Chen Yi when he spoke at the Ceylonese National Day reception given by Alwin Bernard Perera, Ceylon’s Ambassador in Peking.

The Vice-Premier pointed out that just recently, the U.S. imperialists, using the United Nations, have seized the Congolese nationalist leader Gizenga, threatening to murder him and launch an even more vicious attack against the national independence of the Congolese people; they have coerced the O.A.S. Foreign Ministers’ Conference into adopting resolutions against Cuba and interfering in its affairs; and they are instigating the Savannakhet clique in Laos to engage in even more wanton military provocations to obstruct the formation of a coalition government and a peaceful settlement of the Laotian question.

“The Chinese Government and people are deeply angered by and sternly condemn these new acts of aggression and interference by the United States,” the Vice-Premier declared.

Regarding the friendly relations between China and Ceylon, Vice-Premier Chen Yi said that the two countries have always co-operated with each other in a friendly way on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence and in the Bandung spirit and that this co-operation has increased in recent years.

Chairman Liu Shao-chi and Premier Chou En-lai sent messages of greetings to the Ceylonese Governor-General Sir Oliver Goonetilleke and Prime Minister Madame Sirimavo Bandaranaike on the 14th anniversary of Ceylonese independence.

Sana-Hodeida Highway Opened to Traffic

The 231-kilometre Sana-Hodeida Highway in Yemen was officially opened to traffic on January 29. Com- pleted last December after more than two years’ work, it is the product of the joint efforts of Yemeni workers and staff and Chinese experts and technicians.

The opening drive along the newly built asphalt surface was led by Crown Prince Badr of Yemen at the head of a cavalcade of cars. The procession of some 70 vehicles drove through colourful arches draped with red bunting and decorated with Yemeni flags. Crowds of people from the towns and villages near the highway cheered it on its way. Wearing their traditional festival clothes and beating drums, many danced to celebrate the occasion. Yemeni children’s gay shouts of “shu shu ni hao” (How do you do, Uncles?) in Chinese greeted the Chinese experts in the procession.

The completion of the road was a happy occasion for the whole Yemeni people; they have long cherished the idea of building this highway. It was a happy occasion too for the Chinese people linked in brotherly friendship and sympathy with the people of Yemen. A five-member Chinese government delegation was specially sent to attend the celebrations.

Addressing the rally to celebrate the occasion, Crown Prince Badr praised the efforts made by Chinese experts and technicians. “They worked hard and well,” he said, “they demonstrated fine character and were on excellent terms with the Yemeni people. All this has strengthened the good friendship between Yemen and China.”

Speaking about the significance of the highway, the Yemeni Minister of Public Works and Industry Hassan Ben Ali emphasized that the highway will be a most important factor in promoting the country’s economic development in agriculture and industry as well as trade.

Expressing congratulations on the completion of the highway, Chen Chia-kang, head of the Chinese government delegation and Chinese Minister to Yemen, declared at the rally that the Chinese and Yemen peoples both love peace, and oppose imperialism and colonialism. The relations of friendship and economic co-operation be-

Protest Against Persecution of Gizenga

“Freedom must be immediately and unconditionally restored to Gizenga and all other Congolese patriots who are being persecuted. The ‘U.N. forces’ and all foreign troops must withdraw from the Congo. U.S. imperialism and the old and new colonialist forces must get out of the Congo!” These demands are contained in a message adopted by a mass rally which was held in Peking on February 4 to demonstrate support for the patriotic struggle of the Congolese people.

Vice-Premier Chen Yi, who attended, told the meeting that U.S. imperialism evidently thought it had performed quite a clever trick: along with all the other colonialists, both old and new, it had staged the ugly show of murdering Lumumba and arresting Gizenga; while the United States remains behind the scenes, the troops of certain countries acting as its tool under the U.N. flag are attempting to suppress the Congolese people’s anti-imperialist and patriotic struggle. But, the Vice-Premier said, these bloody acts of suppression and vile and shameless tricks will only serve to teach the people of the Congo and Asia, Africa and Latin America and of all the rest of the world to recognize more clearly the true face of U.S. imperialism.

Vice-Premier Chen Yi pointed out that there are still some people who have been hoodwinked by imperialism and fail to see the bestial features of U.S. imperialism, thinking that the United States is a “democratic” country and the “richest” land in the world and that it is not an imperialist country. But the role it is playing in the Congo will make these people understand the truth. The Congolese people will certainly defeat imperialism in the end, the Vice-Premier declared.

The mass rally was attended by friends from many Asian and African countries. It was also addressed by Liao Cheng-chih, Chairman of the Chinese Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity, and Malonga Allias, General Secretary of the General Union of the Confederation of the Peasants’ and Workers’ Trade Unions of the Congo. The rally once again demonstrated the determination of the Chinese people and the peoples all over the world to support the liberation struggle of the Congolese people.
between Yemen and China will certainly grow, he said.

**Fearless Laotian People**

The photographic exhibition on Laos, opened in Peking on February 1, is a vivid pictorial record of fighting, fearless Laos. The more than 150 photographs, sent by the Government of the Kingdom of Laos, first give a glimpse of the history and natural scenery of the country, and then concentrate mainly on the heroic struggle of the Laotian people against imperialism and especially U.S. intervention, and their fight for peace, neutrality, national harmony and unification. Here too is reflected the friendship between the Laotian people and their ardent supporters and well-wishers in China, Viet Nam and other lands.

Pictures of two caves recall historic moments of the protracted Laotian fight for freedom. One is of the cave near the Plain of Jars which was the headquarters at one time of the struggle against French aggression, the other was the cave office of Prince Souphanouvong, a leader of the great struggle that finally ended the rule of the French colonialists in Laos. Other pictures show the activities of the dauntless Laotian men and women who took up arms against the French colonialists and defeated them and who are now fighting back the U.S. imperialists and their puppets. The determination shown in these Laotian faces leave no doubt about the outcome of this new struggle.

**SPORTS**

China is sending a team of her best speed skaters to compete in the men’s world championships in Moscow and the women’s world championships which will be held in Imatra, Finland. Both contests are scheduled for February 17-18.

The Chinese men’s world championship trio includes Wang Chin-yu, winner of the 1962 national speed skating championships. Outstanding among the women’s quartet are two experienced competitors: Liu Feng-jung, a Tsatsihar student who finished fourth in last year’s world championships, and Sun Hung-hsia, a railway electrician from Harbin, who this year won the national championship title for the fourth time running.

This is the sixth time since 1957 that Chinese men and women speed skaters are competing in the world championships. After the world championships they will compete in another series of international contests at Zakopane, Poland.

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**WHAT’S ON IN PEKING**

The following programme scheduled for the coming week is subject to change.

**PEKING OPERA**

**A THE FEAST OF FIVE MARQUISES**

Adapted from a play by Kuan Han-ching, the great Yuan Dynasty playwright. A story of the Five Dynasties. Li Tsung-kio, one of the five marquises, saves an old woman – his own mother, though he doesn’t know it – from committing suicide. After learning the truth, mother and son are happily reunited and the villain who ill-treats his mother is duly punished. Mei Lan-fang Peking Opera Troupe.

**A MEETING AT THE RIVERSIDE**

A scene from The Romance of the Three Kingdoms. Chou Yu, the strategist of the Wu Kingdom, plots to kill Liu Pei, head of the rival Kingdom of Shu. But General Kuan Yu protects Liu Pei from falling into the trap. The Youth Peking Opera Troupe.

**A THE KITCHEN MAIDS EXPEDITION**

When the Sung Empire is invaded by the enemy, She Tai Chun, a retired woman general, recommends her kitchen maid Yang Pet-feng, a warrior maid, to the court to lead the defence. The kitchen maid’s first battle is to teach her own arrogant generals that she is equal to the command. She does this in an uncertain fashion and then routs the enemy in a successful expedition. The Experimental Peking Opera Troupe of Peking.

**PINGFU OPERA**

**A BY THE KINSHA RIVER**

An episode from the famous Long March. It tells how the Red Army exposes a Kuomintang plot and unites in friendship with the Tibetans as it crosses the Tibetan region by the Kinsha River in 1936. China Pingfu Opera Theatre.

**KUNQU OPERA**

**A LI HUI-NIANG**

A rich official abducts Li Hui-niang and makes her his concubine. When his chance encounter she shows her admiration for a patriot scholar, the official kills her in a rage. Powerless in life, Li Hui-niang and spirit helps the scholar escape the official’s clutches. North Kunqu Opera Theatre.

**A THE BEAUTY SENT BEYOND THE GREAT WALL**

Story about Wang Chao-chun, the imperial concubine of the Emperor Yuan Ti of the Han Dynasty, who is presented to the king of the invading Hsiung Nu in an attempt to appease him. Also on the programme: THE YOUNG COWHERD. The love of a village girl and a young cowherd. North Kunqu Opera Theatre.

**DANCE DRAMA**

**A THE MAGIC LOTUS LANTERN**

Based on a Chinese fairy tale, How a brave warrior, son of the Nymph of Mt. Huashan, defeats his intolertant uncle in combat and sets his mother free. Central Opera and Dance Drama Theatre.

**MODERN DRAMA**

**A THE MISER**

The comedy by the great French dramatist Moliere. Peking People’s Art Theatre.

**A THE MAN WITH THE GUN**

Adapted from the famous Soviet play of the same title by N.F. Pogodin. Peking People’s Art Theatre.

**A NAVAL BATTLE OF 1894 SINO-JAPESE WAR**

Despite the bravery of its men the Peiyang Squadron of the Chinese Navy is defeated by the Japanese Fleet as a result of the betrayal by the capitulationist clique of the Ching Court working in collusion with foreign imperialists. Produced by the Cultural Troupe of the P.T.A’s Navy.

**A MILITANT YOUTH**


**FILMS**

**A SPRING THUNDER**

A colour film version of the modern opera of the same title. Peking Studio.

**A MONKEY SUBDUES THE WHITE BONE GHOST**

A colour film version of the shaolin opera. An episode from Pilgrimage to the West. The Monkey Sun Wukung defeats the ghostly schemes of the demon who seeks to devour his master. Tienna Studio.

**A KENNEDY’S TRUE COLOURS**

The evil record of the Kennedy Administration in its first year in office, documented in celluloid. August First Studio.

**A THE FIRST MANNED SPACE FLIGHT**

A Soviet documentary in colour. The thrilling account of how Soviet pilot Gagarin orbited the Earth for the first time in human history.

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**HIGHLIGHTS OF CURRENT ENTERTAINMENT, EXHIBITIONS, ETC.**

**A THE SONG OF THE EAGLE**

A Soviet-Albanian joint production. It tells the heroic struggle of the Albanian people against the fascists during World War II.

**A HATIFA**

A G.D.R. colour film. It depicts the tragic life of the slave-maid, Hatifa, and her people’s struggle against the slave-owners.

**A THE WATERFALL**

A Bolivian film. A story of how a young teacher mobilizes the people of a town to build a canal to lead water to the mountain area.

**EXHIBITIONS**

**A LAOTIAN PHOTO EXHIBITION**

Daily, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., till February 13. At Zhongshan Park.

**A EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE MUSEUM OF THE CHINESE REVOLUTION**

Daily, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., till March 5. At the Museum of the Chinese Revolution.

(Above exhibitions closed on Mondays)

**A At Artists’ Union Gallery:**

* 1962 NEW YEAR PICTURE EXHIBITION*

Daily, 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., till February 11.

* PIAN PING-HENG’S JADE CARVING AND CHI YU-LING’S PORCELAIN CARVING EXHIBITION*

Daily, 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., till February 11.

**A WELCOME SPRING**

**EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS**

Showing more than 100 paintings in the traditional style by Peking artists. Till February 25. At Beihai Park.

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