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Chi Peng-fei's Speech
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Welcome the Signing of
The Lao Agreement

"Renmin Ribao" editorial

Develop the Work of the Communist Youth League
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Greetings on Signing of Vientiane Agreement

Acting Chairman of the People’s Republic of China Tung Pi-wu sent a message on February 25 to King Sisavang Vatthana of Laos congratulating him on the formal signing in Vientiane of the Agreement on Restoring Peace and Achieving National Concord in Laos (for full text of the agreement see p. 7).

On the same day, Premier Chou En-lai sent a message of greetings to Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front, and another to Premier Souvanna Phouma.

In his message to Prince Souphanouvong, the Chinese Premier said: “The signing of the agreement marks the advent of a new stage in the struggle of the Lao people. The Chinese people sincerely wish that the Lao people will score new victories in their cause of restoring peace and achieving national concord and thus build a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous new Laos.” He also said in his message that “in the future, the Chinese people will, as always, give firm support to the just cause of the fraternal peoples of Laos and the other Indochinese countries.”

In his message to Premier Phouma, Premier Chou wished that “the Lao people score new successes in their cause of restoring peace and achieving national concord.”

Shanghai Communist Youth League Committee Elected

The Sixth Shanghai Municipal Congress of the Chinese Communist Youth League, held from February 12 to 19, was attended by 1,500 delegates. They represented League members who are industrial workers, peasants, People’s Liberation Armymen, office workers, national minority people and returned overseas Chinese. Most are activists who have emerged in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution.

Leading comrades of the Shanghai Municipal Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and the Shanghai Municipal Revolutionary Committee attending warmly greeted the congress.

In his report to the congress, Secretary of the Shanghai Municipal Party Committee Comrade Wang Hung-wen encouraged Shanghai’s Communist Youth League members, Red Guards and other revolutionary youth to act upon Chairman Mao’s instruction to “keep fit, study hard and work well” and temper themselves in the three great revolutionary movements — class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment — so as to become worthy successors to the revolutionary cause of the proletariat and contribute to the socialist revolution and construction. He called on Party organizations at all levels in Shanghai to strengthen their leadership over work with regard to young people.

Serious study of Chairman Mao’s instructions on work concerning young people was done by the delegates, and they criticized and repudiated the revisionist line of Liu Shao-chi and other political swindlers on youth work. The delegates reviewed at length the excellent situation in Shanghai’s youth work and the course of struggle since liberation, especially since the start of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. Everyone became more aware than ever that it is Chairman Mao’s revolutionary line that guides the young people in their study, work and struggle and it is Mao Tsetung Thought that nurtures the younger generation in its healthy growth. The delegates pledged they would fully live up to the high expectations of the great leader Chairman Mao and the Party and place on the younger generation, and that they would always triumphantly advance along Chairman Mao’s proletarian revolutionary line.

The congress adopted the resolution “Struggle for the Great Cause of Socialism” and, after democratic discussion, elected the Sixth Shanghai Municipal Committee of the Chinese Communist Youth League consisting of 85 members and 18 alternate members whose average age is under 25.

A revolutionary, united, alert, earnest and lively atmosphere prevailed throughout the congress.

China-Africa: First Air Link

An international air service linking China and Ethiopia was formally inaugurated on February 22. Following the opening of the new Pakistan-China air route a few days earlier, this was the second new international route to be established with Shanghai as its terminal. Until then there had never been air service between China and Africa; the new direct service is the first.

Previous air travel between China and Ethiopia required making a detour with a change-over during the trip. When Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie I visited China in October 1971, leaders of the two countries decided to set up a direct air line between China and Ethiopia. The present service, covering 9,000 kilometres all the way from the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa to Shanghai and flying over the Arabian Sea and the south Asian mainland, is a mere ten-hour flight. This has greatly facilitated friendly intercourse between China and Ethiopia and between Asia and Africa.

Shanghai’s Hongqiao Airport flew the Chinese and Ethiopian national flags and was a forest of coloured bunting the day of the inaugural flight. The airport was all set for the landing of the first Ethiopian Airlines passenger plane. Carrying 97 passengers and manned by an all-Ethiopian crew, including the chief (Continued on p. 13.)
China Attends Paris International Conference on Viet Nam

FOREIGN Minister Chi Peng-fei, leader of the delegation of the People's Republic of China, attended the opening ceremony and first plenary session of the International Conference on Viet Nam which took place in Paris February 26 in the hall of the International Conference Centre at Avenue Kleber.

Others taking part were the Canadian delegation led by Minister of External Affairs Mitchell Sharp; the U.S. delegation led by Secretary of State William Rogers; the French delegation led by Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann; the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam led by Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh; the Hungarian delegation led by Foreign Minister Peter Janos; the Indonesian delegation led by Foreign Minister Adam Malik; the Polish delegation led by Foreign Minister Stefan Osowski; the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam led by Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh; the delegation of the Government of the Republic of Viet Nam led by Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam; the British delegation led by Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Alec Douglas-Home; the U.S.S.R. delegation led by Foreign Minister A.A. Gromyko, and U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim.

The opening ceremony and first plenary session were presided over by Canadian Minister of External Affairs Mitchell Sharp.

French Foreign Minister Schumann delivered a welcome speech on behalf of the host country. He recalled that after the Paris conference on Viet Nam was held in this hall since May 13, 1968, the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam was signed on January 27 this year in the same hall. He said, "Let the spirit of concord and reconciliation be prolonged and the spirit of peace be maintained, which have guided the signatories of the agreement on January 27. This, I am sure, is the wish of every one of us. It is the hope of all the people."

The opening ceremony ended with Schumann's speech. Then the plenary session began.

The delegations agreed on the conference having no fixed chairman. The foreign ministers of Canada and Poland are to preside over the sessions of the conference on alternate days.

The conference was convened in pursuance of Article 19 of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam signed on January 27, which reads: "The parties agree on the convening of an international conference within thirty days of the signing of this agreement to acknowledge the signed agreements; to guarantee the ending of the war, the maintenance of peace in Viet Nam, the respect of the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights, and the south Vietnamese people's right to self-determination; and to contribute to and guarantee peace in Indochina.

"The Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the United States, on behalf of the parties participating in the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, will propose to the following parties that they participate in this International Conference: the People's Republic of China, the Republic of France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, the four countries of the International Commission of Control and Supervision, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, together with the parties participating in the Paris Conference on Viet Nam."

The agenda, which has been worked out by the United States and the Democratic Republic of Viet

Delegation of the People's Republic of China

Leader: Chi Peng-fei, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Deputy Leader: Han Nien-lung, Vice-Foreign Minister

Members: Chang Wen-chin, Assistant Foreign Minister
          Peng Hua, Director of the Information Department of the Foreign Ministry
          Han Hsu, Director of the Protocol Department of the Foreign Ministry
          Ling Ching, Deputy Director of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences and Treaty and Law of the Foreign Ministry
          Liang Feng, Deputy Director of the Asian Affairs Department of the Foreign Ministry

Advisers: Ting Yuan-hung, Kao Liang, Tao Yuan-hsin, Hsu Wei-chin, Yu Sung-hsi, Pai Chang-lin, Ma Chi-hsien, Chang Teh-wei and Ma Yu-chen
Nam, in furtherance of the tasks assigned to them by Article 19 of the Agreement, is subject to the approval of the conference as a whole through the process of consultation and unanimous decision.

Similarly, the work of the Drafting Committee, over which Canada and Poland will preside in rotation, is to be carried out in accordance with the principle of consultation and unanimous decision. This committee will base its deliberations upon working papers to be submitted to it by the delegations of the United States and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei spoke at the first session.

Chi Peng-fei's Speech

Fellow Delegates,

First of all, allow me to offer my congratulations on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China on the convocation of this international conference on Viet Nam. I would like to express thanks to our host, the Government of France, for the thoughtful arrangements it has made for the conference.

A month ago, in this very hall of the International Conference Centre, the representatives of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Viet Nam formally signed the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam. The Viet Nam war which lasted for more than ten long years has finally come to an end. This is a major event in current international political life. The Chinese Government and people warmly welcome the signing of this agreement.

The signing of the Paris agreement is a great achievement scored by the Vietnamese people through more than a decade of heroic struggle waged under extremely difficult conditions. It is also the result of the joint efforts of the people of the whole world, the American people included. The parties to the Paris agreement contributed their share to its conclusion. The signing and implementation of the agreement make it possible again for the Vietnamese people to decide their own destiny free from foreign interference, open up prospects for the realization of independence, peace, unity, democracy and prosperity in Viet Nam, and thereby will contribute to peace in Indochina and the easing of tension in Southeast Asia. This not only reflects the national aspirations of the Vietnamese people for independence and freedom, but also conforms to the common desire of the people of Asia and the whole world.

One month has passed since the signing of the agreement. It can be noted that the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam have solemnly declared on many occasions their will to thoroughly implement all the provisions of the agreement and made unremitting efforts to this end. At present, a ceasefire has been basically effected throughout Viet Nam. The release of prisoners is under way. The Four-Party Joint Military Commission and the International Commission of Control and Supervision have started their work. The armed forces of the United States and its allies are being withdrawn from south Viet Nam. It is heartening that some provisions of the agreement are being put into effect. But of course, implementation of the agreement is yet in its initial stage, and serious efforts by all parties are required before all the provisions can be materialized. We cannot but point out here that the public statements made by certain people after the signing of the agreement are detrimental to its implementation, and that violations of the agreement have occurred at the same time in regard to the ceasefire, the release of prisoners, the provision of working conditions for the functioning of the joint military commissions, etc. We hope that such a state of affairs will be promptly checked.

The responsibility for the thorough implementation of the Paris agreement lies with the signatories. Of course, we other governments participating in the international conference should also make our own contributions, that is to say, we should undertake to respect the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam and the right of the south Vietnamese people to self-determination and not to interfere in any form in the internal affairs of the Vietnamese people. If all of us act in this manner, favourable conditions will be created in which the Vietnamese people can settle their own questions by themselves. I hereby solemnly declare on behalf of the Chinese Government: We acknowledge and respect the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam, and earnestly undertake not to do anything that hinders or violates the agreement. We are ready to work together with all other participants of the conference towards this end.

Fellow Delegates,

The people of the whole world are closely following the progress of our conference. We believe that, so long as all the participants of the conference have a sincere desire, it will certainly be possible for them through mutual consultation and co-operation to live up to the hopes of the people the world over and enable the conference to speedily attain positive results.

Thank you.

March 2, 1973
"RENMIN RIBAO" EDITORIAL

Welcome the Signing of The Lao Agreement

THE Agreement on Restoring Peace and Achieving National Concord in Laos was formally signed in Vientiane on February 21, 1973, by the Plenipotentiary Special Representative of the Lao Patriotic Forces and the Plenipotentiary Special Representative of the Vientiane Government. The agreement stipulates that a ceasefire should be observed throughout the territory of Laos, peace restored and the internal problems of Laos settled by the two signatories through consultations in the spirit of national concord. The signing of the agreement is a tremendous victory for the Lao people and the patriotic forces of Laos. It is also a common victory for the three Indochinese peoples and the people of the whole world. The Chinese people welcome the signing of the Lao agreement and extend warm congratulations to the fraternal Lao people.

The Lao people love peace and independence. It is the national aspirations of the Lao people to build a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, united and prosperous Laos. The 1962 Geneva Agreement guaranteed the respect for the independence, sovereignty, neutrality, unity and territorial integrity of Laos. But the United States later trampled on and undermined the agreement, instigated the Lao Rightist forces to stage a coup d'état, subverted the Lao Government of National Union, provoked a civil war in Laos and went so far as to send its own troops to invade the country. All this sabotaged peace in Laos and impeded a peaceful settlement of the Lao problem. The agreement now clearly stipulates that the United States must scrupulously observe and carry out the 1962 Geneva Agreement. Under the present agreement, the United States must withdraw all its military personnel from Laos and terminate its military activities and military involvement of all kinds in the country. Only in such circumstances is it possible for the Lao people to settle their internal affairs themselves without outside intervention and realize their national aspirations and fundamental national rights.

The signing of the Agreement on Restoring Peace and Achieving National Concord in Laos is a successful result of the Lao people's protracted just struggle. For the past decade and more the Lao Patriotic Front led the Lao people in waging a valiant struggle together with the Lao Patriotic Neutralist Forces against U.S. intervention and aggression and for safeguarding the peace, independence and unity of Laos, and this struggle was crowned with a very great victory. The Lao patriotic armed forces successfully rebuffed enemy "nibbling" attacks, frustrated the conspiracy of so-called "Laotianization" of the war and defended and conscripted the liberated zone. In the meantime, for a peaceful settlement of the Lao problem, the Lao Patriotic Front put forward reasonable proposals many times, showed utmost sincerity in the peace talks and made unremitting efforts, which finally led to the signing of the agreement. Just like the realization of a ceasefire and the restoration of peace in Viet Nam, the signing of the agreement effectively proves that the just struggle of the people of various countries to achieve and safeguard independence and sovereignty is sure to win, while hegemonic aggression and intervention is bound to fail.

The restoration of peace in Laos, which is conducive to the relaxation of tension in Southeast Asia and the whole of Asia, is welcomed by the people of Asia and the whole world. The two signatories have pledged to carry out the agreement and continue their negotiations for the implementation of the provisions agreed upon. It is hoped that the United States and its allies which are involved in the Lao issue remember the historical lessons of the past and strictly respect the independence, sovereignty, neutrality, unity and territorial integrity of Laos so as to ensure the full implementation of the agreement.

China and Laos are friendly neighbours. The people of the two countries are close comrades-in-arms and brothers. In their protracted common struggles, the two peoples have always sympathized with and encouraged and supported each other. The Chinese people will, as in the past, continue to give resolute support to the just struggle of the Lao people and the other Indochinese peoples and are firmly convinced that their just struggle will certainly win complete victory.

(February 23)

Peking Review, No. 9
Agreement on Restoring Peace and Achieving National Concord in Laos

Following is an official translation of the Agreement on Restoring Peace and Achieving National Concord in Laos, which was formally signed in Vientiane on February 21, 1973 by the Lao Patriotic Forces and the Vientiane Government. — Ed.

Agreement on Restoring Peace And Achieving National Concord in Laos

In response to the august desire of His Majesty the King and the earnest aspirations of the people of all nationalities across the country for a prompt end to the war, the restoration and firm maintenance of lasting peace, the achievement of national concord, the unification of the country, the building of a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos in order to make a positive contribution to the consolidation of peace in Indochina and Southeast Asia,

On the basis of the 1962 Geneva Agreement and the present realities in Laos.

The Vientiane Government side and the side of the Patriotic Forces have unanimously agreed upon the following:

CHAPTER 1
GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Article 1

a) The Lao people's will is to firmly preserve and resolutely exercise their sacred, inviolable fundamental national rights namely independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Laos.

b) The declaration on the neutrality of Laos on July 9, 1962 and the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos are correct bases for the Kingdom of Laos' foreign policies of independence, peace and neutrality. They must be respected and scrupulously observed by the Lao parties concerned, the United States of America, Thailand and the other foreign countries.

The internal affairs of Laos must be settled by the Lao people themselves, without foreign interference.

c) In pursuit of the supreme goal of restoring peace, consolidating independence, achieving national concord and unifying the country, and taking into consideration the present realities of Laos where there are two zones separately controlled by the two sides, the internal affairs of Laos should be settled in the spirit of national concord and on the principles of equality and mutual respect, free from pressure or annexation by either side.

d) To preserve national independence and sovereignty, achieve national concord and unify the country, the people's democratic freedoms must be scrupulously observed, which comprise individual freedom, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of assembly, freedom of setting up political parties and organizations, freedom of election and standing for election, freedom of movement, freedom of residence, free enterprise and the right to private property ownership. All laws, regulations and institutions contrary to these freedoms shall be abolished.

CHAPTER 2
MILITARY PROVISIONS

Article 2

Beginning from 12:00 hours (Vientiane time) on Feb. 22, 1973 a total simultaneous ceasefire in-place shall be observed throughout the Lao territory, which will comprise the following measures:

a) Foreign countries end completely and definitively all their bombardments on the whole Lao territory, stop all their acts of intervention and aggression against Laos, and terminate their military involvement of all kinds in Laos.

b) The armed forces of foreign countries end completely and definitively all military activities in Laos.

March 2, 1973
The armed forces of the Lao parties completely discontinue all military acts that constitute hostilities on the ground and in the air.

**Article 3**

After the ceasefire comes into effect:

a) All military acts of assault, annexation, threat or violation on the ground and in the air by one party against the areas under the temporary control of the other party are strictly prohibited.

b) All hostile military acts including the activities of bandits and commandos and armed activities and espionage on the ground and in the air are strictly prohibited.

In case one of the parties should want to supply its men in food by going through the zone under the control of the other party, the Joint Commission for Implementation of the Agreement will discuss this and define, upon common agreement, the concrete modalities for the supply.

c) All the raids and operations of terror, repression and infringement on the people’s lives and property, and all acts of reprisal and discrimination against those who collaborated with the other side during the war shall be strictly prohibited; assistance shall be given to people who were forced to leave their native villages during the war to help them return there freely to earn their living according to their desire.

d) The introduction into Laos of all military personnel of all kinds of regular or irregular troops, and all kinds of armament and war material of foreign countries, except for the ones provided for by the 1954 and 1962 Agreements, shall be prohibited. In case a replacement of damaged or worn-out armament and war material should prove necessary, the two parties will discuss it and will make decisions by common agreement.

**Article 4**

Within 60 days after the setting up of the Provisional National Union Government and the National Political Consultative Council, the total withdrawal from Laos of all military personnel, regular and irregular troops of foreign countries, and the dissolution of the military and para-military organizations of foreign countries shall be completed.

The “special forces” organized, equipped, trained and commanded by foreigners shall be dissolved, and all the bases, installations and positions of these forces shall be dismantled.

**Article 5**

Each of the two parties shall return to the other party the persons, regardless of their nationalities, who have been captured and detained because of their collaboration with the other party during the war.

This return will be carried out according to modalities jointly defined by the two parties, and completed, at the latest, within 60 days after the setting up of the Provisional National Union Government and the National Political Consultative Council.

After the completion of the return of all the captured personnel, each of the two parties will have the obligation of seeking for those reported missing during the war, and of supplying the other party with information about them.

**CHAPTER 3**

**POLITICAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 6**

Genuinely free and democratic general elections shall be organized to set up the National Assembly and set up a definitive National Union Government authentically representing the people of all nationalities of Laos. The modalities and time for these general elections will be discussed and agreed upon by the two sides.

Pending the general elections, the two sides, within 30 days after the signing of the agreement, shall complete the formation of a new Provisional National Union Government and a National Political Consultative Council to implement the provisions of the agreement and handle state affairs.

**Article 7**

The new Provisional National Union Government will comprise representatives of the Vientiane Government and of the Patriotic Forces with equal numbers, and two personalities who stand for peace, independence, neutrality, and democracy and who will be chosen by the two sides by common agreement. The future prime minister will not be included in the two equal numbers of representatives of the two parties. The Provisional National Union Government will be set up following a special procedure through direct investiture by His Majesty the King and will function in accordance with the principle of unanimity of the two sides. Its task is to implement the agreement and the political programme agreed upon by the two sides, especially to implement and maintain the ceasefire, safeguard lasting peace, observe all democratic freedoms of the people, practise a foreign policy of peace, independence and neutrality, co-ordinate the plans for economic construction and cultural development, and receive and distribute the common aid given by various countries to Laos.

**Article 8**

The National Political Consultative Council, organ of national concord, will comprise representatives of the Vientiane Government and the Patriotic Forces.
with equal numbers and a number of personalities approving peace, independence, neutrality and democracy to be chosen by the two sides. It will function in accordance with the principle of unanimity of the two parties. Its task is:

—To discuss with the Provisional National Union Government major questions relating to domestic and foreign policies, and present its views regarding these questions to the P.N.U.G.

—To promote and help the P.N.U.G. and the two sides in the implementation of the agreement in order to achieve national concord.

—To examine and adopt together the laws and regulations for the elections and join the P.N.U.G. in organizing general elections to set up the National Assembly and a definitive National Union Government.

The procedure for the establishment of the National Political Consultative Council is as follows: The two parties will discuss it in detail and take a joint decision on this subject. This decision will then be submitted to the Provisional National Union Government, which in turn will submit it to His Majesty the King for investiture. The same procedure will be applied to the dissolution of the National Political Consultative Council.

Article 9

The two sides agreed to neutralize the royal capital of Luang Prabang and the Vientiane capital, and to find all measures to ensure the security and the effective functioning of the Provisional National Union Government and the National Political Consultative Council and prevent all sabotage or pressure by any force from within and without.

Article 10

a) Pending the election to the National Assembly and the setting up of the Provisional National Union Government, the two parties, in the spirit of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of the Zurich joint communiqué of June 22, 1961, will keep the areas under their temporary control, and endeavour to carry out the political programme of the Provisional National Union Government, as agreed upon by the two parties.

b) The two parties will step up the establishment of normal relations between the two zones, create favourable conditions for the population to move about, earn their living, exchange visits, and make economic, cultural and other exchanges with a view to consolidating national concord and unifying the country at an early date.

c) The two parties take note of the U.S. Government’s statement that it will contribute to the healing of the wounds of war and to the postwar reconstruction in the whole of Indochina. The Provisional National Union Government will discuss this contribution with the U.S. Government, as far as Laos is concerned.

March 2, 1973

CHAPTER 4

THE JOINT COMMISSION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SUPERVISION AND CONTROL

Article 11

The responsibility for the implementation of the agreement rests mainly with the two parties concerned in Laos. These two sides shall set up at once a Joint Commission for Implementation of the Agreement with equal numbers to representatives. The Joint Commission for Implementation of the Agreement shall begin functioning immediately after the ceasefire comes into effect. It will work in accordance with the principle of discussion and unanimous decision.

Article 12

The International Commission for Supervision and Control set up following the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos, composed of India, Poland and Canada, with India as Chairman, will continue its activities in accordance with the tasks, power and principles as provided for in the protocol of the said Geneva Agreement.

CHAPTER 5

OTHER PROVISIONS

Article 13

The Vientiane Government party and that of the Patriotic Forces undertake to implement this agreement and continue negotiations to carry out all the provisions already agreed upon and settle the pending questions concerning them, in the spirit of equality and mutual respect so as to end the war, restore and preserve peace in a steady and durable manner, achieve national concord and national reunification, and ultimately build a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos.

Article 14

The agreement shall enter into force from the date of its signature.

Done in Vientiane on February 21, 1973 in the Lao language in five copies. One copy will be submitted to His Majesty the King, each party will keep one copy, and the Provisional National Union Government and the Political Consultative Council will keep each one copy for their files.

For the Party of the Vientiane Government

Phagna Pheng Phongsavan
Plenipotentiary Special Representative of the Vientiane Government

For the Party of the Patriotic Forces

Phagna Phoumi Vongvichit
Plenipotentiary Special Representative of the Patriotic Forces
Following is the full text of the appeal issued on February 22 by the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front, according to KPL that day.—Ed.

Dear Fellow-Countrymen Throughout the Land,

Dear Officers and Combatants,


The ceasefire including the ending of the U.S. air raids took effect today, February 22, 1973, across our most beloved Lao territory. Today, the extremely barbarous neo-colonialist aggressive war launched by the U.S. in our country has ended, and peace has been restored in our land.

The agreement asseverates in a clear-cut manner the iron-like determination of our people to defend and exercise our inviolable and sacred fundamental national rights, namely the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Laos. The internal affairs of Laos must be settled by our people alone without foreign interference. Now that there are now two zones separately controlled by two sides, the Lao internal affairs must be settled in the spirit of national concord and on the principle of equality and mutual respect, without pressure or annexation by either side. In order that national independence and sovereignty may be preserved, national concord achieved and our country unified, the people’s democratic freedom must be firmly and fully observed.

The agreement also stipulates that the declaration of the neutrality of Laos on July 9, 1962 and the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos are a correct basis for the Kingdom of Laos’s foreign policy of independence, peace and neutrality. As such, it must be strictly respected and seriously implemented by the Lao parties concerned, the United States of America, Thailand, and the other foreign countries.

The Agreement on Restoring Peace and Achieving National Concord in Laos, besides, provides that pending the general elections to the National Assembly and the establishment of a definitive National Union Government, the two sides shall form a new Provisional National Union Government and a National Political Consultative Council composed of representatives of the Patriotic Forces and of the Viêtiane side, and personalities standing for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy, so as to implement the agreement signed by the two parties to maintain peace, handle the country’s affairs, achieve national concord, and gradually complete the national unification.

The signing of the Agreement on Restoring Peace and Achieving National Concord in Laos, following the conclusion of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam, marks another stage, a very serious one, of the bankruptcy of the U.S. policy of interference and aggression in Laos and Indochina as a whole, and a very ignominious failure of the ultra-reactionary forces in our country bent on stamping out our people’s struggle for national salvation. With the signing of this agreement, all interventionist activities of the U.S., including the use of bases in Thailand for interference in our country, and all U.S. military involvement in our country must be completely and definitively terminated. This is a tremendous contribution to the safeguarding and preservation of peace in Indochina and the rest of Southeast Asia.

The agreement is a political and juridical guarantee of the fundamental rights of the nation and the neutrality of the country. It provides our people with a basis to achieve step by step national concord and the unification of the country.

This is also a historic victory of the protracted struggle waged by our people for a quarter of a century against colonialism and imperialism, and for the independence, peace, democracy, neutrality, unity and territorial integrity of Laos.

This is a particularly resounding victory of our people’s hard but very valiant struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation, which lasted for close to two decades.

This is a brilliant victory of the tradition of dauntless and indomitable struggle of the Lao people, who
have a glorious centuries-long history of building and
defending the country.

This is also a victory for the determination of our
cadres, armymen, and people to fight, regardless of dif-
ficulties, hardships and sacrifices.

This is also a victory for the bloc of unity of the
entire people, first of all the firm alliance of the Lao
Patriotic Front and the Patriotic Neutralist Forces.

This is also a victory for the correct nation-saving
policy of the Lao people.

This victory has clearly affirmed that a small nation
such as ours can defeat the aggression of any imperial-
ism, even U.S. imperialism, provided that it is closely
united, firmly determined, has a correct political line
and enjoys the vigorous support of the whole world
people.

This success is a good basis for our people to con-
solidate the gains made in struggle, and to advance to
new and yet greater ones. Celebrating this great his-
toric victory today, we express our gratitude to the
service rendered by those cadres, combatants and com-
patriots who have valiantly laid down their lives for
the fatherland during our people’s struggle against
U.S. aggression, for national salvation. To arrive at so
great a victory, we have had to overcome innumerable
difficulties, hardships and sacrifices. The Lao People’s
Liberation Army and the Patriotic Neutralist Armed
Forces have fought valiantly shoulder to shoulder, and
have smashed all the nibbling operations of the enemy,
thus reducing to an ignominious defeat the violent,
barbarous war of the U.S. imperialists, defending firm-
ly the liberated zone, and, together with the entire
people, crowning the anti-U.S. struggle for national
salvation with so great a victory.

That our people can obtain so great a victory is
due to the spirit of militant solidarity and mutual sup-
port and assistance among our people and the fraternal
Vietnamese and Khmer peoples in the struggle for the
independence and sovereignty of each country.

The Lao people also owe this great victory to the
very enormous and precious support and assistance
rendered both materially and morally by the peoples of
the socialist countries and the peace- and justice-
loving people, including the American people.

The Lao Patriotic Front, therefore, takes this op-
pportunity to express its sincere thanks to the Govern-
ments and peoples of the socialist countries, and those
of the other peace- and justice-loving countries in the
world.

Fellow-countrymen across the land,

The signing of this agreement has brought us to
a new stage of our nation’s history. Our people’s strug-
gle has made a sharp turn. After an armed struggle
we now begin another struggle to preserve and con-
solidate peace, achieve national concord, unify the
country, and advance toward the objectives of peace,
independence, democracy, neutrality, unity, and pros-
perity in our country.

Yet, before reaching this goal our people will have
to struggle on. This is because the forces of reaction
and war are wickedly plotting to sabotage the agree-
ment and prevent our people from obtaining independ-
ence, democracy and prosperity.

The L.P.F. Central Committee declares that the
Lao patriotic armed forces will strictly and scrupulous-
ly implement the Agreement on Restoring Peace and
Achieving National Concord in Laos, and demands that
the Vietname side do the same.

So an extremely important task for our people to
do immediately is to strengthen unity and persever-
ingly struggle for the strict implementation of the agree-
ment in order to maintain peace, achieve national con-
cord, and safeguard our fundamental national rights,
thus contributing actively to the consolidation of peace
in Indochina and Southeast Asia.

Let the Lao patriotic forces and people look sharp
for any move and act the ultra-reactionaries and war-
maniacs may take in violation of the agreement and
against peace and national concord.

Let the patriotic armed forces strengthen unity,
make great efforts in study and training to increase
their political knowledge and improve their combat
technique so as to check in time any act the other side
may take in violation of the ceasefire, and to defend
the liberated zone and the people.

The population of the liberated zone should step
up production, observe law and order and pay great
attention to the economic and cultural construction and
development in order to raise their living standard and
build the liberated zone into the firm rear base for the
construction of Laos.

The population in areas controlled by the Viet-
name side should bring into full play their role as the
master in the struggle for democratic freedom and
everyday interests. Those forced to leave their native
villages should resolutely struggle for return. Office
employees, soldiers and policemen on the Vietname side
should contribute to the common cause of our nation.
The officers and men of the Vietname army in the in-
terest of peace and national concord should be vigilant
and should not allow the ultra-reactionaries to push
them into acts of provocation and sabotage.

Peace, national concord and national unification
are the supreme and legitimate interest, the imperative

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desire of our people. The signing of the agreement has created favourable conditions for all our people to settle our internal affairs peacefully in the spirit of national concord and on the principle of equality and mutual understanding and respect and without coercion. Now is a good opportunity for all strata, whatever their past and political colours, to make their love of peace and national concord prevail, so as to devote their hearts and minds to the service of our beloved fatherland.

National concord and mutual love are a fine tradition of our nation. To bring it into full play, all of us should forget differences, and wipe out all hatred and division caused by imperialist intervention and aggression in the past, be always in concord and cooperation with each other and be united as one in defending peace and making national concord true.

The devastating war in our country has ended, so let all of us try our best to heal the wounds of war, build our country, gradually do away with misery and backwardness, bring a happy life to our people, and make our country a prosperous one.

For the sake of peace, our people will enhance for ever our solidarity and friendship with the fraternal peoples of Viet Nam and Cambodia.

We firmly believe that the people of the socialist countries and the progressive people all over the world will continue giving their wholehearted support to our people in their struggle for the defence of peace, sovereignty and national independence, and in our reconstruction of the country.

For the independence and freedom of the fatherland, for the happiness and a bright future of our nation, let all of us endeavor to defend peace and achieve national concord, and make an active contribution to the safeguarding of peace in Indochina and Southeast Asia and to the world people's struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress.

Let our fellow-countrymen, cadres and combatants across the country march forward valiantly!

Long live the peaceful, independent, democratic, neutral, unified, and prosperous Laos!

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Samdech Ngorodom Sihanouk, Head of State and Chairman of the National United Front of Cambodia, in a statement on February 27 demanded that the U.S. Government respect and immediately implement the Paris agreement and stop its intervention in Cambodia. The statement reads:

THE United States of America, contrary to the commitments made within the framework of the Paris agreement signed on January 27, 1973 by the Government of U.S.A. and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, continues to maintain in Phnom Penh a large number of military personnel to handle the military aid to the so-called Khmer republic, supply it with large numbers of military aid including arms of all sorts with appropriate munitions and also tanks, aircraft and warships, and send almost daily U.S. air force based in Thailand to intervene against the Cambodian People’s National Liberation Armed Forces.

The Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam strictly implement and respect all the clauses of the Viet Nam-U.S. agreement signed in Paris on January 27, 1973, especially those clauses stipulating the absolute respect for the sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia as well as the non-interference in the affairs of Cambodia and the Khmer people.

The Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia which is at present administering more than 85 per cent of the national territory of Cambodia and which is officially recognized as the only legal Government of the State of Cambodia and the only legitimate Government of the Khmer people by socialist countries as the People’s Republic of China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, Albania, Romania and by about sixty non-aligned countries which held their conference in Georgetown in 1972, demands that the Government of the United States of America, firstly, withdraw immediately all the U.S. military personnel from Cambodia, secondly, stop immediately supplying military aid to the so-called Khmer republic, and thirdly, cease immediately and for ever to send U.S. aircraft to intervene in the air space of Cambodia.

The problem of peace in Cambodia is not difficult to solve. If the U.S.A. agrees to stop interference in the affairs of the Khmers, Cambodia will very quickly recover its traditional peace. So, I insist that the Government of President Richard Nixon of U.S.A. respect and implement immediately article 20 of the Paris agreement which it signed on January 27, 1973 jointly with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

Peking Review, No. 9
Seldom-Seen Atrocity
by "Renmin Ribao" Commentator

A LIBYAN Arab Airlines passenger plane was recently shot down by the Israeli air force over the Sinai Peninsula, resulting in the grave incident in which more than 100 persons were killed. Such a barbarous attack on an unarmed passenger plane, a brutal act seldom seen in international relations, cannot but arouse the greatest indignation of the Arab people and farsighted world public opinion and be severely condemned by them.

After the incident, the Israeli authorities tried to justify themselves by alleging that the Sinai Peninsula is a "particularly sensitive area" and therefore Israeli fighter planes were "obliged" to shoot the airliner down. This is purely the language of an aggressor. The occupation of Sinai by Israeli forces is in itself an act of banditry. They now have committed a new crime on top of past crimes by wantonly downing the Libyan passenger plane. The argument of the Israeli authorities can in no way absolve them from their responsibility for the crime. On the contrary, it can only show up more revealingly their truculent attitude and obdurate position as the enemy of the Arab people.

The wild shooting down of the Libyan plane by the Israeli aggressors is a new provocation against the Palestinian people and the people of various Arab countries. Supported by imperialism, the Zionists have, of late, repeatedly shelled and carried out aerial attacks on Syria, conducted air raids against Egypt, invaded Lebanon with their ground forces, and sent airborne troops to brutally slaughter Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. All this shows that the Israeli aggressors are trying to achieve their criminal aim of permanently seizing their aggressive gains through all kinds of provocations, blackmail and threats. But this scheme will never succeed. Their rabid provocation will only arouse the Palestinian and other Arab people to fight shoulder to shoulder against the common enemy and stiffen their resolve to fight imperialism and Zionism.

The Chinese people resolutely condemn the Israeli aggressors for their brutal act of downing the Libyan passenger plane, staunchly support the Palestinian and other Arab people in their just struggle against aggression and firmly believe they will surely win new victories on their road forward.

(February 25)

(Continued from p. 3.)

The pilot, the aircraft touched down at 13:40 hours local time, and was warmly welcomed by local Chinese officials, Ethiopian Ambassador to China, Makonnen Kebet, and his wife, made a special trip to Shanghai to greet the occasion.

Among the distinguished guests who made the maiden air trip were: Ras Mengesha Seyoum, Governor General of Tigre Province, and his wife; Blaffen Geta Mahteme Selassie W. Maskal, Crown Councillor; Lij Yilma Deressa, Crown Councillor, and his wife; Ato Abebe Retta, Crown Councillor; Lij Araya Abebe, Senator, and his wife; and Ato Emmanuel Abraham, Minister of Mines and Board Member of Ethiopian airlines.

Arriving on the plane were some 70 guests of the Ethiopian Airlines to attend the inaugural flight celebrations and for a visit to China. They included government officials, and people connected with the press, trade and industry, tourism and cultural and educational circles from 15 countries.

That evening the Shanghai Municipal Revolutionary Committee gave a reception to mark the successful inaugural flight. The next morning, the distinguished Ethiopian guests and the guests of the Ethiopian Airlines flew to Peking where they attended another reception given by Kuang Jen-nung, Director-General of the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC) in the evening.

They were feted by Vice-Foreign Minister Ho Ying on the evening of February 24.

On the afternoon of February 25, Premier Chou En-lai, Vice-Foreign Ministers Chiao Kuan-hua and Ho Ying and CAAC Director-General Kuang Jen-nung gave a cocktail party at the Great Hall of the People for the 90-odd guests. It was a cordial and joyous meeting during which Premier Chou extended a warm welcome to the guests, walking from table to table to shake hands and chat with the Ethiopian and other foreign friends. At the close of the meeting, the Chinese Premier asked Governor General Seyoum and his wife and other honoured guests of Ethiopia to convey his cordial regards to Emperor Haile Selassie I and to thank him for his contributions to Sino-Ethiopian friendship.

At 22:30 hours local time on February 22 the Ethiopian Airlines plane took off from Shanghai on its return trip to Addis Ababa, carrying a 30-member Chinese goodwill mission to the Ethiopian capital. The airliner arrived in Addis Ababa early the next morning, and the spanning of the Ethiopia-China "friendship bridge" had been completed.

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WITH our great leader Chairman Mao and the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party paying wholehearted attention, Shanghai held its Sixth Municipal Congress of the Chinese Communist Youth League at which the Sixth Shanghai Municipal Committee of the League was elected. Communist Youth League congresses of various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions are to be held later. This is a major event in the political life of League members, Red Guards and hundreds of millions of young people of our country. It is of great significance in uniting and educating young people and training and bringing up a revolutionary younger generation under the guidance of Chairman Mao's revolutionary line.

Chairman Mao teaches us: "The young people are the most active and vital force in society. They are the most eager to learn and the least conservative in their thinking. This is especially so in the era of socialism."

Chairman Mao has also said: "The world is yours, as well as ours, but in the last analysis, it is yours. You young people, full of vigour and vitality, are in the bloom of life, like the sun at eight or nine in the morning. Our hope is placed on you."

The young people of our country have lived up to Chairman Mao's earnest hope. They have played a dynamic role on various fronts of the socialist revolution and construction. In the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, the revolutionary young people set up Red Guard organizations and, under the guidance of Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line, rebelled against the revisionist line and spread the flames of revolution throughout the country. This is a magnificent new page in the annals of the Chinese youth movement.

Tempered in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, particularly with the deepening of the movement to criticize revisionism and rectify the style of work, members of the Communist Youth League, Red Guards and other young people have seriously studied works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Chairman Mao's works, criticized the counter-revolutionary revisionist line of Liu Shao-chi and other political swindlers, hold firm to the orientation of struggle, and deepen revolutionary mass criticism to expose their criminal plots to change the Party's basic line and policies and subvert the dictatorship of the proletariat and restore capitalism. It is necessary to make penetrating and thorough political and ideological criticism of the revisionist absurdities, and accurately draw a line of demarcation between the correct and erroneous lines. In our work among the young people, it is essential to further repudiate the fallacies spread by Liu
New Type of University Students

by Our Correspondents

This is our second article about the education reform in Tsinghua University. The first appeared in our last issue. — Ed.

Tsinghua University at present carries out the principle of enrolling students from workers, peasants and soldiers with practical experience from all parts of the country. For the nation's institutes of higher learning to open their doors to workers, peasants and soldiers is a fundamental change brought on by the revolution in education.

This change means, among other things, the abolition of the old method which used to decide the fate of an applicant entirely according to marks. Such marks could at best only reflect book knowledge obtained through learning by rote, but could not show the applicant's all-round character in terms of political ideology, capabilities and actual scholastic standing. Many fine workers, peasants and soldiers were barred from higher learning as a result.

In general, present practice requires application by the worker, peasant or soldier concerned, plus the masses' recommendation and leadership approval and finally endorsement by the school. This method conforms with the wishes of China's hundreds of millions of labouring people. It puts into action the Party's mass line as it mobilizes the masses to select the students, and at the same time enables the school to gain all-round insight into the political, educational and other qualities of the applicant. The best elements of the labouring people can thus be chosen.

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We recently went to Tsinghua to find out how this principle works in practice. In the northwestern suburbs of Peking, this well-known institute has 11 departments, including electronics engineering, chemical engineering, engineering mechanics, machine building and radio and communications.

In 1972, Tsinghua enrolled 2,000 new students—2,800 in 1970—belonging to 11 different nationalities: Han, Manchu, Mongol, Hui, Tibetan, Chuang, Tang, Puyi, Korean, Uighur and Duhur. Coming from all parts of the country, the overwhelming majority of these workers, peasant and soldier students were from families of labouring people.

While at school, tuition, medical care, housing and other living expenses are provided by the state. Periodical medical check-ups are given to the students. Workers with five years or more production work behind them continue to get their regular pay.

We interviewed three of the newcomers to get their stories.

To Gain the Heights

Ma Fu-hsien, a foundry worker of 24, is an undergraduate in the mechanical engineering department.

From the Sian Grinding Wheel Machinery Plant, he had worked at the bench for seven years. During this time, he had on more than one occasion regretted his lack of scientific-technical knowledge. When at a mass meeting he learnt that the universities were open to enrolment, he immediately applied. The whole factory workshop backed him up. Recommendations were prompt and sincere. "He's a good worker," some said, "turning out first-rate products. He's no self-seeker; he always puts socialist construction of the motherland first." Old-timers praised him for being an energetic lad who was eager to learn and had become adept at his job in a very short time. Young workers commended him for his active part in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution.

Taking into consideration the opinion of the masses, the plant's revolutionary committee passed his application. The school checked on his educational level and found it adequate.

Asked why he wanted to go to university, he said: "We workers have a big job to master advanced techniques to build up socialism fast. I'm young, I want to learn and do my part."

At first, Ma found the going rather difficult, especially in mathematics. In one class, the students were asked to do 20 problems on the spot. Ma had barely plodded through half when the others had already handed in their papers. Yet he refused help, saying: "I've got to learn myself, not rely on others." Gradually, by dint of hard study, he began catching up.

Did he still have any difficulty? "Naturally," the young man replied. "But then, to a revolutionary, every difficulty is a challenge to be conquered." He went on to quote the great teacher Marx: "There is no royal road to science, and only those who do not dread the fatiguing climb of its steep paths have a chance of gaining its luminous summits."

A New Battlefront

In the architecture and civil engineering department, one class majoring in underground construction is made up entirely of P.L.A. fighters, all recruits in and around 1963. Former platoon leader Chen Sung-ching from Fukien Province heads the class as chairman of the class committee. After Chen had enlisted in the P.L.A. in April 1968 while he was in senior middle school, his company had been sent to dig tunnels in the mountains. This was excellent tempering for him.

Once when there was a cave-in the squad leader and several other soldiers were seriously injured trying to put in the props. Without the slightest hesitation, Chen and some other comrades carried on while the injured were speedily taken to safety. Another time, the company took on construction of an awe-inspiring "underground dragon," so called because of the 7,000-metre difficult tunnelling through the mountains. Work in one place was retarded by the sudden emergence of ground water. Though it was at the height of winter Chen took the lead in jumping into the icy pool to work. The project was finished on time. Cited many times by the unit leadership and much praised by his comrades-in-arms, he was admitted into the Communist Party two years after he had joined the P.L.A.

When Chen's unit was notified that Tsinghua was enrolling students, he was chosen to go and study there. This got the hearty backing of the whole company, and the school found him qualified. On the eve of departure, his commanding officer told him: "For a fighter to go to school is like being transferred from one battlefront to another. We hope you'll continue to display the spirit of not fearing hardship and being brave in battle, and come out victorious in this new campaign." Chen has always kept these words in mind.

When the term started, the school authorities gave the newcomers a briefing on the struggle between the two lines on the educational front. Before the Great Cultural Revolution started, they were told, Liu Shao-
chi and political swindlers like him opposed Chairman Mao’s policy that “education must serve proletarian politics and be combined with productive labour.” Instead, they pushed a revisionist line which tried to turn students into bourgeoisie intellectuals, who would be indifferent to the revolution and eager for personal gain, and into “specialists” and “scholars” divorced from proletarian policies, from the labouring people and from practice in production. Under this line, the Party’s class line in enrolling students was nullified, restrictions were put on admitting workers, peasants and soldiers, and those who did enter were often discriminated against. Some were dismissed on the pretext that they had “no future.”

Hearing all this was a profound education to Chen, who said: “It’s the victory of Chairman Mao’s revolutionary line that has enabled us to come to university. I’ll study hard, so that I can do my best in building up the socialist motherland.”

From the Labouring People

We met Chin Yu-tzu who is of Korean nationality in the student dormitories of the electric power engineering department. A lively girl of 24, she majors in high-tension power transmission. We asked what she had thought about going to university. “I thought of Chairman Mao’s love and concern for the national minorities,” she answered. “You know, over ten Korean youth from my county were admitted into universities last year.”

Chin Yu-tzu comes from a poor-peasant family in the suburbs of Shenyang in northeast China. Her father is a Communist, her elder brothers and sisters are workers, and other younger ones are in school. Everything is going well for the family. In the old society, however, the family had toiled for generations for the landlords as hired hands. It was as much as they could do to keep alive, let alone get schooling. After liberation she went to school. During the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, she was in senior middle school. An excellent representative of the Red Guards, she became vice-chairman of the school’s revolutionary committee.

In 1968, she responded to Chairman Mao’s call for “young people with education to go to the countryside to be re-educated by the poor and lower-middle peasants.” With her family’s consent, she requested and was sent to a mountainous region where conditions were difficult. Together with 300 schoolmates, she settled down in the Hungmiaotzu Commune in Hsinpin County, 500 li from home. She took an active part in the three great revolutionary movements — class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment, and was elected to the commune’s revolutionary committee the second year.

Last April, the news came that the universities were enrolling worker-peasant-soldier students. The commune members all thought Chin Yu-tzu the best choice. She, however, hesitated. “It makes me very happy to know that Chairman Mao is always thinking of the poor and lower-middle peasants,” she said. “I want very much to raise my scientific and cultural level so as to be able to work better for the Party and people. But I’ve come to love the mountains and all of you so much, that I hate to leave...” At the insistence of the peasants, she finally applied. A few days later, she was working at a reservoir site when she was notified to go to the county town to have her qualifications checked by the school people and get a medical check-up. She passed.

The day she left for Peking, the commune members gave her a big send-off at the railway station, beating drums and gongs. Granddad An Ying who was over 60 clasped her hands and said with tears in his eyes: “You’re going off to university in Peking, where Chairman Mao is. This is a great honour for our commune. Wherever you are, don’t forget you’ve come from the labouring people...”

Chin Yu-tzu took with her to Tsinghua the old work clothes she had worn in the commune. “Under the old educational system,” she said, “students were taught to look down upon labour and workers and peasants. Now that we — workers and peasants — have entered university, we must never take that road. We mustn’t become separated from labour and the labouring people.”

True to her words, she not only studies her subjects and works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Chairman Mao’s works diligently, but volunteers for all sorts
of manual work, such as sweeping the stairs and corridors in her spare time. Last summer vacation she stayed at school to join in a spell of physical labour. She has never forgotten that she is from the labouring people.

We came away from Tsinghun with our minds full of fresh impressions. These fine young men and women with practical experience, who had come from the forefront of class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment, certainly know what they are studying for: they are studying for the revolution, and nothing can stop them.

At the U.N.

China's Stand on Narcotic Drugs

The 25th Session of the U.N. Commission on Narcotic Drugs was held in Geneva from January 22 to February 9. Representatives of 30 member states of the commission and observers from some countries were at the meeting. Chinese Representative Meng Chien attended the session for the first time as an observer. Following are excerpts from his speech at a plenary session on January 29. Subheads are ours.—Ed.

We are concerned to note that in some countries drug addiction, growing more and more widespread, has become a very serious social problem and is causing great damage to and gravely endangering the health of the people. We understand and sympathize with the strong desire of the people of the countries concerned to eradicate the narcotic scourge.

International Origin

If one reviews the history of the narcotic problem and traces its international origin, one can readily see that its gradual spread and aggravation were due to imperialism committing rampant aggression and expansion, deliberately plundering and exploiting other countries, violating their sovereignty, interfering in their internal affairs, and in some countries even pushing a policy of spreading drug addiction.

We believe that a fundamental prerequisite for the eradication of the narcotic scourge is for the country affected to rid itself of all foreign aggression and interference and secure its national independence so that its people can take their destiny into their own hands.

The Chinese people long suffered from imperialist aggression and oppression, as well as from the scourge of narcotics which was forced upon us entirely by imperialism. From the very start of their aggression against China the imperialists employed a "gunboat policy" to force the importation and sale of large quantities of opium and other intoxicants in China. This brought great sufferings to the Chinese people and aroused them to heroic resistance. For more than a century, the struggle of the Chinese people to wipe out drug addiction was inseparable from their struggle against imperialist aggression and interference.

Under the leadership of Chairman Mao Tsetung and the Chinese Communist Party, the Chinese people overthrew imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic-capitalism after a prolonged and indomitable struggle, and finally became the masters of their own country. Only then was it possible to eliminate the narcotic scourge imposed upon the Chinese people by imperialism.

China's Policy and Measures

When the People's Republic of China was established in 1949, the Chinese Government took immediate action to solve the problem by adopting a clear-cut policy and a series of effective measures, including the strict control of the use of narcotic drugs for medical and scientific research purposes only. Back in early 1950, the Chinese Government promulgated a decree for the strict prohibition of opium smoking and regulations on the control of narcotic drugs. Illicit cultivation of poppy, the sale of opium and narcotic addiction are strictly prohibited. Violators are subject to punishment according to the law of the state. At the same time, opium smokers were given free medical treatment while a dead-line was set for them to get rid of the bad habit. As a result of the policy of combining strong leadership with mass initiative and of combining government orders with a broad educational programme, we were able to eliminate the poisonous effects of narcotics throughout the country within a relatively short time by relying upon the strength of the masses. Narcotic drugs are strictly controlled in our country. They can only be used for medical and scientific research purposes and no abuse is allowed whatsoever. Our success in this respect testifies to the strong determination and the clear-cut policy of the Chinese Government and the people and demonstrates the superiority of our socialist system in solving the narcotic problem.

Key to Solution

We recognize that the narcotic problem now existing in certain countries is a complex one which is not only an internal social problem but also one with inter-
national implications. From our own experience, we realize that any country, especially a developing country, must first of all uphold its national independence and state sovereignty and wage a resolute struggle against imperialist aggression and interference before it can thoroughly eliminate the evils of narcotic drugs. Furthermore, we believe that in solving this problem the governments concerned should adopt firm and effective domestic measures suited to their own specific conditions and that only by relying on the support and efforts of the masses of their people can effective results be achieved. We have always maintained that, in order to prevent narcotic drugs from harming the health of the people, it is necessary to formulate explicit regulations to prohibit the illegal cultivation, manufacture, sale and use of narcotic drugs, allowing their use only for medical purposes and scientific research.

Adoption of certain reasonable international agreements on the basis of respect for each country's sovereignty and through consultations on an equal footing will have a positive significance.

In keeping with its set policies, the Chinese Government will co-operate with other people in a common endeavour to eradicate the narcotic scourge and strengthen control over narcotic drugs.

Visit to Upper Guinea

Prospering Guinean National Economy

A VISIT to Upper Guinea last autumn enabled me to see Guinea's achievements in developing its national economy.

I was deeply impressed with what I saw of the progress in agricultural production in the Siguiri Region, which borders on the Republic of Mali, about an hour’s flight in a northeasterly direction from the capital Conakry.

Rich Harvests

In a state store piled with rice and maize, the manager told me that the region had become basically self-sufficient in grain and had sold more than 200 tons of rice, peanuts and maize to the state last year. In Baldou Village, 10 kilometres east of Kankan, capital of the Siguiri Region, I saw a dam, about two kilometres long, built by the villagers mainly through their own efforts, with the help of the People’s Army. The Milo River here had often overflowed its banks in the rainy season and caused big floods. With the dam built, this river now benefits the people. During my visit, a good harvest was in sight with the growing rice waving in the breeze. The village committee chairman told me that before independence, people there led a very miserable life. Old and young, men and women, the villagers were forced to build roads and do hard labour for the colonialists. Not only did they get nothing for their labour, they also had to hand in poultry and cattle to their oppressors. At that time, the Guinean people laboured on waste land and never thought of building water conservancy works by relying on their own efforts.

Agricultural Experimental Centre

To popularize advanced experience and promote agricultural production, the Guinean Government has strengthened its leadership in agricultural scientific research work. At the Bordo Agricultural Experimental Farm on the outskirts of Kankan, good harvests were obtained from 11 good seed strains of rice, both Guinean and foreign, which were trial-planted last year. For example, over 550 kilograms of rice were gathered in one-fifteenth of a hectare of land planted with the excellent “Nanking No. 11” strain. Many peasants and cadres from various parts of Guinea came to visit and learn from this farm. Workers and technicians at this pilot farming centre were building water conservancy works so that scientific experiments could be made on bigger plots.

At the town of Dabola I visited the Dabola Oil-Pressing Factory which was commissioned in 1970. Using the abundant supply of locally grown peanuts and palm kernels as raw materials, the factory has increased output year by year. Output of edible oil in 1972 was expected to be around 1,000 tons. Workers and technicians

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CAMBODIA

Great Victories

The Cambodian people and the People's National Liberation Armed Forces won great victories in the war of resistance against U.S. aggression and for national salvation in 1972.

According to figures released, the Cambodian patriotic armed forces and people killed, wounded or captured a total of 109,000 enemy troops; destroyed over 500 enemy military vehicles, some 200 tanks and armoured cars and 25 artillery pieces; sank over 40 cargo boats, tankers and more than 100 military vessels; shot down 120 enemy aircraft of various types; destroyed 353 enemy camps, barracks and posts; damaged several hundred kilometres of highway and dozens of kilometres of railway and blasted more than 130 bridges. They also liberated about 820,000 people and captured large quantities of weapons and war material.

Last January the C.P.N.L.A.F. killed, wounded or captured 16,500 enemy troops in repeated attacks, and liberated more than 40,000 civilians from the Phnom Penh traitorous clique's rule.

On February 10, the C.P.N.L.A.F. attacked and captured Trappea Veng, a town south of Kompong Thom City, destroying nearly 300 enemy enemy effective. In the three days ending February 13, they made many attacks southwest of Takeo City and in areas around Phnom Penh. As a result, more than 100 enemy troops were wiped out.

These great victories of the Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces stem from their indomitable fighting spirit and lofty revolutionary heroism and the wise leadership of the National United Front of Cambodia with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, as its Chairman.

Under the banner of the National United Front of Cambodia, the Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces are resolved to carry on the struggle against the enemy till the complete liberation of Cambodia.

PAKISTAN

Plunder by Soviet Trawlers Condemned

Merciless plundering by Soviet trawlers is draining Pakistan's fish resources, according to a February 19 Pakistan Press International report.

Quoting a speech delivered the same day by sources in the Pakistan Trawler Owners Association, the report said large-scale fishing in Pakistan waters by big Soviet trawlers equipped with up-to-date facilities had resulted in unemployment for a large number of poor fishermen and people working in fish processing industries. Some 400 Pakistani trawlers in the 1,200-trawler strong fishing fleet are now lying idle.

According to an APP report on February 21, Mohammed Bilal Sayao, Manager of the Karachi Fishermen's Co-operative Society, Ghulam Sadiq Bhutto, Honorary Secretary of the Trawler Owners Association, and some fishermen told reporters that as a result of Soviet trawlers' large-scale entry into Pakistan fishing waters, many Pakistani fishing vessels and some 6,000 to 6,500 fishermen had been out of work. Furthermore, about 150 million rupees in foreign exchange were lost in a year due to reduced fish hauls. It was said that unless intrusions by Soviet trawlers were checked, the entire Pakistan fishing fleet would be laid up.

A February 22 APP report said that the Karachi Fishermen's Co-operative Society and the Trawler Owners Association had announced that the unemployed fishermen and their 50,000 family members and dependents faced starvation.

The Pakistan Times reported on February 23 that Soviet intrusions had also caused a sharp rise in fish prices in local markets.

In an interview with the paper, the report said, Pakistan fishermen pointed out the mysterious activities of Soviet trawlers which fished during the daytime, while under cover of night they went to Pakistan's off-shore areas, mostly along the non-populated shores of Baluchistan Province.

BRITAIN

Defence White Paper Published

The British Government published on February 21 a White Paper entitled Statement on the Defence Estimates 1973. It emphasizes that while the Soviet Union is making strenuous efforts to expand its armaments, Britain has to strengthen its own defence and increase defence co-operation with other West European countries within and outside the framework of NATO.

Reviewing the past year's development of the European situation, the White Paper refers to the strategic arms limitation talks between the United States and the Soviet Union, preparations for the "conference on security and co-operation in Europe" and exploratory talks on mutual and balanced force reductions. It notes: "There is no sign that the Soviet Union is anticipating the outcome of negotiations by a slackening of its defence efforts. The Soviet Union's defence expenditures, which absorb a much higher proportion of national resources than those of most of the NATO countries, continue to rise each year in real terms. The build-up of her strategic capabilities has continued over the last year."

After enumerating Soviet strategic arms, the White Paper states that the Soviet Union's "conventional forces of all the services have received large supplies of new weapons. "Despite the substantial and still increasing military strength deployed on the
border with China, there has been no decrease in Soviet forces facing NATO.” The White Paper also notes that Soviet naval forces “have been deployed in increasing numbers throughout the world. Russian long-range aircraft are active over all the sea areas around the coasts of Europe and far out over the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans; on occasions they have also been seen over some areas of the Caribbean Sea and the Indian Ocean.”

The White Paper states that the British Government hopes to relax tension in Europe. However, “the steady increase in the military capability of the Soviet Union underlines the importance for the West of clearly identifying and keeping in view its own policy objectives.”

It says that “only negotiation from strength is likely to produce equitable agreements; there must, therefore, be no unilateral reduction in defence capabilities in the West.”

The White Paper goes on to say that “Britain’s basic security depends on the strength of the North Atlantic Alliance.” It expresses Britain’s desire to continue contributing to the effectiveness of NATO’s defence and Britain’s closer defence co-operation with the other West European countries.

It refers to Britain’s co-operation in defence with France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and other countries, the work of the European Group of Ten in NATO, and especially the fact that in 1973 the planned defence budgets of the Group of Ten total 1,500 million dollars higher than in 1972.

It points out that “in parallel with the enlargement of the European Economic Community, a number of European countries will be developing and extending their practical co-operation in defence.”

Referring to Britain’s “defence” and “special commitments” in other areas of the world, the White Paper says British forces will still take part in the “five power arrangements for defence” in Southeast Asia; British military vessels will be present in the Indian Ocean; British forces will visit the Persian Gulf; and Britain will provide military assistance in Africa, Asia and the Middle East in order to maintain “Britain’s worldwide political and trading interests.”

The White Paper states that Britain’s defence budget estimates for 1973-74 total 3,385 million pounds, 523 million pounds higher than the 1972-73 figure.

(Continued from p. 19.)

have improved their skill and most of them can operate the machines themselves. Peasants in the vicinity are now enlarging the peanut acreage to meet the needs of the factory’s increasing output.

Fruit-Processing Plant

Tropical fruit grows in profusion in Guinea. Mangoes, pineapples, oranges, bananas and other fruits ripen one after the other throughout the year. Under colonial rule, large quantities went rotten for lack of transport, which caused losses to the fruit-growers. Since the Kankan Fruit Juice Factory went into production, the situation has changed. This factory, which processes over 1,300 tons of fruit in 1971, is increasing production. Apart from satisfying the needs of the Guinean people, part of the canned fruit juice is also exported.

Development of the Kankan Fruit Juice Factory has promoted the growth of agriculture and side-occupations and raised people’s living standards. At Saint Alexis, a mango-rich village three kilometres northeast of Siguiri Town, I was told by the village committee chairman that the fruit the village sold to the juice factory in 1971 rose sharply to 110 tons, which is equal to its total fruit harvests of the past few years. As a result, the peasants’ living standards have improved considerably. Out of the 85 households in the village, over one-third have bought radios and bicycles. Every household has five or six rooms on the average. School-age children are all in school. The villagers are continuing to enlarge the fruit-growing acreage.

The newly built Kankan Mechanized Brick Works is now on trial-production. Apart from meeting the needs of Upper Guinea, its products will also support construction in other areas.

Tapping Water Resources

Seven kilometres southwest of Da-bola on the upper reaches of the Tinsoso River, which flows through Upper Guinea, there is a waterfall with a drop of 65 metres. Over 600 workers and technicians were working hard to build a hydroelectric station there when I visited the place. When the station is finished, it will provide nearby towns and regions with cheap electricity for lighting and industrial and agricultural production.

President Sekou Toure put forth the policy of agriculture creating industry and industry guiding agriculture as early as in 1967. Recently when Guinea began to issue a new currency, the President called on the whole country to increase production of grains and consumer goods. Under the leadership of the Guinean Government, the Guinean people have made great efforts to develop the country’s national economy over the past few years. They will make their country more prosperous through hard work.

— Hsinhwa Correspondent

March 2, 1973
ON THE HOME FRONT

Chengtu’s New Look

The capital of Szechuan Province in southwest China, Chengtu dates back more than 2,000 years. A typical city producing little before liberation, it had only a handful of poorly equipped and technically backward factories. Even ordinary consumer goods like tooth-paste and small locks had to be brought in from the outside. On the other hand, the city had many restaurants and shops selling gold, silver and jade items. And there were some 5,000 mansions and villas of varying sizes owned by bureaucrats, landlords, warlords and wealthy merchants who wallowed in sensual pleasures while the working people lived in misery.

Led by the Party and People’s Government after liberation in 1949, the people of Chengtu transformed this city. Today it is a producer-city. Total industrial output value in 1972 was 44 times that of 1949. Chengtu now has plants producing among other things iron and steel, machinery, electricity, chemical products, building materials and textiles. There are more than 300 plants and co-ops turning out about 3,000 varieties of consumer goods. In the department stores working people can be seen choosing and buying beautifully made low-priced “Made in Chengtu” brands of goods.

“IT is easier to climb to Heaven than to travel in Szechuan” was a common saying before liberation when transport was difficult because of the province’s many mountains. The same was the case in a large city such as Chengtu. There were no direct rail connections, not a single paved street and, of course, there was no bus service.

In the autumn of 1952 the rail line from Chungking was pushed to connect up with Chengtu and the people of the provincial capital heard train whistles for the first time. This was followed by the building of the Pan-chi-Chengtu Railway connecting the southwest with the northwest, and Chengtu was linked by rail with the rest of the country.

Roads and inland navigable channels are well developed. One can now get to other places in Szechuan and to Tibet by motor vehicle.

The city has a network of good roads, 250 kilometres of paved roads and more than a score of trolley and bus routes.

During the period of reactionary Kuomintang rule many working people slept on the pavements or wherever they could find shelter. In the Huangchengpa (Royal City Embankment) area of Chengtu more than 2,000 families lived in a slum of only 0.38 square kilometres. But today, new floorspace in Chengtu is triple that of pre-liberation days and many workers have moved in.

In the old days there were only seven shops selling tap water in the whole city. These were in the hands of bureaucrats and wealthy businessmen, with the result that water was extremely hard to get. Huahsi University which was widely known then did not have a single tap. Today piped water is available in all the residential quarters. Power plants, locomotive repair plants, freezing works and other departments that use enormous quantities of water now get all they want. The more than 130 kilometres of large newly laid or repaired drainage pipes since liberation are part of a vast sewage system.

Junior middle school education in Chengtu is available to all youngsters. The city’s colleges and institutes of higher education and secondary technical schools have trained large numbers of personnel for the state. Huahsi University, established early this century, is now the Szechuan Medical College. Its graduates in the last 20 years or so are more than a dozen times the total

Yesterday’s “Royal City Embankment,” today’s People’s Road.
number of graduates from Huahsi University before liberation.

Making Use of Waste

O cross 5 million tons of waste materials, which cost 830 million yuan, were recovered and purchased by departments concerned last year all over the country. They included 2.63 million tons of scrap iron and steel, over 20,000 tons of scrap copper, 760,000 tons of paper-making materials, 180,000 tons of bones and 120,000 tons of waste rubber.

"To make China rich and strong needs several decades of intense effort, which will include, among other things, the effort to practise strict economy and combat waste, i.e., the policy of building up our country through hard work and thrift." This teaching of Chairman Mao's has been conscientiously studied by workers and staff of commercial departments. It has enabled them to come to a better understanding that recovery and use of waste and spent materials contributes to the material wealth of the state, helps decrease pollution and improve environmental sanitation. With this understanding, they go about their work with greater enthusiasm. In Liaoning Province, commercial workers and staff members made the rounds of government offices, residential areas, factories and villages and purchased nearly 70 million yuan worth of waste materials, a 24 per cent increase over 1971.

People have been mobilized to help collect waste and spent materials. While acquainting the masses with the principle of building up their country through hard work and thrift and the significance of turning waste materials to use again, commercial personnel have called the attention of peasants and city people to the use of specially-made receptacles for disposal of waste materials and collected them at regular intervals. With tens of thousands of commune members in four counties on Shanghai's outskirts doing this, waste and spent materials worth 12 million yuan were saved in 1972. In Tientsin, Kwangchow, Tsingtao and other industrial cities, commercial departments have helped factories set up depots for waste and institute a system for collecting, handling and making use of it.

The advance of science and technology and the development of industrial and agricultural production have resulted in more varied and abundant supplies of waste, coupled with an ever wider scope of reprocessing and using it. Cleaned and sorted waste materials are repaired, remade or remelted for recycling. All this has yielded large quantities of raw materials and means of production for both agriculture and industry.

Last year, goods and tools made from waste materials were valued at 120 million yuan. Shanghai's commercial departments recovered 22 kinds of chemical raw materials totalling more than 2,500 tons from discharged fluid, residues and other waste. They included copper sulphate, copper oxide, nickel oxide, recycled rubber and organic glass. They also recovered industrial oil from waste oils in urban sewage and sliver from waste fixing-agents, broken mirrors and thermos flasks. Tingshen County in Hopei Province made use of waste and discarded materials to repair and make 520,000 small farm implements.

More Sports Equipment

Last year saw a big increase in the production of sports goods in China. Output of basketballs, footballs and volleyballs was 2.6 times that of 1965, the year preceding the start of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, while production of table tennis balls was 40 per cent higher than in 1971. Increases were also registered in equipment for gymnastics, track and field, wushu (traditional Chinese boxing and fencing) and aquatic and winter sports.

Development of the sports goods industry is indicative of the new upsurge of mass sports in both urban and rural areas. Responding to Chairman Mao's call to "promote physical culture and sports and build up the people's health," millions of workers, peasants, soldiers, students and cadres are actively taking up physical training. Quite a number of outstanding athletes have emerged from among women who are participating in sports activities in increasing numbers. There is a marked development of sports in areas inhabited by minority peoples. For example, the 3,000-odd Kutsung people in Yunnan Province, who practised the slash-and-burn farming method before liberation, now have their own basketball teams. Football, basketball, table tennis and badminton have become popular among the Tibetans.

While catering to the needs of sportsmen and official competitions, sports goods factories concentrate on producing what is useful in popularizing sports, such as horizontal and parallel bars, sets of basketball posts, tables for playing table tennis and other equipment for the workers and peasants. The increased supply of these facilities, produced quickly and cheaply from a wide range of available raw materials, has spurred the development of sports in industrial and mining enterprises and people's communes.

Technical innovations have improved quality and increased variety. The Lee Sheng Sports Goods Factory in Tientsin, which produces various kinds of leather balls, often sends out its workers and cadres to solicit opinions from users. They also go right to competition arenas to check up on their products and study how to improve quality. In recent years, the factory has successfully trial-produced 110 new products including waterproof balls, balls used on snowy days and tricoloured "T" footballs for matches televised in colour.

The industry also is producing smaller basketballs, footballs and volleyballs for juniors. Thanks to this, the 158 primary schools in Luta city, Liaoning Province, have organized 135 football teams, 126 basketball and 85 volleyball teams.

In addition to the existing sports goods enterprises in Peking, Shanghai, Tientsin, Kwangchow and other places, which have continually increased their products, many new sports goods factories have been built, or old ones expanded, in a number of provinces and autonomous regions.
Radio Peking

English Language Transmissions

* effective only from Nov. to April
† effective only from May to Oct.

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