

# PEKING

January 20, 1959

3

# REVIEW

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National Minority Culture, Theatre,  
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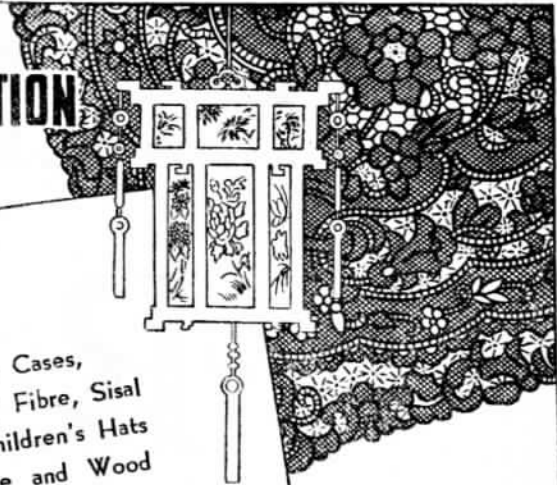
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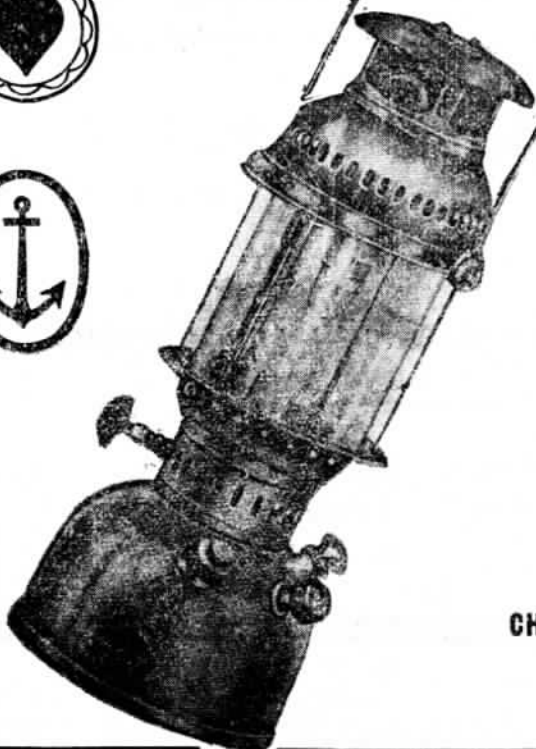
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# PEKING REVIEW

北京周报

(BEIJING ZHOUBAO)

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE  
NEWS AND VIEWS

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## Walking on Two Legs

THE regular reader of the Chinese press these days often comes across the expression "walking on two legs" in the headlines and the news stories. This colourful, thought-provoking expression, as far as we can recall, first appeared in the communique issued last December by the Sixth Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. The communique, explaining China's national economy, states:

"The development of our national economy by leaps and bounds in 1958 has proved the correctness of the whole group of policies laid down by the Party; the policy of simultaneous development of industry and agriculture on the basis of giving priority to heavy industry; the policy of simultaneous development of heavy and light industries; the policy of effecting an over-all leap forward on the industrial front with steel production as the key link; the policy of simultaneous development of national and local industries; the policy of simultaneous development of large enterprises and medium-sized and small enterprises; the policy of simultaneously employing modern and indigenous methods of production, and the policy of combining centralized leadership with a full-scale mass movement in industry — in a word, the policy of walking on two legs rather than dragging along on one or one and a half legs. . . ."

The experience of last year's great leap forward proves that walking on two legs is sound policy.

Industry and agriculture are the two most important component parts of the national economy. Industry supplies agriculture with machinery and electric power without which China's long-range plans for the mechanization and electrification of agriculture would be unthinkable. On the other hand, agriculture supplies industry with the necessary raw materials. In 1958, the spectacular rise in agricultural production and the rapid nationwide establishment of people's communes quickened the tempo of industrial advance. In return, the industrial leap forward pushed ahead the further growth of agriculture. The simultaneous development of industry and agriculture has enabled the Chinese national economy to advance in big strides.

The same holds true in the case of the simultaneous development of national and local industries, of heavy and light industries, of large enterprises and medium-sized and small enterprises. The flourishing of industry in general and of the steel industry in particular last year speaks for itself.

The policy of walking on two legs is not confined to industry and agriculture. Back in 1942, in his talks at the Yen-an forum on art and literature, Chairman Mao Tse-tung stressed the importance of walking on two legs — popularization and raising the level. He pointed out that only by doing so would it be possible for Chinese art and literature to flourish.

Walking on two legs is not merely a question of policy. It represents the dialectical way of thinking as well as of doing things. China's general line for socialist construction calls for achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results in building socialism. The combination of quantity and speed with quality and economy also means walking on two legs. It is based on this dialectical approach that the Chinese Communist Party advocates scorning difficulties strategically but paying full attention to them tactically, and combining boundless enthusiasm with cool-headed scientific analysis.

# ROUND THE WEEK

## Individuality in the Collective

With the advent of people's communes the peasants of China have banished worries about the basic necessities of life. The communes, having reorganized the productive forces, are creating the conditions for bigger incomes, and a fuller and better life. Free meals have become a feature of commune life in most places. The children are well cared for in nurseries and receive a proper education at the schools set up by the communes. These are some of the first benefits of the people's communes and things will be even better in the future. The Chinese peasants are grateful to the Communist Party which has made it all possible.

The economic, social and welfare gains of the peasants stem from the collective nature of the people's communes. The development of the collective way, however, does not mean the abolition of personal freedom. The satisfaction of personal tastes and preferences, the emancipation of the individual personality within the framework of the big collective, is a question that is receiving very much attention in the communes. Not the collective versus the individual but the flowering of individual personality thanks to the collective.

Many of the communes have taken steps to make sure that while various provisions are made for the benefit of the members due allowance will be given to their personal preferences and freedoms. The Wanteh People's Commune of Changching County in Shantung Province exemplifies the thought and care given to this matter.

When the commune was first organized and collective life began, questions were asked by the members about how personal freedoms will be accommodated in the collective. The commune's Communist Party organization attached great importance to these views and desires put forward by its members. The question was discussed at full length, first by the Party committee and then debated by the commune members as a whole. This cleared the air. While it was recognized that personal freedoms should be given their proper place in the commune the members saw more clearly the merits of organization, of the collective way of life. For example, how do personal tastes and choices fit into the picture of the community dining-room? The commune leadership and members have agreed on the following:

Members may take their meals home to eat, or if they have old folks, children, or expectant mothers they may apply for food from the communal kitchen to cook at home. They can entertain their friends at the community dining-room, or get the materials and cook at home to treat their visitors. Members may raise their own poultry and pigs and cultivate kitchen gardens if they wish, etc.

A correct solution of the question of personal freedoms in the collective has led to greater enthusiasm for work. The members of the Wanteh People's Commune speak for many when they say that now since everything is taken care of for them, they don't have to worry about food or clothes, they can make their fullest contribution to production and lead a richer and more cultured life at the same time.

## Finance and Trade in 1959

Communist Party organizations at the primary levels have been called upon to give more vigorous leadership in finance and trade and to draw the masses into their work. The call came from a national conference of Communist Party organizations on financial and trade work which ended recently in Peking.

The fulfilment of the state plans by the financial and trade organizations last year has done much to promote industrial and agricultural production, the conference pointed out. They played a big part in stimulating a big rise in grain, iron and steel production and in increasing output of the engineering industry.

For 1959 the following four main areas of work were outlined by the conference: first, to give ready assistance to industry and agriculture to enable them to take a bigger leap forward, especially in grain, iron and steel production; second, to promote greater production of consumer goods, develop a diversified economy in the people's communes and carry forward the policy of enabling the peasants on the outskirts of cities to provide a steady supply of non-staple goods to the towns; third, to continue with the policy

of planned purchase and supply, of grain in the first place, with careful planning of distribution so as to meet consumers' demands; fourth, to strengthen financial and trade work in the communes, with emphasis on accumulation and distribution. Here stress was also laid on expanding the scope of the exchange of commodities and their production, to satisfy the growing needs of the people.

## More Rolled Steel

At another conference held in Peking it was decided to launch a campaign for technical renovation to make sure that this year the production of rolled steel will increase by over 100 per cent and types of steel products by about 2,000, as compared with 1958. These are big increases, by any standard, but are still not enough to satisfy the fast growing needs of China's rapidly expanding economy. The main problem at present is that the capacity of iron and steel smelting is greater than the capacity of steel rolling, and also greater than the production of iron ores, coke and refractory materials. Viewing the industry as a whole, the situation may be described as "big in the middle but small at both ends."

The "middle," that is, the smelting of iron and steel, grew especially big during the nationwide drive for steel in the latter part of last year. The trend will continue, as the national steel target has been set at 18 million tons for 1959, some 7 million tons more than 1958. The disequilibrium will be set right by concentrating on the two ends. That is to say, the industry will have to go all out to catch up with the "middle" by producing more iron ores, coke and refractory materials at one "end" and more rolled steel at the other.

More rolled steel can be produced by continuing with the policy of simultaneous



Woodcut by Ma Ching-po, a steel worker

development of central and local industries, of big enterprises and medium and small enterprises, of modern and native-style production. As the full potential of the country's rolling equipment still remains to be tapped, the conference also decided that every resource should be used during 1959 and that the daily output of rolled steel should go up by 50 per cent as compared with 1958. "More rolled steel" is the new slogan of China's steel-makers.

## And More Machines

More rolled steel means a greater scope of development for the machine-building industry. This year the engineering industry will not only produce more but will turn out a far greater number of complete sets of equipment to fit out the industries, and in the first place the metallurgical, power, mining and transport industries. In a leading article on January 13, *Renmin Ribao* considered the manufacture of complete sets of equipment an important task of the engineering industry. Once this hurdle is negotiated, the paper declared, the industry will rise to a new height.

In 1949 China turned out only 1,500 machine tools of various sorts. And there was no machine-building industry to speak of in the old China, likened to an old hen unable to lay any eggs, for the engineering industry in those days produced no machine tools at all. In a matter of eight or nine years the industry shot ahead so that it was able to turn out 90,000 machine tools in 1958 alone. From doing mostly repair and assembly work it developed into an engineering industry in the full sense of the term.

## Tientsin's New-Style Pharmacy

People delight in window shopping, enjoy browsing among new or rare editions in the bookshops, or making the rounds of markets or visiting fairs. Seldom, if ever, do they seek pleasure out of roaming around dispensaries. There is an old Chinese saying, "You don't go near a pharmacy unless you are ill." But taking delight in visiting a particular pharmacy is just what is happening to many people in Tientsin these days.

Usually, there is a sharp dividing line between traditional Chinese medicine shops and the Western-style pharmacies. A pharmacy of a completely new type, however, has recently been opened in the Hungchiao District of this north China port city. This new pharmacy sells both traditional Chinese medicine and Western-style medicine. It has doctors to attend to the customers, both

of the traditional Chinese school and of the Western school. It is both a dispensary and a hospital at the same time. Within eight days of its opening it received 170 letters of thanks.

This dispensary, or small-scale hospital if you like, has a staff of 36 people—6 doctors of both schools, 4 nurses, 3 pharmacists and 23 shop attendants. The staff stagger their working hours so that the pharmacy can be kept open round the clock. It has most of the departments expected of a medium-sized hospital: consulting rooms, surgery, pharmacy, wards, etc. But it is different from a hospital in many ways. Whereas, for example, a hospital treats patients but does not sell medicine retail, here the customer not only can be treated by doctors, he can buy medicine as well. If he sees a traditional Chinese doctor he can get one of the assistants to boil the herb medicine for him, if he hasn't facilities to do so at home.

All the shop assistants have learnt to be nurses and acquired the fundamentals of medical knowledge. From time to time they make the rounds of the neighbourhood to pass on timely information as to how to keep fit and healthy. The doctors often visit the neighbourhood and treat patients without charge. The ambition of this pharmacy-hospital is to help keep everybody in the district fit and well. It has become, in fact if not in name, a health centre.

## "100 Flowers" Forum

Last week, January 12 to be exact, China's most widely read newspaper, the *Renmin Ribao*, initiated a new column on its cultural page. It bears the title—*100 Flowers Forum*. In introducing this new feature, the editors declared, "Let this column be a place where the Communist Party's policy of 'letting 100 flowers bloom' will be carried forward. Let it be the place where artists and all those who have the arts at heart discuss various new problems. If they wish they can avail themselves of this space to talk warmly to each other or argue heatedly. They may give their personal views on certain subjects or problems of common interest."

The first contribution to the column was about a *xiafang* lyric soprano (a singer who had returned from the countryside—see our last issue). The author used an intriguing title *Toilers' Tunes and "The Trout."* *The Trout*, of course, is the title of Schubert's famous song. For the lyric soprano in question is known in musical circles for her ability in rendering Schubert and Tchaikovsky.

When she went to the countryside as a *xiafang* musician, she thought she was going to lose something of her art in the course of working on the farm. She came back a few days ago after an absence of a year. The first thing one of her friends asked her was: how much has she sacrificed during her year's tempering on the farm. She answered by singing a song of the working people and then Schubert's *Trout*. The voice was familiar but there was something new and dazzling about it, the tone colour had a new strength which seemed to have been influenced and imparted by the singing of the chorus in the first song, a toiler's tune.

## National Minorities Take Stock

For most of China's national minorities, 1958 was a great year, a year of tremendous changes, a year which is equal to a millennium they say, in so far as speed of development is concerned. Quite a few of the national minorities leapt into the age of socialism from the feudal system, slave system, or even from primitive society, thus skipping several stages of social development. Today, most of them are enjoying a new life under the people's communes. Last year the food crops in most areas doubled the output of the previous year and for the first time in history many areas inhabited by the national minorities were able to offer surplus grain for sale to the state. Livestock flourished too, and in both Inner Mongolia and Sinkiang it increased by 20 per cent.

But what has done much to change the economic map of the national minority areas rapidly is the introduction of industry. In Yunnan Province, for example, many of the national minority people in this southwest China region are today using farm tools, transport vehicles and manufactured articles made locally. A short while ago there was no industry to speak of at all. The drive for steel last year hastened industrial development in the national minorities areas. Iron and steel industries are coming into being even in the most remote and most undeveloped regions, such as the Taliang Mountains in Szechuan Province inhabited by the Yi people and the Greater Khingan Mountain inhabited by the Olunchun people in northeast China. In many parts of China the national minorities now have their first industrial workers.

**Correction:** In last week's *Round the Week* the proposed production figure for edible vegetable oil in the "Proposal and Action" story should read 6 million tons instead of 1 million tons.

# A Socialist Industrial Army for Agriculture

by TUNG TA-LIN

WITH the appearance of the people's communes in China's vast rural areas, great changes have taken place in the conditions of productive labour in the countryside.

The expansion of the scale of agricultural production in China is unprecedented. Prior to the establishment of the people's communes, China's 120 million-odd peasant households organized some 740,000 agricultural producers' co-operatives which have now been reorganized into more than 26,500 people's communes. Each embraces an average of nearly 5,000 households with a labour force of approximately 10,000 and about 60,000 *mu* of land. Agriculture in China is still not mechanized and electrified, but the scale of capital construction in farming and water conservancy now being carried out by the people's communes, the shift from shallow ploughing and extensive cultivation to deep ploughing and intensive cultivation, the change from "big areas with small output" to "small areas with large output" and the intensive garden style cultivation of farmlands are something that does not and cannot happen in any capitalist country.

Our people's communes not only engage in farming but combine industry, agriculture, trade, education and military affairs and carry out an all-round development in farming, forestry, animal husbandry, side-occupations and fisheries. To run a rural economy so vast in scale and so complex in nature it is necessary, first of all, to effect corresponding changes in the organization of labour. The old way of management which is characterized by scattered and unorganized, individual production is of course a far cry from the way needed to run such a rural economy; in this case, even the collective way of the agricultural producers' co-operatives appeared to be inadequate. For instance, a great co-ordination of labour in time of necessity — unified and rational distribution of a large labour force under a single command — is required in sowing or reaping a certain crop over a large tract of land within a very short period during the agricultural season; it is also required in the construction of giant water conservancy works, in setting up industries or transportation on a big scale. Again, for instance, a relatively strict observance of the regulations for technical operations and field management is called for in carrying out the system of deep ploughing and intensive cultivation and farming a small area for a large output since this involves the application of more scientific methods in agriculture. It is quite obvious that without well organized and well disciplined team work these things cannot be done well. In the future, when the mechanization and

electrification of farming are gradually realized, agricultural production will be more and more like production in the factories and this, of course, all the more calls for organization and discipline along the lines of a factory. That is why the Sixth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party pointed out in its "Resolution on Some Questions Concerning the People's Communes"\* that "the organization of labour in the people's commune should be as organized and disciplined as in a factory or the army; this is necessary in large-scale agricultural production." And it went on to say: "The forces of large-scale agricultural production, like the forces of large-scale industrial production, constitute an industrial army."

From this it can be seen that in carrying out large-scale, modernized agricultural production and developing the entire rural economy, we must strengthen the organization and discipline of agricultural productive labour and build up a socialist industrial army for agriculture.

EVERY forward step taken by the Chinese people evokes the panic and hostility of the imperialists. Dulles, for instance, bitterly opposed to the people's communes in our country which "organize themselves along military lines, work as if fighting a battle and live in the collective way," curses them as a "system of mass slavery" (witness his address to the Chamber of Commerce in Seattle delivered on November 13, 1958), and declares that "the human being is sought to be denied individuality and personality" (witness his address to the California Chamber of Commerce delivered on December 4, 1958). Virtually all of the imperialist propaganda machines have without exception heaped all sorts of slanders against the organization of labour in our countryside "along military lines."

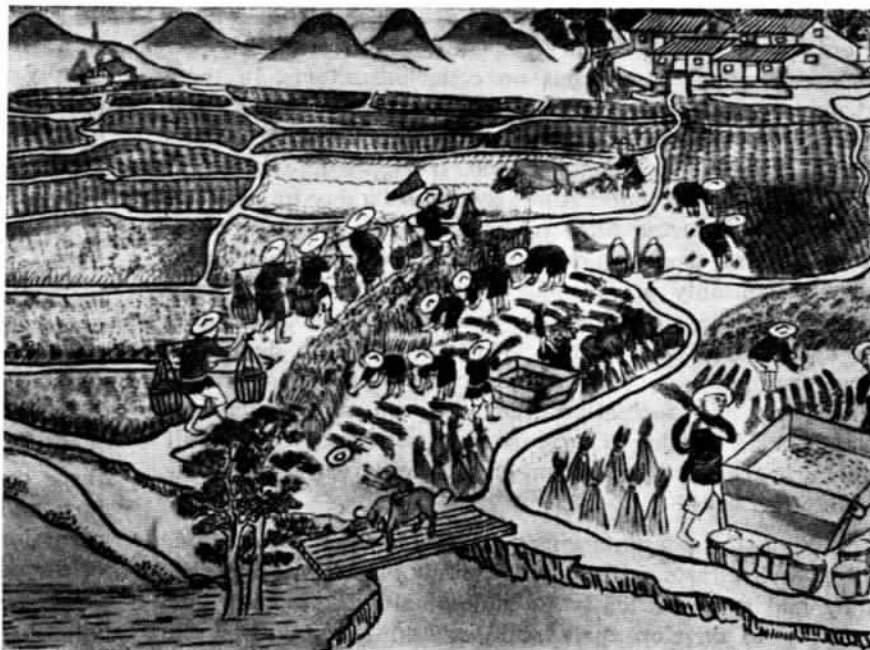
In actual fact, the modern industrial army is a product of the capitalist mode of production. In the days when large factories owned by industrial capitalists made their appearance, "masses of labourers, crowded into the factory, are organized like soldiers. As privates of the industrial army they are placed under the command of a perfect hierarchy of officers and sergeants." (*Manifesto of the Communist Party*) "... The peculiar composition of the body of workpeople, consisting as it does of individuals of both sexes and of all ages, give rise to a barrack discipline..." (Marx: *Capital*, Vol. I) This means that when human society entered the period of

\*Published in *Peking Review*, p. 10, No. 43, 1958.

capitalism, the bourgeoisie organized the workers into large factories to toil, each unit consisting of several hundred, several thousand or even tens of thousands of men; the discipline for workers standing before the machine is as rigid as that for men with rifles in the army. It must be admitted that the appearance of this modern industrial army is a mark of human progress, for in the days when agricultural and handicraft production was carried out with every family and every household as a unit, labour efficiency was extremely low and it was only after machinery and the industrial army came into existence that mankind's production entered an era more advanced than the feudal system. The ultimate aim of the bourgeoisie in organizing a modern industrial army was to intensify its exploitation of the working people, but this has also resulted in tempering and elevating the organizational consciousness, disciplinary and revolutionary spirit of the working class who eventually become the grave-diggers of capitalism and all systems of exploitation.

The capitalist industrial army is under the command of capital and the order inside this industrial army is set up after the pattern of the bourgeois army. In the bourgeois army and the armies of all exploiting classes, the officers give their commands from rank to rank and by compulsory discipline turn it into a war-machine acting in unison; at the lowest level are the soldiers who are deprived of any individual will and trained as tools mechanically taking orders from others. As Marx said in describing the bourgeois industrial army: "An industrial army of workmen, under the command of a capitalist, requires, like a real army, officers (managers), and sergeants (foremen, overlookers), who, while the work is being done, command in the name of the capitalist." (Marx: *Capital*, Vol. I) In this connection, workers are slaves not only of the entire bourgeoisie but also of the bourgeois state and, every day and every hour, they are enslaved by the owners of the factory where they work and by the overlookers at all levels (managers, foremen); this kind of slavery is maintained entirely by means of the "discipline of hunger." If there is any "mass slavery" on earth, then it is the capitalist system.

**T**HE working class wants to eliminate the capitalist system of exploitation and transform the industrial army under the command of capital into its own, an industrial army of the working class, but it does not wish to abolish the organization and discipline necessary for large-scale production. The working class is still a well organized industrial army when it has freed itself from capitalist rule although there is a fundamental difference between this industrial army and the capitalist industrial army, just as there is a fundamental difference between the army of the socialist countries and the army of the capitalist countries. Of course, organization and discipline of a very high degree are also needed in a socialist army but organization and discipline as such are not founded on the enslavement of the many by the few. The entire body of officers and soldiers has a common political aim and every soldier fully realizes the role and tasks of his own army; this is how discipline and organization under



My memory of our 1958 big leap

Painting by Lo Shih-chen, a Hunan peasant

democratic centralism are formed. Hence the statement that "the industrial army in socialist society is an industrial army of a single class, the working class, which has got rid of the capitalists who squeezed surplus value out of the workers and which has put into force in the working class a vigorous and lively democratic centralism based on the voluntary principle" (see "Resolution on Some Questions Concerning the People's Communes"). This also means that in our country, universal democracy is the groundwork of organization, discipline and order and that the masses of workers in contrast to the conditions in a capitalist society, voluntarily and consciously obey the organization, discipline and orders.

**T**ODAY, not only are we in possession of an industrial army which is freed from capitalist rule and which has both democracy and centralism but we have also started to build a socialist industrial army for agriculture based on democratic centralism, which is free from exploitation by the landlords and rich peasants and has got rid of small-scale production. More than a century ago Marx and Engels, in the *Manifesto of the Communist Party*, put forward the programme of the "establishment of industrial armies, especially for agriculture," which is being turned, step by step, into reality in our country.

Will the building of an industrial army for agriculture make the peasants work too hard? We know that when the peasants engaged in individual farming it seemed as if they were very free, as if they could work any way they liked. As a matter of fact, they were busy from dawn to dusk all the year round, their efficiency was low and their income was far too small. Because they were not sure of the fruits of their own labour they were in a tight situation, always worried and hard-pressed. Modern industrial workers, operating machines in the factories and participating in collective labour, cannot afford to lessen their efforts even for one minute. They are working hard, but because their efficiency is high it has been possible to introduce the eight-hour day among them. The workers in a socialist society, after eight hours of

busy work, have ample time for study, rest and amusement. Now because our peasants no longer rely on their individual efforts but on collective efforts, in their struggle against nature, they are completely freed from the endless worries which were inevitable under small-scale production. For them, too, it is possible to begin to work eight hours and study two hours a day in ordinary times. Only during busy farming seasons or when other kinds of rural work are particularly urgent may their work time be suitably prolonged. They will take a step further to create conditions for working six hours a day or even less in the future. Therefore, a high degree of organization does not make it difficult for people to arrange their rest and recreation. On the contrary, it creates conditions for them to increase their efficiency to the full during work time and to enjoy sufficient rest and recreation after work.

When the peasants engaged in individual production, all of their efforts were spent on a few *mu* of land but still they had great difficulty in making a living. They had no way to develop their abilities and talents. Now in the people's communes, people have broad opportunities to develop their talents and abilities thanks to the rational division of work and co-ordination as well as the ever-increasing innovations in production techniques. Every labourer, no matter in what fields he has proved most capable or has gained special experience, will receive attention from the collective and his talents will be brought into full play. Apart from work and production, everybody has the opportunity to study and participate in cultural and recreational activities. This is precisely the way that enables the true emancipation of man's individual personality. Only gentlemen of the exploiting class like Dulles get the idea that as soon as a man takes part in collective work and production his individual personality is wiped out. In their eyes, only those who live a parasitical life can have individual personality. But the labouring people know perfectly well that under the socialist system, the more the people are organized for work and production, the fuller the conditions will become for realizing the emancipation of individual personality.

There is no end to the nonsensical talk of Dulles and company. But with the exception of their own partners only a few people will believe it and of course, still less will it be able to stop the Chinese people from marching forward. The Chinese people will advance courageously along the road they themselves have chosen and develop the cause we have already initiated more healthily.

**T**O organize labour along military lines naturally does not mean that everything should be exactly the same as in the army. So far as organizational spirit and discipline are concerned, the ranks of productive labour should learn from the army. But a production organization is not an army, it has different tasks to perform and different objectives of struggle. The one is to wage struggle against nature and the other is to strengthen national defence and defend the motherland. A production organization may absorb everyone who has the ability to work, but this cannot be done in a military organization or in a militia. As an editorial published in *Hongqi* in September pointed out: "Get organized along military lines of course does not mean that they are really organized into

military barracks, nor does it mean that they give themselves the titles of generals, colonels and lieutenants. It simply means that the swift expansion of agriculture demands that they should greatly strengthen their organization . . . like factory workers and armymen." The actual situation is precisely like this.

**U**NDER the socialist system, a high degree of democratic centralism, that is to say, a high degree of centralization combined with the broadest democracy, is practised in the ranks of the agricultural producers and the militia organizations led by the Chinese Communist Party. In our country, organizational spirit and discipline are nowhere as rigid as in the People's Liberation Army. It is, however, the most democratic army, with three cardinal democratic traditions in the political, military and economic fields. And that is one of the fundamental reasons why it has grown as an invincible army of the people. The principles of combining "get organized along military lines" with democratic management, combining "work like fighting a battle" with necessary and sufficient rest, and combining "live the collective way" with definite freedom in one's daily life — these principles which are practised in the people's communes are the concrete manifestations of democratic centralism. Of course, in our communes, as in our factories, schools and government organizations, there are still a handful of functionaries who are infected with simple and rigid commandism in their work. But this is the result of bureaucracy, a survival of the working style of the exploiting classes of the old society. This will manifest itself all the same in places where there are no such things as "get organized along military lines, work like fighting a battle and live the collective way." In capitalist countries, it is commonplace for farm proprietors to bully and oppress the farmhands in the rudest manner. The difference is: the bourgeois rulers take this as "the normal order of things," the indispensable basis of their so-called "freedom." We, on our part, will wage resolute struggle against the effects of the survivals of the old society.

Just as the People's Liberation Army has not only a high degree of centralization and strict discipline but democracy in the political, military and economic spheres and consequently has greatly raised its fighting power, so democratic management is stressed as vitally important in the ranks of the people engaged in rural production while they are organized along military lines. This is because democratic management is the principal means of correctly handling contradictions among the people and strengthening the unity between the cadres and the masses. One of the fundamental reasons 1958 has witnessed one of the biggest leaps forward in all aspects in Chinese history is because we have taken various steps to implement Comrade Mao Tse-tung's directive on the correct handling of contradictions among the people. For instance, cadres have been sent to take part in productive labour in villages and in enterprises and organizations at the grass-roots level. The "three bad styles of work" (bureaucracy, sectarianism and subjectivism) and the "five bad airs" (bureaucratic airs, apathetic airs, extravagant airs, arrogant airs and finicky airs) have been opposed. The system of "two participations" (workers' participation in planning and management and the participation of administrative personnel in production), "one change" (re-



vising or discarding all outmoded rules and regulations), and "three in one" (the combination of leading cadres, workers and technicians into one entity) have been introduced. These steps have made relations between the cadres and the masses closer than ever before. Hence the great victories in our industrial and agricultural fronts in 1958.

The fact that we have both a socialist industrial army and a socialist industrial army for agriculture organizationally guarantees that our productive forces will develop at high speed, thus promoting the industrialization of the country, the industrialization of the people's communes, and the mechanization and electrification of agri-

culture. Moreover, it can be expected that just as the formation of the industrial army has tempered and raised the organizational consciousness, discipline and revolutionary spirit of the working class, so the formation of the socialist industrial army for agriculture will rapidly raise the organizational consciousness, discipline and revolutionary spirit of the broad masses of peasants to a still higher level and is thus more advantageous for the gradual reduction and eventual elimination of the differences between worker and peasant.

*(Abridged translation of an article published in "Hongqi," No. 2, January 16, 1959.)*

## Redressing an Imbalance

# Electric Power Shoots Ahead

by LIANG KUANG

**C**HINA'S electric power industry is shooting ahead at lightning speed, stimulated by the need for bridging a gap between supply and demand.

Why did a shortage arise? Not because the output of electricity has not grown. On the contrary, the increase has been truly phenomenal. The total generated in 1958 is estimated at 27,500 million kwh., 43 per cent more than 1957. Last year alone, more than 100 new large and medium power plants went into operation along with a great many smaller local units of all descriptions. They helped raise the national generating capacity by over 2 million kw. This was more than two-thirds of the total increase for the First Five-Year Plan (1953-1957). It was 10 per cent more than the total generating capacity built in all the years prior to 1949, when the People's Republic of China was founded.

Yet even such speed proved insufficient to supply the booming economy. Steel production doubled last year. Other power-consuming industries mushroomed all over the country. With continued fast industrial growth this year, particularly as the small local iron and steel smelters are merged and modernized into integrated iron and steel works that require more and more power, the pressure will continue for some time.

In accordance with China's principles of planning, any imbalance that has arisen in the course of the great leap forward should be readjusted in a positive way — by strengthening the weak link, not negatively by reducing overall speed.

### **New Power Plants**

In the drive for more power, the building of big modern power plants is being stepped up. It is expected that about 700,000 kw. of new generating equipment will go into operation in the first quarter of 1959, more than 30 times the increase in the same period last year. North-east China will put eight big new power plants into operation between January and March. Among other areas, four new generating units will start work in Shanghai and in

Peking, generating equipment with a total capacity of 150,000 kw. is expected to be commissioned in the first half of this year in the capital's huge new heat-and-power plant alone.

To meet longer-range requirements, construction of many giant hydro-electric power plants is being pushed ahead of schedule. They include: the Sanmen Gorge Hydro-electric Power Plant on the Yellow River in Honan Province, the Liuchia Gorge Hydro-electric Power Plant on the Yellow River in Kansu Province, the Tanchiangkou Hydro-electric Power Plant on the Han River in Hupeh, the Hsinanchiang Hydro-electric Power Plant on the Hsinan River in Chekiang Province, the Chaoping Hydro-electric Power Plant on the Kwei River in the Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region and the Chehsi Hydro-electric Power Plant in Hunan Province. Other big hydro-electric power plants are going up in Liaoning, Yunnan, Kweichow, Kwangtung and Anhwei Provinces.

Many of the new power plants will be completed ahead of schedule as construction and equipment installation become more and more efficient through technical innovations. The time needed to install a 25,000-kw. steam turbine generator has been cut from some two months to 100 hours. The average time for designing and construction has also been reduced considerably.

### **More from Existing Equipment**

A second great new source of electricity is the veritable revolution now taking place in power plants already in operation. The workers have raised the output of existing equipment. The pioneer in this movement is the Shihchingshan Power Plant in Peking, where the workers have got 27,500 kw. of extra capacity, almost one-quarter of the plant's total rating of 115,000 kw. One of the steam turbine generators is working at 42 per cent above its rating and three boilers at 40 per cent above rating. Similar results have been achieved in Anshan and Shanghai.

These extraordinary achievements are the results of bold thinking combined with level-headed scientific analysis and careful experimentation. The revolutionary technical measures were generally introduced only after careful testing, and after safety had been fully ensured. Months of operation at levels above rating have proved their complete success.

The significance of these measures is not limited to economics. In engineering practice, rated output has been considered a limit beyond which one must not trespass. The taboo has now been broken. Men have become the real masters of machines. This marks the beginning of a technical revolution in the power industry — which will profoundly influence not only the operation but also the manufacture of generating equipment.

### “Walking on Two Legs”

Like every other productive activity in China, the electric power industry has “two legs” — the big modern power plants and small ones employing indigenous methods, built and operated by the masses of the people. On the modern “leg” alone, the industry would encounter difficulties. On both “legs,” however, it can rush ahead in giant strides.

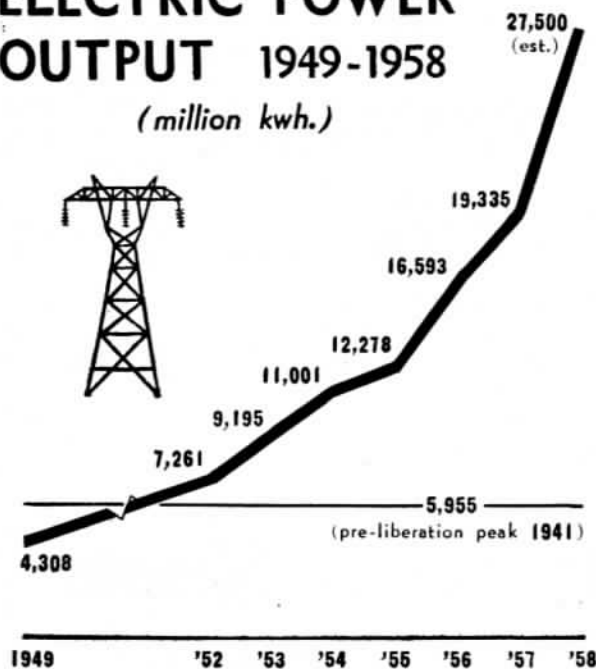
The potency of the “mass line” — relying on mass initiative for development — is being proved in electric power as it has been in other branches. The northeastern port of Lushun-Talien (Port Arthur-Dairen) provides a good example.

After August 1958, a power shortage arose in Lushun-Talien. It grew so serious that a number of factories had to suspend operations and city lighting had to be heavily curtailed. To meet this situation, a mass campaign was launched. Factories, mines, shops, government offices, schools and nurseries — even housewives, cooks and barbers — all began to produce electricity for their own use. By means of ingenious popular inventions, more than 20 new ways of getting electricity from various sources have been found. “Home-made” devices got power from water, wind, methane gas, coal gas, steam and oil. In three months thousands of small power generating units, with a total capacity of over 130,000 kw. arose, using old lorry, tank and aeroplane engines, repaired steam engines and improvised turbines. As a result, scores of institutions in Lushun-Talien now supply their own power needs, and some produce a surplus for others. City lighting is fast improving, and industrial output is rising steadily.

To popularize this experience and to make the electric power production the business of the whole people, an on-the-spot demonstration conference was convened in Lushun-Talien. It was attended by repre-

## ELECTRIC POWER OUTPUT 1949-1958

(million kwh.)



sentatives from all parts of the country and helped set off a nationwide campaign to build power stations by popular efforts.

As a prelude to the electrification of the countryside, a multitude of small hydro-electric power stations have been set up by the local people with only a minimum of outside help. In the single county of Yungchun, in Fukien Province, southeast China, over 1,000 small hydro-electric power and hydraulic stations have been set up. More than half its villages now have electricity and in the processing of grain alone, millions of man-days were saved in 1958 by using water power. In Fukien Province as a whole, 1,300 small hydro-electric power stations with a total generating capacity of 37,000 kw., were begun or completed in 1958.

The people's communes, since their formation, have begun to go in for medium-sized hydro-electric power plants as well as small ones. People of the Chuhsiung Yi Autonomous Chou in Yunnan Province, southwest China, are now building medium hydro-electric power plants with a total capacity of over 300,000 kw.

### Equipment Made in China

As the electric power industry races ahead, it creates a new necessity — the manufacture of more and higher-quality power-generating and transmission equipment. In 1958, equipment with more than one million kw. of generating capacity was produced in China, twice as much as in the entire First Five-Year Plan. Recently, the first domestically manufactured 50,000-kw. steam turbine was made at the Harbin Steam Turbine Plant. With a 230-ton high-pressure boiler, already built, and a 50,000-kw. steam turbine generator which is still under construction, it will form a power unit that can light a city of 5 million people. Enterprises in Shenyang have made China's first 60,000 kva. 110,000-volt transformer and 220,000-volt high-tension transmission cable.

The soaring demand for power-generating equipment calls for a many-fold increase this year. In this effort too, the “two legs” principle is applied. The large machine-building plants in Shanghai and northeast China, which shoulder two-thirds of the burden, are stepping up production — co-ordinating closely with many other plants that produce accessories. The small machine-building plants set up all over the country as a result of the boom in local industries are also turning out power-generating equipment, using improvised machine tools as well as modern ones. Even a blacksmiths' co-operative in Hsingtai County, Hopei Province, has successfully turned out 1.5-kw. generators and water turbines (maximum capacity 70 kw.).

Using both legs, China's electric power industry is forging ahead.

# Democratic Viet-nam's Three-Year Plan

by CHEN CHIA-PAO and WEI CHEN

**1958**, for the 13 million people in the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam, was the year of the most far-reaching economic advances achieved so far. The initiative and progress of the working people on the production front was so marked that at the year's end, the National Assembly decided to quicken further the tempo of construction. Targets for the nation's development were revised upwards considerably in the Three-Year Plan (1958-1960) which the Assembly formally adopted and promulgated at its Ninth Session in December.

During these three years, under the leadership of the Lao Dong Party, giant strides will be taken to do away with the terrible legacy of economic backwardness left by a century of colonial rule. The goal in sight is virtual self-sufficiency in agricultural products and consumer goods.

## Aiming High

By 1960, the total output value of industry and agriculture in the northern part of Viet-nam will grow by 78 per cent as compared with 1957. Agricultural output value will increase by 73.6 per cent and the output value of industry and handicrafts by 86.4 per cent. In industry, the output of modern industry in terms of value, will increase by 169 per cent.

By 1960, agriculture will constitute 64.7 per cent of the total output value of industry and agriculture, and industry and handicrafts 35.3 per cent. During the early days of the restoration of peace agriculture accounted for 90 per cent and industry only 10 per cent of total output value.

In 1960 the annual rice output will be raised to 7,600,000 tons, three times the pre-war level in 1939. By then the per capita rice output will rise to 500 kilogrammes as against 300 at present.

During the Three-Year Plan industrial crops, animal husbandry, fisheries and forestry will also progress rapidly. By 1960, cotton output will amount to 9,000 tons, an increase of 58 per cent over 1957; groundnuts to over 5,500 tons, more than three times as much as in 1957; cattle to over 2,700,000 head, 590,000 head more than 1957; pigs to 5,530,000 head, an increase of nearly 100 per cent compared with 1957.

In this period, heavy industry will be greatly developed while industrial consumer

goods will in the main meet the demands of the home market. There will be 96 capital construction projects in industry, including integrated iron and steel works, machinery works, agricultural machinery works, and a synthetic oil plant. Viet-nam has never built such plants in the past. The construction of these projects will establish a preliminary foundation for the industrialization of the northern part of the country.

In three years, the number of students in the northern part of Viet-nam will go up to 1,630,000. By then, 11 out of every 100 persons will be studying in school.

The foregoing targets are undoubtedly advanced targets. But when we met the responsible personnel in the provincial or county committees of the Lao Dong Party and the working people in many enterprises of the country, they often confidently told us that these targets are sure to be overfulfilled greatly.

## Socialist Transformation

Socialist transformation will be the key to the realization of these targets. The Three-Year Plan provides that during the three years, the early stage of agricultural co-operation will, by and large, be introduced throughout the countryside in the northern part of Viet-nam, while some of the elementary agricultural co-operatives will develop into advanced agricultural co-operatives.

In the development of co-operative farming, there were remarkable achievements in 1958. At the beginning



A labour exchange team transplanting rice seedlings  
*Painting on lacquer by Hoang-tich-Chu, Viet-nam*

of the year, only 27 per cent of the total number of peasant households had joined the "labour exchange teams" and agricultural producers' co-operatives which numbered only 170. Between July and September, 50 per cent of the peasant households were in the "labour exchange teams" and the number of agricultural producers' co-operatives increased threefold. By the end of the year, the number of agricultural producers' co-operatives had grown to more than 4,700. In other words, in six months the number of elementary agricultural co-operatives had increased over 25 times. This shows that after the land reform, peasants in the northern part of Viet-nam, educated by the Lao Dong Party, are more and more eager to take the road of co-operation.

The policy towards the national bourgeoisie in the northern part of Viet-nam adopted by the Lao Dong Party is one of intensifying its transformation. Premier Pham Van Dong, in his report on the work of the government to the Ninth Session of the Viet-namese National Assembly, said that in the northern part of Viet-nam, the forces of socialism have greatly surpassed the forces of capitalism. They are powerful enough, he said, to turn the antagonistic contradictions inherent in the relations between the national bourgeoisie and the working class into non-antagonistic ones, i.e. to carry out the socialist revolution peacefully.

Based on this policy, the socialist transformation of private industry and commerce will be realized during the Three-Year Plan, through various forms of state capitalism. At present, great efforts are being made to popularize

the lower forms of state capitalism — such as having the private enterprises process goods for the state, placing orders with them, making the private firms the agents or distributors of the state, etc. Meanwhile, the government is also making experiments in key places to bring certain private enterprises under state and private joint operation which, at a later date, will be introduced extensively in the country.

In the three designated years, several hundreds of thousands of handicraftsmen in northern Viet-nam will be organized into various collective production teams and co-operatives. In this way the individual economy of handicraftsmen will be transformed into collective ownership by the working people.

1958 was the first year of the Three-Year Plan which marks the beginning of the period of planned economic development following the completion of post-war economic rehabilitation in the country in 1957. Overfulfilment of production targets in the past year has greatly enhanced the confidence of the Viet-namese people. They are now throwing themselves into a battle of decisive significance in the second year of the Plan. As the New Year's Message for 1959 of *Nhan Dan*, organ of the Lao Dong Party of Viet-nam, put it: "This New Year has brought the people of our country as well as people the world over new hopes and still more splendid prospects. In the new year we are ushering in, we shall fulfil our new tasks and strive for new victories with still greater enthusiasm."

# Here's to Better Health!

by LING YANG

**L**AST September I came by train from Shenyang in the northeast to Peking. Soon after we started, our car conductor handed out a number of fly swatters to us passengers and urged us to keep an eye out for stray flies. "Wiping out the four evils—flies, mosquitoes, rats and grain-eating sparrows" had long since become a household term, so this surprised no one.

There was not much to be done in the first few hours of the journey, but after the stop at Shanhaikuan, two flies were discovered. Half a dozen people were on their feet in a moment and the rest of us were alerted. One fly was quickly knocked out. The other was clearly a veteran. There were many hit-and-miss strikes before he too bit the dust. Just before we reached the capital, a team of passengers and conductors came to commend us for keeping our car fly-free.

Ours was but a skirmish in the great battles being waged throughout the length and breadth of China, in cities and villages, whenever and wherever there is a pest to fight against. Different localities add different names to

the list of enemies—lice, fleas, bedbugs, cockroaches, poisonous snakes, wolves, and so on. These campaigns have become a regular part of our health work.

## Shock Tactics

In addition to such day-to-day routine, there are the shock offensives: large-scale efforts which often involve almost everybody in the community. The mass drive against sparrows last April in Peking was a good example. In China sparrows are a pest. They consume and destroy huge amounts of grain. This is why they had to be included in the campaign against the four pests. After thorough preparations to acquaint the people with the strategy and tactics of the campaign, Peking's headquarters for the war against the sparrow pest ordered a general offensive to start at 4:30 a.m. on April 19. An army of three million Peking residents went into action. Every house and tree was turned into a fortress. At the appointed time everybody was at his battle post. At five o'clock sharp, men and women, old and young, began the attack. They beat drums, gongs, cymbals, pots and pans, let off

fire-crackers and raised a deafening clamour. All over the city, scarecrows and bright coloured flags fluttered on roof tops and trees. After a few hours of this large numbers of sparrows, scared out of their retreats, starved and with no place to rest, perished. Some fled into areas where it seemed to be quiet only to fall into snares and concentrated gunfire. Operations continued late into the evening to capture those that had somehow escaped the daytime offensive and gone into hiding.

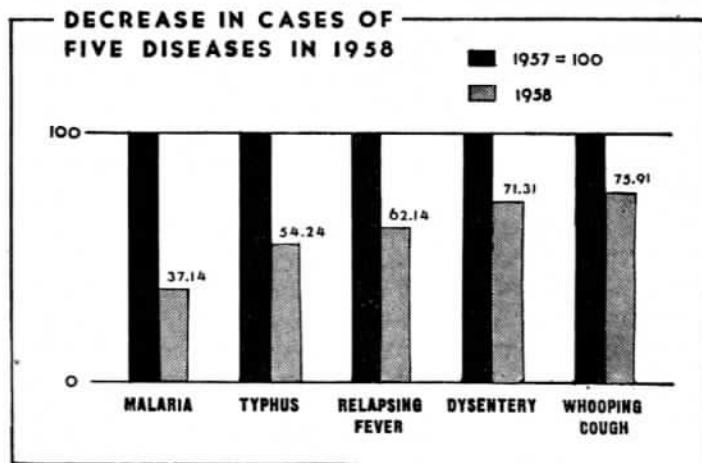
In a three-day battle ending April 21, more than 400,000 of these pests were killed. This was a resounding achievement. A single sparrow can consume five *jin* of grain a year. So it meant a yearly saving of over two million *jin* of grain. Taking into account that a pair of sparrows raises a brood of fifteen in springtime, that means an additional saving of over fifteen million *jin*!

A similar mass drive was organized in Chungking, a city pestered by rats, especially sewer rats which inhabited its 144-kilometre network of public drains. Every household was mobilized for this all-out attack. Over seven thousand manholes were fumigated simultaneously and every escape hole was guarded or blocked. The toll for last year was six million rats.

### National Health Exhibition

These are only two of thousands of stories told graphically in photographs, models, charts, illustrations and articles at the National Health Exhibition now open at the Working People's Cultural Palace in Peking. The exhibition shows the results of the national health campaign in twenty-seven provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities. It is a concrete demonstration of what the masses can do under the leadership of the Communist Party and with a firm understanding of the issues involved. Mass innovations and inventions are legion. Anhwei Province alone evolved more than 170 kinds of rat traps. A great variety of locally discovered medicinal herbs and locally produced insecticides is also on display. Scientific and technical guidance goes hand-in-hand with such mass initiative. Shansi Province alone set up 1,600 technical guidance stations and over three million people have received training for sanitation work. The results of all these efforts are rewarding. Charts at the exhibition show that from January to December last year, 1,880 million rats were killed; 1,960 million sparrows were accounted for; and around 153,000 tons of flies and mosquitoes were wiped out. The four pests were practically eliminated in 125 cities and 971 counties, roughly half of the total number of China's cities and counties.

The elimination of pests and their breeding places and general health work have contributed to a rapid improvement in environmental sanitation, to a pleasanter and more comfortable life and also help industrial and agricultural production. One exhibition model shows Yingtu, a little pastoral village in the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region. Surrounded by vegetable gardens and fruit trees, it has newly-built brick houses with improved latrines and convenient public baths. Stables and pens for livestock are situated outside the village and so are the pits where manure is collected for use in the newly-acquired art of farming. Not so long ago, the nomads of Yingtu usually shared their yurts with their livestock.



Another exhibit shows how Chungwei County of the Ninghsia Hui Autonomous Region used sediment carried by the Yellow River to fill up its swamps and stagnant pools. This not only eliminated a breeding place for flies and mosquitoes, but added a fertile area of 210,000 *mu* for farming and construction.

Taking up the challenge to do a faster, better job in sanitation, the big cities too have performed miracles. Shanghai originally planned to enclose its 324 kilometres of open sewers and ditches within five years. The whole job was done in six months. Peking created ten new beauty spots complete with ornamental ponds and streams out of its many stagnant pools and swamps. A chart sums up what the nation did along these lines in the past year. It shows that, up to early November, 1.65 million kilometres of ditches and open sewers were dredged; 640 million square metres of swamps and stagnant pools were filled up; 85 million privies were built; 42 million stalls for animals were built or repaired; and 3.42 million wells were improved.

### Wiping Out Diseases

Last year, as the exhibition shows, was a particularly busy year for our medical workers. One of the major tasks the national health campaign took on was to "wipe out diseases" — especially the more serious epidemics and plagues caused by parasites.

Kiangsu Province did a splendid job in the fight against schistosomiasis. This disease infested 49 of its 79 counties and claimed over a million victims. To give every sufferer a chance for treatment without interfering with his work, medical workers made regular rounds and treated over 410,000 patients at night. Tests were made of traditional Chinese prescriptions; several, found to be very efficacious, are being widely publicized for use against this scourge. Effective methods were found for the mass elimination of snails, the host of schistosomes. Fukien Province also made a big effort in this field. Hundreds of thousands of people took up the job of destroying snails. Now these two provinces and the Shanghai municipality have in the main wiped out this disease.

Similar mass methods have effected a radical change in the case of other diseases as well. Cholera, which killed more than 15,000 in 1946 (before liberation), has now been completely wiped out. Smallpox has been practically

eliminated. Bubonic plague has been virtually wiped out. The incidence of other contagious diseases has dropped sharply and the development of the national health campaign has helped the growth of the medical network throughout the country. Many people's communes have their own hospitals, many townships their own clinics, and many production teams already have the "three medical personnel"—a public health worker, a child-care worker and an obstetrician. The slogan is: "To treat an ordinary disease, no need to leave the commune; to treat a serious case, no need to leave the county seat." Some other pluses are that medical and public health research work is more closely integrated with practice; that the merits of traditional Chinese medicine are better understood and on this basis physicians skilled in traditional Chinese medicine and Western medicine are co-operating more closely than ever before.

The health campaign has also helped to change the outlook of the people. Deprived as they were of medical

aid in the past, peasants were driven to resort to witchcraft or other superstitious practices against diseases or other physical ailments. Now they know the possibilities of mass action. They are no longer on the defensive before nature's onslaughts. Thousands of them have become nationally known figures in the mass attack led by the Communist Party against pests and diseases.

With a clear understanding of how better sanitation and a better health service reduces mortality and suffering and loss of time through illness, the whole nation is determined to do more in the health campaign. The recent National Conference of Delegates of Advanced Units in Agriculture was also attended by outstanding health workers from all over the country. They set the targets for 1959: virtually exterminate, wherever possible, the four evils throughout the country and wipe out the four diseases—schistosomiasis, malaria, filariasis and hook worm. Everywhere they'll strive to give the nation better health—quicker.

## Agriculture

# How Shouchang County Increased Its Yields

by YANG MIN

**I**F you follow the Yellow River as it courses through Shantung Province, on the last lap of its journey to the Yellow Sea, you will encounter Shouchang County. Just one of China's more than two thousand counties. Any claim to fame it may have had in the past was essentially on the tragic side. Situated in the Great Plain of north China, within striking distance of the traditional Yellow River floods, its people knew the recurrent tragedies of crop failures, forced flight from the raging waters and the stark hunger that was so much a part of old China.

Last year Shouchang made a new name for itself. For people in the agricultural know, for those who are probing the secrets of China's phenomenal doubling of its grain crops in 1958, Shouchang is in the limelight and full of interest. It increased its grain output twelvefold within a single year. How it did it is now a subject of study among China's grain growers and the simple facts of its tremendous leap shed a revealing light on the development of agriculture in China today.

Grain yield in Shouchang averaged 300 *jin* per *mu* in 1957, nearly half as much again as the national average in that year. Last year it went up to 4,000 *jin* per *mu*. High yields from other crops were also harvested in Shouchang.

When Shouchang peasants gathered their unusual harvest last year, they expressed their common feelings

in a phrase that was heard often: "Harvest time in the past was filled with worries of not enough to eat, what worries us now is finding more space for storage."

### Poor Environment

The county is not especially endowed by nature. On the contrary, more than half of its arable land was dominated by sand, new silt or contained too much alkaline elements, and, therefore, gave fairly low yields. Moreover, two-fifths of the cultivated land is within a flood-detention area and contained too much sand or succumbed easily to drought and water-logging. The rest of the land is of relatively better fertility, but, owing to repeated floods, drought and other natural calamities and lack of fertilizer, farm yields were also rather low.

Average per *mu* yield of grain in Shouchang was 142 *jin* in 1952. In the following year the method of "turning up the soil" was first tried in a very small area. At that time the peasants were still not organized in farm co-ops, so that this method, which raises output but involves large amounts of labour, did not make much progress. It was extensively adopted only after the co-ops were generally organized in 1955. Thanks to a series of measures adopted by the co-ops, the per *mu* yield of grain in the county was boosted to 300 in 1957. The principle followed in "turning up the soil" is to put the more fertile sub-layer of soil directly above the

original top soil. When this is done, soil at the bottom layer is loosened and fertilizer is applied too. This pioneer measure in Shouchang was later adopted by many other places where soil conditions are much similar. In some areas there is no need to change the top soil and in that case deep ploughing can achieve the same result.

### Success of the Mass Line

It wasn't all a question of technique. The implementation of the traditional mass line of the Chinese Communist Party also played its part in the record harvest. The county functionaries did their best to participate in and give leadership to production, set examples by their own deeds and consulted with the masses in everything that was done.

In the winter of 1957, on the basis of the enthusiasm of the peasants following the rectification campaign, the Communist Party committee of Shouchang County proposed to the people a big leap forward in agriculture. Most of the peasants in the county, particularly the poor peasants and lower middle peasants, welcomed the proposal, but a few conservative-minded persons did not think it could be done. As long as there was a large number of people, they argued, in relation to a small area of poor land and recurrent natural calamities, no leap forward or rich crops on large tracts of land was possible in the county.

The county committee of the Communist Party turned the issue to the people. A mass discussion took place. It centred on such questions as: How to cope with nature? To live at its mercy or transform it to serve the people? To inch along or leap forward on the agricultural front? During the debate, the advocates of increasing farm yields prevailed and the people's confidence in overcoming unfavourable natural conditions was greatly strengthened. The peasants determined to be masters, not slaves, of nature and some farm co-ops drafted plans to reap more than 1,000 *jin* of grain per *mu* — a bold plan, considering the fact that the county average for 1957 was only 300 *jin*.

The peasants won their first battle against nature on the water conservancy front. They built large numbers of small reservoirs and irrigation canals during the winter of 1957-1958, and by last spring the county's cultivated land was generally secure against ordinary floods and threats of drought. This paved the way for abundant harvests both last summer and autumn.

### Experimental Farm Plots

The Communist Party committee and the people's government in Shouchang sent some 9,000 cadres to work at the grass-roots level. To set examples of high yields and to study the farming methods and solve production problems, they cultivated small experimental farm plots. The successful methods tested in these plots were recommended for use on large tracts of land.

Each of the 28 leading personnel of the Communist Party in Shouchang spent some 200 days last year in the fields to keep in close touch with the peasants and watch the progress of the crops. When problems arose, they were immediately solved on the spot. The peasants were always encouraged to speak out whatever they had on

their minds and to put forward any rationalization proposals they thought fit. Their initiative and wisdom was fully tapped and played a distinct part in achieving the rich crops.

An emulation campaign for big crops was launched and a great number of peasants, young and old, were cited because of their outstanding deeds. Many of them took short courses in farming techniques offered by the county or township government. A large group of active peasants became the motive force in rallying the collective efforts of all the Shouchang peasants. With great confidence in their efforts to harvest enormous yields, they sang their own verses:

*Our efforts are so high,  
They tower to the sky;  
We'll not only transform nature,  
We'll make a paradise right here.*

### Technical Measures

Shouchang's peasants shattered many outmoded conventions in farming and perfected new farming skills. For instance, the old notion that heavy watering and manuring would hinder the growth of crops was proved wrong provided the proportions were right and they were done at the proper time. The past practice in Shouchang was to water the maize and millet fields three or four times and apply manure three times for a single crop. But Shouchang peasants raised this to eight times each. Thus, the amount of water used in a *mu* of land increased from 200 cubic metres to between 300 and 500 cubic metres and farm manure from 5 tons to 100 tons or more. New methods of applying manure also shattered the past notion that in the case of indigenous-made chemical fertilizers more than 100 *jin* per *mu* would hinder rather than help the growth of crops. From 200 to 300 *jin* per *mu* of such fertilizers were applied with satisfactory results.

New advances were made in close planting. In general, twice as much maize plants as in the past were planted in a *mu* of land and many stalks bore two large ears. As to millet, the average density was raised three times as high as in the past and this proved highly successful.

Shouchang's peasants have bigger plans for 1959, now that they have the better organization of the people's communes, and they have already made a good start to get still better crops this year. They have provided adequate water and manure to the winter wheat fields, extending over more than one million *mu*, and the plants look very promising. Combined fertilization and "turning up of the soil" were extensively carried out. Greatly inspired by their last year's success, the Shouchang people are working with still greater confidence for higher yields and a higher standard of living this year.

#### CHINESE WEIGHTS and MEASURES at a GLANCE

1 *mu* = 0.06 hectare or 0.1647 acre  
1 *dan* (picul) = 0.05 ton or 0.984 hundredweight  
1 *jin* = 0.5 kilogramme or 1.1023 pounds

# Chance Encounter with the Premier

by LU MU-LAN

*One day a young man and two young women strolled into a restaurant on Taichichang, one of the quieter streets near the busy shopping centre of Wangfuching in Peking. Before they knew where they were they found themselves sitting at a table next to the Premier of China—and talking to him. The three young people were cadres of a factory on the eastern outskirts of the city. One of the girls, Lu Mulan, recorded her impressions of this chance encounter with the Premier in a recent issue of "Zhongguo Qingnian" (China Youth Magazine).*

IT was already past twelve when I came out of the building of the Peking Committee of the Communist Party with my fellow-workers Chang Ching-tao and Wang Hsiao-li. Hsiao-li suggested lunch at a restaurant a few blocks away near the International Club. It was an eating-place, specializing in dumplings, noodles and cold delicacies in the Shanghai style, a small quiet place with less than ten tables and a rather nondescript façade. When we entered a dozen or so customers were having their meals. There was a table unoccupied near the corner and we walked towards it. Just as we were about to sit down I looked around. I was startled. The Premier! "Premier Chou En-lai himself!" I whispered to my friends. We were so excited we didn't know whether to sit or stand but just looked at him. He smiled and said: "What organization are you from?"

"From the North China Radio Factory." I was on my feet but he asked me to sit down.

"That's the one outside the city, in the eastern outskirts, right?"

"Yes, that's it," we all tried to answer at the same time.

"How's it that you're all here?"

"We've been to the office of the Peking Committee of the Party and dropped in to have lunch," we said.

"Then you must have been seeing the comrades there about raw materials, am I right?" We were amazed that he should know our factory and even more that he should guess right away what we wanted from the Party Committee. There were so many factories, and so many reasons for people to come over, yet he said "raw materials" at once. He certainly had the situation at his finger-tips!

While I was thinking all this, Premier Chou turned round to talk to us again. He asked if we were southerners. Hsiao-li and I told him we were. He turned to the comrades at his table and said, "See, they've come for some home-town dishes." Only then did I realize that the Premier's companions were Vice-Premiers Chen Yi and Ho Lung. It was indeed a great surprise and our pleasure was made all the more memorable by the warmth and simplicity of our meeting and the way the three government leaders talked to us, making us feel as if we were all members of a family. In no time we lost all our nervousness.

Modest, unassuming, easy of approach, Premier Chou put everyone there completely at ease. He asked the

waitress what dishes she would recommend and then walked over to fetch two himself from the "self-service" counter. He hadn't eaten much before he got up again and came over to our table. He was anxious to know if we had succeeded in our mission. Chang spoke up. He told the Premier that the Party Committee was ready to help and how things stood with our plant. The Premier inquired if we had signed contracts with the factories that usually supplied our raw materials. In the "big leap forward," he said, every enterprise was trying to raise production, so the demand for raw materials had grown. He asked what advice the Party Committee had given us.

"The City Committee told us to get in direct touch with the District Committee if we need further help," I answered, "because much of the power exercised by the City Committee in such things has now been delegated to the District."

Then I went further. "The factory which is supposed to supply us with raw materials has promised to give us more than the contract specifies, so that we can raise production. But only on condition that we turn over two lorries for their use. Otherwise, they say, no go."

"They want you to turn over two lorries to them?" Premier Chou asked with surprise in his voice.

"That's right. Two lorries, otherwise they can't do much about those raw materials. It's just a sort of departmentalism." I completely forgot I was talking to the Premier and let the word "departmentalism" slip from my tongue. I felt a little foolish but the word was already said.

"Two lorries, but where would you get them?" Premier Chou laughed and turned to the two Vice-Premiers: "Hear that—they want two lorries." He paused, then asked, "Does your factory have two lorries?"

"No. That is why we want to. . . ." Before I could finish Chang cut in with some strong words on the matter, he could hardly hold himself in for anger. "The way they are behaving, well, it's practically a holdup."

"Between one factory and another there should be co-operation," Premier Chou said. "They should help each other solve any problem that comes up." Then he asked whether that other factory was in Peking, and what it was called. I said it was in Tientsin, but hesitated to name it. I didn't want to give the Tientsin comrades the impression, if they came to hear of our meeting with the Premier, that we had put in a "bad word" for them. So, anxious not to jeopardize relations with them, I muttered vaguely "Hengta." But Premier Chou wanted all the details. Lamely, I spelled them out: "The Joint State-Private Hengta Chemical Works of Tientsin." Then I quickly added, to soften the severity of my "charge": "After all, this kind of thing isn't too unusual. A few other factories have done it."

"Hengta, Hengta Chemical Works of Tientsin," Premier Chou repeated to himself.



# SIDELIGHTS

Afterwards, the Premier changed the subject. He asked us, in an affectionate way, to tell him about ourselves. "What are you doing in the factory? Are you all technicians?" To which Hsiao-li and Chang answered "yes," and told him where they went to school, what they had studied, etc.

When Premier Chou looked in my direction, I knew he would ask me next. Completely at ease now, I said my job at the factory was planning and statistics. Although he was standing himself by our table, he told me to keep to my seat when I tried to get up. "Sit down, you can tell me all about yourself sitting down." And I told him about myself, about the college I had gone to in Shanghai. Our conversation was cut short when the waitress came over to say his noodles were ready.

When they had finished eating, the waitress handed table-napkins to Premier Chou and Vice-Premiers Chen Yi and Ho Lung. Premier Chou asked her about herself and how business was, and thanked her for serving them. "We have given you a lot of bother" was his phrase as I remember it.

Then he and the two Vice-Premiers got up to leave. They looked around the place. "Your door isn't too good," Premier Chou suggested. "It opens right on to the street. When you open the door the dust comes right in."

"Why not make a side door, or make a double one. That will keep the place more tidy." It was the voice of Vice-Premier Chen Yi.

"However, they are doing a pretty good job in hygiene!" Vice-Premier Ho Lung said with a smile.

"As things are, it takes more work to keep the place tidy and clean." Premier Chou was evidently thinking of how the workers in the restaurant could avoid that extra effort.

Then the two Vice-Premiers went towards the door. They waved to us to say good-bye. Premier Chou walked over to our table and shook hands with us. He walked into the kitchen and shook hands with the chefs too and thanked all who had served him and his companions.

We watched them all leave. It was only afterwards that I suddenly remembered we should have got up to say good-bye to them at the door. They are like ordinary working people—this is my lasting impression of our encounter with Premier Chou and Vice-Premiers Chen Yi and Ho Lung.

**Shantung Flavour.** Mother Hsu, one of the cooks in a newly formed people's commune in Anhwei Province, was puzzled. Everybody had been eating more at the community dining-room—everybody, that is, except Wang Cheng-shan. He left his food half finished, he even looked dejected when he entered the dining-room. A community dining-room aims to serve commune members to their satisfaction. But what was the matter with Wang? Mother Hsu determined to find out.

Wang Cheng-shan hailed from neighbouring Shantung Province. There they like their food hot, with lots of strong flavouring, garlic, green onions, etc. This was what Wang's wife told Mother Hsu when she tracked down the source of Wang's unhappiness.

The next day, Wang came to the dining-room. He went through his meal as usual, but before he knew it he was literally devouring the food before him. How good that familiar Shantung flavouring was! That evening, he took a peep at the kitchen, and discovered Mother Hsu cooking his food the Shantung way—specially for him!

**Holiday Travel.** Spring Festival (Lunar New Year) is the time for family reunion. A far greater number of people is expected to travel to join their families this year than in the past. The transport authorities are taking early measures to solve the problem of the forthcoming holiday rush. Besides adding extra runs to the regular timetables, the transport departments are adding 4,000 wagons and many ships and buses for passenger service. People's organizations, schools and enterprises which have transport vehicles are being asked to help out, and major cities are asked to postpone large-scale conferences and exhibitions until after the holidays.

**Never Too Old to Learn.** Eight years ago, Kao Hsiu-ying was "letter-blind." Now, at seventy-three, thanks to the educational opportunities created by the rising production in her township, she could even try her hand at poetry. Born of a poor peasant family, Kao Hsiu-ying was married off as a child-bride at nine, and became a widow at nineteen. She lived in wretched misery until sixty-five, when liberation came. The great change meant not only security for the old woman. She even had time to turn her thoughts to giving

herself an education. First to enlist when a school was set up in her village, she studied assiduously and was elected "Study Model" three times over. She picked up painting in her stride too. Her people's commune thought so highly of her that it invited her to be an art teacher at one of its schools.

**Champion Hen.** A hen laid four eggs in a single day—and it was no freak. It was the result of an experiment made by students of the Changchun Agricultural College in Kirin Province, north-east China.

Two hundred hens were selected for the experiment. They were fed five times a day instead of the usual three, and had an extra pound each of an antibiotic fodder in addition to the general diet. The coops were kept clean and well ventilated, and the hens were given eighteen hours of light, electricity being used after sunset.

In less than ten days, the rate of egg laying went up sharply. In one day seven hens laid two or three eggs each and one of them laid four eggs which weighed 207 grammes in all.

**First Steam Boat in Tibet.** Tibet has its first steam boat. It was built by workers of the Lhasa Motor-Car Repair Works—an indication that the technical revolution is unfolding in remote Tibet too. Christened *Lhasa*, the boat tows fifty tons of freight upstream along the Lhasa River and the middle reaches of the Yalutsangpu. Tibetans normally ship goods downstream by inflated yak-hide boats. But these queer-looking vessels have to be carried upstream on land and, of course, empty.

**"The Bottomless Pit."** To the southwest of Fengtsao Village in the Kwangsi Autonomous Region of the Chuang People lay a bleak swamp several *mu* large. Legend had it that it used to be a stretch of green and fertile field. One day the ground suddenly sank from under the feet of a peasant working on it and ice-cold water and smoke jetted from the spot. Evil spirits were waiting for victims, people said. They named it "The Bottomless Pit."

The big leap last year swept away all remaining vestiges of superstition. Some intrepid Chuang youths decided to get to the bottom of the matter. Floating a raft on the slushy swampland, they stuck a bamboo pole into its depths—and discovered that it was only some 10 feet deep! They filled it up and planted it with rice. The crop it yielded last year averaged 3,000 *jin* per *mu*!

# THEATRE

## Chinese Theatre Arts Abroad

China's theatrical arts gained many new fans abroad in 1958. Friendship and understanding flashed across the footlights. More than a dozen Chinese theatrical companies and many individuals—580 artists in all—toured more than twenty countries in Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America, to give performances or take part in contests and festivals. They gave 650 performances and delighted over a million and a half theatre- and concert-goers.

For the first time complete Peking operas and *kunchu* operas were performed on European stages. Audiences abroad saw the *kunchu* opera *Presentation of a Sword*, the Peking opera *The Second Audience*, which are specially notable for their singing, as well as the full-length version of *The Phoenix Returns*. For the first time, too, modern Chinese operas on modern Chinese revolutionary themes were taken abroad. *Liu Hu-lan* and *Song of the Steppes* had their premieres on Moscow stages. The U.S.S.R and the United Arab Republic also saw some of China's first dance reflections of her big leap forward in production.

Two Chinese art troupes visited the Asian-African region early in 1958. A Chinese acrobatic troupe toured Tunisia, Morocco and Ghana. The Chinese Art Company gave shows in Pakistan and Ceylon. Later, the Tientsin Song and Dance Ensemble visited Afghanistan and the United Arab Republic. Altogether these three groups gave over a hundred performances in tours. The press and cultural circles in many cities characterized their performances as unqualified successes. People travelled long distances to see them; many went back again and again "for another look." In West Asia and Africa the press warmly welcomed them as "messengers of peace and friendship," and lavished praise on their skill and artistry. "Enchanting, marvellous, fascinating... brilliant with the spark of optimism and the lustre of wonder" was the comment of one Ghana newspaper about the Chinese acrobatic troupe.

Inspired by the big leap forward at home, the Tientsin Song and Dance Ensemble while on its tour abroad produced an impromptu harvest dance which mirrored the big leap in agriculture. A Cairo paper described this as the most graceful dance performance it offered the Egyptian public. The Egyptian press particularly remarked the grace of the Chinese folk dances, their

gay, bright colours and unaffected naturalness. Many papers of the U.A.R. took the occasion of the performances to emphasize the friendship between the peoples of the two countries and their wish to learn from each other. One paper in Alexandria wrote: "We shall never forget the stand China took in the days when we were facing difficulties. Chinese art is the art of the people, every dance tells a story and every dance throughout is an artistic expression."

After taking part in the Third International Theatre Festival in Paris last year, the Chinese Theatrical and Dance Ensemble toured France, Belgium, Luxemburg, Britain, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Switzerland; it was warmly welcomed by the people. Parisians said it had "once again conquered Paris." In Marseilles, its performances drew large audiences despite the troubled political situation at the time. In Belgium, one-third of Audenarde's population turned out to see its performance in an open-air theatre and stayed to the end despite a cold rain that fell.

Some were worried that, because of lack of understanding of Chinese language and customs, foreign audiences would not be able to appreciate the Peking opera *A Jade Bracelet* or the *kunchu* opera *Presentation of a Sword*. But these fears proved to be groundless. They were just as popular as the acrobatic or dance performances, and it was the photographs of scenes from these two operas that found their way into most of the newspapers in Lyons.

Meanwhile other Chinese theatre troupes were touring the fraternal countries: the Soviet Union, Viet-nam, Mongolia, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. These included the Tsitsihar Acrobatic Troupe, the Wuhan Acrobatic Troupe and the Central Experimental Opera Theatre. They gave performances in the big cities but also brought Chinese art and friendship to individual factories, collective farms, units of the armed forces and Mongolian ranches. The Wuhan acrobats alone gave over two hundred performances in six months. "Acrobatic art par excellence!" was the way many papers described its performances. Some enthusiasts in Hungary went again and again to their shows.

Soviet audiences were particularly appreciative of the new opera which the Central Experimental Opera Theatre of Peking brought them. In Moscow, Irkutsk and Novosibirsk, tickets for performances of *Liu Hu-lan*, the Chinese Zoya, were sold out before the troupe arrived. "Some of its impressive scenes are unforgettable," wrote *Pravda's* critic.

The Chinese Acrobatic and Art Company, which toured Latin America, made a hit in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay;

now it is planning to visit Chile. It was the talk of the town in Argentina. At the farewell performance given in a Buenos Aires park, thirty thousand people waved handkerchiefs and showered the stage with flowers and bouquets, to thunderous cheers of "Viva la China!" In Brazil, tens of thousands queued for tickets despite downpour of rain. In Uruguay, its performances were described as a sensation. The critics were entranced by the elegance and skill of the performers, their perfect timing and deportment. These colourful performances brought China closer to Brazil, wrote one Brazilian paper.

China was also very glad to get the news of the two first prizes and one third prize awarded to its young musicians in international music contests held in Bucharest, Moscow and Geneva in 1958.

## CULTURE

### Cultural Growth of Minority Peoples

New written languages, commune clubs, and modern folk arts are helping China's national minorities in the southwest rapidly wipe out the cultural backlog of centuries and make the leap to a socialist way of living. Over four hundred cultural workers from the Han, Tibetan, Chuang, Miao, Yi, Pai, Puyi, Tung, Lisu, Chingpo, Tai, Hui and other nationalities living in China's three southwestern provinces of Yunnan, Szechuan and Kweichow held a meeting last month in Tali, Yunnan, to review the progress already made. It revealed that the growth of the people's communes with their bigger output and the appearance of local industries had not only increased the material well-being of the national minorities, but enriched their cultural life and brightened life all round.

Reports at the meeting showed that most of the national minorities in the



Tibetan herdsman's dance



Miao musician playing the reed-organ  
Sketches by Lu Chih-yang

area have introduced universal primary school education. Many spare-time adult schools are operating. With the help of the new written languages, illiteracy is being speedily and systematically wiped out. More than a million Chuangs, for instance, learnt to read and write last year. Everyone is now literate in the two autonomous *chou* for the Miao, Tung and Puyi peoples in south and south-eastern Kweichow.

Only a few years ago many of these national minority peoples lived in very primitive conditions. Save for a handful of their priests, the Lisu people in the Nukiang Autonomous *Chou* on the Yunnan border were totally illiterate. They customarily used knots in strings or cut marks on wood to record events; for counting they used their fingers or such things as grains of maize. This made for great difficulties especially after the farm co-ops were formed. Members' work-points recorded in grains of maize were often lost or mixed up. Now a script has been devised for them. Last year they launched a mass movement for literacy. Thousands of teachers were trained in short-term classes in the *chou*. Boards with the new Lisu alphabet written on them were set up in the fields, where farmers could glance at them from time to time, and at roadside rest places. Key words were written on walls and doors to familiarize the people with them. In three months from August to October last year, nearly 70 per cent of the young and middle-aged illiterates in the *chou* learnt to read and write, and many of the older people too.

The Miaos and Puyis living in the southwest also have written languages of

their own now. They were adopted towards the end of 1956, and now they have a growing body of printed texts. A nationality publishing house was set up in Kweichow Province early in 1958, and over 600,000 books in the Miao and Puyi languages have been published. These included textbooks, folk tales and books on agricultural science and techniques.

The Chuang people, largest of China's national minorities, with a population of nearly 7 million, is making rapid strides in literacy. The Kwangsi Nationality Publishing House published 465 titles in the Chuang language with a total circulation of 16 million copies last year, as compared with only 17 titles with a circulation of less than 2 million copies in 1957. The Chuang and other nationalities are also starting their own film industry. Construction of a modern studio began last year in Nanning, capital of the Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region. It will be completed some time this year, but films are already being made there. The first issue of *Kwangsi Newsreel* was screened last August 1. In addition to producing documentaries and feature films this year, the studio will dub several good features into Chuang. A professional Chuang opera troupe, organized in 1957, has been a popular success. There are, of course, many amateur theatrical troupes in the autonomous region, with hundreds of thousands of members belonging to various nationalities. More village clubs are springing up in the communes, while choruses and art and literary groups have been formed by the thousands. A number of these troupes came together for a two-week festival in Nanning this January to see the best items and swap experience. Nearly 300 items were performed; at the same time an exhibition was held of new novels, plays, poems, cartoons, paintings, woodcuts and scissorcuts and other local folk arts produced by the various nationalities.

Besides discussing ways and means of promoting this varied cultural work and the arts among the national minorities, the Tali meeting also took up the special question of collecting their rich heritage of traditional plays, poems, songs, dances, folk tales and other folk arts. This work has, of course, gone ahead steadily for some time. A notable example was the publication of *Ashma*,\* one of the best of the Shani ballads that was previously known only in oral versions handed down from generation to generation. But the Tali meeting called for more widespread and systematic efforts in this direction. In August last year, the Kweichow Bureau of Culture sent a working group

\* An English translation of this ballad has been published by the Foreign Languages Press of Peking.

to the southeastern part of the province where the Tung people live to study local folk literature and theatre. It found that Tung opera not only has a rich repertoire but has made appreciable advances since liberation. It brought back a collection of twenty-six traditional Tung operas and seventeen Tung operas with modern themes, together with many songs and stories. On the basis of its reports a professional Tung opera troupe has now been formed.

Steps are being taken to collect and study the rich folk literature of the national minorities in Yunnan. Special organizations to collect and edit the folk literature of the minority peoples have been set up in Hungho and other autonomous *chou* in the province. All who know folk tales, plays or songs are passing them to the investigation teams. The Tehung Autonomous *Chou* is collecting material for a history of the literature of the Tai people. The Kunming branch of the Union of Chinese Writers is collecting material for a history of the literature of all the national minorities in the southwest, with anthologies of their poetry, stories and plays.

— WANG LEH

#### BOOKS AND FILMS

By the end of last year, China had eleven publishing houses printing books in the languages of its various national minorities: the Central Nationality Publishing House is in Peking, the rest are in national minority regions in other parts of the country. In the first eight years since liberation (1949-57), 6,750 titles with a total circulation of over 61 million copies were published in the Mongolian, Tibetan, Uighur, Hani, Sibo, Kazakh, Korean and other minority languages.

In the nine years since the founding of the Chinese People's Republic, 300 films were dubbed into Mongolian, Uighur, Tibetan and other minority languages. Sixty-five of these films were features, some two hundred were documentaries, and the rest scientific and educational shorts.

Since liberation, forty films (twelve features and twenty-eight documentaries) reflecting the life and struggles of China's national minorities have been made. *Flames on the Border*, a colour feature about the Chingpo people in southwest China, was shown at the 11th annual international film festival at Karlovy Vary last year.

# CHINESE PRESS OPINION

## Soviet Proposal on German Question

Discussing the draft peace treaty with Germany proposed by the Soviet Government, *Renmin Ribao* editorially (January 13) expresses the wholehearted support of the Chinese people for the Soviet proposal which is of great significance to the peaceful settlement of the German question, to the reunification of Germany and the relaxation of tension in Europe.

The past few years, *Renmin Ribao* recalls, show that the two German states have developed along different roads. Together with the Soviet Government, the German Democratic Republic has loyally abided by the Potsdam Agreement and thoroughly exterminated that root of evils—German militarism, fascism and Nazism. But in West Germany, the Potsdam Agreement has been torn to shreds by the Western countries; the forces of German militarism, fostered and assisted by them, have been revived. A revanchist West Germany has been dragged into the aggressive NATO bloc by the Western countries, thereby deepening the rift between the two German states, creating an acute situation of conflict in central Europe and seriously endangering European peace and security. At the same time, the U.S. decision to arm the West German forces with atomic weapons makes this dangerous situation still more explosive.

To end this abnormal division of Germany and to achieve a peaceful settlement of the German question, the Soviet Government has repeatedly proposed that a German peace treaty be discussed and signed. At the same time, it has made constructive proposals and suggested measures to eliminate tension and promote contacts between the two German states. All these approaches have been rejected by the Western countries.

Last November, *Renmin Ribao* notes, the Soviet Government once again took the initiative by proposing to terminate the occupation of Berlin and make West Berlin a demilitarized, free city. Once again this proposal has been stubbornly rejected by the Western countries. Instead, they are fanning up a "Cold War" atmosphere around the Soviet proposal. In order to hoodwink world opinion, they have hypocritically suggested that they were ready to discuss the Berlin question with the Soviet Union as part of the wider subjects of the solution of the

German problem and the question of European security.

It is a fact that today the key problem in safeguarding European security is achievement of the reunification of Germany on the basis of peace and democracy, the editorial points out. But, under present conditions where two different German states exist side by side, this problem has already become Germany's internal affair. Its solution can only be brought about through contacts and negotiations between the two German states themselves. Any overriding action by the Four Powers will be an act of interference in Germany's internal affairs and can never be acceptable to both parts of Germany. What the Four Powers can do on the question of reunification of Germany is to hold a conference of those countries concerned to discuss and sign a peace treaty with Germany, and thus prepare conditions for the reunification of Germany. It is just because of this that the Soviet Government has put forward a draft of a peace treaty for Germany and proposed to hold a peace conference within two months to discuss and sign the treaty.

The Soviet draft peace treaty with Germany envisages re-establishment of the full sovereignty of the German people over Germany—its territory and its air space. No restrictions will be imposed on Germany with regard to the development of its peace economy, of trade, navigation and access to the world markets. Germany will obtain the right



Mutual help in drowning

By Yu Yun-chang

to maintain its national armed forces needed for the defence of the country. However, certain military restrictions are envisaged. These will include prohibition of the production of nuclear and rocket weapons, and the equipping of German troops with such weapons. It is clear, *Renmin Ribao* says, that the Soviet proposals will not damage the prestige and security of any country. They will only help to eliminate the threat of a revived German militarism and conduce to world peace and security.

At the same time, the Soviet Government in its note to the Governments of the United States, Britain and France expressed its willingness to settle the Berlin question through peaceful negotiation. Undoubtedly, if the countries concerned could discuss and sign the peace treaty with Germany on the one hand, and at the same time solve the Berlin question, it would help to solve the German question as a whole.

The proposal of the Soviet Government once again offers a sound basis for negotiations. The Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic has expressed its willingness to conduct talks with West Germany on the draft peace treaty. It is time that the U.S., British, French and Adenauer governments showed their sincerity, the editorial declares.

## The State of the U.S.

President Eisenhower's State of the Union Message to Congress on January 9 was an attempt to picture the gloomy prospects of the United States in rosy colours and boast about its "vast strength," writes *Renmin Ribao's* Observer (Jan. 14). Eisenhower also tried hard to disguise the aggressive intentions of the U.S. ruling circles and picture the U.S. as a country seeking "a just peace."

The American President devoted most of his message to economic problems, because they are the most urgent ones now confronting the U.S. ruling circles, Observer says. On the one hand, there is the grave internal economic crisis; on the other, the challenge to peaceful economic competition put forward by the socialist camp. Eisenhower expressed his concern whether the U.S. Government can stand up to this challenge.

However, Observer continues, it appears that even Eisenhower himself was not so sure about the picture he painted. In his message, he expressed his readiness to adopt a measure similar to that carried out by former U.S. President Hoover in the crisis-ridden year of 1931, to set up a committee to study the changes in U.S.

society and its economy. This vividly reveals his worries about the prospects of the U.S. economy.

In his message, Eisenhower introduced the biggest peace-time military budget — amounting to nearly 60 per cent of the federal budget. He also tried hard to cut down non-military expenditure to keep the “balance.”

Observer writes that it is not difficult to see how gloomy were Eisenhower's feelings when he referred to the “challenge” of the socialist countries “controlling an economic and military power of great and growing strength,” and when he cried almost hysterically that “Marxist scripture is not new, it is not the gospel of the future.” With the brilliant guidance of Marxism, hundreds of millions of industrious people in the new world have built with their own hands a happy society free from economic crises. This cannot but exert a growing attraction for the millions of working people who are groaning under the lash of the economic crisis in the old world. This is indeed a “challenge,” a challenge to peaceful competition.

Eisenhower indulged in talk about “peace” more than ever before, Observer notes. “If the U.S. really makes a change in its aggressive policy and carries out a policy as Eisenhower said ‘dedicated to building a permanent and just peace,’ that wouldn't be such a bad thing,” Observer comments. “But it is not difficult for sober-minded people to see that the U.S. Administration's attitude to peace as reflected in the President's message, is far from being serious.”

First of all, Eisenhower again stressed “a powerful deterrent” as a way to achieve “peace,” but it is just this “policy of strength” that has made the international situation tense; secondly, his slanders against the socialist countries clearly reflect the unwillingness of the U.S. to reach agreement with the socialist countries on relaxation of international tension and on questions conducive to world peace. While the Soviet space rocket is circling the sun, Observer notes, Eisenhower's boasts about the U.S. “power of deterrence” are hardly wise, to put it mildly. They sound like whistling in the dark.

Eisenhower cited U.S. actions in Lebanon, Taiwan and Berlin as proof that the U.S. did not “countenance aggression” and was “dedicated to peace.” Eisenhower's message served notice that the U.S. would continue its policy of occupying China's Taiwan, aggression in the Middle East and forcible occupation of West Berlin. This exposes the hypocrisy of Eisenhower's “dedication to peace,” Observer points out.

## THE PASSING SHOW

### Hooping It Up

Twirling a plastic hoop around the body or various parts thereof by performing rhythmic gyrations is the latest craze of the American way of life. Hula marathons have been organized to twirl hoops around hips, necks and knees simultaneously to the point of dislocation. Hooping gets you into the news. A famous actress wins applause by gyrating with a six-foot rope of pearls. At the funeral of a celebrated star in Hollywood, hula-hooping diverted the crowd until the corpse arrived.



### The Changing Times

Time was when a fog settled over the English Channel and the ships were fogbound, the London *Times* could headline its story: **Fog in Channel; Continent Isolated!** But times have changed. Today, editorializing under the title *Battle for Asia*, it bemoans the fact that the West is growing increasingly isolated from Asia and “most neutralists . . . are more inclined towards the communist view of the world than to the Western . . . it is the Western policies which have been identified with injustice for a century or more. Apartheid, Notting Hill and Little Rock weigh heavily against us when faced with the creed that proclaims the brotherhood of man.”

Observer concludes that Eisenhower's message made it quite clear that the U.S. intends to carry forward its bankrupt “policy of strength” and hostility to peace and to the peoples of the world.

### “The True Criminals Are the French Colonialists”

The current trial of Algerian trade union leaders by the French colonialists has aroused deep indignation in China. The Peking press (January 14) has published strongly worded protests against it.

*Gongren Ribao* (Daily Worker) writes: “The working people of China are incensed at the trial of Aissat Idir, General Secretary of the General Union of Algerian Workers, and other trade union leaders by a French military tribunal. We strongly protest against this crime of the French colonial authorities in Algeria; we demand that the French Government at once release the Algerian trade union leaders and workers and other patriots now interned in France and Algeria.” China's working people, the paper stresses, will consistently support the struggle waged by the Algerian workers and people against colonialism and for national independence.

To deceive the Algerian people and maintain French colonial rule in Algeria,

*Gongren Ribao* notes, de Gaulle paid lip service to freedom and democracy. But his words have been belied by his own actions. The French colonialists believe that the more they kill and the more savagely they suppress the people, the more they will weaken and reduce the Algerian forces of national independence. But it turns out that the opposite is the case; instead of being quenched, the flame of the struggle of the Algerian workers and people burns higher than ever.

This article is accompanied by the protest which the All-China Federation of Trade Unions has published denouncing the French persecution of Aissat Idir.

*Guangming Ribao* writes: The real criminals and defendants are the French colonialist brigands who have turned Algeria into a living hell dotted with “forbidden areas,” “no-man's land” and concentration camps; levelled Algerian villages to the ground and massacred six hundred thousand defenceless Algerians in the past four years of colonial war.

Aissat Idir and his fellow patriots are the loyal sons of the Algerian people and the Arab people in general. They are courageous fighters for the independence of their country. They are backed by all honest people who refuse to give the French colonialists a free hand in persecuting them on trumped-up charges.

# CHINA AND THE WORLD

## **Sino-Albanian Economic Agreements**

Two important economic agreements were signed by China and Albania on January 16 in Peking.

Under the Sino-Albanian Long-Term Trade Agreement, 1961-1965, China will supply Albania with vegetable oil, rice, paper, rubber, tyres, silks and satins, rolled steel, etc.; in return Albania will supply China with crude oil, petrol, copper, chromium ore and other goods.

The second agreement provides that China will extend a loan to Albania of 55 million roubles between 1961-1965. Albania will use it to buy from China equipment for a spinning and weaving, printing and dyeing cotton textile plant, a hemp packing material plant and a glass works, as well as assorted machinery and other equipment, tyres, varnish and paper. The Albanian Government will repay this loan in goods over ten years starting from 1981.

Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers Abdul Kellezi, the head of the visiting Albanian Government Trade Mission, signed the agreements on behalf of Albania. Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien signed for China.

Other documents signed at the same time include a Sino-Albanian protocol on the exchange of goods and payments in 1959; a protocol on the use by Albania in 1959 of the loans and gifts of monetary aid extended by the Government of China; and a protocol drawing up the final accounts of loans and free aid in goods extended in 1958 by China to Albania.

Sino-Albanian economic relations have shown a steady growth. Last year the volume of Sino-Albanian trade increased 16 per cent compared with 1957. The two new agreements, besides promoting trade, will facilitate closer co-ordination of the two countries' long-term economic planning and mutual co-operation in socialist construction.

*Renmin Ribao* editorially greets the agreements as a further step in consolidating Sino-Albanian solidarity. The new type of relations built up between the two countries on the basis of Marxism-Leninism, the paper points out, are characterized by mutual political support and mutual help and co-operation in the economic and cultural fields. Mutual visits by leaders of the two coun-

tries and other delegations have further promoted exchange of experience in socialist construction and mutual understanding.

The Chinese people, states *Renmin Ribao*, have drawn much encouragement from the Albanian people's successes in socialist construction; they greatly admire Albania's outstanding contributions in the defence of world peace and socialism. It praises the determined struggle waged by the Albanian people for the security of the socialist camp, against imperialist aggression and modern revisionism and expresses the gratitude of the Chinese people for the help given by the Albanian people to China's socialist construction and their support to China's struggle to liberate Taiwan.

## **Chou En-lai: Soviet Rocket Strengthens Peace**

The launching of the Soviet space rocket is a happy augury for world peace. It is an event which has aroused the whole world, and elated the Chinese and all other peace-loving peoples. This evaluation of the latest Soviet rocket success was given by Premier Chou En-lai speaking at a reception given in Peking by the Soviet Ambassador, P. F. Yudin, to mark the first anniversary of the Sino-Soviet agreement for joint research on 122 important scientific and technological subjects.

"Thanks to the Soviet space rocket, we have still greater confidence and strength in the defence of peace," Premier Chou En-lai said. The imperialist war maniacs, however, do not share our views. They are more anxious to carry on a military rocket race than to use rocket techniques for peaceful ends. But with the Soviet Union already in possession of such heavy and accurate rockets that can attain the second cosmic speed, should the imperialist war maniacs pig-headedly continue this military rocket race or dare to start a war, they will certainly meet with more shattering defeats and universal, lasting peace will come all the sooner.

Han Kuang, Vice-Chairman of the Science and Technology Commission, in his speech at the reception noted the way Sino-Soviet scientific and technical co-operation had stimulated mutual development in economic construction and science especially in China. He thanked the Soviet Union for the tremendous scientific and technical assistance it has given to China, particularly in training Chinese scientific and technical personnel, and pledged that the Chinese people would work still harder to learn from the Soviet Union.

## **Report on Afro-Asian Economic Conference**

"A very successful conference" was the opinion of Nan Han-chen, the leader

of the Chinese delegation which recently returned from the Afro-Asian Economic Conference in Cairo. In his report on the conference to the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade on January 8, he described the unanimous adoption of resolutions at its meetings as a manifestation of the common desire among Afro-Asian industrialists and businessmen to strengthen their economic co-operation.

Some 400 delegates from 39 countries and regions in Asia and Africa attended this Cairo conference. They discussed various problems of common interest and adopted five resolutions to promote economic co-operation between the Asian-African countries. An eleven-member consultative committee has been nominated to draw up a constitution, regulations and by-laws of an "Afro-Asian Organization for Economic Co-operation."

"Although there was a handful of people who took an imperialist stand and tried to disrupt the conference," Nan Han-chen added, "this was not unexpected. The imperialists are always reluctant to see unity and friendly co-operation among the Asian and African countries. But these few would-be disruptors failed miserably. They finally left Cairo crestfallen with their insidious purpose of breaking the unity of the Afro-Asian peoples exposed."

Nan Han-chen also ridiculed the falsehoods and distortions spread by the Western imperialist papers and news agencies. He noted that although the Soviet delegation had put forward no proposals at the conference, some news agencies reported that the conference had rejected a Soviet proposal. Similarly, nobody at the conference had said a word about the so-called question of Chinese "dumping," but some newspapers reported that a number of countries had joined in raising this question. "These crude fabrications only served to reveal the true and shameless face of the imperialists," he said.

## **Japanese Forum on Closer Relations with China**

There can be no improvement in Sino-Japanese relations if the Kishi government that serves U.S. imperialism refuses to change its policy of hostility to China, was the view expressed by the leader of the Delegation of the Japanese National Council for the Restoration of Japan-China Diplomatic Relations, Akira Kazami, at a recent Tokyo forum. A verbatim record of the forum is carried in the current issue of the Japanese monthly *Sekai* (The World).

Kazami, who visited China a few months ago, emphasized that the Japanese people should consider the issue of Japanese-Chinese relations from the

standpoint of defending peace and independence and recognition that the United States is the common enemy of the Japanese and Chinese people.

Haruo Okada, a socialist member of the Diet, said at the forum that the Japanese and Chinese peoples supported each other on three major issues. "We support the Chinese people," Okada declared, "in their fight against U.S. aggression; we demand the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Taiwan Straits area. At the same time, the Chinese people fully support the Japanese people in their struggle against U.S. imperialism and demand that the United States immediately remove its military bases from Okinawa and Japan proper."

It was the common cause of the Japanese and Chinese peoples, Okada added, to oust U.S. imperialism which is menacing peace in Asia and the rest of the world. "We must strengthen our co-operation and friendly relations in carrying on this common struggle. Progress in the struggle against U.S. imperialism can pave the way for the resumption of Japanese-Chinese diplomatic relations."

#### BRIEFS

Senhor Cid Sinpaio, the Governor of Pernambuco State, Brazil, and his assistant Senhor Jorde Albano and their wives were received by Chairman Mao Tse-tung in Peking on January 12.

A Chinese cultural delegation led by Chu Wu, Vice-Chairman of the Commission for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, is now in Czechoslovakia.

More than 5,000 people saw the exhibition of modern Chinese paintings which ended in Rome on January 4. The Chinese artist Chang Ting, who accompanied the exhibits to Rome, visited several Italian cities during the three weeks the exhibition was open; he met many Italian artists and leaders of Italian culture. They expressed their friendly sentiments for China and asked Chang Ting to bring the exhibition to their cities.

## WHAT'S ON IN PEKING

— Highlights of Current Entertainment, Exhibitions, etc. —

Programmes are subject to change. Where times are not listed consult theatre or daily press.

### PEKING OPERA

▲ **SWORD OF THE UNIVERSE** A traditional opera. The daughter of a venal prime minister of the Chin dynasty, pretends to be insane to avoid marriage to an emperor whom she does not love. Starring Mei Lanfang.

Jan. 21, 7:00 p.m. Ji Xiang Theatre

▲ **THE BATTLE OF CHIBI** A traditional Peking opera adapted from China's greatest historical novel: the *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*. The powerful army of Wei is defeated at Chibi by the allied forces of Wu and Shu led by Chou Yu and Chukuo Liang, master of military strategy. An all-star production.

Renmin Theatre (watch for date)

### HUNAN OPERA

▲ **LADY WANG CHAO-CHUN** The imperial concubine of a weak-kneed Han emperor is sent to the king of the invading Huns in attempt to appease him. Being a patriot she commits suicide to preserve her honour.

▲ **DRAWING LOTS OF LIFE AND DEATH** A magistrate is ordered by a local military commander to sentence a girl to death because his son met a fatal accident while pressing his unwanted attentions on her. Because the magistrate was once saved by the girl's father, he determines to save her life. His daughter and god-daughter both offer to die in place of the girl. They draw lots to decide who will make the sacrifice. The timely arrival of a just governor saves the situation.

Jan. 21-23, 7:00 p.m. Chang An Theatre

### THEATRE

▲ **A DOLL'S HOUSE** Ibsen's famous play produced in Chinese (under the title *Nora*) by the China Youth Art Theatre.

Jan. 20, 7:00 p.m. China Youth Art Theatre

▲ **BLAST FURNACE BLOSSOMS** A new play produced by the Peking People's Art Theatre about the revolutionary enthusiasm of the workers building China's biggest blast furnace in Wuhan.

Jan. 20-26, 7:15 p.m. Shoudu Theatre

▲ **PAPER TIGER** A satire on the men in Washington who dream of annexing China's Taiwan. Produced by the China Youth Art Theatre.

Jan. 21-25, 7:00 p.m. China Youth Art Theatre

▲ **SAKUNTALA** Adapted from the classical Indian play by Kalidasa. The romance between King Dushyanta and Sakuntala, the daughter of a nymph. Produced by the China Youth Art Theatre.

Jan. 26-28, 7:00 p.m. China Youth Art Theatre

▲ **HEARTS AFLAME** A group of Volunteers back from Korea set up a factory in a disused building. Battling difficulties, they make it a success. Produced by the Peking People's Art Theatre.

Jan. 23-25, 7:00 p.m. Shiyun Theatre

### SONG AND DANCE

▲ The last performance in Peking of the Erich-Weinert Art Troupe of the National People's Army of the German Democratic Republic.

Jan. 25, 7:00 p.m. Tianqiao Theatre

▲ **FOLK SONGS AND DANCES** of China's many nationalities performed by the Central Nationalities Song and Dance Troupe.

Jan. 21 & 22, 7:00 p.m. Xi Dan Workers' Club

### ACROBATICS

▲ A French acrobatic show by La Troupe du Cirque Français. The programme includes exhibitions of ice-skating, tumbling, and juggling on the high wire; flying trapeze and quick-change artists, clowns and trick musicians, etc.

Jan. 22-27, 7:15 p.m. Peking Gymnasium

### FILMS

▲ **BELLS OF A MONASTERY** A thriller about the struggle in liberated China between the security officers of the 8th Route Army and enemy secret agents during the Anti-Japanese War. Produced by the Changchun Film Studio.

Jan. 21-24, Shoudu Cinema, Zhongyang, Guang An Men, Peking Workers' Club

▲ **BASED ON LAW** Because he defies a wealthy man who abducts his wife, a poor man is "framed" before the courts as a would-be murderer. A Finnish film dubbed in Chinese.

Jan. 21-24, Shoudu Theatre, Peking Theatre, Dong Dan Workers' Club

▲ **LIZZY** A G.D.R. film dubbed in Chinese. When Lizzy, young wife of a Nazi army officer, learns that her own brother and a friend have been killed by the fascists, she leaves her family to seek for freedom.

Jan. 21-24, Da Hua, Jiao Dao Kou, Ertong

▲ **DR. DAVIS AND HIS WIFE** To make money for himself and his wife who is expecting a baby, young Davis, an intern, promises to help another expectant mother get an abortion, but for conscience's sake he decides not to do it at the last minute. A West German film dubbed in Chinese.

Jan. 25 & 26, Da Hua, Jiao Dao Kou, Ertong

▲ **THE GREAT CHANGE** A Soviet documentary recording the brutal rule of the tsar, bourgeois intrigues during the February Revolution and founding of the Soviet regime by the workers, peasants and soldiers under the leadership of Lenin.

Jan. 25 & 26, Da Hua, Jiao Dao Kou

### EXHIBITIONS

▲ **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION** Opened on January 3 in eleven exhibition halls. It shows New China's great achievements and experience in creating a socialist agriculture. Open daily (except Mon.) 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. At Shan Li Tun, east suburb.

▲ **EXHIBITION ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ACTIVE YOUNG BUILDERS OF SOCIALISM** Open daily (except Mon.) 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at 13 West Kung Yuan St. inside Chien Kuo Men Gate.

▲ **NATIONAL PHOTO EXHIBITION** A graphic display of the nation's big leap forward in 1958. Open daily 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. At the Gallery of the Artists' Union on Shuai Fu Yuan, off Wangfuching St.

▲ **NATIONAL HEALTH EXHIBITION** Open daily (except Mon.) 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. At the Working People's Palace of Culture and Zhongshan Park

▲ **THE CENTRAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY** is now open. Fossils and models of extinct prehistoric plants and animals are on display. Open daily (except Mon.) 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

### SKATING

\* **BEIHAI SKATING RINK:**  
Mon.-Sat. 8:00-11:00 a.m., 4:00-9:00 p.m.  
Sun. 7:30-10:30 a.m., 12:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., 5:00-9:00 p.m.

\* **SHI CHA HAI SKATING RINK:**  
Daily: 8:30-11:00 a.m., 4:30-9:00 p.m.

\* **ZHONGSHAN PARK SKATING RINK:**  
Daily: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 5:00-9:00 p.m.

\* **TAO RAN TING SKATING RINK:**  
Mon.-Sat. 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 4:00-9:00 p.m.  
Sun. 8:00-11:00 a.m., 1:00-4:00 p.m., 6:00-9:30 p.m.



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