

# BEIJING REVIEW

Carry Forward  
The Revolutionary  
Tian An Men  
Spirit

Learning From  
The Heroes



# BEIJING REVIEW

北京周报

Vol. 22, No. 15

April 13, 1979

## CONTENTS

CHRONICLE	2
EVENTS & TRENDS	3
Learning From the Heroes	
Changes in Capital Construction Investment System	
Power Industry — A Top Priority	
Beijing Residents Support Municipal Public Notice	
Families With One Child Encouraged	
The Need to Respect the Old	
Protecting Ancient Architecture	
ARTICLES AND DOCUMENTS	
Carry Forward the Revolutionary Tian An Men Spirit — <i>Renmin Ribao</i> editorial	9
On the Nature of Lin Biao's and "Gang of Four's" Political Line — Wu Jiang	13
Sino-Vietnamese Relations: Another Positive Move by China	17
Birth of Republic in Iran — Shi Zhonghe	18
Report From the Middle East: Beirut Today — Xu Shiquan	21
Soviet Military Menace to Western Europe	22
ROUND THE WORLD	25
ON THE HOME FRONT	27
CULTURE & SCIENCE	29

**COVER:** Heroic fighters of the Chinese frontier forces receive a tremendous welcome from the people in Yunnan upon their return in triumph from the self-defensive counterattack against the Vietnamese aggressors.

Published every Friday by BEIJING REVIEW,  
Beijing (37), China  
Post Office Registration No. 2-922  
Printed in the People's Republic of China

## CHRONICLE

### April 2

● Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping met with Admiral Emilio Eduardo Massera, former commander-in-chief of the Argentine navy, and Mrs. Massera.

### April 4

● Goh Keng Swee, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, arrived in China on a friendship visit. On receiving him, Premier Hua Guofeng said: "Despite the absence of diplomatic relations between our two countries, we have been getting along on very good terms."

● The Chinese Red Cross Society presented to Mauritius a cheque for 20,000 Mauritius rupees to help overcome difficulties caused by a recent cyclone.

### April 6

● Vice-Premier Chen Muhua returned to Beijing after a friendship visit to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Western Samoa.

● The Chinese Foreign Ministry pointed out in a note to the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry that provided Viet Nam creates no more complications, the Chinese Government Delegation will arrive in Hanoi on April 14 to take part in the Sino-Vietnamese talks (see p. 17).

### April 7

● During talks between Premier Hua and Dr. Abdurahman Jama Barre, Foreign Minister of Somalia, both sides expressed satisfaction over the development of friendship between the two countries in the past few years. The Somali Foreign Minister and Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua exchanged views when the visitor was in Beijing.

● Vice-Premier Li Xiannian met with Gerhard Schroeder, Chairman of the Foreign Committee of the Bundestag of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Mrs. Schroeder. Mr. Schroeder had visited China in 1972 and made positive contributions to the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

### April 8

● Deng Yingchao, Vice-Chairman of the N.P.C. Standing Committee, and the Delegation of the National People's Congress of China she is leading left Beijing for Japan on a visit.

### April 9

The spokesman of the Information Department of the Foreign Ministry said in a statement that "Pakistan's former Prime Minister Mr. Bhutto was an old friend of the Chinese people, who did much to promote Sino-Pakistan friendship. Chinese leaders made several appeals to grant him clemency. We deeply regret his execution."



## Learning From the Heroes

A large number of heroes have emerged from among the frontier forces of the Chinese People's Liberation Army during the self-defensive counter-attack against the Vietnamese aggressors. Their moving deeds and patriotic spirit have won the praise of the people all over the country, and learning from their fine example has become a major event in the Chinese people's political life.

Tales of their heroic deeds are legion, such as fighters daring to die for a just cause, commanders charging at the head of the soldiers, militiamen and militiawomen fighting in co-ordination with the frontier troops, and local people transporting munitions to the front and carrying the wounded on stretchers in the thick of the fighting.

**Li Chengwen.** Determined to destroy an enemy pillbox which

our gunfire did not demolish in time, Li crawled up to it with a pack of dynamite and, failing to find any ledge on which to put the pack, he held it in his hand, pulled the fuse and detonated the explosive charges, thereby blowing up the pillbox. Li opened the way for his comrades-in-arms by sacrificing his own life.

**Tao Shaowen.** When our advancing troops were stopped by machinegun fire and rockets from an enemy's bunker, Tao stepped forth and dashed forward with a bangalore torpedo in his hand. When it was about to explode, he thrust it into the bunker which was blown to pieces. The obstacle was thus removed, but Tao Shaowen laid down his life.

**Hai Shuigan.** When the enemy troops were closing in on him, this soldier of a signal corps who was carrying a walkie-talkie called out calmly to our artillerymen: "Open fire!

Closer to me!" "Closer still!" "Open fire on me!" Aiming at the direction he indicated, our artillerymen beat back the enemy's attack, but Hai Shuigan was wounded.

Cases of heroes fearlessly facing danger are indeed too many to cite. What gave them such courage? What was uppermost in their minds? This is best explained by the following passages from letters 19-year-old fighter Wang Can wrote in his notebook just before his death:

"Dear mother! If you were to receive this notebook, it'd mean I had died. But don't feel sad, mother, and don't wail for me. You should turn your thoughts to our forerunners who had made enormous sacrifices for the cause of the revolution." "My dear brother Wu Xing and sister Jun Feng! You should study hard and make use of every minute so that you'll be able to make greater contributions to the four modernizations." "I'm a fighter of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. I have to do my part to defend my beloved motherland. I must not think only of my small family, but should think more of the big family of the people of the whole country. These are the thoughts and feelings a young man should cherish."

The meritorious deeds of these heroes have greatly inspired the whole nation, particularly the young people. Li Chengwen's parents have sent another son to the army so that he can carry on his brother's unfinished task. Tao Shaowen's parents have also sent their daughter to the army, and the



Fighters of the Chinese frontier forces congratulating one another on the meritorious service they performed during the self-defensive counterattack against Vietnamese aggressors.

company commander there has given her the submachinegun her brother used when he was alive. The young people throughout the country have expressed their determination to learn from these heroes and dedicate themselves to the defence and accomplishment of the four modernizations.

**Conferring Medals.** In order to commend those who have performed meritorious service during the fighting, the Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China has decided to confer two kinds of medals — combat hero medals and medals of merit. In addition, everyone who took part in the fighting or who served in one way or another will receive a commemorative medal.

## Changes in Capital Construction Investment System

In capital construction, most of the investments will in the future take the form of loans from the state bank instead of state appropriations. This was recommended at a recent national conference on capital construction. The change which will be carried out step by step is of major importance in China's economic work.

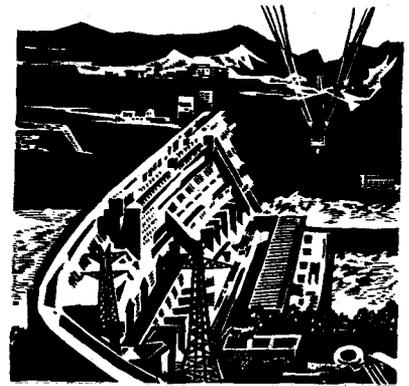
Since the founding of New China, the practice has been to earmark appropriations from the state budget for such investments. With the expansion of capital construction and the increase in the number of projects undertaken, this old practice which played a positive role in the early post-liberation days is becoming more and more

disadvantageous to the state. Its major defect is that it has encouraged people to go on "eating from the same pot and taking more than they need," so to speak. According to the old practice, units receiving these appropriations do not have to repay the money or any interest at all. Moreover, they do not undertake any economic responsibility and, when the appropriations are used up carelessly, they can ask for more. What follows is that many places and departments vie with one another for more investments and materials and equipment to build more projects without paying any attention to cost accounting or the results of the investments. The consequences are all too obvious: an overly long front in capital construction, slow progress in work, high costs and serious waste.

Take for instance the vinylon plant in Lanzhou, the provincial capital of Gansu. Its construction began in 1971 and it was originally scheduled to go into production in five years' time. But eight years have now passed and it is still under construction with the state having doubled the amount of investment.

The new practice of issuing loans by the state bank for capital construction is being tentatively adopted in some places and departments. Experience gained to date reveals the following advantages:

- The recipient unit now has to practise strict cost accounting and achieve the maximum economic results with a minimum investment.
- Units undertaking capital construction have to make bet-



ter planning so as to avoid the stockpiling of materials and accelerate the pace of construction.

- The role of the bank as a medium will be brought into play. It will help make arrangements for the unit going in for capital construction and the unit undertaking the actual construction work to sign contracts. At the same time, it helps make arrangements for the former and the units supplying the needed materials and other auxiliary engineering units to sign contracts which will bind the parties concerned to undertake economic responsibilities, and any party that violates the contracts will have to pay compensations for the economic losses incurred by the other party.

Adoption of this new practice does not mean that there will be free competition in capital construction according to the principle of profit. The state will continue to draw up construction plans and make decisions with regard to the projects to be built in accordance with the socialist principle and in the interests of the people.

Large investments are needed for the four modernizations and

large-scale capital construction. The aim of the new practice is to ensure that these investments are properly handled and fully utilized.

## Power Industry — A Top Priority

The Gongzui Hydropower Station in southwest China's Sichuan Province, with a total installed capacity of 750,000 kilowatts, has been completed, and the last of its seven power generating sets has been put into commission recently. Power generated there will be transmitted to Chongqing, Chengdu and other places, thereby greatly facilitating the development of industry and agriculture in the province.

Located in Leshan County, this hydroelectric station, which is the biggest of its kind in southwest China today, is one of the key first-stage projects built for the purpose of exploiting the water resources of the famous Dadu River. Equipped with Chinese machinery, it is designed, constructed and installed by Chinese technicians and workers.

The building of other hydro-power stations is being speeded up. Those under construction include:

- The Longyangxia Hydropower Station on the Huanghe River, with a generating capacity of 1.6 million kilowatts;

- The Baishan Hydropower Station on the Songhua River in northeast China. Its designing capacity is 900,000 kilowatts;

- The Xierhe Power Station of a terraced type in southwest China's Yunnan Province with a total installed capacity of 255,000 kilowatts. Part of this

station, with a generating capacity of 75,000 kilowatts, has been completed;

- The Wujiangdu Hydropower Station in Guizhou Province, southwest China, with a generating capacity of 630,000 kilowatts;

- The Dahua Hydropower Station, the biggest in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in south China. The generating capacity of its first-stage project is 400,000 kilowatts.

Construction of thermal power stations has also been undertaken on a large scale. Those completed since the beginning of this year include:

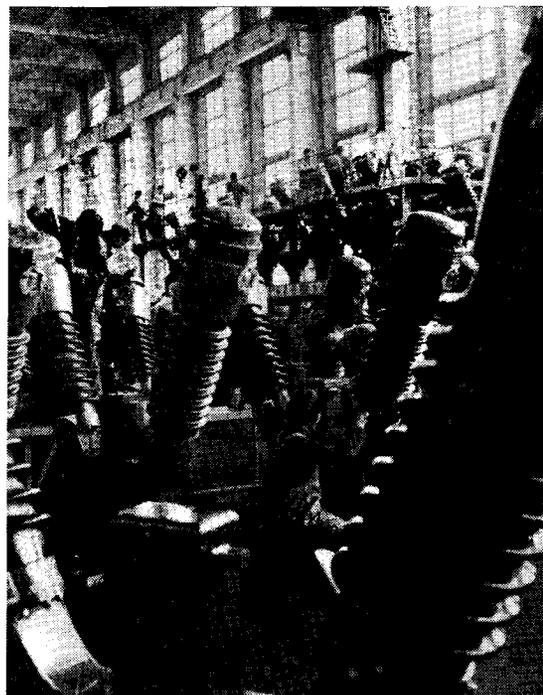
- Two generating sets of the Dagang Power Plant in north China, each with a capacity of 320,000 kilowatts;

- The No. 1 generating set of the Yuanbaoshan Power Plant in northeast China's Liaoning Province, with a generating capacity of 300,000 kilowatts;

- The first 125,000-kilowatt generating set of the Zhanhua Power Plant in east China's Shandong Province.

China is rich in energy resources. Its 500-million-kilowatt water resources lead the world. Its coal and petroleum deposits also rank among the largest in the world.

Power industry has made big headway in China since liberation. Output of electricity in just a few days now equals the total for the whole year of 1949. Nevertheless, the power industry is still a weak link in the national economy as a whole. Factories in many places are operated below capacity owing to inadequate supply of electricity.



Workers of the Shanghai Switch Plant producing circuit-breakers.

In the last two years, the country has done much to improve the situation. Now that the proportionate development of the various sectors of the national economy is being readjusted, investments in the power industry will be increased, the existing equipment of power plants will be improved and replenished with advanced science and technology, and the level of management will be raised. The aim is to enable the power industry to meet the needs of the developing national economy within the shortest possible time.

## Beijing Residents Support Municipal Public Notice

The plenary session held on March 29 by the Beijing municipal revolutionary committee discussed and adopted a public notice.

The notice consists of six points, namely: public gatherings and demonstrations must obey the direction of the people's police and the disruption of traffic is forbidden; no one is allowed to create disturbances in government institutions; no one is allowed to stir up troubles and spread rumours to deceive people; no one is permitted to intercept vehicles; no one is allowed to put up slogans, posters and wall newspapers in public places or on buildings except those designated for such purposes; slogans, big-character posters, publications and photographs which oppose socialism, proletarian dictatorship, Party leadership and Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought and which disclose classified information and run counter to the Constitution and law are prohibited.

The notice has received the support of people of all walks of life in the capital. Leading members of the Beijing trade union council, the municipal committee of the Chinese Communist Youth League and the women's federation as well as many workers, peasants and inhabitants have voiced their support and declared that the measures listed in the notice were necessary to check the irresponsible attitude of a handful of people who abuse the democratic rights.

Public opinion holds that in exercising democratic rights, one must at the same time abide by certain duties. China's Constitution stipulates that citizens enjoy the freedom of speech, assembly, demonstration and other rights. At the same time, it lays down that citizens must support the leadership of the Communist

Party of China and the socialist system, abide by the Constitution and the law, observe public order and safeguard state secrets. The Constitution also stipulates that China is a socialist country under the proletarian dictatorship and that Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought is the guiding ideology.

*Renmin Ribao* on April 2 carried a commentary which pointed out that in the past not enough attention was given to the propaganda and exercise of democracy and that certain rules and regulations remained to be improved and perfected. Hence the stress on giving full play to democracy. But the democracy we want is socialist democracy or people's democracy, not individual democracy of the bourgeoisie. If we should depart from the socialist road, from proletarian dictatorship, from the Party's leadership and from Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought and indulge in empty talks about abstract democracy, it would inevitably lead to anarchism.

The commentary said that a handful of people in some places recently infringed upon public interests and used coercive methods to achieve their selfish ends. Some bad elements even openly put up reactionary slogans to fan up discontent. It is necessary for us to carry out painstaking political and ideological work among those who have been hoodwinked, especially those innocent and unaffected youngsters, so that they will not be misled by the counter-revolutionaries and bad elements. At the same time, it is necessary to punish these counter-revolutionaries and bad elements according to law.

On April 5, *Renmin Ribao* frontpaged an editorial entitled "Carry Forward the Revolutionary Tian An Men Spirit." The editorial declared that the kind of democracy the Chinese people want is socialist democracy (see p. 9).

## **Families With One Child Encouraged**

Economic measures have been taken in Sichuan on a trial basis to encourage family planning as from March 1. China's most populous province, Sichuan accounts for about 10 per cent of the country's total population.

In the cities, workers, teachers and government employees who have only one child and who guarantee not to have a second one will be given five yuan a month for child care till the child is 14 years old. Families with only one child living in houses built by the government, factories or schools are entitled to an equal amount of living space as a family of four. (The amount of living space varies according to the size of the family.) And priority will be given to the child either in admission to schools or in allocating jobs.

In the villages, families with only one child will receive every month a sum of money equal to three workdays for child care till the child is 14 years old, and the child gets the same amount of food grain as an adult, while in the distribution of plots for private use, the child gets 1.5 shares. (In the rural communes, the amount of food grain for infants and children is lower than that received by adults; as for private plots, an infant or an adult gets only one share.)

If the child becomes disabled or dies, the parents may have another child and will enjoy the same privileges.

The new measures now being tried out in Sichuan stipulate that elderly widows and widowers should be well taken care of. In the countryside, the state and the people's communes guarantee that their standard of living will be a little higher than the average.

Speaking about these economic measures, Liu Haiquan, vice-chairman of the provincial revolutionary committee, said that in socialist society the law governing the population growth is closely connected with the planned and proportionate development of the national economy. Child bearing is also a matter related to economics. Therefore, taking economic measures to encourage family planning is in line with economic law.

The new measures have received the warm support of the people in Sichuan. About 24 per cent of the families with only one child in a district in the city of Chongqing will not have a second child. Eighty-six one-child families in a rural people's commune have taken birth control measures.

Medical workers in the province have done a lot of work to bring down the population. Population growth was 3.11 per cent in 1970 and 0.867 in 1977. According to the latest statistics, it dropped to 0.606 last year. This made Sichuan one of the best provinces in birth control.

In China, the state gives guidance to birth control which is practised on a voluntary basis. In densely-populated areas

where the birth rate is high, late marriage and birth control are encouraged, while in sparsely-populated areas inhabited by national minorities, measures conducive to population growth have been taken.

## The Need to Respect The Old

The national newspaper *Zhongguo Qingnian Bao* (Chinese Youth) recently published a letter from an 80-year-old woman complaining about the treatment she had received from her six sons who forsook her because they said she was no longer of any use to them.

This old woman who lives in Liuhe County in east China's Jiangsu Province recounted how she had suffered in the old society in order to bring up her sons. Now all six have grown up and got married, and are living in spacious houses, while

she lives in a small hut with no one taking care of her.

In the rural people's communes, old people who have no children and are no longer able to work are provided with food, clothing and lodging and, when they die, are buried or cremated by the production brigades they belong to. But those who have children are of course taken care of by their own children.

This old woman's plight drew the attention of the leading members of the commune and production brigade concerned. They had criticized her sons on several occasions and urged them to correct their mistakes. But this question remained unsolved for some time because the sons asserted that it was their family affair which "outsiders have no right to intervene."

A train attendant escorting an old woman out of the Beijing Railway Station.



The publication of the old woman's letter produced strong repercussions. Within 20 days, *Zhongguo Qingnian Bao* received 300 letters from its readers expressing indignation at the callous attitude of the sons and sympathy for the old woman. Many young people wrote to her, saying that as youth of New China they would be willing to look after her if her sons should continue to refuse to provide for her. Some offered to pay for her medical expenses and others sent money to her.

Under the pressure of public opinion, the six sons, ashamed of themselves, acknowledged their mistakes and assured the commune leadership and their relatives and neighbours that they would make proper arrangements for their mother and take good care of her.

In publishing the old woman's letter, *Zhongguo Qingnian Bao* wrote an editor's note which pointed out that for the young people to forsake the old is something not to be tolerated in socialist China. "Showing respect for the old," it said, "is a traditional moral character of the Chinese nation and providing for parents is the bounden duty of the young. The Youth League organizations should educate the young to respect and provide for the old people so that they can live a happy life in their remaining years."

## Protecting Ancient Architecture

The famous Yonghegong (Hall of Amity and Peace) in the northeastern district of the capital is undergoing extensive repairs which began last month. It is a lamasery built 235 years

ago during the reign of Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty, where a large number of metal, sandalwood and other wooden Buddhas and hundreds of scriptures are preserved.

The Yonghegong is one of many ancient monasteries and temples which, together with the stone tablets, pagodas, bridges, tombs, grottoes and other ancient architectural wonders of China's rich cultural legacy, are under special state protection. Some of these have been repaired and refurbished in the last few years, and are now open to the public.

### • The Yungang Grottoes in north China's Shanxi Province.

These were built towards the end of the 4th century and were gradually expanded since. The earliest and largest in China, they are a veritable treasure house, with 50,000 Buddhist statues and other sculptures. Since they were restored to their former grandeur, they have since 1976 received 800,000 Chinese and foreign visitors. The work of restoring and preserving these works of art was undertaken in accordance with the late Premier Zhou Enlai's instructions.

• **The Mogao and the Longmen Grottoes.** These are as famous as the Yungang Grottoes. The former is in Dunhuang on the Silk Road in northwest China and the latter is in Central China. To lovers of Buddhist art, they are a great attraction all the year round.

• **The Maijishan Grottoes.** Located in northwest China's Gansu Province, the place is known for its vast number of clay and stone sculptures and murals. Extensive repairs are being undertaken and an



The Wentong Pagoda in Huaian County, Jiangsu Province, built in 708 A.D.

airport has been built in the nearest city of Tianshui for the convenience of visitors.

• **The Potala Palace and Jokhan Monastery.** Large sums of money have been allocated by the state to renovate these and other buildings of architectural beauty in Lhasa.

Ancient Chinese architecture is known both for its artistic beauty and the high level of technical skill involved. Many of these architectural wonders, however, have fallen into disrepair in the last few years. Some sections of the Great Wall, for instance, have been levelled down, and some parks built in the classical style have been turned into compounds of factories. Now measures are being taken in various localities to protect these valuable relics of China's rich cultural legacy.

# Carry Forward the Revolutionary Tian An Men Spirit

“Renmin Ribao” editorial

The Tian An Men revolutionary mass movement which took place in early April 1976 was a political movement to uphold Premier Zhou and oppose the “gang of four.” The struggle against the “gang of four” is, in fact, a struggle to keep to the socialist road, to the dictatorship of the proletariat, to Party leadership and to Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought. By upholding these four fundamental principles, the Tian An Men incident was, therefore, a completely revolutionary action. Today, in inheriting and carrying forward the Tian An Men spirit, the most important thing is to adhere to these four fundamental principles.

LAST year, the Party Central Committee headed by Comrade Hua Guofeng redressed the incorrect verdict on the Tian An Men incident and confirmed that it was a great revolutionary mass movement.

As we look at the excellent situation today on our march towards the four modernizations (modernization of agriculture, industry, national defence and science and technology) and look back at those eventful years, we feel all the more confident of the future of our socialist motherland. Three years ago, our motherland was at a critical juncture: the national economy was on the brink of collapse, Comrade Mao Zedong was seriously ill, Comrade Zhou Enlai had passed away, Comrade Deng Xiaoping was under persecution, and the “gang of four” were on the rampage, having quickened their tempo of usurping the Party and state leadership. People lived in anxiety and pondered in silence; highly indignant they were ready to put up a fight.

When the gang openly opposed the late Premier Zhou in their counter-revolutionary clamour, the Chinese people could no longer contain their pent-up anger and rose to the situation. Flames raged in defence of Premier Zhou and in opposition to the “gang of four” in Beijing’s Tian An Men Square as well as other places in the nation. Although this popular patriotic movement in defence of socialism was quelled by the gang, the masses did not spill their blood and shed their tears in vain. For this movement exposed the enemy of the state, educated the masses, demonstrated the people’s strength and displayed the high political consciousness of the masses. It prepared the most important condition for our Party’s victory in crushing the gang, that is, the further awakening of the people in their hundreds of millions.

## The Main Goals Have Been Reached

The main endeavours of this revolutionary mass movement at Tian An Men, also known as the April 5 movement, were to bring down the “gang of four,” uphold Premier Zhou Enlai, put an end to the nationwide turmoil and prepare China to be built into a powerful socialist country with four modernizations. All these objectives have now been transformed into reality. In honouring the third anniversary of this revolutionary mass movement, we must inherit and carry forward the revolutionary spirit of the April 5 movement, unite as one and work with one mind to carry out the behests of Comrades Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai, namely, to turn China into a modern, powerful socialist country.

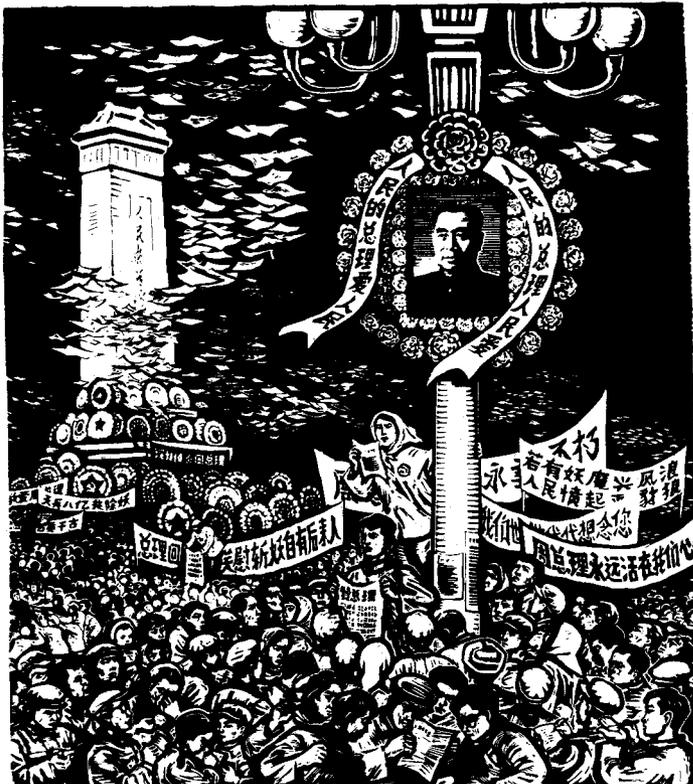
The movement expressed the resolve of the people in their hundreds of millions: The “gang

of four" should never be allowed to transform our Marxist-Leninist Party into a fascist party, and socialist China into a feudal autocracy. At that time, the "gang of four" were at the height of their rampancy, which also meant that the dictatorship of the proletariat in our country had encountered setbacks. But in spite of the gang's perverse actions, the people at large had not lost their confidence in Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought, in the Party, in the dictatorship of the proletariat and in socialism.

On the contrary, even though the gang had terribly disfigured socialism, people still held the belief that only socialism could save China and so stepped forward to defend socialism. Even though the gang had wrecked socialist democracy and turned the dictatorship of the proletariat into one over the proletariat, people still held the belief that the dictatorship of the proletariat was the very foundation on which we had to settle down and get on with our pursuit, so they just stepped forward to uphold the dictatorship of the proletariat. Even though the gang had thrown our Party into confusion, people still believed that our Party was great, glorious and correct and came forward to defend it. Even though the gang had distorted and tampered with Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought, people still firmly believed that Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought was the great banner guiding us to march from victory to victory, so they came to the fore to uphold it.

The struggle against the gang was a struggle to keep to the socialist road, to uphold the dictatorship of the proletariat, the Party's leadership and Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought. The question of whither China and the question of the destiny of this generation and future generations will be decided by whether we can keep to or whether we deviate from these four fundamental principles. The Tian An Men incident was revolutionary and will shine for ever because it upheld these four fundamental principles. Today, the most important thing in inheriting and carrying forward the Tian An Men spirit is to adhere to these four principles.

"The Premier's behests we are to carry out. The day the four modernizations are realized,



Tribute to Premier Zhou.

Woodcut by Gu Yuan

we shall be back with libation and offerings." Such was the heart-stirring slogan of the April 5 movement. The magnificent blueprint for the four modernizations was drawn up by Comrade Zhou Enlai under Comrade Mao Zedong's instructions. It is where the future of the Chinese nation lies and on which the happiness of the sons and daughters of China hinges. Without the four modernizations, without a powerful material basis, our country cannot become strong and the people prosperous, our dictatorship of the proletariat cannot be truly consolidated and we will still be exposed to attack. The "gang of four" babbled that the day the four modernizations were realized would be "the time when capitalism was restored." This fully revealed them as a handful of public enemies who were attempting to subvert the dictatorship of the proletariat, undermine the national interests and plunge the people into untold misery. Why was it that so many comrades defied the ban and streamed down to Tian An Men Square on the *Qing Ming* Festival (April 5) of 1976? It was because they had a strong love for the country and the people and they wanted to make our country strong and prosperous and to improve our people's livelihood day by day.

An ordinary worker put it very well: "I love our socialist motherland dearly and hope that our motherland will become powerful, so powerful as to enable it to withstand and resist aggression by the Soviet revisionist hegemonists. I love my people with all my heart and hope that they can live a really happy life. I love our nation and hope that the Chinese nation will really make great contributions to mankind." What this comrade worker said showed how broad-minded he was. In those years when the gang wreaked havoc, there was no telling how many families were broken up and lost their dear ones and how many people were wronged, but still, not a single individual appeared at Tian An Men to speak about his personal misfortune. What worried everyone there was the future of the Party and the state, what they asked for was to get rid of the scourges of the nation and to work for the four modernizations.

Nowadays, some people who deviated from this revolutionary Tian An Men spirit and adopted tactics similar to the ones used during the Tian An Men incident, have presented the state with their unreasonable demands for their personal interests without considering the interests of the whole. This is a misrepresentation of the Tian An Men revolutionary mass movement. If we are to inherit and carry forward the revolutionary Tian An Men spirit, we must take the whole situation into consideration, look after the interests of the state first, set ourselves the task of bringing about the four modernizations and direct our energy to the four modernizations. We are determined to bring about the four modernizations by the turn of the century.

### Socialist Democracy

The April 5 movement was a broad democratic movement. Because of the "gang of four's" high-handed pressure, the masses did not have the freedom to discuss state affairs so they used wreaths, poems and took oaths to express their sentiments. The movement was not organized in a unified way, and yet everything proceeded very orderly. It was at this place and through this particular form of struggle that the people managed to exercise their democratic rights, propagate the truth, speak for justice, and hit the enemy. How proud and elated all this was! In the struggle to resist the gang's suppression and defend socialist democracy, people soberly came to see: If there

were no people's democracy, the opinions of the masses could not be concentrated and the masses could not exercise their supervision, the Party would change its nature and the state its political colour.

The April 5 movement, which took place at a time when the "gang of four" ran rampant, was not initiated by any one person, nor was it under direct Party leadership. Furthermore, it was obstructed and suppressed by the gang. In this sense, it was a spontaneous revolutionary mass movement. But comrades who took part in the movement, without exception, had long been educated by the Party; many of these activists were either Party members, Party cadres or members of the Communist Youth League and fine youngsters. Moreover, many Party organizations at a grass-roots level supported the mass struggle. In this sense, without Party leadership the April 5 movement would not have displayed such a formidable strength as it had. Party leadership is embodied mainly in the correctness of its line, principles and policies and in the exemplary role played by its members. Although the gang's ultra-Left line was gravely interfering with the Party's revolutionary line at that time, the cadres and people remained firm in supporting the revolutionary line and many outstanding Party members and Youth League members set a good example and fought courageously in defending and implementing the revolutionary line. In our appraisal of the April 5 movement,



Dedicating our Youth to the Motherland.

Poster by Luo Lin

we must not just see its spontaneity and overlook the Party's leadership of it.

Nowadays, some people want to reject Party leadership and believe in spontaneous activities, thinking that democracy means doing whatever one pleases. But this is not democracy at all but ultra-democratization! What we advocate is socialist democracy, democracy for the overwhelming majority, democracy under the guidance of centralism. If one is allowed to do whatever one pleases, then this will result in depriving the majority of their democratic rights and jeopardizing the interests of the majority.

In inheriting and carrying forward the revolutionary spirit of Tian An Men, it is imperative to continue to give scope to democracy. This is unshakable. But what we seek is socialist democracy which can be achieved only under the leadership of the Communist Party.

### **Deal With Young People Properly**

It is heartening to note that the young generation rose valiantly during the April 5 movement. With rather high political consciousness, they were able, in the complex historical circumstances, to see through the wolfish ambitions of the "gang of four" and distinguish between genuine and phoney Marxism-Leninism. They took upon themselves the responsibility for the future of the country, concerned themselves with affairs of state, and, with truth in hand, swept away all obstacles to their courageous struggle, thus becoming the vanguard force in the movement. In the struggle to right the wrongs since the downfall of the "gang of four," the young generation have emancipated their thinking and courageously broken through past restrictions. This fully demonstrates that the revolutionary cause initiated by Comrades Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai and other proletarian revolutionaries of the older generation is thriving with qualified successors.

We should now educate and encourage the young people to inherit and carry forward the revolutionary spirit of Tian An Men and devote themselves to the four modernizations. We should be aware that they have grown up in extremely complex political struggles. While the young people were seasoned in the revolutionary struggles, their minds were also poisoned by the "gang of four." We must show concern for the young people and treat them correctly. We

must see their good points, which constitute the main aspect, and not lose sight of their weak points and shortcomings. We should be good at educating, guiding, helping and cherishing them.

We should give full scope to the merits of the young people — their lofty ideals, pondering diligently, and thinking and acting with courage — so as to bring their abilities into full play. We should educate them so that they will continue maintaining the fine qualities of living a simple life and working diligently and selflessly. When the interests of the individual come into conflict with those of the state and the collective, and when this problem cannot be solved in a short time, we should teach the young people to take the interests of the whole into account, to subordinate their own interests to those of the state and the collective, to subordinate immediate interests to long-range interests and the interests of the part to those of the whole. Young people should understand the difficulties of the state and not indulge in individualism and ultra-democracy.

Communist Youth League organizations at various levels should make a point of studying the ideological tendencies among the young people, do ideological and political work well and arouse their enthusiasm for socialism so that they will become a shock force on the new Long March.

How to inherit and carry forward the April 5 spirit is a very important question. When looking back at the Chinese people's May 4th Movement of 1919 which was against imperialism and feudalism, Comrade Mao Zedong said: "In its development, the May 4th Movement divided into two currents. One section inherited its scientific and democratic spirit and transformed it on the basis of Marxism; this is what the Communists and some non-Party Marxists did. Another section took the road of the bourgeoisie; this was the development of formalism towards the Right." This historical experience is worth studying.

Events that took place since the fall of the "gang of four," show that the masses have inherited and carried forward the spirit of the April 5 movement and played a positive role in the struggle to expose and criticize the "gang of four," and in doing away with the blind faith of our time and emancipating people's minds to meet the needs of the four modernizations. This

is the main current. But, there are also a handful of people who, waving the banner of inheriting the spirit of the April 5 movement, talk about not believing in Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought and about rejecting Party leadership, the dictatorship of the proletariat and socialism. Such a trend, though incipient, merits our attention.

On the occasion of the third anniversary of the April 5 movement, we extend our greetings to comrades who took part in this movement and wish them fresh success on the new Long March.

We are convinced that people throughout the country, under the leadership of the Party Central Committee, will contribute outstanding achievements in their productive labour, work, struggle and study to the building and defending of socialism, as a way to greet the 30th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

(A slightly abridged translation of "Renmin Ribao" editorial, April 5. Subheads are ours.)

## On the Nature of Lin Biao's and "Gang of Four's" Political Line

by Wu Jiang\*

**B**ROADLY speaking, there are two formulations about the nature and characteristics of the political line of Lin Biao and the "gang of four." One is that it is an "ultra-Right counter-revolutionary revisionist line." And the other, a "pseudo-Left but genuinely Right counter-revolutionary revisionist line." The pair has two points in common. Both mix questions concerning a political line with questions of counter-revolution and both hold that the essence of the political line of Lin Biao and the gang is Right and not "Left." Both are not scientific.

### Political Line and Counter-Revolution

Questions inside the Party concerning a political line and questions of counter-revolution are two separate things. The two must not be mixed.

Stalin spoke of this problem in his *Reply to Bill-Belotserkovsky*. He said, "In our country today the concept 'Right' or 'Left' is a Party concept, properly speaking an inner-Party concept. 'Rights' or 'Lefts' are people who deviate to one side or the other from the purely Party line." When someone applied these concepts to

the anti-Soviet play *Flight*, Stalin pointed out that the play was an anti-Soviet phenomenon, not a manifestation of inner-Party "Left" or "Right" deviation. It was Stalin again who made the following analysis of Trotskyism in his report to a Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U. (B.) in March 1937. He said that the Trotskyites had been a political section of the working class seven or eight years ago, but they ceased to be so now. They had degenerated into a shameless, unprincipled gang of assassins, wreckers, spies and murderers.

It is obvious that theoretically Stalin drew a clear demarcation between political line and counter-revolution. He did not think that Trotsky was counter-revolutionary from the very beginning or that his political line was of a counter-revolutionary nature because Trotsky later turned out to be a counter-revolutionary.

This point of view of Stalin's is correct. Generally speaking, questions within the Party concerning a political line are a matter of making a clear distinction between what is right and what is wrong. They must be solved by the method of inner-Party struggle, of criti-

\* The author works in the field of philosophy.

cism and self-criticism, and not by the method of dealing with the enemy and counter-revolutionaries. Under certain conditions, it is possible for questions inside the Party concerning a political line to develop into questions of counter-revolution, but then they are no longer questions of political line within the Party. That is to say, the original questions of political line should not be considered counter-revolutionary, nor should questions of counter-revolution later on still be treated as questions of political line.

In the past, we did not call Chen Duxiu's Right opportunist line a counter-revolutionary Right opportunist line. Nor did we call the three "Left" opportunist lines of Wang Ming and others as counter-revolutionary "Left" opportunist lines. Not even later when Chen Duxiu had become a Trotskyite and Wang Ming a traitor, because that was altogether another question. The same applies to Zhang Guotao. He committed an error during the Long March. That was a question of political line. Later, he gave himself up to the Kuomintang and deserted the revolution, that became a question of betraying the Party. The two questions are interrelated, but they must not be confused.

In the case of Lin Biao and the "gang of four," can their question of political line and their question of counter-revolution be lumped together? I don't think they can. Lin Biao and the gang did become counter-revolutionaries, but their question had indeed been one of political line. There certainly are close links between political line and counter-revolution, but the one should not be equated with the other. If we treat the political line they had carried out as a question of counter-revolution, then that is oversimplifying the matter, to say the least. It would actually mean covering up that extremely harmful political line. (If that line is not thoroughly exposed and criticized, it is entirely possible for it to reappear someday under new conditions.) On the other hand, if their question of counter-revolution is treated as a matter of political line, that would, of course, be prettifying them.

Then there are certain differences between Lin Biao and the "gang of four."

At the beginning, the struggle between our Party and Lin Biao was, as a whole, a struggle over political line within the Party. Lin Biao used an ostensibly revolutionary line to serve his anti-Party ambitions. He turned into a downright counter-revolutionary when he tried to engineer a coup d'etat, assassinate Chairman

Mao and overthrow the Party Central Committee.

The political line of the "gang of four" was identical with that of Lin Biao's. But they were different persons. The gang's ringleaders were Jiang Qing, a renegade, Zhang Chunqiao, an enemy agent, and Yao Wenyuan, an alien class element. They had wormed their way into our Party. It can be said that right from the beginning when they set about carrying out their political line, they had their counter-revolutionary aim and goal of wrecking our Party and usurping its leadership. But still, we should not equate questions of their political line with their questions of counter-revolution. Apart from the "gang of four," there were large numbers of people who carried out that line. And these are not renegades, enemy agents or counter-revolutionaries. They are persons who had made mistakes on the question of political line and some of them are still in leading positions today. Most of them had followed the line blindly, believing it was "revolutionary" because the "Leftist" coloration of the line appealed to their petty-bourgeois fanaticism. It would be proper to say that they had carried out a line that was prone to exploitation by counter-revolutionaries. It will be an exaggeration to term their implementation of this political line as something counter-revolutionary.

### Ultra-Left — Their Salient Feature

A fundamental distinction must be made between the "Left" line and the Right line. The two must not be mixed up.

To determine whether the line pushed by Lin Biao and the "gang of four" was "Left" or Right, it is necessary first of all to look into their programmes, slogans, policies, methods and measures — all are manifestations of their line.

Roughly speaking, their main arguments and deeds were:

1. In the name of grasping class struggle, they magnified the scope of class struggle and reversed the relations between ourselves and the enemy.

2. In the name of strengthening the dictatorship of the proletariat, they instituted an "all-round dictatorship." They put forth the slogans: "Suspect and overthrow all," "seize

power in all fields and at every level." They called for replacing the "conservative old government" with a "revolutionary new cultural revolution group."

3. In the name of opposing revisionism, they negated all the achievements of the 17 years after liberation (1949-66), and declared that "everything must be done in confrontation to the revisionist line over the 17 years" (immediately after nationwide liberation). They claimed that the Cultural Revolution was "a movement against those who had engaged in making revolution before," "a movement to criticize cadres," "a movement to dismiss cadres from office" and so on.

4. They averred that "mass movement is naturally reasonable," and whipped up ultra-democratization and anarchism. They sabotaged the Party's democratic centralism and negated Party leadership under the guise of practising "extensive democracy." They advocated "kicking aside the Party committees to make revolution," claiming that there was "a bourgeoisie within the Party," and that the bourgeoisie within the Party is the target of the revolution."

5. They advertised that "changes have taken place in class relationship," and that "the veteran cadres are democrats and democrats are capitalist-roaders." They maligned intellectuals as the "stinking ninth category" who should be classified as enemies, and stigmatized workers, peasants and soldiers as "royalists."

6. They opposed the red flag by waving red flags, declaring that "energetic efforts should be made to set up the absolute authority [of Chairman Mao]" whose "every word is truth," and "99 per cent of the time should be for studying Chairman Mao's works."

7. They tried to impose military communism in economic construction. They advocated and practised equalitarianism, opposed the principle of "to each according to his work" and the commodity system. They called for getting rid of "bourgeois rights" irrespective of all conditions. They organized and ran enterprises and villages like army units.

8. They declared that the superstructure decided everything and that everything, economics in particular, must give way to politics. They charged that those who paid attention to

production were proponents of the "theory of the unique importance of the productive forces," those who went in for the four modernizations were "creating conditions for capitalist restoration," and those who wanted state and collective enterprises to show a profit were "putting profits in command."

In the countryside, they called for making the production brigade the basic accounting unit instead of the production team when the production team was still poor and the necessary conditions were still lacking. They held that the poorer the peasants were, the more revolutionary they became. They emphasized grain production to the exclusion of a diversified economy, they criticized the quota system, they demolished the system of appraisal of work done and calculation of workpoints earned; they proscribed trade at village fairs, severely curtailed household side-line production, took away small private plots growing things for personal needs. In short, they expropriated the peasants through all sorts of pretexts.

9. They condemned the studying and acquisition of advanced technology and scientific management from abroad as "the doctrine of trailing behind at a snail's pace" and "philosophy of servility to things foreign."

10. They clamped down a cultural autocracy under the slogan of "cultural revolution" and permitted only one flower to blossom and one school of thought to exist.

What kind of stuff was this? The chief features of the political line of Lin Biao and the "gang of four" were: Opposing socialism through exalting their brand of communism; breaking down all laws and rules through unleashing so-called mass movements; wiping out socialist democracy through instituting an "all-round dictatorship"; wrecking economic work through so-called giving absolute priority to politics and class struggle and substituting them for the former; negating objective laws by exaggerating the dynamic role of ideology; ignoring the objective conditions for revolution and the limits of each revolution by exaggerating the role of revolutionary spirit; manufacturing modern superstitions and fetishes to distort and negate Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought as a system of scientific theory.

In sum, their line exceeded the possibilities of the present era, over-stepped the limitations

of reality. It was a line of striking out at all without discrimination and trying to wreck socialism and the revolutionary cause by using the semblance of revolution and what seemed to be methods for bringing about quick transformations. All these were remarkably similar to the programme and methods of Trotsky.

From these we can draw a conclusion — the nature of the political line of Lin Biao and the “gang of four” was not Right, but ultra-Left. It was “Left” opportunism. This opportunism from the “Left,” which appeared under cover of the slogan “opposing revisionism and Right deviation,” was extremely iniquitous, as we all know now.

Why did Lin Biao and the “gang of four” use the ultra-Left form? And what was the reason behind the emergence of this form? It was because Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought enjoyed high prestige among the Chinese people, because the Chinese proletariat and other working people had a revolutionary tradition and high revolutionary enthusiasm, because in China there was the influence of the petty-bourgeoisie whose numbers were vast and whose “revolutionariness” could be made use of easily by political swindlers. This “revolutionariness” also was apt to become ultra-Left, because after liberation greater attention was paid to fighting Right deviation than to “Left” deviation and political line. In addition, there was the trend that “Left” was better than Right and it was “safer” to be “Left” than to be Right. Under these circumstances, the ultra-Left line of Lin Biao and the “gang of four” very easily captivated and poisoned the minds of a part of the cadres and the masses. And this was exactly what happened.

After the downfall of Lin Biao, the mounting criticism of ultra-Leftism greatly alarmed the “gang of four,” who then forbade the people from criticizing it and called for continuous criticism of the so-called Right. Why? This is something well worth thinking over. Ultra-Leftism was a shield that Lin Biao and the “gang of four” used and which benumbed the revolutionary people.

The view that the line of Lin Biao and the “gang of four” was “pseudo-Left but actually Right” was an advance over the view that their line was ultra-Right, because this view challenged the idea that it was ultra-Right. How-

ever, this view confounded the nature of two erroneous lines — the Right and “Left” deviationist lines. It gave the impression that only Right opportunism really existed while “Left” opportunism did not and that the latter was better than the former, or that only by opposing the Right could there be a genuine Left. This formulation emerged in the course of trying to come to a clear understanding of the question. It would be more appropriate not to use this formulation today.

In the history of the Chinese Communist Party, the Chinese revolution was almost destroyed by the “Left” opportunist line. When Wang Ming’s “Left” opportunist line was predominant during the period of the democratic revolution, almost 100 per cent of the underground Party organizations in the White areas and about 90 per cent of the revolutionary forces in the Red areas were wrecked. The revolution was saved by Chinese Marxists headed by Comrade Mao Zedong. Today, under new historical conditions, China suffered another severe crisis resulting from the “Left” line which lasted for a long time. This historical reality is something that no true Marxist can ignore.

In 1908, Lenin pointed out in his *Marxism and Revisionism* that there were “revisionism from the left,” but he added, “which as yet is far from having developed to the same extent as opportunist revisionism: it has not yet become international, has not yet stood the test of a single big practical battle with a socialist party in any single country.” Therefore, we cannot analyse the ideological content of this revisionism, but mainly analyse the “revisionism from the right,” he said.

Lenin wrote that article 70 years ago. It can be said that in the 1960s and 1970s, “revisionism from the left” attained its maturity in China and to a certain extent had its international influence. It fought a big battle with the Chinese Communist Party. This is a matter of historical significance which we must face squarely and study in earnest so that we can draw lessons from it and wage a two-front struggle against “Left” and Right deviations, so as to guarantee that the cause of modernization proceeds along the correct line.

(An abridged translation of an article in “Renmin Ribao,” February 16. Subheads are ours.)

## Another Positive Move by China

---

**T**HE Chinese Foreign Ministry in a note of April 6 to the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry categorically repudiated the crude vilifications and abuses against China in a Vietnamese note of April 4 on the armed conflict in Sino-Vietnamese border areas.

It said that the Chinese Government Delegation led by Vice-Foreign Minister Han Nianlong will arrive in Hanoi on April 14 to take part in the Sino-Vietnamese negotiations if no further complications are created by the Vietnamese side.

This is another positive action taken by China for early talks between Chinese and Vietnamese Vice-Foreign Ministers which the people of the two countries as well as of the world desire to see.

Everybody knows that the tragic deterioration of Sino-Vietnamese relations as they stand today was brought about by Hanoi alone. All peace-loving and justice-upholding countries and people have formed their own fair judgement on the rights and wrongs of the case.

### **China Is Always for Negotiations**

The Chinese Government has always called for a fair and reasonable solution to the issues between the two countries by means of peaceful negotiations.

On March 5, when the Chinese Government announced the withdrawal of its frontier forces from Viet Nam, it again proposed talks with Viet Nam and voiced the sincere hope that Hanoi would respond positively to the proposal.

The same proposal was reiterated on March 16 when the Chinese Government honoured its word and completed the withdrawal of its frontier forces from Viet Nam.

On March 19, the Chinese Government put forward a specific proposal as to the agenda and venue for the talks.

Despite the unremitting Chinese efforts, talks between Chinese and Vietnamese Vice-Foreign Ministers have failed to take place so far for reasons which rest with the Vietnamese side. Hanoi first rejected the Chinese proposal because, so it said, it could not agree to negotiate under the pressure of foreign invasion. When

the start of the Chinese withdrawal was announced on March 5, Hanoi, pressed by public opinion all over the world and the urging of the Chinese Government, declared its agreement to negotiate. Then, on March 21, it suddenly backed down and, spreading the lie that "the Chinese troops are still remaining in three areas and at 16 points" in Vietnamese territory, it created complications and laid down the precondition that negotiations could start only when the Chinese troops had evacuated to a boundary line as defined by it. Thus, a road-block was placed in the way to Sino-Vietnamese talks. From March 22 to 30, the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry issued four statements or notes which, on the pretext that Chinese troops were "still stationed in Vietnamese territory," tried again to obstruct the start of the negotiations. The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry said in its statement of March 22 that Chinese troops were still stationed "at 18 points in Vietnamese territory." It said again on March 23: Chinese troops were "still stationed in more than 30 points and areas." On March 27 it said: "Chinese troops still occupy more than ten places in Vietnamese territory." On March 30 it said again: The Chinese authorities have not withdrawn their troops "from places they are still occupying on Vietnamese territory." All these lies were seen through by the world, and under pressure from just public opinion the Vietnamese authorities are now compelled to give up their unreasonable precondition and agree to hold negotiations.

### **Viet Nam Distorts Chinese Note**

People have noticed that Viet Nam was trying to distort the meaning of the Chinese Government note of March 31. Viet Nam alleged that "until now, the Chinese troops have not been withdrawn from all the points they have occupied on Vietnamese territory." It says, "In its note on March 31, 1979, in reply to the Vietnamese note, the Chinese side also admitted the presence of Chinese troops in some of the points mentioned by the Vietnamese side." This was an attempt to create a false impression that China had admitted its failure to withdraw all its troops from Vietnamese territory.

In actual fact the Chinese Foreign Ministry had stated clearly in its note of March 31 that

"the Chinese side has time and again stated explicitly that all Chinese frontier troops were withdrawn to Chinese territory as of March 16 and that there is not a single Chinese soldier on Vietnamese territory. As for the places listed in the Vietnamese side's note of March 27, in some of them there are no Chinese troops at all, while those places where there are Chinese troops are all on the Chinese side of the boundary and have always been under China's jurisdiction. If the Vietnamese side holds a different opinion about the alignment of the boundary in certain sections, it should seek a resolution through negotiations. It is utterly unreasonable for the Vietnamese side to make China's withdrawal from these places a precondition for the holding of negotiations." This explicit statement brooks no distortion. If the Vietnamese side changes

its course and comes to the negotiating table at an early date, it is to be welcomed. But should it insist on telling shopworn lies or continue to distort the meaning of the documents of the Chinese side with a view to preparing grounds for more provocations in the future, that will not do.

The Chinese Government and people sincerely hope that the China-Viet Nam negotiations at the vice-foreign ministerial level will be held at an early date to ensure peace and tranquillity in the border areas, to restore normal relations between the two countries, and to resolve the boundary, territorial and other disputes between them, thus contributing to peace, tranquillity and stability in Southeast Asia and the whole Asian region.

## ***Birth of Republic in Iran***

**M**ORE than 18 million citizens (in a population of 34.58 million) over the age of 16 took part in a referendum in Iran on March 30 and 31. As a result, an Islamic republic was proclaimed and the monarchy ended. This historic event in Iranian political life ushers in a stage of the national and democratic revolution of the Iranian people.

This is the result of a protracted struggle waged by the Iranian people against feudal autocracy and for democratic reform. It took place after more than a year of upheaval at home and against an international setting of fierce contention over Iran between the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States. This contention was naturally opposed by the Iranian people.

### **The Course of Events**

On February 11 of this year, the Shapour Bakhtiar government, which had been formed before Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi left Iran, collapsed and the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the supreme Muslim Shiite leader, appointed a provisional government to assume state power, thus ending the Pahlavi dynasty of 53 years.

In the last few years, the contradictions between the monarchy and the people of Iran had been increasingly sharpening. Beginning in the 1960s the monarchy responded to the people's

urgent demand for changing the status quo by adopting a series of measures to effect a "white revolution." This revolution, later called the "revolution of the king and the people," included land reform, confiscating surplus land and property from landlords and mosques, advocating equality between men and women, and practising Western liberalization and industrialization. While failing to bring about the reforms urged by the people, these measures affected the vital interests of some political, social and religious groups and gave rise to stronger discontent.

Although a sharp rise in Iran's income from oil — more than 20,000 million dollars annually — spurred the economy and reconstruction, the vast majority of the people had not benefited much from it, owing to the conflict of interests in Iranian society. The country was plagued by inflation, price hikes and bankruptcy of the rural economy. Consequently, large numbers of landless peasants were pouring into the towns, causing an inevitable growth in unemployment and other social problems. Office employees, workers and service personnel could hardly earn enough to live on. As shown by official statistics, in the past four years, food prices increased by 146 per cent and rent, which absorbed more than half of most people's income, rose by 122.6 per cent. The urban and rural people found the going tougher and

tougher and their discontent was mounting by the day.

Religion has been an important factor in the Iranian political turmoil. In a country where 95 per cent of the people believe in Islam and belong to the Muslim Shiites, religion exerts a strong influence on the political, economic, cultural and social life. Religious leaders advocated that the country be run in accordance with Islamism. The Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini who had been exiled for many years because of his opposition to the Shah urged the establishment of an Islamic republic.

Among the various political forces, the National Front led by Karim Sanjabi had the greatest strength, followed by the Democratic Front headed by Mehdi Bazargan. Opposed to the autocratic regime of the Shah, both demanded the restoration of a multi-party system. They called for a Western-style democracy, the release of political prisoners and the establishment of a bourgeois parliamentary democratic republic.

In addition, a small pro-Soviet faction, in the guise of opposing the monarchy, was trying to bring in a pro-Soviet regime to serve the new tsars' southward drive. It took advantage of the disorder to expand its influences by manipulating some people and some religious and political groups.

Class contradictions and differing political groups and religious factions resulted in an extremely complex situation in Iran. Each group had its own ideas and demands. However, they all agreed on one point: Opposition to the monarchy. This led to a rapid strengthening of the anti-Shah forces. A large-scale struggle against the Shah was touched off by an article on women's emancipation in the January 1978 issue of *Ettela'at Banovan*. By attacking the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini by name, the article aroused tremendous indignation in religious circles. When policemen suppressed a protest rally held in Kum, the sacred city of the Muslim Shiite, public sentiment was so antagonized that a mass movement swiftly spread to every part of the country. Demonstrations, riots and strikes took place one after another during the last year. By the second half of 1978, the whole country was in upheaval. In an attempt to preserve the monarchy and stabilize the situation, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi changed his prime minister three times

within six months and made compromises and concessions. But a large-scale strike staged by the petroleum workers in early October crippled the economy, and the political crisis came to a head. By December, Iran, the second largest oil exporter in the world, had not only discontinued exporting 5 million barrels of crude oil per day but even had to import oil to meet its domestic needs. As a result, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi could not continue his rule and had to leave Iran on January 16 of this year under the pretext of having "a long vacation."

The Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the supreme religious leader, returned to Iran on February 1 after 15 years of exile. On February 5, he appointed Mehdi Bazargan as the prime minister of a provisional government. On February 11, the Iranian armed forces declared their neutrality. Thus, the government headed by Shapour Bakhtiar disintegrated and state power formally passed to the Provisional Government.

Having assumed the office of prime minister, Bazargan declared that his chief task was to hold a referendum on the question of changing Iran's state system. After more than a month of preparation, during which there was struggle among people having different political views, a nationwide referendum was finally held on March 30 and 31, thereby bringing a new republic into being.

### **Soviet-U.S. Rivalry**

The unstable situation in Iran not only has profound and complicated domestic causes but also is closely related to the contention between the Soviet Union and the United States.

In their contention for world domination, Moscow and Washington have scrambled for Iran because of its strategic importance and its rich oil resources. Since Iran became embroiled in turmoil, they have warned each other not to interfere. Yet, both sides have, in fact, poked their noses into the country. In this test of strength, Washington has been on the defensive and Moscow on the offensive.

The Soviet Union, which shares 1,800 kilometres of border with Iran, has always dreamed of bringing Iran under its control and seizing the Persian Gulf as an outlet. The recent upheaval provided Moscow with an opportunity to meddle in Iran's internal affairs. Moscow

took advantage of the tensions in Iran to vigorously support the pro-Soviet forces it had fostered, to fan up workers' strikes, and to instigate armed clashes, thus aggravating the situation. Meanwhile, at the bidding of the Kremlin, pro-Soviet Iranians who had been living in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe clandestinely returned to Iran and infiltrated various factions and groups which stood opposed to the Shah. Immediately after the Iranian Provisional Government was formed, the Soviet press played up the role of the pro-Soviet forces and called for ensuring complete freedom for all organizations so that the pro-Soviet forces could maintain their legal status and seize political power at an opportune moment.

For a long time, Iran has been the "military pillar" of the U.S. policy to contain the Soviet Union's southward expansion and ensure the safety of the West's oil routes. In addition, the United States imports 900,000 barrels of Iranian oil per day, which accounts for 10 per cent of its imported oil. If Washington wants to protect its vested interests in Iran, it has to resist Moscow's expansion.

### **New Government's Foreign Policy**

An Iranian leader has repeatedly announced that Iran will establish good relations with all countries and pursue a policy of non-alignment. Immediately after Iran declared its withdrawal from the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO), it expressed its hope to take part in the non-aligned movement. While announcing its willingness to establish friendly relations with powers such as the United States and the Soviet Union, the Iranian Provisional Government warned that it would not tolerate any meddling in its affairs or any threat to its independence. In a speech, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini said: U.S., Soviet and British imperialism as well as Zionism have not yet been eradicated, so the Iranian people must remain vigilant. The Ayatollah Mahmoud Taleghani, another Iranian religious leader, pointed out that the Soviet Union was a kind of colonialist country different from the Western countries. He warned the Soviet Union not to exploit Iran as a tool in international affairs. Karim Sanjabi, the Iranian Foreign Minister, also said that the interests of Iran and the Soviet Union were different in many aspects.

The Iranian Provisional Government has adjusted its relations with its neighbouring countries, stressing the development of co-operation with these countries, especially the Islamic countries. It withdrew its troops from the U.N. peace-keeping forces stationed along the border between Lebanon and Israel, declaring that it was unreasonable to let Iranian troops play a buffer role between Arabs and Israelis. It also pulled out its troops from Oman. It announced that it would no longer act as "the Gulf police" and that its relations with the countries in the Gulf region would be based on "Islamic brotherly sentiments." Furthermore, Iran declared that it had severed diplomatic relations with Israel and handed over the buildings of the Israeli Embassy in Teheran to the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Iranian Foreign Ministry recently issued a statement condemning the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. Iran also broke its diplomatic relations with South Africa and expressed its support for the people of Africa and the rest of the world in their struggle against South African racism.

While the Iranian Government was adjusting its relations with neighbouring countries, conflicts between Iran and Afghanistan occurred. The Afghan Government accused Iran of having a hand in the riots in the city of Herat in southwest Afghanistan and then declared the Iranian Consul-General in Herat a *persona non grata*. Iran responded by demanding that the head of the Afghan Mission in Teheran be recalled. The Soviet paper *Pravda* published a number of articles denouncing Iran for carrying out military provocations and plotting against Afghanistan. AFP pointed out that this was the "first attack" of the Soviet press against Iran since the new Iranian Government was established.

The great Iranian people who have a glorious tradition of anti-imperialist struggle are on the alert against the sinister designs of the neighbouring superpower. Receiving the Soviet Ambassador on February 24, an Iranian leader stressed that "we ask all foreign powers not to interfere in our domestic affairs." "Iran," he declared, "will not brook pressure from other countries, however powerful they are." This served as an unmistakable warning against that superpower.

— Shi Zhonghe

## Beirut Today

---

THE ancient city of Beirut, situated on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean, was renowned as a flourishing Middle Eastern centre of commerce and finance, publications and tourism. But the Lebanese capital has been scarred by four years of armed conflict.

### War Wounds

The prosperous city was first ravaged by a 19-month holocaust in 1975-76. Then another large-scale armed conflict erupted between Christian militia forces and Syrian troops from July 1, 1978 to October 7. Known as "the hundred-day war," it caused even greater losses to human life and property. According to incomplete statistics, more than 1,000 people were killed or wounded and 60,500 houses and most of the industrial plants in the eastern sector of the city — the area in which the conflict broke out — were damaged. The total loss was valued at 2,500 million dollars.

No one can enter the city today without feeling distressed by the terrible scars of war. The once bustling "Martyrs Square" and "The Empire Cinema" have been reduced to heaps of rubble; the luxurious Phoenicia Hotel and Holiday Inn are riddled with bullet holes; very few buildings have escaped damage.

Beirut is divided into two sectors: most of the residents in the eastern sector are Christians, those in the western sector Moslems. The headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organization is housed in the Arab University in the western sector.

Although a ceasefire on October 7, 1978 ended the large-scale armed conflict, sporadic fighting has continued and military posts can be seen everywhere.

Beirut's former status as one of the four most important centres of the Middle East has been greatly reduced. Its commercial activities have been gravely affected, with many foreign companies having moved to neighbouring countries. The Port of Beirut, which handled 5,060,000 tons of goods in 1974, was closed for five months last year. Although reopened now, it is still a far cry from its former self. Some

business quarters appear to be flourishing, with an array of commodities on display in the shops, but prices are almost double those of four years ago. The number of newspapers and magazines has been reduced from over 400 to around 40. The tourist industry was the most serious to be hit. Of the 103 hotels which existed in 1974, 59 have been compelled to close. Half of the hotel employees have lost their jobs and almost no foreign tourists have been seen in Beirut since the war broke out.

However, banking services in the city still continue to prosper. At the end of 1978, bank deposits amounted to 4,700 million U.S. dollars, 100 million more than in 1974. One commercial source explained this is due to large increases in family remittances from overseas. In the last four years, about 600,000 Lebanese have emigrated to Arab countries in the Gulf region, to Europe and America. They and the other 3 million overseas Lebanese scattered around the world send home 1,600 million U.S. dollars annually which boosts the banking services, and staves off economic collapse.

The state of public health and security has gone from bad to worse as a result of the war. In Hamra, a business quarter in the "Fifth Avenue of the Middle East," there are heaps of rubble; water and electricity equipment has not yet been repaired; traffic is often snarled; and armed kidnapping and robbery are on the rise.

In addition to the misfortunes of civil war, the Lebanese people still suffer from Israeli aggression. Israeli planes fly over the capital and their gunboats repeatedly bombard Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

### Root Cause

Complicated internal and external factors are behind the upheaval in Lebanon. It is a product of the contradictions between 20 or so different political parties and ten religious groups within the country, as well as the conflict of interests among the Arab countries in Lebanon. It is also a consequence of Israel's policy of aggression and expansion in its drive

to eliminate the Palestinian cause and occupy Arab territory. But fundamentally, the root cause of this turmoil is the contention between the two superpowers for domination of the Middle East.

The tragedy of Lebanon, as was pointed out by a Beirut newspaper chief editor, is that it has been dragged into superpower and regional political conflicts.

A poem written by a Spanish poet when Beirut was damaged by a fire in 560 A.D. is still very apropos.

"O, how beautiful I was, but now I have become ashes. Those who pass by me now, heave a sigh for my sufferings. They shed tears for me, who no longer exists."

Beirut, despite the vicissitudes of the times, still stands like a towering giant facing the Mediterranean. The Lebanese people, now their own masters, will certainly rebuild Beirut and make it more prosperous and beautiful than in the days before the war.

— Xu Shiquan

## Soviet Military Menace to Western Europe

SOVIET social-imperialism has all along considered Europe as the most important link in its drive for world domination. Today, while accelerating its moves to grab important strategic points outside Europe, Moscow has stepped up its military pressure on Western Europe. Heightened Soviet military threat has become an outstanding issue which calls for attention in the present West European situation.

### Bonn Defence Policy Debate

Not very long ago there was a big debate on defence policy in the West German political and press circles. This debate, in fact, had been brewing for a long time. After the SALT I agreement was signed between the United States and the Soviet Union, the West had lost what means it could have used to counter-balance Soviet superiority in conventional military forces in Europe. This left a loophole in West German and West European defences. The upsetting of the balance of power in Europe and the loophole in West European defences have become increasingly evident since the start of SALT II talks, especially following the rapid development of Soviet SS-20 intermediate-range nuclear missiles and "Backfire" bombers, which are not included in SALT. As a result, apprehension in West European countries has been growing.

Since the second half of 1977, West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has expressed his uneasiness on a number of occasions. The defence policy debate was in fact imminent

following the Guadeloupe summit of four Western countries earlier this year, at which it was pointed out that the Soviet SS-20 missile threat to Western Europe had become intolerable. But the debate was sparked off by Herbert Wehner, chairman of the parliamentary group of the Social Democratic Party, when he declared that the Soviet military buildup was "defensive" in nature.

During the debate, all agreed on this one point: The Soviet Union has now a vast superiority over the West in conventional military forces and intermediate-range nuclear weaponry, which has upset the balance of power in Europe and poses a growing strategic threat to Western Europe.

In its long reply in the Federal Bundestag, the Federal government cited the following figures: The Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact countries have 58 divisions in Central Europe against the West's 28 divisions. There is a disparity in troop numbers of 150,000. In addition, the Soviet Union has in its own western region's three military areas 33 divisions which can be used as reinforcements at any time. The Warsaw Pact countries have deployed in Central Europe 19,000 tanks and 2,800 war planes against the West's 6,500 tanks and 1,750 planes. Furthermore, the Soviet Union has also deployed 8,500 tanks and 1,100 war planes in its three military areas in the western part of the country proper. The Warsaw Pact has 260 attack submarines

around the coasts of Europe to threaten the waterways between Europe and America. But what causes the growing apprehension of the West is the SS-20 mobile intermediate-range missiles with multiple warheads and the "Backfire" bombers manufactured and deployed in recent years by the Soviet Union. As the West currently has no corresponding weapons to counter them, this Soviet intermediate-range nuclear force poses a strategic threat to the European allies.

However, a few people, including Herbert Wehner, aver that Soviet military superiority in Europe is "defensive" and arises from the need to "safeguard its spheres of influence in Europe." This view is strongly opposed not only by public opinion and the opposition parties in West Germany, but also by Foreign Minister Genscher himself. In a long statement, the West German Foreign Minister pointed out that "clearly, Soviet military strength has gone beyond its needs for defence," and "its military superiority has made its adversary feel threatened and has caused concern." West German General Gerd Schmueckle, deputy supreme commander of the allied forces in Europe, said: "The Soviet military buildup is characterized by its offensiveness."

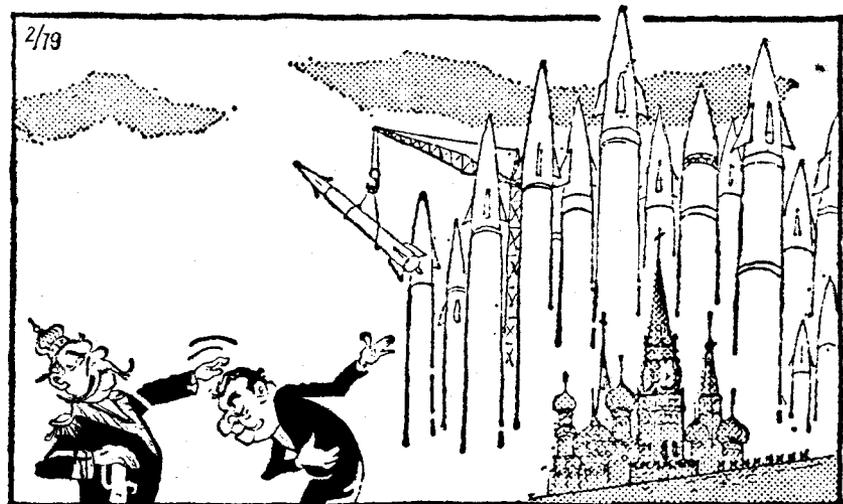
How big is the Soviet military threat—especially in view of its superiority in intermediate-range nuclear weapons—to Western Europe and particularly to West Germany? Current NATO strategy is a so-called "flexible response," that is, NATO's three-tier defence: conventional, tactical nuclear, and strategic nuclear. Former defence minister of West Germany Georg Leber pointed out in a recent article that if the Warsaw Pact launched an attack, NATO's conventional defence would not be able to withstand, so Western Europe would have to resort to tactical nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union would then use its SS-20 missiles to destroy the tactical nuclear weapons in West Germany while NATO's tactical nuclear weapons are incapable of reaching the Soviet Union. Under these circumstances, would Brit-

ain or France use their limited intermediate-range nuclear weapons and therefore risk being attacked by Soviet SS-20 missiles? Would the United States risk waging a nuclear war by using its strategic nuclear weapons to destroy the Soviet SS-20 missiles? Georg Leber held that these were highly problematic. In the present circumstances, he believed, launching a conventional war against Western Europe, especially against West Germany, with little risk was "workable" for the Soviet Union.

### Gaining Superiority Through Talks

It is under the guise of "disarmament" and "detente" that Moscow has expanded its military buildup in an all-round way. It can be seen from the Soviet attitude and its tricks in the disarmament talks that it not only concealed its arms expansion, but also tried to retain its military supremacy in these talks.

The Soviet-U.S. strategic armament limitation talks have a vital bearing on the security of Western Europe. The Soviet Union, however, insisted that these talks should be confined to nuclear weaponry systems which could attack targets in the Soviet Union and the United States proper. Moscow insisted that no limits should be placed on Soviet MARVs (manoeuvrable re-entry vehicles) which have already been deployed in large numbers and targetted at Western Europe, or its "Backfire" bombers, which could attack various places in Western Europe. But Moscow asked that the range of American cruise missiles, which have not been deployed by the United States in Western Europe, should be limited to 600 kilometres. It is clear that the Soviet Union attempted to



Old tsar: Why, you're doing better than I did!

by Qin Zhe

weaken U.S. nuclear protection of Western Europe through SALT and to create conditions for its achieving nuclear supremacy there.

Having set up intermediate- and long-range nuclear weaponry systems directed at Western Europe, Moscow demanded that talks on nuclear weapons in the European region ("grey zone weapons") should include nuclear weapons deployed by the United States in Europe, plus the nuclear forces of Britain and France. Actually, the U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe, which consist mainly of short-range tactical ones, include no strategic weaponry system which can counter the Soviet intermediate- and long-range missiles. As to the French and British nuclear forces, they lag even farther behind those of the Soviet Union's directed at Western Europe. A number of Western newspapers have pointed out that because of the present unbalanced forces of the two sides, if the United States and Western Europe hold the so-called "grey zone weapons" talks with the Soviet Union, they would find themselves in a tight corner.

In the Central European disarmament talks, the Soviet Union also resorted to various means to secure its supremacy. Moscow has all along demanded that the troop strength of the two sides, which is now unbalanced, be mutually reduced by the same percentage. With the aim of retaining its existing supremacy, it also suggested "freezing" current armaments by the two sides.

Facts show that the Soviet Union, through disarmament talks, wants to bind the NATO hand and foot, weaken and restrict NATO's defence capabilities so as to pave the way for Soviet military hegemonism.

### **NATO Countries Strengthen Defence**

● In the past few years NATO countries have made positive efforts to build up their defensive capabilities in view of the growing Soviet military threat. According to the 15-year defence programme approved last year, NATO's conventional armaments will be strengthened and the United States will also deploy more sophisticated tactical nuclear weapons in Europe. To implement the programme, both the United States and Western Europe will have to shoulder responsibility and increase their military expenditure in real terms by 3 per cent each year. West European countries, West Germany in particular, have asked for the establishment of an intermediate-range missile system in Europe that could hit the

Soviet Union, and the United States has agreed in principle.

West European vigilance against the Soviet "disarmament" plot has been heightened. Last year France reiterated its position of not taking part in the negotiations for arms reduction in Central Europe. President Giscard d'Estaing recently announced that his country would not take part in the "grey zone weapons" negotiations. He also declared that France was determined to maintain its own nuclear muscle. France has already set about developing a new generation of nuclear weapons for the 1980s. The West German Government also noted that only by possessing intermediate-range missiles of their own could NATO countries enter into the "grey zone weapons" negotiations with the Soviet Union. On the question of negotiations on arms reduction in Central Europe, the West German Government is resolutely against the Soviet intention to impose special limitations on West German conventional armaments. West European enthusiasm for arms reduction, as the Western press said, has generally gone down.

Along with West European countries making efforts to strengthen their hands, relations between the West European countries and the United States have much improved. The strengthening of mutual defensive co-operation among West European countries centres mainly on joint arms production. Defence Ministers of France, Britain and West Germany have also set up a contacting system. To gain more trust from the West European countries, the United States has time and again assured them that it would not hold SALT talks with the Soviet Union at their expense. Following its decision to send two more brigades to Western Europe, the United States has begun considering increasing its arms reserves there for U.S. reinforcement forces' use. It is obvious that Western Europe and the United States have improved co-operation to cope with the Soviet threat.

What has happened in the past few years shows that the West European countries have greatly sharpened their vigilance towards the Soviet military threat. Some people in Western Europe, however, are still suffering from the "Soviet-phobia." There are still differences and difficulties, political and economical, in their joint efforts to strengthen defence, and the Soviet Union is exploiting this situation to sow discord among the West European countries. For some time to come, the Soviet military menace to Western Europe and West European resistance will certainly develop hand in hand.

## VIET NAM

### Intensifies Aggressive War in Kampuchea

While peace-loving people the world over, particularly those in Southeast Asia, strongly demand the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea so that peace and stability can be restored to this region, the Vietnamese authorities have intensified their aggressive war against Kampuchea. They have sent three or four divisions of reinforcements to Kampuchea in order to attack the Kampuchean Revolutionary Army's stronghold in the western area of the country, wipe out the Red Khmer's effective forces and thereby secure the cities, towns, highways and rice-producing areas.

The guerrillas have concentrated their attacks on the two highways in the western

and northwestern areas, forcing the Vietnamese aggressors to supply their troops by air. Soviet air force planes have been used to transport many Vietnamese troops to Battambang and Siem Reap. Even though they are strongly backed by their boss, the Soviet Union, the Vietnamese cannot easily extricate themselves from this dilemma: they have a huge predicament on their hands when the rainy season comes to Kampuchea soon. Despite its claims to the otherwise, Viet Nam has far from achieved a "complete victory" in Kampuchea. Rather it has met with increasing resistance since it occupied Phnom Penh three months ago. Some foreign news agencies have rightly compared Viet Nam's current problems in Kampuchea with those that the U.S. troops encountered in Viet Nam.

## OIL PRICE

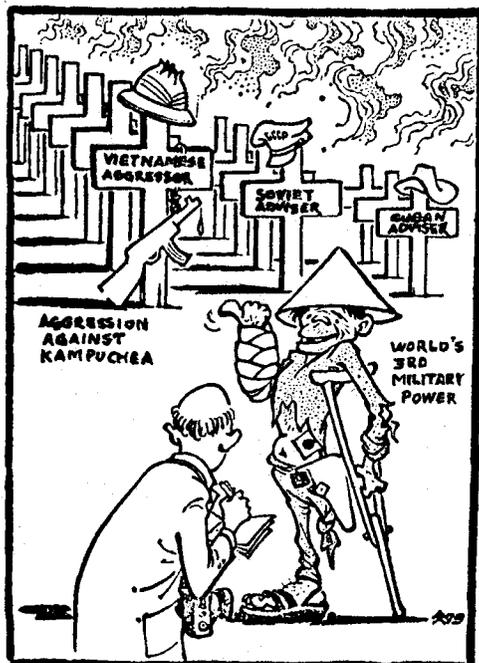
### Modest Adjustment

The 53rd ministerial meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) recently held in Geneva decided to raise their crude oil price by 9 per cent, to 14.5 dollars a barrel, effective April 1. The member countries also have been authorized to add certain surcharges, depending on the market. The U.S. State Department has expressed its "deep regret." West European countries as well as Japan also expressed "disappointment."

It is only natural that these countries are upset by the recent oil price decision. It means higher production costs, a corresponding slow-down in economic growth, a higher inflation rate and a more unfavourable balance in international trade. A member of the Energy Committee of the European Community said that the new price set for "standard" crude would raise the oil bill by as much as 4,000 million dollars in the next 12 months and enlarge the community's international trade deficit by at least 3,000 million dollars. According to American energy officials, preliminary estimates showed that base price hike will also add 0.024 dollar on every gallon. This will result in an unfavourable trade balance of 2,400 million dollars for the United States and an increase of nearly 0.5 per cent to its rate of inflation. As this oil price adjustment came on the heels of a recent sharp rise in U.S. commodity prices and a big increase in its oil import, the oil price impact will be very obvious on American commodity prices.

People's war can drown all aggressors, including Vietnamese aggressors.

By stepping up its aggressive war which runs counter to the people's will, Viet Nam is showing the world that it still refuses to abandon its evil designs, even though its Soviet-backed plans of aggression and expansion have been continually thwarted. Viet Nam is clearly playing for higher stakes, but its efforts will certainly end even more miserably. What is the way out?—complete withdrawal of its aggressive troops from Kampuchea.



"Splendid war exploits"

by Zheng Wenzhong

The latest price adjustment made by the OPEC member countries was aimed at making up for the losses they have suffered in recent years as a result of the inequitable exchanges between them and the Western industrialized powers. In international trade, exports of such primary products as energy, metals and raw materials have always had with them inherent unfavourable conditions of low prices and unstable returns. Moreover, since 1974, the oil exporting countries have constantly sold their crude oil at the fixed price, or a little higher, and buying industrial goods, machinery and equipment, the prices of which have been continuously rising, from the Western industrialized countries. Consequently, they have incurred heavy losses. In addition, even heavier losses have been inflicted on them by the frequent devaluation of the U.S. dollar, as the price of oil is dollar-based.

Actually, the margin resulting from the 9 per cent increase in the oil price by the OPEC members is narrower than the C.O.D. prices on the present-day market. It has merely advanced the date set by the December 1978 Abu Dhabi meeting for the 4th quarter of this year to April 1. Thus the latest adjustment is both "moderate" and "modest," as the meeting said. It could help stabilize the chaotic high oil price which now ranges from 20 to 30 dollars a barrel.

#### BAGHDAD CONFERENCE

### Sanctions Against Egypt

Foreign and economic ministers of Arab countries met in Baghdad, capital of Iraq, in the

last five days of March to discuss enforcing last year's Arab summit resolutions and imposing sanctions against Egypt. Absent from the conference were Egypt, the Sudan, Djibouti and Oman.

The conference resolved to recall the ambassadors of Arab states from Egypt immediately, recommend severance of political and diplomatic relations with the Egyptian Government, and that the Arab governments should undertake these measures within a month after the publication of the resolution and according to the constitutional measures prevailing in each country.

The conference also decided to stop all financial and technical aid from Arab governments to the Egyptian Government as from the date of the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and to suspend Egypt's membership in the Arab League and to move the League's headquarters temporarily from Cairo to Tunis.

On April 1, one day after the meeting, a spokesman for the Egyptian Government said that the conference was null and void and illegal because it was held outside the framework of the Arab League. Egypt did not acknowledge these resolutions. Egypt, he added, would not allow anything to influence its march towards a comprehensive and just settlement of the Middle East conflict, a settlement which took into consideration all Arab rights.

"Egypt will neither withdraw from the Arab League nor allow the transfer of its headquarters from Cairo. We insist on our presence in the League just as we insist on Arab solidarity," said Egyptian Prime Minister Khalil on April 4.

#### PAKISTAN

### Bhutto's Execution Protested

In the early morning of April 4 former Prime Minister Z.A. Bhutto was executed in the Rawalpindi district jail. Bhutto's hanging was protested by massive demonstrations which broke out throughout Pakistan. More than 800 deeply grieved demonstrators gathered in downtown Rawalpindi on April 4.

Throngs of people turned out on April 5 to pray for Bhutto. More than 5,000 people attended prayer meetings in Rawalpindi, 5,000 in Lahore and 12,000 in Faisalabad. Three thousand people demonstrated at Liaquat Garden in Rawalpindi where political meetings are often held.

As the demonstrations gain momentum, the Pakistan security forces have been strengthening their defences in Karachi, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Lahore, and Peshawar. Hundreds of demonstrators have reportedly already been arrested.

Expressions of sorrow were issued by many state and government leaders in the world. Before Bhutto's execution, there was a worldwide appeal for clemency.

United Nations' Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim on April 4 deplored the decision by Pakistan Government to ignore the appeals for mercy for Bhutto and expressed regret over the execution.

In July 1977, General Zia ul-Haq overthrew the Bhutto government. Bhutto was sentenced to death by the Lahore High Court for the crime of murder in March 1978. He appealed the decision to the Supreme Court and on March 24, 1979, it was rejected.

## ● **New Coal-Mining Centre**

A new coal-mining centre has been built in the Wumang Mountains in southwest China's Guizhou Province. This is the Liupanshui coal-mining base, covering 20,000 square kilometres shaped like an irregular triangle, with the Guiyang-Kunming Railway running through it. It is one of China's largest producers of coking coal and feeds the Panzhihua Iron and Steel Company in neighbouring Sichuan Province.

Present annual capacity is 10 million tons. At the moment there are 21 pairs of shafts, 5 coal-washing plants as well as power plants and enterprises producing mining machines, cement and explosives.

The coal base also has set up geological, prospecting and designing institutes and three secondary technical schools.

The mining areas have living quarters, shops and various welfare facilities. There are three general hospitals and a network of clinics and pit-head

first-aid stations. Junior middle school education is available for all miners' children.

## ● **Plant Trees for the People**

Huang Genpin, a forestry technician, devoted his youth to afforesting Yanan, a former centre of the Chinese revolution.

After graduation from a forestry school in 1953, Huang worked in the Hangzhou bureau of parks near the lovely West Lake. Three years later, 23-year-old Huang attended a national afforestation conference of youths held at Yanan. There, he saw windy, barren hills everywhere. He asked to stay and contribute his share to changing Yanan's environment.

Together with other comrades of the local forestry station, he studied the natural conditions of this region and summed up local peasants' experiences in planting trees on the loess highlands. Survival rate of saplings planted was discouragingly low, he learnt. Repeated

failures and bad living conditions did not deter him.

Some 30 metasequoia saplings he had brought from south China finally took root under his meticulous care. Thanks to the spread of his experience, metasequoia saplings were fairly extensively planted in Shaanxi Province in 1972. Huang has also succeeded in raising 33 wild saplings of Chinese pine. This was reported by a journal on agriculture and forestry.

Together with the people of Yanan over the past 23 years, Huang has afforested some 100 hills and 1,000 hectares and transplanted 100,000 pine and cypress trees.

In a recent national afforestation conference of youths held in Yanan, Vice-Premier Wang Renchong called on young people to learn from Comrade Huang Genpin, who is now in Yinchuan, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, helping to create a huge shelter belt called the "Green Great Wall" of the north.

## ● **A Chinese Garden For New York**

A Chinese-style garden with Ming (1368-1644) architecture is being designed and built for the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. The garden, to be completed by February 1980, will set out the exquisite Ming Dynasty furniture and art objects held by the museum.

When a delegation from the museum visited picturesque Suzhou in spring last year, the members were so taken by the famous gardens there that they asked to build a garden on the model of the Dian Chun Yi (Late Spring Study), which is



A forest farm in Anhui Province.

a part of the Wang Shi Yuan Garden in Suzhou city. A group of Chinese architects went to the United States to discuss this matter last autumn and negotiations led to a decision to build a garden for the museum.

The garden (actually a villa and grounds), covering one-fifteenth of a hectare, will have all the essential elements of a Suzhou garden, such as pavilions and galleries, artificial hillocks, courtyards, trees, shrubs and flowers, springs and pools.

Work in Suzhou on this garden started in February and will end next month. A group from the museum will arrive to look it over and have further detailed discussions. Replicas of the garden's buildings will be built in China and shipped to the United States for installation by Chinese craftsmen.

As this is the first of its kind in Sino-American cultural exchange, it has aroused considerable interest in Chinese construction circles.

### ● **Control of Noise Pollution Urged**

Chinese acoustics specialist Ma Dayou urged immediate action to control noise pollution in Beijing and other Chinese cities. This deputy director of the Institute of Acoustics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences said this at China's first national conference on environmental acoustics.

He said that noise pollution in Beijing was more serious than in Tokyo, which has 15 times more motor vehicles. A study of traffic noise in Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin showed that pollution was worse in each case than in New York, London,

Rome and Tokyo where traffic is much heavier.

Government departments concerned and newspapers have been getting a growing volume of letters from irate citizens about traffic noise. The textile, machine-building, metallurgical, shipbuilding and petrochemical industries were also criticized for their noise pollution.

The conference delegates said that an immediate reduction of noise pollution was possible. Better traffic control and less use of horns by drivers alone could bring traffic noise level down by six or seven decibels. They called for state regulatory measures to control noise pollution.

### ● **An Export Item: Cage Birds**

China is exporting cage birds, such as thrush, oriole, red-billed blue magpie and leiophrix to England, West Germany, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and some African countries and regions.

Jiangxi Province's Tonggu County is one exporter of cage birds. It has a mild climate, green hills and clear streams and ideal conditions for birds to live and breed.

The purchasing centre of the county's native produce company collects dozens of kinds of cage birds for export. Most of the purchases are leiophrix which is elegant-looking, mild in disposition and not afraid of people.

A staff member of the centre said that there are adequate provisions made to protect the birds, so as to ensure that the bird population is not decimated. The state stipulates that only male birds are accepted, not the female. Female birds when



Leiophrix.

caught are released. Some male birds are also freed to maintain a proper male female balance.

### ● **Briefs**

● **Lead and Zinc Mine.** Chinese geologists have confirmed that a large lead and zinc mine in southwest China's Yunnan Province has reserves of more than 14 million tons. Over 80 per cent of the lead and zinc reserves are suitable for open mining and cadmium, silver and other rare and precious metals are also present.

● **Oiga Hydropower Station.** The Oiga hydroelectric power station in Tibet has gone into regular production after a three-month trial run. It is located on the middle reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River in Shannan (Lhoka) Prefecture. With a total generating capacity of 6,100 kilowatts, it is one of the biggest in Tibet.





## STORIES

### Best Short Stories

Twenty-five short stories were deemed China's best for the year 1977-78 according to recommendations sent in since September 1978 to *Renmin Wenxue* (People's Literature), a national journal with a circulation of over 1 million. In all, 1,285 stories were cited by 20,000 readers, including overseas Chinese.

*Class Teacher*, the number one choice, received 2,200 votes. Written by Liu Xinwu, formerly a school teacher with 15 years' experience and now editor of the Beijing literary journal *October*, this was the first story that exposed the "gang of four's" pernicious influence on pupils.

Number two is *The Sacred Task*, written by a 23-year-old armyman, Wang Yaping. It shows how a veteran public security cadre is killed because of his investigation into fabricated cases with a view to protecting innocent people and exposing the crimes of Lin Biao and the "gang of four."

The other three best stories were:

*At the Window*, by Mo Shen, a 28-year-old railway worker.

It describes how a railway girl ticket seller studies hard despite strong pressure from followers of the gang. She becomes so well-acquainted with Chinese geography that she is trusted as a "walking map" by passengers.

*Our Army Commander*, by Deng Youmei, depicts the exploits of Marshal Chen Yi and some other veteran army men who fought in the War of Liberation in the late 1940s which resulted in the establishment of the people's political power. Deng, 49, is an author but he had discontinued his writing for many years.

*A Night by the Xiangjiang River*, by Zhou Libo, famous for his novels including *Hurricane*. This story centres on a night battle in 1945 when a detachment of P.L.A. troops forced their way across the Xiangjiang River.

The authors of these five top short stories were each awarded 300 yuan and a souvenir book imprinted with a relief miniature of China's most famous writer Lu Xun (1881-1936). The other 20 winners received the same book plus 200 yuan. A compilation of these 25 stories will soon be printed.

Of the 25 prize-winners, two-thirds are new writers. Their creative works, while comprising a wide range of subject matter, such as navigation, science, war and love, give a vivid portrayal of the Chinese people's sorrow and joy, sacrifice and victory in their struggle against the "gang of four." They reflect the people's profound memories of the revolutionaries of the older generation and depict heroes from all walks of life who are working untiringly for

the accomplishment of the four modernizations.

Mao Dun, President of the Chinese Writers' Union and chairman of the selection committee, extended his warm congratulations to the prize-winners at the March 26 ceremony and expressed the hope that future Lu Xuns and Guo Moruos would be produced from amongst their ranks. These two giants in modern Chinese literature knew Chinese and Western civilization and were knowledgeable in science. Mao Dun urged the new writers "to study Chinese history and literature and also make use of foreign experience to produce literature appropriate to the new period of socialist modernization."

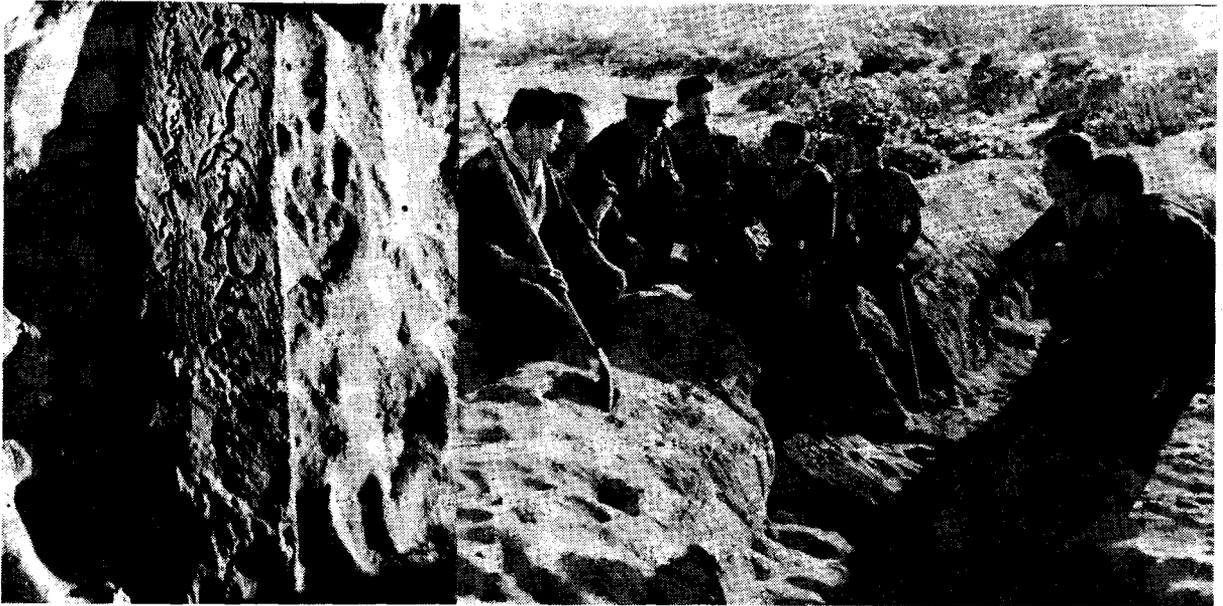
Zhou Yang, Vice-Chairman of the All-China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, called on the writers to "try their best to understand the changes in society." "A writer must write down what he sees, feels and believes in and be responsible to himself, to the people and to the Party," he stressed.

## MEDICINE

### High Altitude Research Centre for Heart Diseases

A research centre has been set up in Qinghai Province's Xining, northwest China, to study heart diseases prevalent among people living at high altitudes.

The centre will conduct research on high altitude heart diseases as well as hereditary, acquired, pulmonary and coronary heart diseases, high blood pressure and experimental surgery on cardiovascular diseases. The medical workers will utilize a combina-



Left: A stone tablet unearthed recently in the Xisha Islands, bearing the inscription: "In commemoration of an inspection tour here. Erected in the 28th year [1902] of the reign of Emperor Guangxu, Qing Dynasty." Right: The site where the tablet was discovered.

tion of Western and traditional Chinese methods in their scientific research and diagnoses and treatment.

Most places in Qinghai are over 3,000 metres above sea level. Owing to the cold climate and lack of oxygen, some cardiovascular diseases are common in this area.

Medical workers in recent years have found that the local incidence of hereditary and pulmonary heart diseases, especially patency of the arterial duct, is much higher than on the plains. For instance, there are between 8 and 11 such cases per thousand people on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau as against only 0.5 per thousand on the plains. However, the incidence of high blood pressure and coronary heart diseases is much less. The higher the altitude, the fewer the high blood pressure patients, but the more the low blood pressure patients. The medical workers also discovered that although the Tibetan people eat a relatively high protein, high fat diet (as compared to

people in other parts of the country), the incidence of myocardial obstruction is quite rare.

A high environment has been proven to have some good effects on the cardiovascular system. The Tibetan people, generally speaking, have strong hearts, well developed lungs and good circulation as a result of living on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau for generations. They are generally big and strong and have a long life expectancy.

The first heart surgery in Qinghai was performed at the beginning of the decade by Xue Ganxing, a local heart specialist. Since then he has performed 127 heart operations, with a 96.5 per cent success rate. It was once considered impossible to do heart surgery at high altitudes.

## ARCHAEOLOGY

### *New Discoveries*

• *Neolithic Finds in Tibet.* Nearly 300 stone and bone arti-

facts and pottery ware were brought to light last August along with five house foundations in Kharuo Village, Qamdo County, Tibet. According to the carbon 14 results, the Kharuo site was dated at about 2710 B.C.

The preliminary analysis identified this as a Neolithic site where the local people devoted most of their time to farming, while engaging in animal husbandry and hunting. Their semi-subterranean and one- or two-storeyed dwellings resemble to some extent those from the primitive culture in central China. Among the newly discovered stone tools were a considerable number of microliths, the majority of which were made of flint and the rest of quartz or crystal, similar to those found in other parts of China.

There were also three cowrie shells which might have come from the coastal areas south of Tibet.

• *2,000-Year-Old Musical Instrument.* While digging in the

fields, a peasant in Yunnan Province, southwest China, found a chime consisting of six bronze bells buried three metres underground. Well-preserved, some of the bells have pleasant-sounding chimes. All the bells are elliptic-shaped, with the bottom smaller than the top, and each is inscribed with a coiled-snake design. They are between 53 and 43 cm. in height.

Chimes of this type are peculiar to ancient central China, finding their way into Yunnan during the Warring States Period (403-221 B.C.). This chime is the most complete one uncovered to date.

• **Primitive Pottery Basin.** Chinese archaeologists have discovered the first 5,000-year-old pottery basin painted with dancing figures in Datong County, Qinghai Province, in the upper reaches of the Huanghe River.

A relic from the Neolithic Age, it stands 14 cm. in height, is 10 cm. in diameter at the base, 28 cm. at its belly and 29 cm. at its inwardly curved rim. Three clusters of five figures dancing hand in hand form a ring along the rim of the basin. The arms of the figures on the outside of the dancing circles are drawn with double lines to

suggest swinging movements. Four parallel lines at the feet of the dancers represent the ground and the edge of a pond.

Archaeologists held that this new find has provided valuable information for studying primitive Chinese fine arts and dance.

One thousand ancient tombs have been excavated since 1973 in Datong County. The 15,000 funerary objects found there include stone artifacts, pottery, bone objects, bronzes and gold objects. They belong either to the Bronze Age of 3,000 years ago or to the even earlier Neolithic Age.

## ON THE STAGE AND SCREEN

**In Praise of the Revolutionary Events at Tian An Men Square.** Some of the programmes staged in Beijing marking the third anniversary of those revolutionary activities were:

• *There Is Such a Courtyard.* A four-act play by the China Children Art Theatre, it is about the trials and tribulations and struggles of several families living in one courtyard near the Tian An Men Square three years ago.

• *Recitations and Songs.*

Programmes sponsored by the "Shikan" and "Gequ" Publishing Houses, Beijing Literary Association, and the Municipal Recital Art Group. The dominant theme of these two programmes is on carrying forward revolutionary traditions and doing a better job in bringing about the four modernizations.

• *Heads Raised, We Unsheathe Our Swords.* A long documentary film about the "April 5" movement, comprising many

photos, tape-recorded speeches and other factual material.

### Modern Drama

• *The Life of Galileo.* One of the works by the German playwright Bertolt Brecht. Presented for the first time by

the China Youth Art Theatre in China.

### Concert

• The visiting Lyon Orchestra of France under the baton of Serge Baudo and Sylvain Cambreling presented works by Berlioz, Debussy, Ravel, Liszt and Stravinsky to Chinese audiences.

**The Fifth Series of Selections for the 30th anniversary of the founding of New China** included:

• *Rough Waves on the Longjiang River.* A modern drama staged by the Heilongjiang Drama Troupe. An exposure of tsarist aggression against China at the turn of the century.

• *Swan Lake.* This ballet has reappeared in Beijing.

• Other dances and songs presented by artists of Korean nationality from Yanbian in northeast China, and artists from Sichuan Province in southwest China.



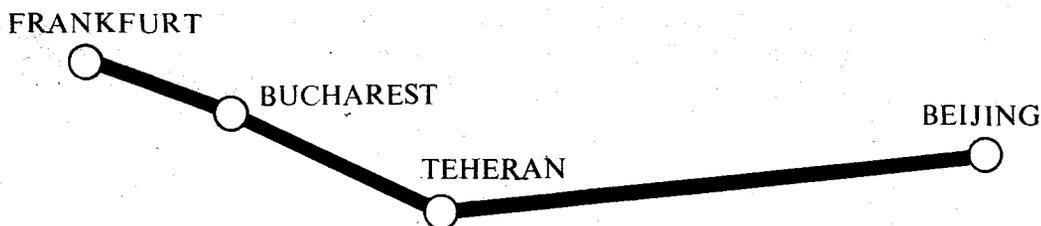
The Yanbian Korean Song and Dance Troupe of northeast China.

中國民航



CAAC

# New Weekly Service BEIJING-FRANKFURT



Commencing May 3, 1979

## TIMETABLE

(all local times)

Flight No. CA941 Aircraft: Il-62 or B-707 Class: F/Y			Flight No. CA942 Aircraft: Il-62 or B-707 Class: F/Y	
Thu.	7.45 dep.	↓ <b>BEIJING</b> (PEKING) <b>TEHERAN</b> <b>BUCHAREST</b> <b>FRANKFURT</b>	arr.	16.55
	12.00 arr.		dep.	4.55
	13.15 dep.		arr. Fri.	3.55
	15.00 arr.		dep.	23.15
	16.10 dep.		arr.	22.15
	17.20 arr.		dep. Thu.	19.25

For reservations and shipments, please contact

**CAAC BOOKING OFFICES** or **LOCAL CAAC AGENTS**