

# PEKING REVIEW

49

December 8, 1978

北  
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周  
報

**How Do Chinese Trade Unions  
Function?**

**Technology Import and Self-Reliance**

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# PEKING REVIEW

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## Yugoslavia Greeted

Hua Kuo-feng, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Premier of the State Council, on November 28 sent a message to Josip Broz Tito, President of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia and President of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, warmly greeting the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The message reads in part:

"Under the leadership of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia headed by Comrade Tito, the Yugoslav people, applying the scientific theory of Marxism to the concrete conditions of their own country, have worked hard for 35 years and turned a backward Yugoslavia into a prosperous socialist country. In international affairs, Yugoslavia has pursued a non-aligned policy and played an active role in maintaining the solidarity of the non-aligned movement, in upholding its orientation of combating imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism and in supporting the just struggles of the people of other countries. Thus it has won extensive appreciation from the people of all countries. The Chinese people sincerely rejoice at and are inspired by the tremendous successes achieved by the Yugoslav people in building their motherland and strengthening their national defence and in their international activities.

"With great satisfaction, I recall the two very successful visits,—yours to China last year and mine to Yugoslavia not long ago. The two visits and my fruitful talks with you have advanced the friendly relations and co-operation between our two Parties and two countries to a new stage, a stage of all-round development. I believe that promoting our friendly relations and co-operation not only accords with the fundamental interests of the Chinese and Yugoslav peoples but contributes to the cause of all the peoples in defence of their independence, sovereignty and peace, in strengthening international co-operation and in promoting human progress."

## Chairman Hua Greet President Ceausescu

Hua Kuo-feng, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Premier of the State Council, on November 29 sent a message to Nicolae Ceausescu, General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and President of the Romanian Socialist Republic, warmly greeting the 60th anniversary of the founding of the unified national state of Romania. The message reads in part:

"After long and heroic struggle, the Romanian people won the independence and unification of the country. Under the leadership of the Romanian

Communist Party headed by Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, the whole Romanian people, united as one, have won splendid achievements in the cause of socialist construction and in the struggle in defence of the country's independence and sovereignty. Today Romania has become a thriving socialist country among the nations of the world. The Chinese people boundlessly rejoice at the successes achieved by the Romanian people. We wholeheartedly wish the Romanian Socialist Republic prosperity and its people happiness."

## 92nd Anniversary of Chu Teh's Birthday

December 1 was the 92nd anniversary of the birthday of the late Chairman Chu Teh of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. To mark the occasion, *Renmin Ribao* carried Chairman Mao's inscription — "The People's Glory" — written in 1946, and the late Premier Chou En-lai's greeting, on Chu Teh's 60th birthday. The greeting said: "You have been working hard for 60 years and recognized by the people the world over; you are liberator of the Chinese nation, vanguard of the working masses, and founder and leader of the people's army." Comrade Chou En-lai also said: "You were the very first among the entire Party membership to work together with Comrade Mao Tsetung in founding the Chinese people's army and

establishing the people's revolutionary base areas, thereby filling in a new page in the annals of the Chinese revolution. Under the banner of Comrade Mao Tsetung, you are his close comrade-in-arms and one of the people's leaders most worthy of the name."

On that day the paper also published a long article by Comrade Su Yu, member of the standing committee of the Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, in memory of Comrade Chu Teh and the late Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Comrade Chen Yi.

### **Vice-Chairman Ulanfu Visits Egypt, Sudan And Turkey**

Ulanfu, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, visited Egypt, the Sudan and Turkey from November 14 to 28.

During his visit, Vice-Chairman Ulanfu met leaders of the three countries and exchanged views with them on the development of bilateral friendly relations and on important international questions of common concern. They all agreed that the visit had further consolidated the good relations between China and the host countries.

**The Middle East.** During his trip, Ulanfu pointed out that the superpowers' rivalry in the Middle East and their support for and connivance with

Israeli Zionism are the causes of the prolonged turmoil in that region. He said that the actions of the superpowers should be condemned by the people. He reaffirmed China's support for the Egyptian, Palestinian and other Arab people in their just struggle for the recovery of the occupied lands and the restoration of their national rights. He also stressed that the most effective means and surest guarantee for achieving their goal is for the Arab nations to close their ranks and act in concert against the enemy.

**African Situation.** Vice-Chairman Ulanfu said that Africa is today an awakened and dynamic continent. But the superpowers are energetically pushing policies of aggression and war. The late-coming superpower, in particular, which styles itself as a "natural ally" of the third world, is interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, sowing discord among states and even plotting subversion in a wild bid to seize strategic positions and resources and achieve its goal of world hegemony. The Vice-Chairman reaffirmed China's firm support for the just struggle of the Afro-Arab peoples. He expressed his conviction that so long as they heighten their vigilance, close their ranks and persevere in struggle, they will triumph over foreign forces of aggression.

**Oppose Hegemonism.** Dwelling on China's foreign policy, Vice-Chairman Ulanfu stressed: "We are resolutely against the big-power hegemonist policies

of aggression and war, against their issuing of orders and against their trampling on the sovereignty and dignity of other countries. We firmly support the people of all countries in their just struggle against foreign aggression, interference, control, threats or bullying. China is not a superpower today, and it will never be a superpower bullying others even when it has become powerful. We wish to live for ever in peace and friendship with the people of Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe and the rest of the world."

### **IN THE NEWS**

• Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping met with American friend Archibald T. Steele on November 28. As an American correspondent, Mr. Steele visited Yen-an in 1946 where he interviewed Chairman Mao. The contents of the talk are now included in the *Selected Works of Mao Tsetung*, Volume IV, under the title "The Truth About U.S. 'Mediation' and the Future of the Civil War in China — Talk With the American Correspondent A.T. Steele."

• Vice-Premier Teng on November 29 met with the seventh delegation to China of the Japanese Komei Party, led by Yoshikatsu Takeiri, Chairman of the Party.

• A French exhibition on petroleum, natural gas and petrochemical technology opened on November 29 in Peking. The exhibition covered nearly 7,000 square metres and over 60 French firms were represented.

# How Do Chinese Trade Unions Function?

— An interview with Ma Chun-ku, a leading member of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions

WHEN the Ninth National Congress of Chinese Trade Unions was in session, Ma Chun-ku, Vice-President of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, was interviewed by reporters. This 71-year-old trade union worker who has been active in the workers' movement for more than half a century answered questions with regard to the nature, tasks and characteristics of Chinese trade unions. Following are highlights of the interview.

**Question:** What is the difference in the task of trade unions before and after liberation?

**Answer:** As you know, the working class was oppressed and exploited before liberation; trade unions then undertook to co-ordinate their activities with the armed struggle led by the Chinese Communist Party. They organized the workers to carry out political and economic struggles against the imperialists and the Kuo-mintang reactionaries and united people of all strata to overthrow imperialist, feudal and bureaucrat-capitalist rule. The aim was to establish a people's democratic republic.

After liberation, with the working class becoming the leading class of the state, the task of trade unions, generally speaking, is to mobilize and organize the workers and staff to consolidate the dictatorship of the proletariat and accomplish the tasks of socialist revolution and construction.

**Question:** Why is it still necessary to have trade unions since the fundamental interests of the leaders and the workers in New China are identical? What is the nature of trade union organizations?

**Answer:** Chinese trade unions are mass organizations formed by the working class on a

voluntary basis. They accept the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party — the vanguard of the working class — which, in turn, maintains close ties with the workers through trade unions.

Trade unions constitute a pillar of the dictatorship of the proletariat. They are also indispensable to the workers and staff in furthering their own education. In day-to-day life, the democratic rights and vital interests of the workers and staff may sometimes be infringed upon as a result of the bureaucratic style of work left over from the old society. When this happens, trade unions will protect these rights and interests in accordance with the policies and laws of the Party and state. So trade unions are a vanguard force in leading the workers in the struggle against bureaucracy.

**Question:** What is the relationship between the trade union and the management in an enterprise?

**Answer:** In New China, the workers are the masters of their enterprises and of the state. Both the trade union and the management work for the same purpose of fulfilling from different aspects the tasks in socialist revolution and construction. So they should support each other. The trade union should educate the workers to follow the unified direction of the management in production and other vocational work.

On the other hand, the trade union should protect the democratic rights of the workers and staff, supervise the management in implementing rules and regulations concerning

labour protection, wages, factory sanitation and technical safety as are laid down in state laws, and see to it that working and living conditions of the masses are gradually improved. Also, it should implement the socialist principle of distribution — from each according to his ability, to each according to his work — so as to bring into full play the workers' and staff members' initiative in production and other related activities.

**Question:** What are the qualifications for trade union membership and how are trade union cadres chosen?

**Answer:** All members of the working class, whether manual or mental workers, are qualified to join the trade union, provided their wages are their sole or main source of income. As an organization of mass character, the trade union is open to all workers and staff except a tiny number of reactionary elements.

The overwhelming majority of New China's intellectuals engaged in mental work belong to the working class and are entitled to join the trade union.

The "gang of four," however, distorted the division of labour between mental and manual workers within the working class into class antagonism and excluded mental workers in the fields of culture, education, health, science and technology from the working class and trade unions, thus splitting the working class. What the gang did ran counter to Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought.

Trade union cadres are elected by the workers and staff. In big enterprises manned by thousands of workers, they are elected at trade union congresses, while in small factories with one or two hundred workers, direct election is conducted at all-membership meetings.

**Question:** How do trade unions guarantee the workers' rights to be their own masters and how do they ensure democratic management of the enterprises?

**Answer:** Democratic management is effected mainly through the Party-led congress or general meeting of the workers and staff and trade unions themselves are working bodies of the congress and general meeting. As stipulat-

ed in the trade union constitution, the congress or general meeting of the workers and staff is convened regularly every year to discuss all the major issues of the enterprise concerned. Leading cadres of an enterprise must report on their work to the workers and staff, seek criticisms and suggestions from the masses and accept their supervision. When the congress or general meeting is not in session, the trade union handles the routine work, seeks opinions from the workers and staff, deals with their suggestions and appeals and checks up on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the congress or general meeting.

From now on, workshop directors, section chiefs and group leaders will be elected by the workers. The congress or general meeting of the workers and staff has the right to assess the work of an enterprise and make criticisms, suggestions and commendations; it also has the right to propose to the higher leadership that certain leading cadres be punished or removed for serious negligence of duties.

**Question:** How do Chinese trade unions guarantee the welfare of the workers and staff?

**Answer:** In China, the state entrusts the trade union with the task of taking direct care of labour insurance. With the development of the national economy, labour insurance regulations have been revised many times to extend the scope of application and enlarge the benefits. All workers and staff members enjoy free medical treatment and retire on a monthly pension equivalent to upwards of 70 per cent of their original wages. Apart from defraying the labour insurance funds, the state also allocates funds to provide for canteens, kindergartens, nurseries, rooms where working mothers can go to breast-feed their babies, and other collective welfare facilities.

Workers and staff members enjoy all the benefits of labour insurance without being required to pay anything into the funds. Their family members also are taken care of in cases of child-birth or death and receive medical care (paying only 50 per cent of their medical fees). According to labour insurance regulations, women workers and staff members are given maternity leave with full pay and they

are allowed one hour a day for breast feeding for one year after maternity leave.

As China remains backward economically, it is impossible to greatly increase material benefits in a short time. So while urging and helping the leadership of enterprises to improve working, living, eating and hygienic conditions wherever possible, the trade union has organized the workers and staff to help one another. In many enterprises, for instance, there are mutual-aid funds pooled monthly by the workers and staff on a voluntary basis (usually only 1 or 2 per cent of their wages); the money advanced is returned to the contributors at the end of each year. Any worker in difficulty may borrow money from the fund, interest-free.

**Question:** Could you say something about the international exchanges between Chinese trade unions and their foreign counterparts?

**Answer:** During the first decade or so after the founding of New China, there were frequent exchanges between Chinese and foreign trade unions. Later these declined steeply owing to the interference by Lin Piao and the "gang of four." In the last two years, 35 trade union delegations or workers' delegations from 15 countries have been here and six Chinese workers' delegations have visited five countries. The Ninth National Congress of Chinese Trade Unions has been held and we are going to carry on more friendly exchanges with trade unions of other countries according to Chairman Mao's revolutionary line in foreign affairs.

## Our Congress of Workers and Staff

by Chao Kuang-lan

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**T**HE Tientsin Clock and Watch Factory, with nearly 3,000 workers and staff members, mainly turns out the well-known "Golden Cock" alarm clocks. They sell well in north, northwest and northeast China and are exported to more than 70 countries.

The congress of the workers and staff held under the leadership of the factory Party committee was started in our factory in 1957. It has been convened every year except for an interruption of eight years due to interference by Lin Piao and the "gang of four." At each congress, the factory's leading members give a report on their work over the past year and listen to criticisms and suggestions by the representatives, and resolutions are made on various matters. An inspection group is elected at each congress to make quarterly checks on

the implementation of the resolutions adopted. This way of doing things is welcomed by the workers and staff.

Representatives to the congress are elected directly by the workers and staff who all have the right to vote and stand for election. Of course there are conditions. They must be sound politically and ideologically, do well in production, fulfil assignments and abide by rules and regulations; they must uphold principles and stand up against unsavoury tendencies; they must have close ties with the masses and have a good reputation among them; they must be good at collecting the masses' opinions and fully relay the spirit of the resolutions adopted.

Let us take the 1978 congress for instance. It was attended by 246 representatives, accounting for 8.3 per cent on the payroll. Of these, 66 per cent are workers, 26 per cent cadres,

The author is chairman of the trade union in the Tientsin Clock and Watch Factory.

and 8 per cent technicians. The number of technicians seems small, but they are 20 per cent of the factory's technical force. The role they play is given full attention.

How do such congresses function when they are not in session? That varies according to locality. In our factory, the representatives are divided into several groups on the basis of workshops, sections or offices. Each group elects one comrade to the inspection group of the congress. This group makes quarterly checks on the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the congress, reports to the Party committee, the cadres or the workers and staff respectively on problems it has discovered, commends those who have implemented the resolutions well and criticizes those who have not, and recommends ways and means to solve outstanding problems. The inspection group this year has 13 members with a veteran worker for leader.

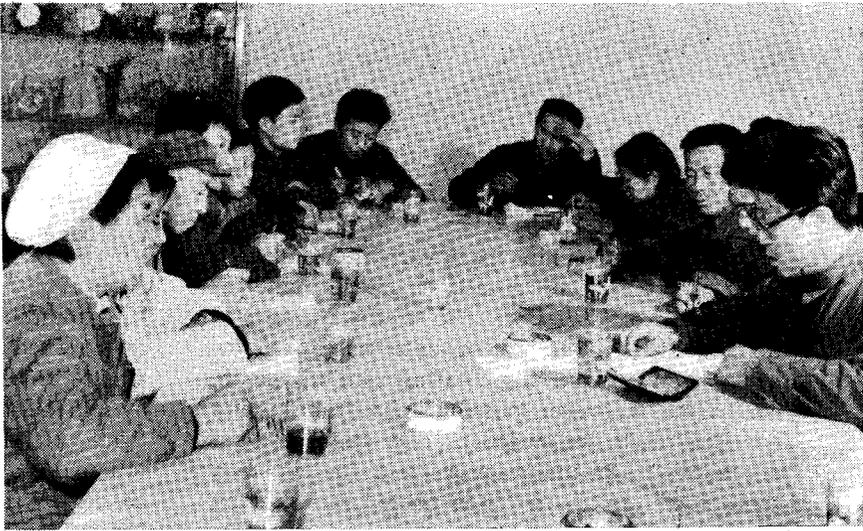
The trade union is a working body of the congress and directs the work of the inspection group.

### **Production Management**

The primary task of a socialist enterprise is to turn out more and better products according to state plans. Workers are the masters of our factories and their participation in production management is a matter of course in socialist enterprises.

Every congress is charged with the task of studying and discussing problems in production and making related decisions. Here are some examples.

Towards the end of 1974, when the ministry concerned assessed the quality of clocks produced in different parts of the country, ours came second. But through this assessment, we found where we should further improve the quality of our products. The following year a special report was made by the factory director at the congress. After



**Workers' representatives listening to a work report by the head of administrative section.**

lively discussions, the representatives pledged to improve the quality. Back in their own units after the congress, the representatives told their colleagues about this and asked everyone to help improve quality.

At that time only 25 per cent of the escape wheels turned out by automatic lathes were up to quality requirements. The workers have raised the number of spot-checks and found out what was going wrong and the causes. Answers and remedies were sought and the proportion of up-to-standard escape wheels went up and up until it reached 100 per cent.

Similarly, there was trouble with hour wheel sleeves. After the matter was brought up at the congress, a three-in-one group made up of workers, technicians and managerial personnel was formed. The group studied the problem and came up with a special-purpose fixture which soon put things right. In the 1975 and 1977 quality assessments among clock factories in north China, our products came first twice. Ours also were the best in China.

All this testifies to what worker participation in production management can do.

### **Be Concerned With the Masses' Well-Being**

The well-being of the workers and staff always figures prominently on the congress agenda. Matters bearing on the masses' vital interests are settled through discussion.



New director and two deputy directors elected by workers of the engraving workshop in the Shanghai No. 1 Printing and Dyeing Mill.

## Dismissal and Election of Workshop Director

AT the suggestion of representatives of the workers and staff, the Party committee of the Shanghai No. 1 Printing and Dyeing Mill dismissed the director of a workshop and had a new one elected in a democratic way.

This was what happened in the mill's engraving workshop. The workers there for a long time complained that they had difficulty in borrowing money from their mutual-aid fund. Worker and staff repre-

sentatives checked the accounts and found that the workshop director had embezzled nearly one-half of the fund to buy himself a TV set, a sewing machine and a watch. So, of course, there was not much money left for workers to borrow. The workers were infuriated, and demanded that the Party committee deal with the matter seriously. The Party committee thereupon asked the representatives to inquire of the workers about that workshop director's overall behaviour. It was found that he was irresponsible and incompetent and unequal to his job. He was made to do a self-criticism before a general meeting of the workers and staff. The Party committee also asked the workers' representatives what should be done about this director. They suggested he should not be given any form of punishment other than relieving him of his post as he had admitted his mistake, which was serious in nature and infringed upon the masses' interest, and he had returned most of the embezzled money. The Party committee accepted this and had a new director elected by the members of the workshop.

At first, our factory had a nursery taking in only children under three. The older ones were not accepted. As more than half of our workers are women and one-third are young working couples, they asked for a kindergarten to take in older children. This matter was discussed at a congress and a resolution duly adopted. The factory leadership fully supported the resolution and speedily allotted rooms and assigned extra staff.

With more children born and many new couples married, there was housing shortage, so this was put on the agenda of the 1975 congress. After discussions, the factory leadership appropriated funds to put up 6,000 square metres of houses. A committee composed of a deputy factory director, the trade union chairman and

several representatives chosen by the workers was set up to investigate the housing situation of each family and work out a tentative plan of distribution. It was made public and factory-wide discussions were held. The plan was finalized after being revised and made public three times. Although only 180 families finally moved into new lodgings, everyone was happy because distribution was fair and reasonable.

## Supervising Cadres

Since the system of holding the congress of the workers and staff was reintroduced in 1974, representatives have time and again complained about the canteen — monotonous menu, high prices and long queues. When the same complaints were made again at this year's congress,

we decided to get at the matter once and for all. An inspection group was elected at the congress.

The inspection group members talked with every one of the canteen staff and four separate forums were held for veteran and young cooks, storeroom keepers and accountants. The head of administrative section and the canteen supervisor were asked to report on their work.

The investigators unearthed many problems, such as unco-ordinated purchasing, waste of vegetables due to careless handling, no one looking after equipment, high temperatures in the kitchen and so on. The main problem was incompetent leadership. The administrative section chief and the canteen supervisor did not pay enough attention to their work and rarely went to the canteen. They talked a lot but did

little. They were peremptory and seldom consulted with the masses.

On the proposal of the inspection group, the factory leadership had them transferred and appointed capable cadres to take over. Since last August, the new leaders have been coming to the canteen at six o'clock every morning to give guidance and to lend a hand. The canteen today has improved a lot.

Facts have proved that such congresses are a good way to get workers to take part in management, to promote democracy and to supervise the cadres. Following the guideline of the Ninth National Congress of Chinese Trade Unions, we are going to make a bigger success of the congress of the workers and staff and do all we can to run a modern industrial enterprise.

## The Shanghai Petrochemical Complex

by Our Correspondent Mao Lin

SEVENTY kilometres southwest of Shanghai city proper is Chinshan County, a part of metropolitan Shanghai. Here, sprawled out along the shores of Hangchow Bay is the giant Shanghai Petrochemical Complex. When this correspondent visited the complex in September, it had already been in operation for more than a year and production was in full swing. Attention was now focused on improvement of management and the mastering of advanced technical know-how.

The complex has 18 sets of equipment, half of which were introduced from abroad — eight from Japan and one from West Germany. Using

domestically produced crude oil, it is designed to turn out in the main over 100,000 tons of vinylon, acrylic and terylene annually, enough for the manufacture of 670 million metres of synthetic fabrics. The significance of this is clear in view of the tremendous task of clothing a population as vast as China's.

The Shanghai complex covers over 600 hectares. At its centre is its head office. To its west are the No. 1 and No. 2 Chemical Works, and the Vinylon, Acrylic, Terylene and Plastics Plants. These six plants form three integrated production lines. Here is a forest of factory buildings, towers and tanks, crisscrossed by

pipelines. It is estimated that there are altogether over 1,200 kilometres of surface and underground pipes at this complex. Ancillary projects include water, power, machine-repairing and sewage treatment works as well as a railway station, a river wharf and a lorry depot.

To the east of the head office is the residential area. Blocks of five-storeyed flats for the workers and staff members line both sides of the streets. Dotted among them are kindergartens, nurseries, primary schools and a middle school. Shops, restaurants, hotels, banks, etc. combine to form a commercial centre, and there is a general hospital with 350 beds. A large stretch of land has been allotted for afforestation. Itself a park, it also provides saplings for other parts of the complex. With a population of 50,000, including workers, engineering and management staff, personnel of affiliated works and other trades and professions, and their families, the place has become a booming industrial town.

### Drive

Considering China's present economic and technical levels, it has not been easy to build such a petrochemical complex in a few years' time. Although much of the equipment needed was imported, a lot of work had to be done to get the factory buildings, the auxiliary works and the living quarters completed within a short period. Moreover, there was the job of installing the imported equipment under the guidance of foreign technicians once it was brought to the work-site. Personnel in large numbers had to be trained to master the advanced technical skills. The task was urgent and the builders lacked experience. But cadres, technicians and workers taking part in the project were inspired by a real desire to bring about China's modernization at an early date and they put their best foot forward. In this they were not alone. A great number of factories in Shanghai and other parts of the country pitched in to give them all-out support.

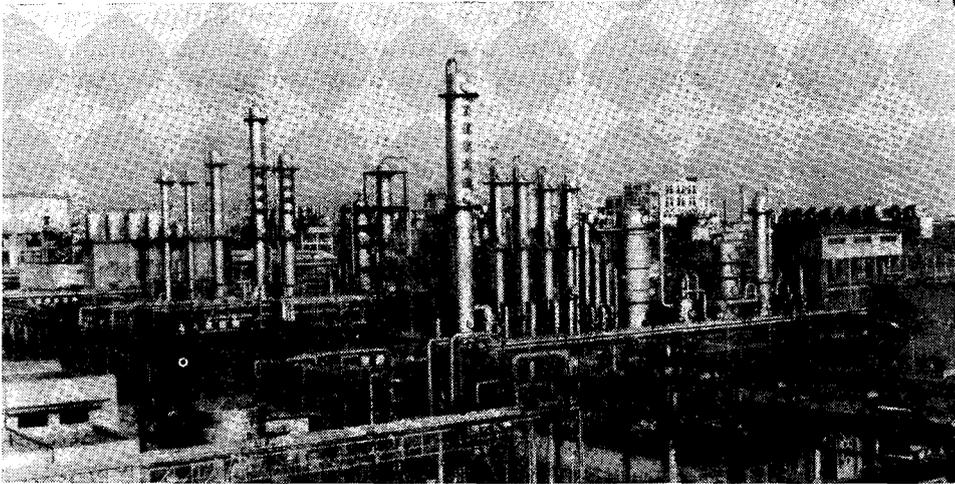
During the winter of 1972 and in early 1973, while negotiations for importing foreign equip-

ment were under way, the battle to wrest land from the sea began. Peasants in Chinshan turned out in their thousands and completed an eight-kilometre-long dyke in only 30 days. In this way, hundreds of hectares of land were reclaimed for the construction of the complex. But the real battle was launched on New Year's Day, 1974, when the first foundation pile was driven into the ground. Tens of thousands of builders then converged on the work-site to start on the factory buildings and the living quarters. Off-site projects such as a coastal oil terminal and a railway-highway bridge over the Whangpoo River were also started that same year. In 18 months, these projects were in the main completed.

### Ups and Downs

However, the Chinshan project suffered not a little from the interference of the "gang of four." The Shanghai Petrochemical Complex was one of the projects involving imported technology approved by Chairman Mao. The gang who at the time held Shanghai in their grip at first showed an unusual interest in this project. However, as later developments proved, what they were concerned about was not the project itself. They were out to enlarge their influence through installing their cronies in important posts there and to amass political capital by claiming credit for the project's success.

In the latter part of 1975, in order to trump up charges against certain leading comrades in the central authorities whom they hoped to overthrow, the gang turned around and attacked the import of technology of which the complex was an example as "worshipping foreign things" and "selling out the country." At this, the enthusiasm of the builders fell. Consequently, the work of installing the equipment from abroad came to a halt. In 1976, the gang's hatchet men in the complex became increasingly rampant. They resorted to all kinds of pretexts to persecute cadres who were hard-working and well-versed in management and veteran workers with experience and skill. This resulted in semi-disorder and delayed construction of the project for a year. Perhaps even more serious than



Polyvinyl alcohol equipment at the No. 2 Chemical Plant.

this was the damage caused by the gang's "invisible sabotage" — the whipping up of anarchism throughout the country, the advocacy of empty talk and disdain for learning, the prevention of youth from acquiring technical know-how and the ban on management and technical personnel learning advanced foreign experience, all of which had an extremely bad effect on the complex.

### Changes

Remarkable changes have taken place at the Shanghai Petrochemical Complex since the downfall of the "gang of four." Readjustments were made in the management at various levels. This ensured that the leadership was in the hands of men who had a good down-to-earth working style and who were professionally competent and trusted by the workers. The gang's fallacies have been criticized and much has been done to clear up ideological confusion. On the basis of this, a movement to learn from the Taching Oilfield has been launched; rules and regulations ensuring normal modern large-scale production have been set up. Right now the head office is studying ways and means to apply the socialist principle "to each according to his work" more thoroughly and give the workers' enthusiasm a real boost.

The construction of the Shanghai complex is still going on. A building for the designing institute has just been completed and work is

apace on another which is to house the research institute. Landscaping of the major streets is going ahead. A big theatre has been opened. In summer this year, another large stretch of land was wrested from the sea to be used for the building of more apartment houses. The second stage of the project is the talk of the town. Neotiations for importing additional foreign equipment are being held in Chinshan.

The young people who make up 70 per cent of the complex's workers and staff are also changing. Most of the builders this correspondent met at the factories and in the dormitories were young people who left school not long ago. They showed great eagerness to learn politics, foreign languages and sciences. To meet their needs, the complex has set up various training classes, study groups and spare-time schools.

Speaking of the prospects of the Shanghai Petrochemical Complex, a leading member of the head office told this correspondent: "Come back to Chinshan in a few years — you won't be able to recognize it!" With the completion of the second stage of the project, the complex will double its production. Looking into the future, one sees a younger generation with socialist consciousness and a grasp of modernized production maturing as the complex grows. They will go in for invention and creation on the basis of foreign advanced experience and push China's petrochemical industry to the world's front ranks.

# Technology Import and Self-Reliance

*In-depth criticism of the "gang of four" is now in full swing at the Shanghai Petrochemical Complex to clarify the confusion caused by the gang. One question under discussion there is how the gang twisted self-reliance to mean self-sufficient isolationism and condemned importing technology as "worshipping foreign things and fawning on foreigners," and what the correct approach towards technological imports and self-reliance should be. Following are excerpts from several comrades' speeches at their criticism meetings. — Ed.*

## Going to the Basics

Fu Yi-fu (Deputy director of the complex):

The "gang of four" decked themselves out as champions of the principle of self-reliance. Their adherents in Shanghai even had a novel and a movie script written which used our complex as a setting to depict typical characters of a "comprador class inside the Party" who "worshipped foreign things and sold out the country." Their ulterior motive was to level false charges at leading comrades in the Party Central Committee who had agreed to import modern equipment. Although their plot was exposed a long time ago, the confusion the gang created about this principle has yet to be clarified.

What does it mean to be self-reliant? To do away with misinterpretations, I have restudied Chairman Mao's and Premier Chou's explanations on this principle.

Our Party has consistently emphasized the principle of self-reliance, both during times of war and construction.

In analysing the struggle against the reactionary Chiang Kai-shek regime, Chairman Mao pointed out in 1945: "On what basis should our policy rest? It should rest on our own strength, and that means regeneration through one's own efforts." (*The Situation and Our Policy After the Victory in the War of Resistance Against Japan.*)

Speaking about economic work in China's liberated areas the same year, he said, "We stand for self-reliance. We hope for foreign aid but cannot be dependent on it; we depend on our own efforts, on the creative power of the whole army and the entire people." (*We Must Learn to Do Economic Work.*)

On the eve of the founding of the People's Republic of China, Chairman Mao proclaimed to the world: "China's affairs must be decided and run by the Chinese people themselves, and no further interference, not even the slightest, will be tolerated from any imperialist country." At the same time he pointed out that the Chinese people wish to have friendly co-operation with the people of all countries and to resume and expand international trade. (*Address to the Preparatory Meeting of the New Political Consultative Conference, 1949.*)

In 1958 when he summed up the experience gained in economic construction since the founding of New China, the late Chairman noted: "Rely mainly on our own efforts while making external assistance subsidiary, break down blind faith, go in for industry, agriculture and technical and cultural revolutions independently, do away with slavishness, bury dogmatism, learn from the good experience of other countries conscientiously and be sure to study their bad experience too, so as to draw lessons from it. This is our line." ("Comments on the Targets Set Under the Second Five-Year Plan," as quoted in the Report on the Work of the



Government made by Premier Chou at the Fourth National People's Congress.)

With regard to the principle of building the country through self-reliance, the late Premier Chou had this to say in 1963: "This policy means that in building its national economy, a country relies on the labour and talents of its own people and makes full use of its resources, and at the same time that it develops trade and exchange with other countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit." "By self-reliance we don't mean self-sufficient isolationism." ("Televised Interview With the British Reporter Felix Greene," December 5, 1963.)

Thus, the principle of self-reliance has been very clearly defined: China must maintain its political and economic independence; the destiny of China must be in the hands of the Chinese people; and the tasks of both revolution and construction must be accomplished by the Chinese people themselves. This is the basis on which our policy rests. But on no account does this mean self-sufficient isolationism and refusing to learn from the positive experiences of other countries.

In foreign trade, we adhere to the principle of equality and mutual benefit. It goes without saying that we have to pay in one form or another for importing modern equipment and technology from capitalist countries, but our imports are conducted in a principled and planned way. What and how much to import hinges on our own needs. China is a vast country with a large population and rich natural resources. She is in a position to build up an independent and comprehensive national economic system. Importing modern equipment and technology is precisely aimed at speeding up this process and will absolutely not lead to subordinating China to others economically, much less politically.

China's principle of self-reliance has remained unchanged. The difference between the past and the present is the change in the domestic and international situation which makes it necessary and possible for China to promote foreign trade and introduce technology on a still larger scale.

First of all, China's economic strength is now much greater than in the 1950s and 1960s thanks to the revolution and 29 years of construction. With the end of interference by the "gang of four," socialist construction is now going full steam ahead on an unprecedented scale throughout the country. This effort to bring about modernization at an early date compels us to mobilize all positive factors, both at home and abroad.

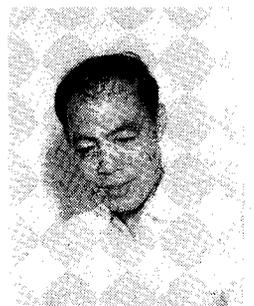
Next, let's look at the international climate. In the early post-liberation period, the United States imposed an embargo on us. In the 1960s, the Soviet Union scrapped its economic and technical agreements and pressed us to repay our debts. We were really up against heavy odds in those years. But the present situation is very favourable to our construction. Most countries in the world wish to see a prosperous and powerful China and they are eager to trade with us. Why shouldn't we make use of external factors to quicken the tempo of our construction while mainly relying on domestic resources? Imperialism has failed to bring us to our knees and social-imperialism, too, has failed to browbeat us into following its baton. Can any other force make China depart from the road of independent development?

The "gang of four" pushed the principle of self-reliance to an extreme and distorted it into self-sufficient isolationism. This is ideologically metaphysical and politically reactionary. If we acted according to their high-sounding pseudo-Leftism—in actuality Right demagoguery—we would only delay and even impede our socialist construction and isolate ourselves internationally.

### Learn From Other Countries

Li Chia-hao (Deputy chief engineer of the complex):

Our Party has always supported learning from other countries, but it must be done analytically, critically and in connection with our con-



crete conditions, not blindly and mechanically.

Nations conduct exchanges and assimilate each other's scientific and technical achievements as a matter of common practice. Industrious nations historically not only have produced their own creations but also have drawn heavily on the useful experience of others. We, as a socialist country out to scale new heights, have all the more reason to do so.

The "gang of four" equated learning from other countries with "servility to things foreign" and "trailing behind at a snail's pace." This is an outright distortion.

What does "servility to things foreign" mean? Before liberation when China was a semi-colonial and semi-feudal country, some people who had lost their national self-respect and self-confidence went to the extreme of blindly worshipping foreign things. In their eyes, nothing Chinese was any good. They assumed China could never become prosperous and powerful and master advanced science and technology. They relied on foreigners rather than their own efforts, and were consequently called flunkies. After liberation, we learnt a lot by criticizing this mentality.

While our Party opposes servility to foreign things, we should not go to the opposite extreme and be conceited, blindly reject foreign things and refuse to learn from advanced aspects of foreign countries.

China is fairly backward scientifically and technically as a result of long years of imperialist aggression and feudal rule. After liberation we redoubled our efforts to catch up with the advanced countries. But in recent years the gap between China and the advanced countries widened because of the sabotage by Lin Biao and the "gang of four." Now we are learning from foreign countries in order to catch up with them. We are importing technology that has proved successful abroad precisely for the purpose of gaining time so we can devote our efforts to studying those subjects which will put us on a par with other countries. The

"gang of four," however, wanted us to waste our manpower and material resources on problems others had already solved. That would only slow down our progress. In the present-day world when rapid advances are being made in science and technology, slackening one's pace is tantamount to being reconciled to a state of backwardness which, if allowed to continue, would invite bullying by others. So it was the "gang of four" that was "trailing behind others at a snail's pace" and "betraying national interests"!

As a matter of fact, our purpose for importing technology is not merely to catch up with advanced world levels but also to surpass them. There is a popular Chinese saying: "Blue is extracted from the indigo plant but is bluer than it." It implies that the pupil must learn from and outdo his teacher. This is exactly what Premier Chou meant when he put forward the following principles in regard to foreign technology: 1) learn from the others, 2) use it, 3) reshape it and 4) create something of our own on the basis of what we have learnt. We should integrate imports with our own creations and use the former to promote the latter, making imports the "stepping-stones" in our forward march.

History tells us that many less developed countries pushed to the front ranks of the world by this method. After World War II, some capitalist countries successfully introduced technology from abroad to quickly resuscitate their war-ravaged economies and thus made huge strides forward. Some socialist countries have done the same.

If we look at the development of China's chemical and chemical fibres industry, we see that importing technology has helped to raise its technical level and increase production. China imported the technology for making vinylon in the early 1960s. By the early 1970s, we had succeeded in designing and manufacturing similar equipment suited to our own needs by constantly summing up our experiences. Our complex's Vinylon Plant is one of several plants using Chinese-designed equipment. Yet

another example is the import of ethylene equipment which went into operation in 1976 and 1977. As a result, China's annual output of ethylene has increased from less than 100,000 tons in 1975 to more than 300,000 tons and its output of synthetic fibres has nearly doubled. Present output is, of course, insignificant in comparison with the advanced world levels, but we believe that so long as we conscientiously assimilate foreign technology and train our own technical personnel, we will certainly be able to devise the most up-to-date equipment and our science and technology as a whole will certainly approach and advance to the front ranks of the world.

Even then, we must still learn from the strong points of other countries, as Chairman Mao said long ago: "We must be ready to learn even ten thousand years from now. Is there anything bad about that?" (*On the Ten Major Relationships*, 1956.)

### A Worker's View

**Chu Cheng-tsai** (A veteran worker of the No. 2 Chemical Plant):

I'm 57. I was still a country boy when I first got to Shanghai in 1939 and I've been here ever since.

Shanghai before liberation was hell for the workers and a paradise for the imperialist adventurers. Foreign troops were stationed in the city, foreign aircraft hovered in the sky, foreign warships patrolled the Whangpoo River. All along the Bund there were foreign firms and banks, and the market was glutted with foreign goods. A sign was posted at the entrance of one park which declared: "Chinese and dogs not allowed!" At the Far East Alcohol Plant where I worked, we had a foreign boss. It was equipped with foreign machines and used imported raw materials. All we workers had was our labour power which we sold to make a living. We were constantly in danger of being



fired on the excuse that we had "offended" the boss or "violated" his rules.

Why were we treated like beasts of burden? Because the Kuomintang was politically corrupt and our country was weak and poor. We were bullied by the imperialists, and there was no equality in our relations with them.

Finally, in 1949, Shanghai was liberated. The long night was over and we workers became the masters of the state. Our socialist motherland grew stronger. Neither the imperialist blockade nor social-imperialist pressure could intimidate us. But we know that our economy is still backward and we workers also know from our past experiences that China will be pushed around if it falls behind. So we must race against time and make our country prosperous and powerful if we want to safeguard the fruits of our revolution and prevent past tragedies from happening again.

I have no doubt that buying modern equipment from other countries is a good way to speed up construction. There is a basic difference between our relationship with foreign capitalists now and in the old society. Then, we were the employees and they the bosses. Now, we are the buyers and they the sellers. It is true that they make money from these deals, but we also get what we need. So our relations with them are based on equality and mutual benefit. We buy what we need and what is of good quality, and we won't take poor quality items or buy at unfair prices. In short, we can decide what to buy and not to buy since the power is in our own hands.

Importing modern equipment from abroad will help make China prosperous and powerful at an early date. When that day comes, the socialist system will be more consolidated and the people better off and it'll be tough-going for anyone who tries to bully us. That's why we veteran workers must take the lead in mastering advanced technology. We must run our enterprises well and get the most out of the imported equipment. I believe that is how we can contribute to socialist modernization for the benefit of our children and grandchildren.

# **New Developments in New Period**

by Our Correspondent Chou Chin

**E**CONOMICALLY, Szechuan Province before the country's liberation was very backward, it had no modern industry to speak of at all. After liberation, however, particularly from 1964 on, the state began stepping up construction in the interior and industrial developments there have since proceeded at a faster clip.

Szechuan now has a number of key enterprises in the metallurgical, chemical and machine-building industries and many power plants and coalmines. Natural gas is being tapped and used extensively and the province has built 2,400 kilometres of railways and 70,000 kilometres of roads since liberation. Inland navigation has also expanded. Despite many ups and downs Szechuan's gross industrial output value is 31 times that in early post-liberation days, averaging an annual progressive increase of 23 per cent after liberation.

## **Tatu River Power Station**

On its 25,000-li Long March the Red Army in 1935 stormed across the turbulent Tatu rushing through its narrow precipitous gorges. The people today here have embarked on another Long March — towards realizing China's socialist modernization before the end of this century.

The Tatu has plenty of power waiting to be harnessed. Construction of the first big hydro-power station to tap its potential started in late 1965 and towards the end of 1971 this Kungtsui Hydropower Station began trial operations. In

May 1972 it began sending power into the Szechuan power grid.

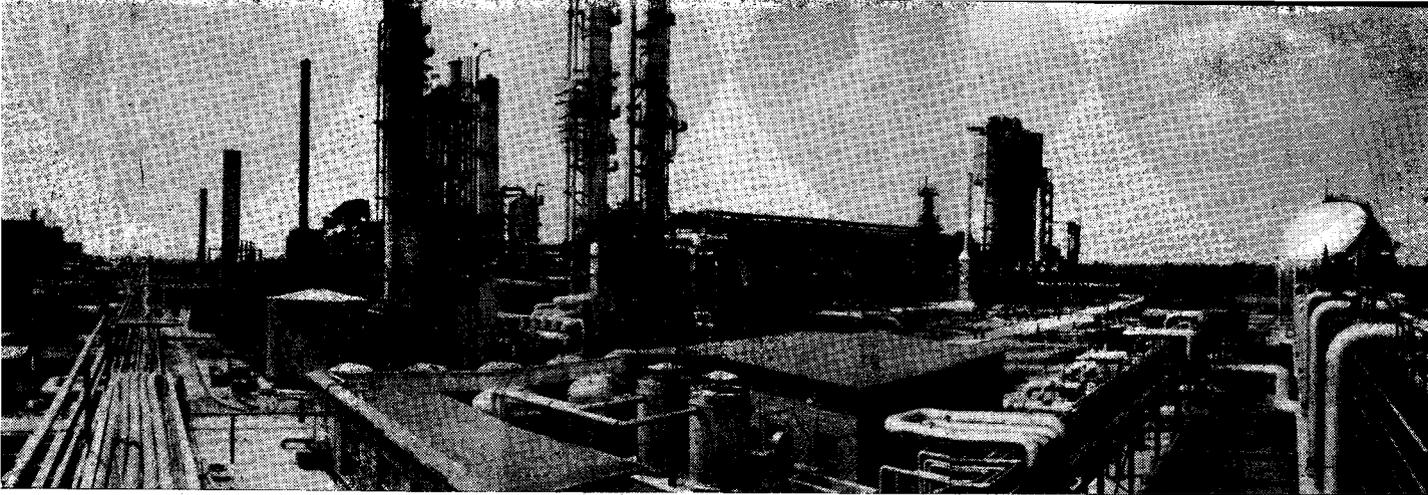
I arrived at this power station right in the flood season. I climbed to the top of the huge dam 402 metres long and 87 metres high astride the river and saw the quiet water on one side and the water thrashing and leaping up ten metres high on the other side. I could hear the hum of the powerful turbines.

Everything in the station except for some oil current breakers was China made. The generating capacity of this station is 15 times that of the whole province before liberation and the station has more than paid for its cost since it began operation.

On my way to and back from this dam I had seen a stream of heavily loaded lorries winding along the bank of the Tatu. Another hydropower station is being built lower down the river not far from the Kungtsui dam. Szechuan rivers have great latent power and a good start is being made to exploit them.

## **Chemical Plant With Imported Equipment**

The Szechuan Chemical Plant is a large enterprise and has made major advances as it fought off interference by the "gang of four." The plant was set up in 1958 and its old equipment has a designed annual capacity of 72,000 tons of synthetic ammonia. Three times major technical innovations were introduced which boosted the equipment's production capacity to 180,000 tons a year.



Szechuan Chemical Plant.

In 1973 when the state decided to import 13 sets of major equipment from abroad to improve chemical fertilizer production, a set was allotted to the Szechuan Chemical Plant.

It was quite a job getting the huge pieces of equipment from the seaboard into mountainous Szechuan. Construction of workshops and installation of the equipment took 22 months. During that time the "gang of four" were stepping up their activities to usurp Party and state leadership. The gang charged baselessly that importing technology from abroad was "servility to things foreign." Tremendous pressure was exerted on the staff and workers of the Szechuan Chemical Plant, but as they knew that this project had been approved by Chairman Mao and Premier Chou and was needed by the country and the people, they simply ignored the clamour kicked up by the "gang of four" and their followers and pressed on with their work. With the help of foreign specialists installation went ahead swiftly. The workmanship was of a high quality and the first trial run was successful.

Two or three years before their downfall, the "gang of four" seriously undermined industrial production in Szechuan. The gang and their followers would wreck one project to sabotage a whole cluster. They did their best to ruin the major enterprises and regions which were of vital importance to the national economy and people's well-being. Production in some major enterprises was brought to a standstill. Between 1974 and 1976 the province produced a million tons less steel and industrial output losses amounted to some 10,000 million yuan.

After the "gang of four" were tossed out the people set their minds to making good the loss.

### With Might and Main

Visitors on stepping inside the gate of the Szechuan Chemical Plant are confronted by a huge billboard giving daily readings of the various targets attained by the seven largest chemical fertilizer plants in China. These plants were taking part in an emulation drive for "100-day safety production" organized by the Ministry of Chemical Industry.

From the signboard one could see that this plant was heading the field in all specific targets. In a June 21 report this year I saw that the new equipment in its second year of operation had surpassed designed capacity by producing 320,000 tons of synthetic ammonia.

The day I called on the plant its new equipment had been operating for 140 days without a hitch. I heard since then that, by October 2, the new equipment had been operating smoothly for 200 days.

There were very few people working outdoors. Operatives sat indoors watching and controlling production before instrument panels. Most of the workers I saw were young men and women and I was told that they had a voracious appetite for studying and acquiring technical skills. The plant has organized for these young workers various training courses and study classes.

The plant also runs labour emulation drives between workshops, shifts, groups and individuals. Such drives have been going on without a break for many years now. Since April this year the plant has introduced a system of paying for work on a time-rate basis with additional bonuses. Winners get bonuses, citations and red banners.

Extensive labour emulation has boosted production.

The Szechuan No. 1 Cotton Textile Printing and Dyeing Mill on the eastern outskirts of Chengtu was an enterprise badly devastated by the "gang of four." In 1966 and 1967 there were two big factional fights and in 1974 and 1976 there were two work stoppages. The harm done is being used today by its workers and staff as material for criticizing the "gang of four" and their bourgeois factional setup. Through criticism the political consciousness of the masses has improved and unity among workers, too. People are feeling better today and are working in harmony. Production has been restored rapidly and last year the mill fulfilled its annual gross output value target four months ahead of time. However, the quality of spinning, weaving and dyeing was not what it should be due to incompetent management.

Since the year began the mill has been paying a lot of attention to this question of upgrading quality. Goods not up to the mark have been exhibited and consumers have been canvassed. Equipment has been overhauled and some replaced, production procedures in each stage are now strictly adhered to and responsibilities clearly defined. Since May this year the mill has achieved good quality, low consumption and higher production. High quality has been maintained since July.

### **Famous Szechuan Brocade**

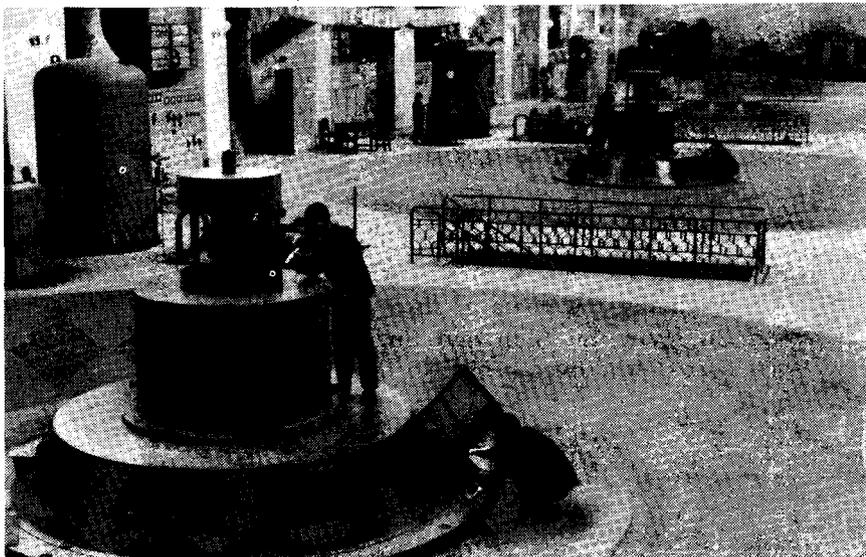
On the western outskirts of Chengtu, a brocade mill stands not far from the cottage where the famous Tang Dynasty (618-907) poet Tu Fu was purported to live. This mill produces a famous brocade called "Shuchin" which

has a history of over 2,000 years. Brocades of this kind are very much sought after both at home and abroad for its bright colours and unique national designs. They also wear well.

Before the "gang of four" were overthrown, their cultural tyranny had affected even this ancient craft. The designs so much liked by the people were banned on the ground that they were feudal or bourgeois and the designers were denounced and criticized. At one point the brocades had designs of tractors and such things. It was neither fish nor fowl and people simply were put off and did not buy them. Today, many of the traditional designs for bedspreads are back, such as "birds about a phoenix" and "peacock among peonies."

In the designing rooms I met a middle-aged artisan working on a design of dragons. The bedspreads with "dragon and phoenix" designs (auspicious symbols) once produced by this mill are known both at home and abroad. But as the old patterns were destroyed they have to be remade. The designer told me that while he was confident that the mill's products with newly revived designs would sell well overseas, he was not sure about how to appraise this revival. "People will want to buy them. There is no doubt about that. But I don't know what to make of it all. Everything was once so severely denounced," he lamented. This shows that it is not easy to get rid of the mental shackles fastened on us by the "gang of four" when they were sowing confusion under the guise of being very revolutionary. It will all take time.

**Interior of the Kungtsui Hydropower Station.**



Szechuan is a big producer of silk, but when the "gang of four" were running wild sideline occupations in the villages were severely criticized as capitalist tendencies. Mulberry trees and silkworm breeding suffered much. This time, as I went through the Szechuan countryside I saw the slopes and riverbanks and edges of fields planted to new mulberry trees. Although the trees were still small their foliage was thick and the leaves were big and broad, promising a rapid revival of the once flourishing silk industry.

### History Cannot Be Falsified

Szechuan is a mountainous, river-cut province. The mountainous region around Chungking in eastern Szechuan is gouged by many rivers and fast-flowing streams. Its scenery is wild and magnificent. On the Chengtu plain there are thousands of tidy villages amid bamboo groves and meandering streams.

Szechuan abounds in relics of bygone days. There is no need to make special trips to see its many historic sites and relics. I ran into many places of interest during my visit.

Among them was the Wuhou Temple on the outskirts of Chengtu. It is dedicated to the memory of Chukeh Liang, famed prime minister of the Kingdom of Han during the Three Kingdoms (220-265). He was a resourceful man, who was not only a renowned statesman but also versed in the martial arts and at home in astronomy and geography. As adviser and right-hand man to two emperors he had many remarkable successes. Subsequent story-tellers and prose writers have embellished him into a historical figure endowed with great wisdom. The Wuhou Temple had been kept up over the successive dynasties so that many of the stone tablets and statues are still in a good repair.

When I was visiting the Meishan county water conservancy project I stayed at the hostel behind the "Three Su's" Park. This park was originally the home of three famous literati — Su Hsun, Su Shih and Su Cheh, father and sons — who lived in the Northern Sung Dynasty

(960-1127). These three have their place in Chinese literature, particularly Su Shih, who was not only a writer of note but also a famed calligraphist and painter, many of whose writings are still known to us. Their former home has now been turned into a park and has been designated a major "cultural relic" preserved and protected by the state. The park's name was changed when the "gang of four" were messing up the country, and has only been lately restored. The park custodians are collecting and studying the works and relics left by these three Su's.

A casual encounter with historical relics and sites is enough to show the destructiveness of the gang. They distorted more than 2,000 years of Chinese history into a legend of protracted struggle between Confucianists and Legalists, with the Legalists representing progress and innovation. Of course, they made it quite clear that they were the present-day successors to the Legalists. They absurdly made certain historical figures out to be Legalists and praised them to the sky, and labelled certain historical figures as Confucianists and threw every dirty epithet at them. Not even renowned figures long dead were spared by the "gang of four."

Chukeh Liang, by some queer quirk, was designated as a Legalist. Unfortunately, he was a prime minister, equivalent to a premier today, so at one stage Chukeh Liang was also denounced by the effete literati in the gang's pay. They were, of course, attacking Premier Chou by innuendo. The fate meted out to Su Shih was tragic. He was placed in the ranks of those who were against the Legalists, so his former home's name was changed and everything there in his memory was thrown out.

The confusion the gang sowed was very profound and widespread. From politics to economics, from theory to different fields of work, from history to literature, from contemporary persons to ancient figures, nothing and no one of note went unscathed. Now, with the confusion being cleared up, work in all fields is moving ahead smoothly.

## Soviet-Vietnamese Treaty Jeopardizes Peace in Asia

THE Soviet-Vietnamese "treaty of friendship and co-operation" signed on November 3 will bring unrest to the whole of Asia and the Pacific region, especially to Southeast Asian countries. This is the consensus of public opinion in the world.

• **Southeast Asia.** Commenting on this treaty, Southeast Asian newspapers noted that the treaty forms a major component of the Soviet drive to carry out its global strategy in Asia through Viet Nam, and is a refurbished version of Moscow's "Asian collective security system." It is indicative of Moscow's eagerness to use Viet Nam as its "bridgehead" for expansion in Southeast Asia. Viet Nam's professed non-alignment is thus laid bare.

The Malaysian paper *Sin Chew Jit Poh* said that the treaty demonstrated that the two countries "are formally allied, and Viet Nam has thrown in its lot with the Soviet camp." The *Malayan Thung Pau* noted that this treaty has given Viet Nam "more courage" in its pursuit of regional hegemony.

The Thai paper *Thai Rath* in a November 7 commentary pointed out that the Vietnamese leaders have concluded a military treaty with the Soviet leaders and "because of the treaty, the Soviet Union can now legitimately interfere in the conflict between Hanoi and Peking and between Hanoi and Phnom Penh." Another Thai paper, the *Daily Times*, said on November 8 that the treaty can only be interpreted as a declaration of military collaboration between Russia and Viet Nam. It pointed out that in their talks with Soviet leaders, the Vietnamese leaders can have no other purpose than to obtain more weapons and other military equipment from the Soviet Union. The *Bangkok Post* in its November 6 editorial observed that

the treaty "is the cause of great worry for a number of countries, including Thailand, over future developments, which are sure to influence the long-range security of these countries."

The Singaporean paper *Nanyang Siang Pau* noted that the treaty "bears the implications of a 'joint defence.'" It added that one "cannot but suspect Vietnamese moves and its stand in Southeast Asia."

• **Japan.** The treaty has also aroused widespread concern in Japan. The Japanese paper *Sankei Shimbun* said in an article: The treaty means a military alliance between the two countries. "One has only to take a look at the developments to see the strong military overtones of the treaty claimed to be one of friendship and co-operation."

A dispatch from a Kyodo correspondent in Bangkok said: What causes ASEAN nations great concern is that the Soviet Union has now a stepping stone for expansion in Southeast Asia. The signing of this treaty has made it clear to Southeast Asian countries that the Soviet Union has finally established a strong foothold in Southeast Asia. *Yomiuri Shimbun* said that the treaty was designed to drive a wedge into Southeast Asia. *Tokyo Shimbun* pointed out that "the implementation of the treaty between the two countries will have the following objective: Realization of the Asian collective security system with the Soviet Union as its core." *Mainichi Shimbun* pointed out that "Viet Nam has joined the Soviet bloc economically by its formally joining the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (C.M.E.A.) last spring. By signing the treaty with the Soviet Union, the Vietnamese leadership has become militarily integrated with the

Soviet bloc." The paper added: "Like Cuba in Africa, Viet Nam has in a sense put itself in the position of being an 'agent' of the Kremlin."

• **Western Europe.** Western opinion noted that this treaty has pushed Viet Nam further into the embrace of the Soviet Union, thus making Hanoi a pawn on the Soviet chessboard. The Italian paper *La Repubblica* quotes the *Fareastern Economic Review* as saying that by signing the treaty and joining C.M.E.A., Viet Nam has become "a Soviet satellite with a special status." A commentary in the Swiss paper *La Suisse* said: "From this treaty one can see the clear reinforcement of an already fairly close alliance relating to numerous domains, especially military, as well as a firmer tutelage by Moscow over the power of decision of Hanoi." The French paper *Le Figaro* said in an article that when Viet Nam was openly bringing pressure on Kampuchea, Moscow and Hanoi were eager to see the materialization of their unanimity

and close co-operation. The *Der Tagesspiegel* of West Berlin commented that Hanoi wants to establish its hegemony in the region (Southeast Asia) with Soviet assistance. The French paper *Le Monde* pointed out: This is obviously the old Soviet idea of an Asian collective security treaty, an idea that has met up with all sorts of resistance. However, Brezhnev has never given up this idea of his. And Viet Nam . . . unquestioningly follows Soviet propositions in foreign affairs.

However, the Soviet-Vietnamese military alliance reflects the growing isolation of Moscow and Hanoi. The Swiss paper *Tribune de Geneva* said that Viet Nam's act of aggression has cooled Western "enthusiasm" for it. Moscow is now its sole patron. The Italian paper *La Repubblica* on October 5 also pointed out that despite its Vietnamese move, "Moscow is in serious difficulties. In the Far East it has only one reliable ally, and that is Hanoi."

## "Independence" as Trumpeted by Moscow and Hanoi

**T**HAT the recently signed Soviet-Vietnamese treaty is military in nature is now known to the whole world. In addition to this, there is the implication embodied in the fifth article which says that the two parties will "support the aspirations of the Southeast Asian peoples for peace, independence and co-operation among countries in this region."

**Bringing ASEAN Into Soviet Orbit.** It is by no means an oversight to state in the treaty "peace, independence and co-operation" in lieu of the consistent ASEAN stand for "peace, freedom and neutrality." It reflects the schemes of the Soviet and Vietnamese leading cliques to bring ASEAN into the Soviet-Vietnamese orbit by insisting that the Southeast Asian countries reorientate their policy.

ASEAN's concept of "a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality" is quite clear. The

Declaration for Neutrality in Southeast Asia, issued in November 1971, unequivocally announced that joint actions would be taken "to strive for recognition of, and respect for, Southeast Asia as a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality free from all forms of foreign interference." Since then, the five ASEAN nations have time and again reiterated the foregoing aspiration and aim.

Why did Moscow and Hanoi replace the words "freedom and neutrality" with "independence"? The answer is given by the Vietnamese newspaper *Quan Doi Nhan Dan* in an article it published on November 17, saying: "Independence and sovereignty do not exclude international solidarity, but go hand in hand with it." "International solidarity means, of course, the solidarity with one's own comrades-in-arms and natural allies — the Soviet Union and social-

ist countries." Earlier, in June, the paper said: Without alignment with "the socialist system" [military bloc controlled by the Soviet Union], "neutrality actually means isolation," and "is, in fact, an alignment with imperialism and reaction."

Commenting on Viet Nam's proposal for establishing "a zone of peace, independence and neutrality," the Soviet newspaper *Pravda* also said: "The alignment of the developing countries with the socialist community" has become "a historical law." These frank comments on "independence" and "neutrality" revealed precisely what Pham Van Dong tried to cover up during his tour of the ASEAN countries. This is because these comments amount to a blatant call on the ASEAN countries to give up neutrality and align themselves, as Viet Nam has done, with the Soviet Union.

**Sudden Change of Attitude Towards ASEAN.** A review of Soviet-Vietnamese tricks with regard to Southeast Asian countries' determination to establish a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality will throw light on their real design on the ASEAN nations.

For many years the Soviet Union and Viet Nam have branded ASEAN as "a U.S.-supported military alliance," a "U.S. neocolonialist tool," and labelled the leaders of Southeast Asian countries as "U.S. puppets." In the middle of this year, however, they suddenly did a complete about-face. Viet Nam not only stopped its attack on ASEAN but tried to join the organization.

Moscow and Hanoi's somersault cannot but arouse suspicion and vigilance among the Southeast Asian public. Singapore's Foreign Minister Rajaratnam questioned whether the replacement of the word "freedom" with "independence" in the Vietnamese proposal meant that the independence of some Southeast Asian countries was not genuine. Prime Minister of Thailand Kriangsak Chomanan gave a prompt reply to the Vietnamese proposal, saying that "no revision is required" for the ASEAN concept of a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality. A commentary in the Thai paper *New Chinese Daily News* said that "with a smiling face" Viet Nam's Vice-Foreign Minister Phan Hien was trying to peddle the discarded "Asian collective

security system" for the Soviet Union, his boss behind the scenes.

In September and October, Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong toured the five ASEAN countries to peddle the proposal for a "zone of peace, genuine independence and neutrality." In Thailand, the first country on his itinerary, the proposal was rejected. The leaders of all five ASEAN countries reiterated their pledge to uphold the concept of a "zone of peace, freedom and neutrality."

Obviously, the controversy between ASEAN's concept of a "zone of peace, freedom and neutrality" and the Moscow-Hanoi advocacy of a "zone of peace, independence and neutrality" is not an issue of wording. As the *Malayan Thung Pau* said in an editorial, ASEAN's concept of "peace, freedom and neutrality" brooks no change by Viet Nam, otherwise ASEAN would fall into the Soviet trap of "Asian collective security." This is the essence of the controversy. The Moscow-Hanoi treaty obdurately imposes the Soviet-Vietnamese concept of "independence" on the Southeast Asian countries and even deliberately omits mentioning the key word "neutrality." This shows that the Soviet Union and Viet Nam ignore the strong aspiration of the Southeast Asian nations for neutrality and to be "free from all forms of foreign interference," refuse to recognize and respect the ASEAN stand for a "zone of peace, freedom and neutrality" and are bent on pursuing their established strategy — to bring Southeast Asia into the orbit of Soviet-Vietnamese hegemonism.

**Move to Undermine Non-Aligned Movement.** On the day when the Soviet-Vietnamese treaty was made public, the Hanoi paper *Nhan Dan* declared in an editorial that "Viet Nam has cast in its lot with the Soviet Union" and that "our country has become a solid outpost of the socialist system in Southeast Asia."

This took place only two years after Viet Nam joined the non-aligned movement as a unified nation. Now, however, it has aligned itself with a superpower through a treaty and the two have pledged to deal with what they term "threat" from others. Hanoi has also voiced its pride in being "a solid outpost" of a military bloc dominated by that superpower.

Thus, the Vietnamese authorities have shed the fig leaf of "non-alignment" and joined the "community" with the Kremlin as its patriarch. In both words and deeds they have jettisoned the fundamental principle of the non-aligned movement.

But Hanoi still has the cheek to remain in the non-aligned camp. Its aim is to get the other non-aligned countries to align themselves with that "community" as it has done.

People can still recall that a statement like that of the Vietnamese paper *Quan Doi Nhan Dan* was advanced by the official Cuban newspaper, *Granma*, on August 14, 1976, which said: "A mass of evidence shows that alignment with the socialist community is an inexhaustible source of strength for the non-aligned movement."

An inquiry, however, shows that such statements originated neither in Hanoi nor in Havana, but in Moscow itself. The Soviet party

journal, *Kommunist*, called the tune when it said in a widely publicized article on the non-aligned movement in its seventh issue of 1976: "Life itself has convinced the developing countries that the countries of the socialist community are the natural and reliable allies in their struggle." A TASS commentary in May of the same year also said: "The non-aligned countries' alliance with the socialist countries provides the guarantee for the strengthening of their political and economic independence and the successful unfolding of the struggle against imperialism and neocolonialism."

It is therefore clear that the Kremlin has long decided to use such turncoats in the non-aligned movement as Cuba and Viet Nam to undermine the movement under the signboard of "strengthening independence" and bring one non-aligned nation after another into its own sphere of influence, thereby bolstering its position in its worldwide contention with the United States for hegemony.

## Explanatory Notes to Volume V of "Selected Works of Mao Tsetung" (25)



### The Chinese Communist Party's National Conference on Propaganda Work

(See p. 422, Vol. V, Eng. Ed.)

This conference, held in Peking by the Party Central Committee from March 6 to 13, 1957, was attended by over 800 people, including leading comrades in departments of propaganda, culture and education from the central organs, from provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, and Party cadres from the central organs who were working in science, education, literature and art, the press, publishing, public health and physical culture. About 160 non-Party people in the above-mentioned fields also participated in the conference.

This conference mainly discussed Chairman Mao's speech *On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People* made at the Supreme State Conference on February 27,

1957 and other related questions. Dealing specifically with the questions posed during the discussions, Chairman Mao delivered the *Speech at the Chinese Communist Party's National Conference on Propaganda Work*.

### The 40 articles of the Programme for Agricultural Development

(See p. 482.)

This refers to the revised draft of the National Programme for Agricultural Development (1956-67). The draft was adopted at the Third Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party convened from September 20 to October 9, 1957 and was published on October 25 after discussion at the Supreme State Conference.

This programme for building China's socialist countryside defined the goals for the

500 million Chinese peasants to strive to attain in 12 years and worked out basic methods for their realization. It called for consolidation of the agricultural co-operative system and a substantial increase in the output of grain and other farm products; it called on the majority of co-operatives to promptly catch up with or surpass the level in production and income reached by well-to-do middle peasants during the period of individual farming. It also stipulated that, wherever necessary and possible, a big leap forward should be brought about within 12 years in agriculture and in all fields of rural work as well, including measures to be worked out for boosting agricultural production, popularization of advanced production experience, production in forestry, animal husbandry, side-line occupations and fishery, and in the work of science, culture, education, public health, family planning, communications, commerce and credits as well as the reforming of landlords, rich peasants, counter-revolutionaries and bad elements.

### **The Three Check-Ups and Three Improvements**

(See p. 485.)

The Three Check-ups and Three Improvements constituted a movement for Party consolidation and for ideological education in the army which was carried out by the Chinese Communist Party in conjunction with the land reform during the War of Liberation (1946-49). In the localities, the Three Check-ups meant checking on class origin, ideology and style of work; in the armed units, this meant checking on class origin, performance of duty and will to fight. The Three Improvements meant organizational consolidation, ideological education and rectification of working style.

### **"Driven to join the Liangshan Mountain rebels"**

(See p. 490.)

Liangshanpo in east China's Shantung Province was once the base area of a peasant uprising in the Sung Dynasty (960-1279). Most of the rebel leaders mentioned in the Chinese novel *Water Margin* were hard pressed by

government officials and bad gentry and driven to join the Liangshan Mountain rebels later. Subsequently the saying "Driven to join the Liangshan Mountain rebels" came to mean doing something under compulsion.

### **A puppet regime**

(See p. 509.)

A puppet regime composed of traitors, tyrants and landlords was rigged up as a temporary local structure by the Japanese imperialists in the areas under their occupation during their aggression against China. The puppet regime mentioned here refers to one which might possibly come into being during an imperialist invasion of China.

### **Marx and Engels were but two individuals, and yet in those early days they already declared that capitalism would be overthrown throughout the world**

(See p. 517.)

In their first joint work *The Holy Family* written in September-November 1844, Marx and Engels pointed out: Thanks to historical conditions in modern capitalist society, "the proletariat can and must free itself. . . . Not in vain does it go through the stern but steeling school of *labour*." In their *Manifesto of the Communist Party* published in February 1848, Marx and Engels further pointed out: "The advance of industry, whose involuntary promoter is the bourgeoisie, replaces the isolation of the labourers, due to competition, by their revolutionary combination, due to association. The development of Modern Industry, therefore, cuts from under its feet the very foundation on which the bourgeoisie produces and appropriates products. What the bourgeoisie, therefore, produces, above all, are its own gravediggers. Its fall and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable." They added: "The Communists disdain to conceal their views and aims. They openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions. Let the ruling classes tremble at a Communistic revolution. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win."

# ROUND THE WORLD

## ROMANIA

### Army Takes No Orders From Outside

"Never will we allow any Romanian unit or soldier to take orders from outside! They can only be given orders to fight by their own country!" When neighbours of Romania are under attack and need aid, Romanian "units designated to help them will act solely upon orders from our Party and state bodies. Only our own people are in a position to commit them to fighting and solely upon orders from the Romanian supreme commander."

This is what President Ceausescu said in his report on November 27 to representatives of the army and the Ministry of Home Affairs on the activities and stand of the Romanian delegation he led at the Moscow meeting (Nov. 22 and 23) of the Warsaw Pact's Political Consultative Committee.

About co-operation with Warsaw Pact troops, he said: "We wish this collaboration to be based on the socialist principles of relations among states, hence among armies too, and the principles of respect for the equality and independence of each state and each army. Each national army can only come under the command of its own Party and state bodies which have the sole right to command the army's action, and no one else has the right to do so."

The Romanian President stressed: "I have never signed nor will I ever sign any docu-

ment endangering the independence of the homeland, including the combat independence of our army."

Before this, the Executive Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party at its November 24 meeting approved the stand taken by the Romanian delegation at the Moscow meeting. A corresponding resolution was also taken at the November 29 plenary session of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party, which said that the contemporary situation does not call for special military measures and additional military expenses that exceed the rational limitations already set. The plenary session also unanimously supported Comrade Ceausescu's clear-cut, principled position regarding the military problems of the Warsaw Pact. The Romanian paper, *Scinteia*, on November 26 commented: "Our country cannot agree to measures which have not been unanimously approved by all the member nations (and which do require unanimous agreement under the Warsaw Treaty itself). Romania's position in this respect has been and will be clear-cut and principled."

## WORLD CONFERENCE

### Support Independent and Peaceful Reunification Of Korea

In the latter part of November, Tokyo hosted the Second

World Conference for Reunification of Korea, which was attended by more than 500 people from 55 countries and regions and from various parts of Japan.

Questions of opposing the fallacy of "two Koreas," warding off the new war danger in the Korean Peninsula, denouncing the violation of human rights in south Korea, promoting democratization, withdrawing all U.S. forces from south Korea and supporting the movement for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea were discussed at the plenary session and in sub-committee meetings.

The conference adopted a resolution supporting the Korean people's independent and peaceful reunification of their fatherland.

The resolution "demands that U.S. troops and all weapons including nuclear weapons be withdrawn totally and unconditionally from south Korea," and "the 'U.N. forces command' in south Korea be dissolved in accordance with the resolution of the 30th U.N. General Assembly." It supports the proposal to conclude a peace agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States after the ending of the state of war between them.

In conclusion, the resolution stresses that Korea should be unified without outside interference.

The conference also adopted an appeal to governments and

peoples of all countries, calling for an end to the division of Korea and for realizing its independent and peaceful reunification.

The Chinese People's Association for Friendly Relations With Foreign Countries has sent a message of greetings to the conference. It said: "The Chinese people firmly support the three principles and five-point programme for an independent and peaceful reunification of Korea put forward by President Kim Il Sung, firmly support the Korean people's sacred cause of the reunification of their fatherland, and consistently support the just struggle of the people of south Korea against the Pak Jung Hi clique's fascist rule."

ASEAN

### More Co-operation With E.E.C.

The first E.E.C.-ASEAN ministerial meeting was held in Brussels on November 20 and 21. It is a significant move for the development of co-operation between the two regions.

Foreign ministers from 14 nations focused attention on developing relations, and reiterated their common desire to broaden the scope of their co-operation on the basis of equality, respect and mutual benefit.

Relations between the two groupings in the past few years have been expanding. From 1970 to 1976, trade between the two sides had an annual average increase of 20 per cent. At present, the E.E.C., with its exports to ASEAN accounting for 4 per cent of its total foreign trade, has become ASEAN's

third major trading partner. In 1976, exports and imports between the two sides totted up to 3,900 million U.S. dollars and in the following year to 4,400 million.

With the Soviet Union intensifying its infiltration and expansion in Southeast Asia, the fact that the E.E.C. and ASEAN are strengthening their political and economic relations is of great significance. Since the Hanoi leaders openly threw themselves into Brezhnev's lap, Moscow has been using Viet Nam more brazenly than ever as the "Cuba of the East" to further its aggression and expansion in Southeast Asia. Switching over to "smiling diplomacy" towards the ASEAN countries, Hanoi proposed setting up a so-called zone of peace, genuine independence and neutrality in Southeast Asia in an effort to peddle Moscow's "Asian security system." The ASEAN countries are following developments with wide open eyes and the West is worried too.

The Western press has pointed out that Soviet infiltration and expansion in ASEAN countries poses a serious threat to the sea lane linking Asia, Europe and Africa. Reuter, commenting on the conclusion of the Soviet-Vietnamese treaty and its military nature after Viet Nam joined the C.M.E.A., said that ASEAN countries had long been vigilant against Viet Nam and now their anxiety in regard to Viet Nam has increased.

The development of relations between the E.E.C. and ASEAN is sure to play an important part in maintaining peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

MIG-23s IN CUBA

### A Challenge to the United States

Soviet shipment of Mig-23 fighters into Cuba was roundly censured in the United States. And American papers called it a "challenge," a "test" to the United States.

Moscow's move is part of its global offensive strategy. As is known to all, this jet is a new type of Soviet fighter with a 1,200-mile range. To date, not even Warsaw Pact countries have obtained any of these planes. This means that from bases 90 miles off the U.S. coast, the plane could raid the Georgia-Florida border — the site of a planned major Trident submarine base. Naturally it has caused shock and concern among both ruling and opposition U.S. political parties and among the public as well.

The Soviet shipping of Mig-23s into Cuba reminds one of the notorious "Caribbean crisis" of 1962. Under U.S. pressure, Khrushchov withdrew the missiles and promised not to deploy offensive weapons in Cuba in the future.

Since then, as the balance of military force between the two countries has slowly changed, the Soviet Union has gone over to the offensive and has completely ignored the "understanding." To the Soviet Union, only the balance of military force really counts in its dealings with the United States, not "understandings" or "agreements." To anyone who believes "agreements" concluded with the Soviet Union can solve problems, this is a lesson worth learning.

# CULTURE AND SCIENCE

## "Dawn" — A Play About Ho Lung

Ho Lung, one of the founders of the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, appears in the play *Dawn*, which is being staged in Peking. During the 1931-35 period, Ho Lung resisted the Wang Ming "Left" opportunist line and protected a large number of revolutionary cadres from being harmed by the line.

The play shows how the followers of the Wang Ming line forced the small, weak Red Army into reckless battles against big, strong enemy forces and how they ruthlessly persecuted Red Army commanders and fighters opposing this line. Kuomintang agents who had infiltrated into the revolutionary ranks took advantage of this erroneous line

to bring defeats to the revolutionary war and suffering to the cadres and fighters.

*Dawn* implies that Chairman Mao, who had been excluded from leadership in the Party Central Committee, saved the Chinese revolution and the Red Army from danger after his leading position was established at the 1935 Tsunyi Meeting.

The play appeals strongly to audiences through its portrayal of Ho Lung. Emphasis on his temperament and his innermost thoughts during the struggle against the wrong line brings out his personality in high relief. Ho Lung is shown not only as an outstanding senior Red Army commander, but as one with deep roots among the masses and flesh-and-blood ties with them. Courageous and resourceful, he

is like an untamable tiger in face of the enemy. In the struggle against the erroneous line within the Party, he took a principled and uncompromising stand, showing his utter devotion to the cause of revolution.

P.L.A. playwright Pai Hua considers it a hard job to describe the Chinese revolutionary struggle and its leaders under difficult circumstances. But he held that accomplishment of this task would bring out the qualities and brilliance of China's great revolutionaries to better advantage and impress the historical lessons to be gained more deeply on people's minds so that they can draw experience and strength from them. "The proletarian revolutionary cause demands huge sacrifices," he said, "but a just cause is sure to win."

*Dawn*, completed in November 1976, is the fruit of more than ten years' preparation. Since the playwright at one time worked alongside Ho Lung, he had a chance to listen to Ho Lung's reminiscences of the revolutionary past and to his experiences before and after joining the revolution.

"It was out of love for Ho Lung that I determined to write about him," Pai Hua said. Ho Lung, who was deeply respected and loved by the masses and army men, died in 1969 in the course of a bitter struggle against Lin Biao and Chiang Ching.

While writing the play, Pai Hua travelled extensively to solicit information and ideas from comrades who had



A scene in *Dawn*: Ho Lung (third from right).

fought, worked and lived with Ho Lung. In this way he gathered a great mass of valuable material.

The famous composer Ho Lu-ting, who had fought valiantly against the "gang of four," composed the music for the play.

*Dawn* has been well received and it has been adapted into several local operas.

### **Advanced Courses for Barefoot Doctors**

In the northwestern province of Chinghai, the health departments have worked out plans to raise the vocational level of one-fourth of the province's 9,200 barefoot doctors to that of graduates of secondary medical schools within three years.

Chinghai, where the Yangtze and the Yellow Rivers arise, is inhabited by many nationalities living in compact communities. With some areas divided by mountains, the province has a sparse population of less than three persons per square kilometre. Many of the barefoot doctors trained there during the Cultural Revolution are Tibetan, Kazakh and Mongolian peasants or herdsmen. Following a short-term training of three to six months, in exceptional cases one year, they took on the task of preventing and treating common local diseases and giving first-aid treatment to the villagers. They constitute an important supplement to the medical force of the province, counties and communes.

The provincial public health bureau has set up a special school to further their studies. Provincial hospitals have provided them with opportunities for practical training. The bureau has also adopted other methods of giving more training to all the barefoot doctors in rotation.

Similar work is being undertaken in other parts of the country. For instance, the Hopei College of New Medicine has compiled a series of well-illustrated books on basic medicine for barefoot doctors and it is preparing another reference book on clinical medicine for them.

Several barefoot doctors of the Chienchiaochiawu Production Brigade on Peking's outskirts wrote an article which was published in the newspaper recently, saying: In the last few years, we have attended in rotation various vocational study classes run by hospitals or the municipal authorities. We have persisted in studying medicine for an hour a day, and half a day a week, and often hold group discussions and analyses of typical cases with the help of experienced doctors from the commune-run hospital so as to raise our medical level.

### **Briefs: Science and Technical Publications**

• "Soils of China." Included in this book's 48 chapters are some dealing with China's experience in soil amelioration, survey and utilization and with results obtained in various other branches of soil science. The

book affirms the positive role mankind has played in improving the soil and offers an original taxonomy of soils.

• "Soil Strata Charts and Paleobiological Maps of Various Parts of China." This series of books, one on each province or several provinces combined, (excepting Taiwan Province) is full of basic data. For instance, in the paleobiology of Chinghai Province in the northwest, there are illustrations and data on nine phyla and subgroups, 728 genera and 1,299 kinds of animal and vegetable fossils.

• "Botany of Inner Mongolia." This book affords a detailed account of several thousand kinds of trees, medicinal herbs, pastoral grasses and oil-bearing plants, industrial plants and several rare primitive plants found in this autonomous region.

• "Fauna of China." Two volumes of this series have come out dealing with the birds native to China. The first book describes about 56 genera of birds and the second about 117 birds related to the genus *Passer*. In the first book Darwin's conclusion that birds were first domesticated in India is contested by archaeological findings and ancient writings of China.

• "Timetable Into the Future" by Hagen H. Beinhauer and Earnst Schmacke of West Germany has been translated and published in Chinese. As the title declares, it is about the exploitation, utilization and the development of world economy, science, technology and resources in the days ahead.

# ON THE HOME FRONT

## Chinese Silk

WITH a warm climate and abundant rainfall, large areas of China are suited to raising mulberry trees and breeding silkworms. Thanks to the support given by the People's Government, China leads all other countries in the production of silkworm cocoons. Its raw silk output is now 7.9 times that in the early days after liberation.

World-famous for its quality, China's raw silk is welcomed by customers both at home and abroad because it is smooth and not fibrous and has a low percentage of reduction in refining. Output of all kinds of silk goods has increased 10.2-fold compared with early post-

liberation days and China's silk products are highly praised by consumers.

China's silk industry has a long history. As early as 4,600 years ago when Huangti (the Yellow Emperor) reigned, according to legend, the Chinese people already learnt how to cultivate mulberry trees, raise silkworms, process cocoons and make clothes. Our ancestors could turn out hand-woven silks even 3,000 years ago. Between 87 and 74 B.C., a working woman, the wife of Chen Pao-kuang, invented the world's first jacquard. Relics unearthed in recent years prove that China manufactured very beautiful silk fabrics 2,000 years ago.

Silk goods were one of China's earliest export commodities. Back in the 2nd century A.D., China's silks were transported from the upper reaches of the Yellow River to Central Asia and European countries via Sinkiang. This road has long been called the "Silk Road" by Chinese and foreign historians.

In the long period of feudal society, the development of China's silk industry was fairly slow. Like many undertakings in China, the silk industry has been revived and developed after liberation and it is now more flourishing than ever before.

Encouraged by the call "Let a hundred flowers blossom; weed through the old to bring forth the new," the industry

has expanded its varieties and patterns of silk goods at an unprecedented speed. And there are now several thousand new varieties and tens of thousands of new designs.

Splendid, elegant silks with silver- and gold-coloured filmy georgette and fine, coloured crepe are very popular items all over the world. Tussah silk fabrics are strong and excellent as materials for summer dress.

As the output of silks grows, their exports increase swiftly too. No less than 100 countries and regions are buying Chinese silks today.

Chinese silk industry, in its different processes, is adopting continuous, mechanized, electrically controlled or automated methods of production. However, a small number of hand-woven silk goods, favourite products among foreign consumers, are treated as objets d'art. They are still produced by traditional handicraft methods.

To develop the silk industry, a number of new mills have been built. Szechuan and Chekiang Provinces have set up silk filatures equipped with up-to-date automatic machines. Silk filatures and mills have also been established in border and inland areas such as Sinkiang and Kweichow, where local raw materials are easily accessible. Northeast China's Liaoning Province, a tussah cocoon producer, has built mills to turn out finished pongee and other silks, and print and dye these fabrics.

At the same time, many old mills have been expanded and



A workshop in the Hangchow Silk Printing and Dyeing Mill.

renovated. For instance, the Tuchinsheng Silk Mill in Hangchow, famous for its woven-silk landscapes and portraits, is now producing, in addition to these, various kinds of silk items such as neckties, tablecloths and cushions. They are being sold in a large number of countries.

(by Chang Fu-sheng)

### **Mi Chieh Enrolls as A Graduate Student**

**A** 35-YEAR-OLD middle school teacher, who has shown up well politically and attained excellent examination marks, but who has a reactionary family background, was enrolled as a graduate student at Shanghai's Chiaotung University this year.

This represents correct implementation of the Party's policy of taking into account a person's class origin but not to the extent that it decides everything, while laying emphasis on political showing.

The teacher's name is Mi Chieh. His father was a reactionary Kuomintang officer who was arrested on counter-revolutionary charges in 1952 and executed. His grandfather, a landlord, was also executed soon after liberation for his crimes. Mi has several aunts and uncles in Taiwan, some of them Kuomintang secret agents and others high-ranking officers in the Kuomintang army.

Mi Chieh taught mathematics in a Shanghai middle school after graduating from the department of mathematics and mechanics of Anhwei University in 1963. During this

period his political showing was good and, in addition, he continued his study of mathematics. His application for graduate study was turned down twice though his examination marks were good each time.

But he firmly believed that though he could not choose his own family, he was free to take the road of revolution. As long as he worked hard, he would have a bright future. So besides doing a good job of his assigned work, he continued to study advanced courses in his major, the theory of probability, as well as other branches of modern mathematics, such as programming theory, theory of games, information theory and so on. He taught himself foreign languages too. Now he can read and translate mathematics papers in English, French, Russian, German as well as Japanese.

This spring he once again applied and sat for the exams for graduate study in applied mathematics at Chiaotung University and passed with top marks. The university Party committee carried forward the Party's traditional style of work to seek truth from facts and correctly implemented the Party policy towards intellectuals. They came to the conclusion, after investigation and study, that though Mi Chieh's family background and social connections were complicated, his political showing was good. Their investigation showed that Mi Chieh had drawn a clear line of demarcation politically and ideologically between himself and his reactionary family and he loved the Party and socialism. On these

grounds, the university enrolled him as a graduate student.

### **Huge Power Plant**

**A** BIG thermal power plant — the Chingho Power Plant — was recently completed and commissioned.

The plant is located in Kaiyuan County in northeast China's Liaoning Province. With a generating capacity of 1.1 million kilowatts, it has greatly strengthened northeast China's power grid and will play an important part in industrial and agricultural production in this area.

Seven sets of 100,000- or 200,000-kw. high-temperature and high-pressure turbo-generators were installed in the gigantic main building of the plant, and the coal transport system used here is more up-to-date than that in most other power plants.

### **Highway-Pipeline Double-Utility Bridge**

**A** NEW highway bridge on the Huai River in east China's Kiangsu Province, the longest one incorporating an oil pipeline in China, was opened to traffic on November 25. It plays an important part in the transport of oil and other goods.

The Shantung-Nanking pipeline carrying crude oil from the north to the south crosses the Huai River here. This is a 720-millimetre pipe supported by light steel props on one side of the bridge.

The bridge is 1,922.9 metres long. The road for vehicles is 9 metres wide and there is a 1.5-metre-wide pavement on each side.

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