

March 10, 1959

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PEKING REVIEW

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Joint Statement by the Communist Parties of China and Japan

The Textile Industry's Big Leap

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From Better Tools to Mechanized Farming

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北京周报

(BEIJING ZHOUBAO)

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE
NEWS AND VIEWS

March 10, 1959 Vol. II No. 10

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U.S. Schemes in Indo-China

RECENT developments in Southeast Asia, and Indo-China in particular, have aroused a great deal of concern. U.S. wire-pulling and intrigues have increased the tension in that part of the world.

Combined manoeuvres in atomic warfare were conducted in the northern part of Thailand, during the first week of February, by U.S. and Thai ground forces. Last week, large-scale air manoeuvres were staged in Thailand by the SEATO countries. According to press reports, SEATO naval exercises, one of the "biggest peace-time manoeuvres ever held in the Far East," are scheduled for next month.

This "display of military might" is meant to intimidate the countries of Indo-China and drag them into the SEATO bloc. Since its inception in 1954, SEATO has regarded south Viet-nam, Laos and Cambodia as areas under its "protection." During the past several years, the United States has been working overtime to convert these countries into its bases for military provocations against People's China, the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam and other peace-loving countries of Southeast Asia.

The military manoeuvres are only part of the story. During recent months, the United States has stepped up its scheming in Indo-China. Last month, Admiral Harry D. Felt, Commander of the U.S. forces in the Pacific, made a three-week tour of Southeast Asian countries. Of particular interest were the conferences the U.S. admiral had in Thailand, south Viet-nam and Laos. Recent developments in these countries show only too clearly the tricks Washington is up to.

On February 11, the Laotian Government denounced the Geneva Agreements that ended the Indo-China war in 1954. As *The New York Times* put it, "the Laotian Government's denunciation of the Geneva accords cleared the way" and "closer ties with SEATO are in prospect through increased Laotian military cooperation with the United States." The paper significantly added: "Laos now is free to join SEATO."

Behind this action of the Laotian Government the hidden hand of the United States is apparent. The American news agency UPI reported that "the Laotian Government must have acted only after receiving strong encouragement from the Western powers, especially from the United States."

Meanwhile increased pressure is being applied against Cambodia, which has taken a firm stand upholding neutrality and national independence. The Royal Cambodian Government recently disclosed a number of foreign plots engineered in Bangkok, all of which were designed to overthrow the present legitimate government and drag Cambodia into the SEATO military bloc.

Moreover, available evidence suggests that the United States is behind south Viet-nam's intrusions on China's Hsisha Islands and the participation of south Viet-namese agents in the abortive plots in Cambodia.

All these facts show up the United States for the out and out imperialist it is. China's sharp warning on the question of the Hsisha Islands and Cambodia's firmness in stamping out foreign-inspired conspiracies have dealt heavy blows to the imperialist plotters. The U.S. schemes to create tension in Indo-China can only meet with ever-increasing opposition from the peace-loving peoples.

ROUND THE WEEK

Spotlight on Coal

Peking's new 11-storeyed Broadcasting Centre was flood-lit on Monday evening last week for a rather unusual occasion — a special miners' radio programme was on the air. Jointly arranged by the Central People's Broadcasting Station and the Ministry of Coal Industry, this programme touched off a national emulation campaign among the miners to go all out for the goal of 380 million tons of coal this year. More than a million miners in the country were among the audience who tuned in to listen to Vice-Premier Po I-po, Minister of Coal Industry Chang Lin-chih, and their own representatives on the programme.

By producing 270.2 million tons of coal last year China jumped from sixth to third place in the world, leaving Britain far behind in coal output, said Po I-po, but to dig 380 million tons in 1959 means that the absolute increase will be almost as much as twice the aggregate increases during the First Five-Year Plan (1953-57). This called for a big effort and he told his audience that "we need to stretch and leap a bit to pluck the fruit from the tree."

Miners' representatives from various coal-producing centres, from the provinces and autonomous regions, challenged each other to produce more and better coal, to compete in the mass campaign for technical innovations, and to learn from each other in the friendly competition.

While the programme was on the air, a stream of telegrams and long distance calls flowed into the Broadcasting Centre with pledges from miners all over the country.

No sooner had the miners' representatives dispersed than their mates at home went down to the pits to get their first ton of coal for the campaign. At one colliery, Pingtingshan in central China, the miners made such a spurt that by eight o'clock the following evening, with four hours still to go to the end of the night shift, they had cut 60 per cent more coking coal than their usual daily output.

"Red Flag" Emulation Drive

Emulation is in the air not only in the coal towns. It is conspicuous in all fields of productive effort in China. You read about it when you open your newspaper in the morning and hear about it again when you tune in to the radio in the evening. For this year production targets are

much higher than those in the big leap forward of 1958, and emulation between individuals, between enterprises, and between one area and another, sparks the tempo of advance and ensures the realization of targets.

At Penki, a mining and metallurgical centre in northeast China, the workers challenged their colleagues in other parts of the country in blast furnace efficiency. They have also planned to push up daily output and to add 140 new types of steel to their normal output and have invited others to compete with them in an emulation drive.

The paper industry which is under pressure to produce more paper and newsprint this year to meet the growing needs brought about by the cultural revolution, is in the race, too. The Canton Paper Mill, a major newsprint producer, recently issued a challenge to 17 other modern and large paper mills in the country to raise output and quality and is in keen friendly competition with the Nanping Paper Mill in neighbouring Fukien Province and the Kiamusze Paper Mill in northeast China, two of the largest paper mills of the country.

To give some idea of the kind of effort the workers, engineers and administrators in the industry are making in the present emulation campaign, we need only cite one example: the challenger, the Canton Paper Mill, has set itself the task of overfulfilling the year's output target set by the state by 25 per cent and output value by more than 35 per cent.

Conditions vary, but generally speaking, they include competition in quantity and quality, in types of products, in economy of materials, in co-operation. The latter stresses giving help in manpower, material and technique to your competitor, if he is in need of it, for the whole idea of emulation is to strive for the common good, and not for the satisfaction of individual gain.

More for the Table

Emulation is in full swing on the farms, too. Here the campaign centres around wheat production in north China where the target is to produce a 1,000 *jin* per *mu* yield (or 7.5 tons per hectare). In the wheat belt extending from Hopei and Shansi in the north to Kiangsu and Anhwei on the Yangtse River in the south and from Peking to Shensi Province in the west, the peasants are checking up on their application of the 8-point "Charter of Agriculture" and are taking

every necessary measure to assure a bumper wheat harvest again this summer. The emulation campaign here is directed mainly to one point: to see over how wide an area the 1,000 *jin* per *mu* yield can be achieved. In south China rice is the No. 1 target of emulation.

But since the aim is to produce more and better food for the table and more cash crops for the industries, the emulation campaign embraces a host of other crops. The countryside as a whole is a scene of busy activity, and field management is as meticulous as gardening.

For Peking, Tientsin and Shanghai — the three largest cities of China — emulation takes another direction. The state farms on the outskirts of these three cities are vying with one another to produce the most and best vegetables, meat, eggs and dairy products during the year to satisfy ever increasing consumer demands. Peking, which leads the other two cities in non-staple food production, will raise and put more poultry on the market.

First Secretaries in the Field

For some time large numbers of government and Communist Party cadres in the provinces, quite a few in high positions, have been moving to the people's communes — for a spell of work in the countryside. Some are now taking part in the work of the leading bodies of the communes but all are doing their share of manual labour like any commune member. The latest of the top province leaders to have gone to the communes are the first secretaries of the Provincial Communist Party Committee of Shantung, Yunnan, Kwangtung and Chinghai respectively. Tao Chu, the First Secretary of the Kwangtung Provincial Communist Party Committee, has assumed the duties of the first secretary of a county Communist Party committee for a while.

The commune members welcomed the arrival of high cadres from the province. The commune which came under the direct leadership of Shu Tung, First Secretary of the Shantung Provincial Communist Party Committee, has begun to strive for a still richer wheat harvest that will break all previous records. Hsieh Fu-chih, First Secretary of the Yunnan Provincial Communist Party Committee, has helped the several communes where he has worked to dispose of a series of problems that had cropped up since the founding of the communes. Kao Feng, First Secretary of the Chinghai Provincial Communist Party Committee, moved into the home of a commune member prepared for him when he arrived. He lived with this family; they went to the fields to work together after breakfast. He discussed problems with the family and other commune

members and shared their social life. Since he has been here the First Secretary has helped the commune institute a system of responsibility for work and organization of labour.

By taking a direct part in production and guiding the work of the communes the leading cadres have been able to deepen their experience and knowledge and better equip themselves for their jobs. The work that faces them this year is heavy and the problems are far more complex than in previous years. Production targets are higher than ever. The application of the 8-point Charter of Agriculture requires greater and more comprehensive practical and technical knowledge, to be obtained by actually working in the fields; the disposition of manpower is on a far bigger scale; there must be a constant improvement of management, introduction of improved farm tools, etc. All this puts heavy claims on those who are in positions of leadership, guiding the work of the communes and all its productive efforts. It is clearer than ever that, to do a still better job than last year, and to bring about a still richer harvest, it is profitable for the leading cadres to spend some time at front-line production jobs, doing manual labour themselves and giving leadership at the same time.

Southern Waters for the North

Dry and arid north and northwest China generally lacks water for farming. A plan has long been in the making to utilize the Yangtse River's abundant water resources to benefit these regions. At a meeting held in Peking recently the Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of Water Conservancy and Electric Power have decided to continue and further expand the exploration, survey and research work for this project this year. Ideas are beginning to be crystallized and a suggestion has been made to cut a route from the southwest, where most of the country's major rivers originate, and divert part of the discharge of the Yangtse and other rivers to the northwest, the Inner Mongolian grasslands and the Yellow River valley.

China's water resources as a whole are more than sufficient to meet the needs of the country for irrigation, land reclamation, afforestation, animal husbandry, navigation and industry, but more than three-fourths of them are concentrated in the Yangtse River and areas south of it. By leading part of the Yangtse waters to the north this disparity in water resources will be remedied. It will also have the advantage of accelerating economic development, agriculture in particular, in the arid north and northwest.



Preparing for the noon-day break in the countryside

Woodcut by Chang Yang-hsi

Ever since 1951 extensive surveying work has been going on following a directive of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party to see how nature here can be remade. Experts and surveying teams have travelled thousands of kilometres along the entire course of the Yangtse River from its very source in the northwest.

Last year, these hard-working scientists explored the Szechuan and Tibetan plateaus and finally worked out several alternative courses for a future waterway. The scientists from the Academy surveyed and studied the land and terrain of much of the scarcely trodden country on the Tibetan plateau, in the Tsaidam Basin, the Chilian Mountains, the Kansu Corridor, Sinkiang, Inner Mongolia, Szechuan and Yunnan Provinces. And they brought back valuable data on hydrology, meteorology, geology and topography. But some of the questions arising from the surveys call for basic solution. These concern seismology, technique and engineering skills for building high dams, the control of fluctuation in the bed of artificial water courses and the application of powerful explosives in engineering. The meeting has decided on the work to be carried out this year, primarily to fix the actual course of this prospective man-made waterway from the southwest to the northwest.

Transforming the Deserts

In a full-length article which appeared in *Renmin Ribao* on March 2 Coching Chu, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, discussed the question of transforming China's deserts and making them fit for livestock breeding and forestry.

China occupies an area of 9.6 million square kilometres. One-third of this is dry land, but 11 per cent of the country is desert, mostly in the northwest. In *mu* (15 *mu* to a hectare) there are altogether some 1,600 million *mu* of desert land in China, 98.4 per cent distributed as follows in the north and northwest: Sinkiang, 820 million *mu*; Inner Mongolia,

420 million *mu*; Kansu, 200 million *mu*; Chinghai, 110 million *mu*; Shensi, 20 million *mu*; and Ninghsia, 15 million *mu*.

But ever since liberation, the Chinese scientist noted, the people in the desert areas have made great efforts in afforestation. The achievements won under vigorous Communist Party leadership showed to the people in these regions that "man not only can conquer deserts but utilize them for his benefits." In the past eight years the people here, according to available data, afforested some 20 million *mu* of the desert and sowed another 26 million with grass. Irrigation has been provided for nearly a million *mu* and 15,000 *mu* were covered with soil.

With spring already budding in the grasslands, Inner Mongolia is all set for a major effort to battle with the sands. The target this year is to bring 38 million *mu* of desert under control, which is equivalent to the total area transformed in more than a decade in the past. Lorries, camels, aeroplanes and other means of transport are now assembled for the big job ahead. Construction of aerodromes and buildings in the desert has already begun, weather stations are being set up, and a vast amount of grass seed is being prepared for sowing a large expanse of the desert, part of which will also be planted with trees.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences, Coching Chu said, has formed a desert control team which will soon be leaving for the desert areas. He listed the tasks laid down for the team this year as follows: to complete the overall survey of China's deserts, to set up six experimental stations in six different places in the northwest and Inner Mongolia to study the nature of desert land and sum up working experience, and finally to conduct research into the use of wind power and solar energy in the sand-swept regions.

Transforming the deserts is a great historical task for the people of New China, but, Coching Chu said, the achievements already made prove that the socialist countries have the power to remake the deserts.

The Distribution of Industry in China

by CHEN YUN

The current issue of "Hongqi" (Red Flag), No. 5, March 1, 1959, carries a long article by Vice-Premier Chen Yun, discussing six important questions in China's capital construction. Following is an abridged translation of the first section of the article.—Ed.

THE question of the distribution of industry is of paramount importance in the implementation of the principle of getting greater, faster, better and more economical results in capital construction. Once there is a rational distribution of industry, it will be possible to make fuller use of the favourable conditions in our country: its vastness, rich resources, excellent weather conditions and huge population, so that industry can progress with still greater, faster, better and more economical results. It will also be possible to build the industrial system of the whole country fairly rapidly and, step by step, do away with the disequilibrium in the distribution of industrial productive forces in our country, to promote the universal development of the economy in various parts of the country and advance the integration of industry and agriculture and of town and countryside, in a more satisfactory way. To deploy the industrial productive forces in a planned and rational way on a nationwide scale is, therefore, a long-term and all-embracing question of capital construction, a question of strategic importance.

In considering the distribution of industry, there are quite a few questions that call for satisfactory solution. At present, the following three questions are of the utmost concern: (1) In establishing a relatively complete industrial system, what should be the starting point, the country as a whole, the economically co-ordinated regions, or the provinces and autonomous regions? (2) In the location of enterprises, is it better to have them relatively concentrated or scattered? (3) In the construction of new enterprises, should the bigger ones or the medium and small ones constitute the majority?

Let us begin with the first question.

China is a big country with a vast population. We now have 29 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions;* most of the provinces have a population exceeding 10 million and the largest, as high as 60 or 70 million. Among the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, only a few have a comparatively strong industrial foundation while the greater number have either rela-

tively weak or extremely weak industrial foundations. Although China's industry developed considerably during the First Five-Year Plan (1953-1957), and some changes have been effected in the state of disequilibrium of the past—China's industry was mostly concentrated in the coastal regions—no fundamental changes have yet taken place. To bring about a fundamental change in the situation, we shall have to work hard for a considerable length of time. This not only calls for the establishment of an integrated nationwide industrial system but also for the establishment of industrial systems on different levels with characteristics of their own in the various economically co-ordinated regions and even in many provinces and autonomous regions. This calls for co-ordination between different branches of heavy industry, light industry, communications and transport, especially between the different branches of heavy industry; this demands that the raw materials industries and machine-building industry meet the needs of socialist expanded reproduction and that the necessary material foundation be created for the technical transformation of the national economy on a nationwide scale.

IN establishing an integrated industrial system, are we to start from the country as a whole, or the provinces and autonomous regions, or the economically co-ordinated regions? A proper solution of this question is not determined by subjective wishes but by objective needs and actual possibilities. In our country, industrial and agricultural production are expanding continuously at top speed. Every year there will be a considerable increase in material and technical strength. However, considering the needs of the gigantic task of construction, our strength in construction and in materials and equipment is still insufficient and is still limited to a certain extent. Under these conditions, in establishing the industrial system we can only start at first on a nationwide scale and then go on to the various economically co-ordinated regions and finally to the provinces and autonomous regions. Only when a nationwide industrial system has been established can we build up industrial systems in the economically co-ordinated regions. Similarly, only when we have set up industrial systems in various economically co-ordinated regions can we build up industrial systems in various provinces and autonomous regions. If things are done

* Twenty-seven provinces and autonomous regions and the two municipalities of Peking and Shanghai directly under the Central Government.—Ed.

otherwise, i.e., if industrial systems are first built up in the economically co-ordinated regions or in provinces and autonomous regions, if we start to do things all over the place and all at once, then it will inevitably disperse our strength in construction, retard the pace of construction and hinder the over-all arrangement. In the end, it will be detrimental not only to the national industrial construction but also to the industrial construction in the provinces and autonomous regions.

THE establishment of a nationwide industrial system does not hinder the future establishment of industrial systems in various economically co-ordinated regions, provinces and autonomous regions, but is of advantage to it. That is because the nationwide industrial system is composed of the industries built in the various economically co-ordinated regions, provinces and autonomous regions. In the course of setting up a nationwide industrial system, varying numbers of new major enterprises are bound to be built one after another in various economically co-ordinated regions, provinces and autonomous regions; these major enterprises are the component parts of the nationwide industrial system and also form the groundwork for the establishment of regional or provincial industrial systems. In mapping out the nationwide industrial system, the state, while taking into consideration the possible conditions for present industrial construction in the economically co-ordinated regions, provinces and autonomous regions, must also take into consideration the creation of favourable conditions for the future construction of industrial systems on different levels with characteristics of their own in these places. Therefore, we can say that to start from building a nationwide industrial system is fundamentally in conformity with the needs of building industrial systems in various economically co-ordinated regions, provinces and autonomous regions. Of course, this does not mean that the local authorities will not take energetic steps to build industries which they are able to build and which conditions permit. It is the firm policy of the Communist Party to bring the initiative of the local authorities into full play, to mobilize to the full the strength of the masses in various localities and to use every possible means to develop industrial construction. We must continue to implement this policy, set up a nationwide industrial system as quickly as possible by concentrating our efforts and giving priority to the key projects while, in the light of the possible conditions in various localities, developing as many varied types of local industry as possible so that the industrial foundations in various localities can be expanded, step by step, the better to meet the needs of the people in the localities in production and daily life.

As mentioned earlier, the industrial systems to be built in the future in various economically co-ordinated regions, provinces and autonomous regions will be on different levels and have their own characteristics, and since modern industry is in the nature of a very complex co-ordinated economy, it is impossible not to have division of labour and co-ordination between different regions, branches, enterprises and even between the different departments within a given enterprise. For instance, in our country, the manufacture of thermo-electric power generating

equipment with a capacity of over 12,000 kilowatts involves co-ordination between more than 80 big and medium machine works in various parts of the country; besides it also calls for the co-ordination of such heavy industrial branches as the metallurgical, coal, power and chemical industries, as well as the co-ordination of such light industrial branches as the paper-making, ceramic, porcelain, and textile industries. To carry out this kind of production, which involves such complex co-ordination between various industrial branches, in a single enterprise, is of course out of the question. At present, it is also impossible to carry out such production in a single province or autonomous region. It can be carried out successfully only on a wider scale by reasonably assigning production jobs to different branches and organizing co-ordination between them. Strengthening co-ordination between different regions, branches and enterprises is an indispensable condition for ensuring a common development. This applies to the present when we are beginning to set up a nationwide industrial system, and to the future as well, when the various economically co-ordinated regions and even many provinces and autonomous regions will have established their own industrial systems.

NEXT, in the location of enterprises is it better to have them relatively concentrated or scattered?

Some comrades wish the building of industrial enterprises to be concentrated in the existing large and medium-sized cities. Their reasons are that this would ensure speed and involve less investment. We maintain that the distribution of enterprises should be near the sources of raw materials and fuel and the areas of consumption, so that we can obtain maximum economic results with the lowest possible investments. It is necessary to build or expand certain enterprises in existing large and medium-sized cities, in accordance with possibilities and needs, with the advantage that existing foundations can be utilized. But the majority of enterprises to be built should be appropriately dispersed in medium and small cities and towns or in areas with mineral resources.

Would the speed of construction be slower in building factories in medium and small cities and towns and in new mining areas than in existing large and medium cities? Some people used to consider the question of speed merely in terms of power, water supply and communication facilities in the course of building operations and the possibility of getting technical assistance at close quarters in the construction of factories and in actual production. But they have not paused to think that in many large and medium cities at present some strains on the power and water supply, the supply of materials and transport and communications have been manifest. To build more factories there must be more power stations, more water supply and more transport and communication equipment. So the solution of these questions, instead of being expedited, will often be much slower than in small cities and towns and new mining areas. As to the possibility of getting technical assistance at close quarters, it is a question of organization and arrangement of technical forces. So long as the technical forces are better organized and arranged, technical assistance can be obtained all the same in

building industrial footholds in medium and small cities and towns and in new mining areas. We therefore maintain that building factories in medium and small cities and towns and in new mining areas does not necessarily lower the speed, it may even be faster.

The location of industrial enterprises should conform with the need to achieve "greater, quicker, better and more economical results," and take into account the speed of construction and the investment needed. This is one side of the picture. On the other hand, consideration should also be given to whether the enterprises are economically and rationally run after they are commissioned. If the enterprises are over-concentrated in large and medium cities they will be separated from the sources of raw materials and fuel and the areas of consumption, and add to the difficulties in supplies and transport, besides the costs of products will be raised, and so the enterprises will be economically irrational for a long time. If the enterprises are appropriately scattered in medium and small cities and towns and in new mining areas not only can support be obtained locally in manpower and materials, and difficulties in labour power and the supply of materials be better solved in the course of construction, but after the enterprises have gone into production, supply, production and marketing can be better integrated, production organized on a relatively rational basis, transport distances appropriately shortened and the costs of products further reduced. At the same time, because the enterprises are under the direct supervision of the producers of raw materials and the consumers of goods, it is all the more convenient for them to improve their management and administration, to raise the quality, and increase the varieties, of their products. So long as the enterprises can enjoy these advantages in production it is reasonable from a long-term point of view, even if some of them spend a little more time and money in construction.

CONCENTRATION or dispersion in the location of enterprises is not only a question within industry itself; it is also a question concerning the relations between industry and agriculture, between city and countryside. In locating the enterprises we must also pay full attention to the needs of integrating industry and agriculture, and city and countryside. Engels said: "The abolition of the separation between town and country . . . presupposes the most equal distribution possible of modern industry over the whole country." Under the socialist system it is entirely possible for us to effect the most balanced distribution of large industries in various parts of the country, thus bringing about close integration between industry and agriculture, enabling agriculture to be switched gradually from manual labour to machine production, and enabling the rural population to progress gradually from lack of education to education. The policies laid down by our Party on building industry by the whole people, the simultaneous development of industry and agriculture on the basis of giving priority to heavy industry, the simultaneous development of heavy and light industries, the simultaneous development of national and local industries, the simultaneous development of large enterprises and medium-sized and small enterprises, and the simultaneous use of modern and indigenous methods of production, are our long-term

policies of industrial construction. They are also policies expediting the integration of industry and agriculture, of city and countryside. The geographical distribution of enterprises must conform to these policies.

NOW we come to the third question: Should the large numbers of new enterprises be large ones or medium and small ones?

The location of enterprises and their size are mutually related questions. People advocating the concentration of enterprises in large and medium cities more often than not stand for building more large enterprises and less medium and small ones. Since we hold that most enterprises should be scattered in medium and small cities and towns and in new mining areas, we also maintain that in addition to the necessary large enterprises, we should also build large numbers of medium and small enterprises.

As a result of the big leap in 1958, more and more comrades have come to understand the policy put forward by the Central Committee of the Party and Comrade Mao T'se-tung that large enterprises and medium and small enterprises should be developed simultaneously and that large numbers of enterprises should be medium and small ones, and this policy has been gradually carried out in practice. But the question has not yet been completely solved. The present position is: on the one hand, some areas have mapped out their construction plans in accordance with the above-mentioned policy and are also preparing to reduce the size of some large enterprises, for which arrangements have been made, but which should and can be reduced to smaller enterprises. On the other hand, some areas and departments are still inclined to think that enterprises must be large and all-embracing. Their reasons are that only large factories can produce more and faster.

We must build, step by step, a group of large modern enterprises as the backbone without which it is impossible to build our country into a modern, great industrial power within fifteen or twenty years. We have done so in the past, we must do so in the future. But the tempo of building a large enterprise is relatively slow. To build a large integrated iron and steel works usually takes five to six years, from preparation to completion. Although medium and small enterprises produce less than large ones, the tempo of their construction is nevertheless faster because we can draw up designs and manufacture the equipment by ourselves. To build a medium or small integrated iron and steel works takes at most one or two years, from preparation to completion. Besides, the building cost is lower and the technique is easier to handle. In order to win speed and the better to meet the needs of our country's construction, large numbers of medium and small enterprises should be built first. At the same time, in building certain large factories the methods of "from small to large" and building by stages should be adopted as far as possible, so that production can start quickly, experience can be obtained, technical forces trained and conditions prepared for future development. This is true of the iron and steel industry; it is equally true of machine-building and other industries.

Joint Statement by the Communist Parties of China and Japan

Following is the full text of a joint statement of the delegations of the Chinese and Japanese Communist Parties signed on March 3, 1959 in Chengchow, China.—Ed.

TO promote friendship between the Chinese and Japanese peoples and consolidate and develop still further the unity between the Chinese and Japanese Communist Parties, a delegation of the Japanese Communist Party led by Kenji Miyamoto, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Japanese Communist Party, came to visit the People's Republic of China on February 23, 1959.

During the visit, Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, met the Japanese Communist Party delegation and had a cordial talk and exchange of views with the delegates.

During the visit, the delegations of the Japanese Communist Party and the Chinese Communist Party held talks on questions related to the present international situation, the situation in the Far East, the relations between China and Japan and between the Chinese and Japanese Communist Parties.

Representing the Chinese Communist Party at the talks were Teng Hsiao-ping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party; Peng Chen, Member of the Political Bureau; and Wang Chia-hsiang, Member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee.

Representing the Japanese Communist Party at the talks were Kenji Miyamoto, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Japanese Communist Party, and Shoichi Kasuga, Member of the Presidium of the Central Committee.

The talks proceeded in an extremely warm and friendly atmosphere. Both sides reached complete unanimity of views on the questions taken up during the discussions and the exchange of views.

The delegations of the two Communist Parties unanimously affirm that the present international situation, characterized by the fact that the East wind continues to prevail over the West wind, greatly favours the struggle of the peoples of all countries for world peace, national independence, democracy and progress. The forces of the socialist camp and the forces for peace and progress in the world today have prevailed over the forces of the imperialist camp headed by the United States; the national independence movement in Asia, Africa and Latin America is in the ascendant; and the struggle of the peoples of all countries for world peace, national independence, democracy and freedom is rising higher and higher. The impact of the economic crisis on the imperialist countries and the imperialist camp's tendency to disintegrate caused by the contradictions

among the imperialist countries have further weakened the forces of the imperialist camp. All this shows that the situation is getting better daily for the struggle of the peoples of all countries for world peace, national independence and social progress, while imperialism is rotting with each passing day.

U.S. imperialism still persists obstinately in its policy of aggression and war. The delegations of the two Communist Parties stress that the situation in the Far East has been greatly poisoned by the U.S. imperialists' lawlessness in the Far East region. The U.S. imperialists are still continuing their semi-occupation of Japan, forcibly occupying Japan's Okinawa and Ogasawara Islands, practically depriving Japan of its independence and are occupying China's Taiwan, and the southern part of Korea by force. Moreover, the U.S. imperialists have set up large numbers of military bases in the Far East region, and are attempting to ship nuclear weapons in even larger quantities into the Far East, tightening their control of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization and trying frantically to set up a Northeast Asia Treaty Organization including Japan. By these crimes of aggression the U.S. imperialists have not only menaced and encroached upon the sovereignty and independence of the countries of the Far East, but have also seriously undermined the security and peace of the peoples of the Far Eastern countries, and have fully exposed U.S. imperialism as the common enemy of the peoples in Asia and the world over. The delegations of the two Parties strongly denounce the criminal policy of the U.S. imperialists to menace peace in the Far East and to encroach upon the national sovereignty of others. With a view to defending security and peace in the Far East, the Government of the People's Republic of China has consistently maintained that a zone of peace in the Far East and the Pacific Ocean should be established, and that a Far East peace pact and a mutual non-aggression treaty between China and Japan should be concluded. The Japanese Communist Party and the patriotic democratic forces in Japan insist on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons in Asia. At the recent Twenty-first Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Comrade N. S. Khrushchov put forward a new proposal for the establishment of a zone of peace in the Far East and the entire Pacific area, first of all, a zone free of atomic weapons. All these proposals fully conform with the desires of the peoples in the Far East. The delegations of the two Parties declare that they will continue their efforts to wage a resolute struggle for the realization of these proposals.

The delegations of the two Parties follow with close attention and concern the development of the current situation in Japan, especially the fact that U.S. imperialism, working hand in glove with Japanese reac-

tionaries, is plotting to revise the U.S.-Japanese "Security Treaty," revive Japanese militarism and in an even more flagrant way turn Japan into a war base in the Far East. The Japanese Communist Party and the Japanese people have always held that only a Japan which has freed itself from U.S. control and has become an independent, democratic, peaceful and neutral country, will conform to the interests of the Japanese people and benefit peace in the Far East. The Japanese Communist Party and the Japanese people stand firmly for the annulment of the U.S.-Japanese "Security Treaty," the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Japan, the abolition of U.S. military bases in Japan and the return to Japan of Okinawa and the Ogasawara Islands. The Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese people firmly support these just and patriotic demands of the Japanese Communist Party and the Japanese people. With regard to the criminal activities of U.S. imperialism in occupying Taiwan, the sacred territory of the People's Republic of China, and creating a tense situation in the Taiwan Straits area, the Japanese Communist Party and the patriotic and democratic forces in Japan have expressed their solemn condemnation. The Chinese Communist Party is grateful to the Japanese Communist Party and Japanese people for these activities.

China and Japan are neighbours and historically have had close relations. Thus the establishment of diplomatic relations and close economic and cultural exchange between the two countries is in the interests of both peoples with a combined population of nearly 800 million, as well as of the defence of peace in the Far East. Thirteen years have elapsed since the war ended but diplomatic relations between the two countries have not been restored up to now and their economic and cultural ties have been subject to obstruction and sabotage. The responsibility for this extremely abnormal situation lies entirely with the reactionary ruling clique of Japan. It has followed the U.S. imperialists in its hostility to the

People's Republic of China. Although it clamours for so-called "Sino-Japanese trade," this is only a means to alleviate the pressure put on it by the demand of the Japanese people for the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries and their discontent with the U.S. imperialists and the policy of the Japanese reactionary forces. The two delegations unanimously condemn the deceptive manoeuvres of the Japanese reactionary group and hold that, by relying on their joint efforts, the Chinese and Japanese peoples can certainly clear away all kinds of obstacles placed by the U.S. and Japanese reactionary forces, restore diplomatic relations between China and Japan and develop economic and cultural exchange and friendly contacts between the peoples of the two countries.

Both the Chinese and Japanese Communist Parties are Marxist-Leninist political parties, sharing common ideals and aims. The two delegations unanimously declare that the consolidation and development of the unity of the ranks of international communism are the sacred internationalist duty of the two Parties. To defend the purity of Marxism-Leninism, the two Parties agree that it is necessary to carry to the end the struggle against modern revisionism as represented by Yugoslavia. To strengthen the fraternal unity between the two Parties still further, the two delegations consider that the contact between the two Parties must be strengthened in the interest of promoting friendship and co-operation between the Chinese and Japanese peoples.

(Signed)

Teng Hsiao-ping
General Secretary
of the Central Committee
of the Chinese
Communist Party

(Signed)

Kenji Miyamoto
General Secretary of
the Central Committee of
the Japanese
Communist Party

Chengchow, March 3, 1959

Chairman Mao Meets Leaders of Fraternal Latin American Parties

MAO Tse-tung, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, met leaders of fraternal Parties of twelve Latin American countries who were visiting China and held cordial conversations with them in Chengchow, central China, on March 3.

The leaders of the fraternal Parties were Luis Corvalan, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Chile; Pompeyo Marquez, Member of the Secretariat, Pedro Ortega and Alonso Ojeda, Members of the Political Bureau, and Guillermo Gardin, Member of the Central Committee, of the Communist Party of Venezuela; Gilberto Vieira, General Secretary, and Joaquin Moreno, Member of the Political Bureau, of the Communist Party of Columbia; Raul Acosta, General Secretary, and Jorge Del Prado, Member of the Central Committee, of the Communist Party of Peru; Elias Munoz, Member of the

Executive Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ecuador; Humberto Ramirez, Member of the Political Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bolivia; Felipe Bezrodnik, Secretary of the Commission of the Treasury of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Argentina; Wilfredo Velazquez, Party Organizer of the Las Villas Provincial Committee of the Popular Socialist Party of Cuba; and representatives of the Communist Party of Brazil, the Communist Party of Paraguay, the Popular Vanguard Party of Costa Rica and the Popular Union of Panama.

Teng Hsiao-ping, General Secretary of the Central Committee, and Wang Chia-hsiang, Member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee, of the Chinese Communist Party, attended the reception and took part in the conversations.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung and these leaders of the fraternal Parties exchanged views on the current international situation. They all agreed that this situation is extremely favourable to the struggle for peace, independence, democracy and the social progress of the peoples of all countries; that the reactionary forces headed by U.S. imperialism are disintegrating, while the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union, and also the revolutionary forces of the peoples all over the world and the forces of peace and democracy, are continuing their powerful advance. They also agreed that provided the peoples of all countries continue to maintain their unity and vigilance and struggle hard, the imperialists will certainly meet ignominious defeat should they launch an aggressive world war, and that the just cause of the world's peoples will certainly triumph in the end.

On the situation in Latin America, they noted unanimously and with satisfaction that recently there has been an unprecedented upsurge of patriotism among the peoples of various Latin American countries, and that it is an irresistible and inevitable trend of historical development that the peoples of Latin America will rid themselves of the control of U.S. imperialism and achieve complete independence. Chairman Mao Tse-tung expressed deep sympathy and enthusiastic support for the Latin American peoples who are resolutely opposing U.S. im-

perialism, defending their national independence and striving for democracy and freedom. He heartily congratulated the Cuban people on their recent revolutionary victory in overthrowing the reactionary pro-U.S. dictatorship.

The leaders of the fraternal Parties of the Latin American countries spoke of the great achievements in building socialism which they had seen in China, and said that they viewed these as a great support to the struggle of the Latin American peoples for independence, democracy, social progress and peace. They expressed the sympathy and support of the peoples of Latin America for the Chinese people and thanked the Chinese Communist Party for inviting them to visit China and for the warm reception accorded them. Chairman Mao Tse-tung expressed gratitude to the leaders of the fraternal Parties of Latin America for their keen concern for the Chinese revolution and national construction.

All participants in the talks agreed unanimously that it was necessary to continue developing contacts between the Communist Parties of the Latin American countries and the Chinese Communist Party for the sake of world peace, national independence, democracy and social progress, thus contributing to the growth of friendship and co-operation between the peoples of Latin America and China.

The Big Leap

China's Growing Textile Industry

by CHU CHI-HSIN

CHINA'S textile industry registered a great jump in output last year. Each of its major products scored an estimated increase at least 25 per cent higher than the previous year. Cotton yarn and cotton cloth, for example, increased by 49 per cent and 28 per cent respectively compared with 1957. This more than quadrupled the average annual rates of growth during the First Five-Year Plan (1953-1957). In 1949, the year of liberation, China produced only about four-fifths as much cotton yarn as Britain. But in 1958, China left Britain far behind in cotton yarn output.

Production of other items also rose rapidly last year. Compared with 1957, the textile industry turned out nearly half as much again silk fabrics, 37 per cent more woollen fabrics and about a quarter more automatic looms. There were also large increases in knitted goods, dyed and printed cloth and gunny sacks. But clothing 650 million people calls for a vast amount of textiles and increasing the supply still claims top attention.

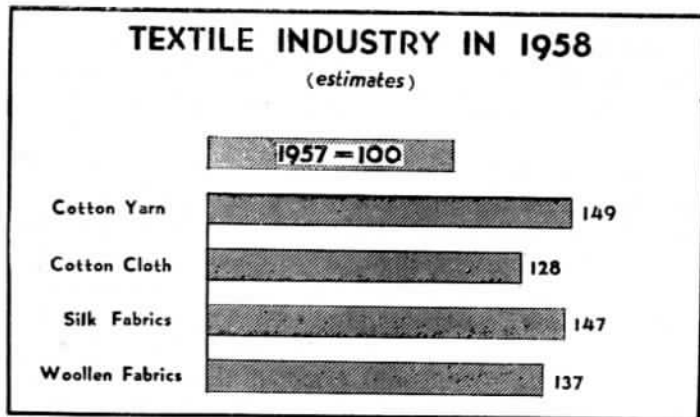
More New Mills

Construction of new textile mills was started in 18 provinces, including Kwangsi, Kweichow, Fukien, Chinghai and Kansu, which had no textile industry to speak of in the past. Plans to expand existing textile engineering plants were initiated in a number of provinces in order to spread textile manufacture throughout the country.

There was a general improvement in quality last year and a large range of new textile products was introduced. These include fine sieve-spun silk, artificial nylon blood vessels for surgery, cylindrical waxed cloth for insulating purpose, fire-proof cloth and fine poplin woven from yarn of 150-200 counts. In Shanghai alone, 1,680 new varieties and patterns were added to the production list.

This contrasts sharply with the state of affairs before liberation. The cotton mills, the most important component of the textile industry, depended upon imported American cotton for their basic supplies. The chief sources of textile machinery were also foreign. Today China not only has a stable and rapidly growing supply of textile raw materials from domestic sources but an expanding textile engineering industry which will be able to meet the growing needs of the country. The industry manufactures complete sets of spinning, weaving, dyeing and printing machines of the latest types. In 1958, 1.2 million spindles, including complete sets of cotton spinning machines, were produced. This was more than twice the output in 1957.

The industry's 1958 gains were part of the big leap forward in China's agriculture and industry as a whole. Cotton output more than doubled — from 1,640,000 tons in 1957 to about 3,350,000 tons in 1958. The increased out-



put of raw silk, hemp and wool provided the industry with stable supplies of other raw materials.

Collective Efforts

The most important factor in the industry's big increase in output and quality, however, was the way the latent productive capacity of the mills was utilized. Textile workers and all employees in the industry acquired a higher level of political understanding during the rectification campaign and this became a powerful moving force for better results in production and the development of the mass movement for technical innovation. The movement, in turn, played an important role both in raising the productive capacity of existing equipment and the adoption of advanced techniques.

Thousands of rationalization proposals and technical improvements were put forward by workers, technicians and other employees. Many were adopted in the mills and plants when they proved successful in actual tests. Some inventions or improvements have been examined with satisfactory results and will soon be utilized extensively. They include a new type of scutching machine which increases output by 30 per cent, a high efficiency carding machine and a high-draft spinning machine.

The battle for high-speed operation was waged in a communist spirit of co-operation and every worthwhile bit of experience was passed on for general use. As a result, per unit output shot ahead throughout the industry.

Technical Revolution

From Better Tools to Modern Farming

by LI CHING-YU

WHEN one talks about farm modernization, tractors immediately come to mind. It is true that China is developing their manufacture and using more and more of them. But China's road to the mechanization and electrification of farming has some special characteristics, determined by her specific conditions. It is proceeding from the reform of tools to semi-mechanization, then to full mechanization.

The tools reform movement—the improvement of traditional tools* and the invention of new ones most of

* For the nature and details of these new tools, see *Peking Review*, Nos. 11, 13, 15 and 20, 1958.

Before the big leap forward in 1958, output of 21-count weft yarn was about 26 kilogrammes per 1,000 spindles per hour. Now it averages some 32 kilogrammes and the best records reached as high as 40 kilogrammes.

Following the policy of "walking on two legs," large modern mills, still the backbone of the industry, are supported and complemented by medium and small-sized mills. Important factors favourable to the development of small and medium-sized textile enterprises are the wide distribution of raw materials throughout the country and the abundant manpower in the villages and towns. Technical improvements have to be introduced in the handicraft workshops to raise output and quality.

As a matter of division of labour, it is also necessary to build mills to concentrate on the production of certain textiles, such as knitted goods and lower-grade goods made of various raw fibres, that are not suitable for manufacture in the big mills.

The establishment of the people's communes in the rural areas also makes it possible to set up small textile mills which will facilitate the growth of a diversified rural economy and the rapid growth of the textile industry to meet the rising demand of the working people. As for cotton mills, they will be set up mainly by provinces and special administrative regions. Small cotton mills (10,000-20,000 spindles) may be built by counties where conditions are favourable.

It is expected that this year still more attention will be devoted to the development of the cotton textile industry. More than 30 new textile engineering plants are to be built in areas where the foundations of the textile industry were particularly weak in the past. In addition to their regular jobs, repair shops of certain large mills will manufacture parts of textile machines too. Existing plants will be expanded and rebuilt to increase capacity so that a large number of textile machines and a great variety of types will be produced.

Recent reports indicate that the output of cotton yarn in January this year surpassed the first month of 1958 by nearly three-fourths. Thus, a good start has already been made by the textile industry for a still greater and all-round leap forward this year.

which are as yet rather simple—began and gathered momentum in the "big leap forward" of agriculture last year. It represents the beginning of the technical revolution on China's farms.

New and Improved Implements

To meet the requirements of the "big leap" a large variety of new or improved implements have been devised, and put to use. Provinces, counties and people's communes have set up small factories and workshops to manufacture and repair them, or to make ball-bearings. Small rural hydro-electric power stations are already sup-

plying power. Tens of thousands of peasants, blacksmiths, carpenters, and other craftsmen have joined the ranks of the "tool reformers," and more are doing so.

Though still rudimentary the new and improved tools raise labour productivity considerably. The efficiency of vehicles for rural transport, for instance, is doubled or multiplied several fold simply by adding ball-bearings. Speaking of ball-bearings, a mass movement to manufacture them by both indigenous and modern methods was started last year and is still going on. The aim is to fit them to every turning tool or wheel.

The new tools reduce labour intensity. They also help alleviate the labour shortage caused by the extraordinary growth of agriculture. In the mass campaign to build irrigation works last year, peasants in Anhwei Province moved 5,800 million cubic metres of earth and stone. When they used new and improved tools, the output per man-day rose from 1.5 cubic metres to 10. Thus 2,500 million man-days were saved.

What are the implications of these achievements? Why do we consider the tools reform movement to be the starting point of the modernization of Chinese farming?

To answer these questions, it would be well first to review briefly China's previous experience in introducing machinery to her farms.

China's Path to Farm Mechanization

Between 1953 and 1958, China imported a fair number of tractors, with the corresponding cultivating and harvesting implements. Hundreds of machine and tractor stations were established in many parts of the country. The machine and tractor stations helped the farm co-ops (later the people's communes) to raise crop yields, solve seasonal labour shortages, train a fair number of mechanics and administrators and develop a diversified rural economy. These were real achievements.

Although China has started a modern tractor industry and her factories are turning out increasing quantities of other farm machines and irrigation equipment, her metallurgical and machine-building industries are not yet sufficiently developed to supply the needed quantities. This has prompted the search for a road to farm mechanization and electrification that conforms to China's specific conditions and brings more, faster, better and more economical results.

This road was found in the course of the "big leap" last year. The peasants, in their effort to boost farm production, started a tools reform movement instead of waiting for the state to provide them with large quantities of farm machines. With the help of the new tools, they were able to overcome the serious labour shortage created by the very intensive farming methods employed, and double the yield of the staple crops. In the meantime, a new system of farming—getting more yield from less land cultivated in the ultra-intensive manner of vegetable gardening (see *Peking Review*, Nos. 35 and 42, 1958)—had begun to take shape. New farm tools and machines introduced in China now must not only meet the varied requirements of diverse terrains and crops but must also conform to the new methods of cultivation. For example, the new ploughs must be able to plough to a greater depth than the old ones;

the new seeders and transplanters must be able to close plant, etc. This whole development helped emancipate the people's minds and opened up new vistas for agriculture. It became clear that the tools reform movement not only meets an immediate urgent need but also points towards the types of machines to be adopted in the future and lays a solid foundation for semi-mechanization and, later, mechanization.

Basic Principles

The basic principles of China's road to farm mechanization and electrification are as follows:

First, to rely on the people, on their initiative, numbers and material and financial resources. In present-day China, this means reliance on the people's communes which purchase, make and operate their own farm machines and tools.

Secondly, to start with tools made by indigenous methods. Such tools serve as the basis for further technical innovations, combining the indigenous with modern methods. All locally made tools will finally be elevated to modern standards. This whole process is described in China as "elevation on the basis of popularization" and "popularization guided by elevation." The development of the cable-tow, from manually-operated to electrically-operated is a case in point.

Thirdly, to implement the reform of tools as a starting point for modernization.

These principles imply that local conditions must be taken into account, and local materials used, that more complicated modern machines will grow out of simpler home-made tools, and that the people's communes will mechanize their agriculture mainly with their own efforts.

The tools reform movement during the past year was conducted in accordance with these principles.

The many excellent new-type implements invented in this movement form a veritable treasure house from which China's farm machinery of the future will grow. Outstanding among them are the cable-tow, rice transplanters, etc.

The cable-tow, which has been discussed in a separate article (*Peking Review*, No. 8, 1959), is an extremely important development. It cannot, however, replace the tractor which has superior efficiency on large tracts of flat land and is more mobile. Both will have their place in China's future mechanized farming.

In the course of the tools reform movement, many types of rice transplanters have also been invented. The five recommended successful types range from the simple unit made of wood and bamboo in Hunan Province that raises efficiency five-fold, to the more complicated "Nan-105" invented by the Institute of Agricultural Mechanization in Nanking which ensures quality work and raises efficiency more than twenty times and can be easily drawn by a cable-tow. Experiments are now being made all over the country to introduce the "Nan-105."

All this shows the vitality and importance of China's tools reform movement.

Commune by the Pearl River

by CHEN TSAN-YUN

WINTER in this part of south China is like spring in more temperate climes. The fields along the Pearl River are green with sugar-cane plantations, banana and lichee groves, and orchards of many other kinds of fruit.

As I walked one afternoon into a village by the Pearl River, famous for its bananas, it was as if I were entering a beautiful park. A soft breeze blew in from the river; the air was fragrant with the smell of bananas, and the perfume of the rapeseed blossoms. Warm sunlight dappled the leaves.

The village was very quiet. I was no stranger here so I knew where the people had gone. The setting up of the people's commune has wrought tremendous changes in the life of the village in the past few months. Young and old, all well taken care of, have their own places to go, while the care-free, able-bodied men and women are working in the fields. There is an air of tranquillity in the village.

Auntie Ming

Thoroughly enjoying the prospect around, I was walking along the stone path by the river when I suddenly heard my name called: "Chen Tsan-yun! How are you!" I turned and saw Auntie Ming, wreathed in smiles, standing in front of the commune dining-room. She is a jolly soul in her late forties. Childless and a widow, ten years ago she was known as "Mrs. Idiot," a nickname given her by her master when she worked as a servant in Canton. It wasn't because she was really stupid, but because her peasant ways and manners displeased her employer. Later she got the sack and scraped along as best she could catching fish and shrimps for a living. It was only after liberation that she got rid of this disagreeable nickname together with her former wretched way of life. All her natural good humour came to the top.

As I approached, she asked: "Tell me, am I putting on or losing weight?"

There were less wrinkles in her face now. She had certainly rounded out. "Now you've almost changed into Auntie Plump," I answered, laughing.

"It would be strange if I hadn't. I get a good sleep every night, and I'm sound as a bell!" she chuckled, obviously well-content with life. The chubby baby she held in her arms, following her example, also chuckled happily.

Then I noticed she was carrying another baby on her back. I asked: "Working for the nursery?" When they had a co-op farm here, I used to see her working on the threshing floor where the grain was sunned. I never saw her carrying a baby then.

"That I am. Our brigade leader said that I've always loved babies, and I've had experience in looking after

children when I was a maid servant. So he picked me out for this job." It was clear from the tone of her voice that she really liked her new work. "The Communists know how to run things," she continued. "They can always pick out what kind of wood to use to make a boat and know what kind of people are fit for what kind of work."

As she talked, she cuddled the baby in her arms. Her smiling eyes told of her love for it. However, thinking her method of baby-care a bit backward, I asked: "Isn't it a bit hard on you to carry one on your back and another in your arms?"

"No, not a bit!" was her answer.

"Maybe it's hard on the babies that way?"

Realizing what I was driving at, she explained: "I know what the new ways are, because I was sent to learn them for two weeks. But you don't know what mothers are like. They just love to see their babies carried and cuddled. Otherwise they'd complain that we are not taking good care of them."

"Hasn't the nursery explained the new ways to them?"

"Of course. Our chief is a smart girl. She knows everything," Auntie Ming replied. "Still there are people who don't find the new ways acceptable."

"How many of them?" I asked.

"I didn't count," she said. "Some say: 'In the old days our babies were left to the care of a wicker basket and who had the time to attend to them? Now they have the good fortune to go to a nursery and they deserve all the cuddling they can get.' You can't argue about it; all mothers like to see their babies in loving hands."

She suddenly kissed her baby on its round cheeks and exclaimed: "What a little darling. He's so cute..."

"Is this your new way of baby-care?" I asked, laughing and playfully pointing a finger at the plump little fellow.

She laughed too. That was all her answer to my question.

You can hardly blame the mothers or Auntie Ming as so many new things have cropped up since the establishment of the commune, I thought to myself; and you can't expect people to get rid of old ideas at one stroke. They will learn all the new ways of handling babies soon enough someday. . . .

In the Dining-room

Seeing my thoughts were wandering, Auntie Ming changed the subject and said: "Do have supper here in our dining-room."

"I was just thinking of taking a look at it. Please show me round." And I followed her into the dining-room.

She led the way and called out: "Cook Ping! Chen here wants to see our dining-room."

Cook Ping is Liu Ping. He is about forty, rather thin. Twenty years ago he worked in Hongkong as a cook and this was where he got his name "Cook Ping." Later he returned to his village and took up farming again. But whenever there was a wedding or a funeral in the village, he was always called in to supervise the cooking. He was especially proud of his masterpiece — *kou ju* — a pork and soya sauce dish.

He had been washing fish in the kitchen but hurried out at Auntie Ming's call. His angular face beaming with smiles, he greeted me cheerily: "Now then, Tsan-yun, you must come and taste my *kou ju* this coming New Year!"

"Forget about your *kou ju*," I joked. "What's important now is to see to it that the rice is hot and the dishes tasty."

"You go and ask the clients if they're satisfied," Liu Ping answered with every sign of confidence.

"As a cook, he's got no equal. . . ." Auntie Ming heaped him with praises as if she were afraid my criticism might be taken in earnest.

Several other women, also with babies in their arms, joined in a chorus to agree with Auntie Ming.

"He even keeps the drinking water hot," Auntie Ming added to prove his great concern for the commune members, and she indicated a huge jar deeply buried in rice chaff and husks.

Well pleased by the praises of the women, Liu Ping showed me round the dining-room and told me all about his plans to raise pigs and grow vegetables for it. It was originally an unused room which belonged to a landlord.

It had been dark and damp. Now it had taken on an entirely new look. Several glass windows pierced the southern wall, the floor was newly paved with tiles, the walls white-washed and the dining tables neatly set in rows. Liu Ping had designed the whole thing himself and taken the lead in all the work. He told me that everything had been made on the spot and little money had been used.

"Looks as comfortable as a tea-house, eh?" Liu Ping asked.

"Indeed it does," talkative Auntie Ming answered for me. "Poor women like us would never have been able to visit such a tea-house in the bad old days. Now we visit our own tea-house everyday!"

"How is the fresh vegetable supply?" I asked Liu Ping.

"No shortage there!" he claimed. "We also have plenty of fish, shrimps and clam meat. The only thing short is pork," he said, but added brightly: "The pigs are growing fast. In a few months I'll be able to treat you to a real good dish of *kou ju*, and no mistake!"

At this moment in came Grandpa Liu. He is over sixty, strong as an ox. He is in the best of spirits and wears a new suit of deep-grey. His close-cropped head and newly shaved chin shone.



Sugar-cane plantation

Woodcut in colour by Ku Yuan

"Grandpa, you look like a bridegroom," Auntie Ming teased.

"Pooh, Mistress Idiot, I remember you weren't always as cheerful as you are today!" he retorted.

"Weren't you just as wretched; all in tatters? Whoever saw you all dressed up like this?" hurled back Auntie Ming.

I turned and asked: "Grandpa, have you joined the 'home of respect for the aged'?"

"No, no, no! Why should I?" He seemed somewhat annoyed by my question. "I can still work. I'm no weaker than a man half my age! Why should I be fed by others?"

"All I mean is an old man like you should enjoy your late years in comfort," I explained.

"There's no comfort in idling!" said Grandpa, shaking his head vehemently.

"He is an old hand in handling bananas," Liu Ping joined in. "One of the few outstanding experts in the village. He's got a precious skill, indeed!"

Something New

Flattered, Grandpa began to dilate on bananas whether we wanted to hear him or not. It was fascinating

to learn all the things you have to know if you want your bananas to grow well. But Auntie Ming had evidently heard his lecture before. She took her baby from her back and sat down with him in a chair and rudely gave a big yawn: "Always your old stuff, nothing new. . . ."

"All right! Here's something new for you. My grandson is going to get married. That's new. Isn't it?" Grandpa Liu laughed with glee as he said this.

"That is your family affair. What does it amount to?" said Liu Ping.

"All right again. Then we'll talk public affairs—next year, we are going to introduce close planting for bananas. It has my full support. I am not a bit conservative. Is that new?" He looked at Liu Ping, eagerly. "—and you, Cook Ping, what's new with you?"

Quick-tongued Auntie Ming said immediately: "He is going to treat Chen here with *kou ju* when his porkers grow up."

"Then how about Mistress Idiot? Carrying babies is all you know." Grandpa Liu rejoined.

"Of course not. I am just as unconservative as you are," Auntie Ming retorted with a toss of her head. "You just see; from tomorrow I am going to put the new ways of baby-care into practice."

She talked so fast that it sounded as if she was quarrelling with someone, and this made everybody laugh heartily.

"Don't imagine it's light work looking after these youngsters," Auntie Ming continued in all seriousness. "The little ones are all spoiled. They like to cry. You have to be always on the lookout."

"And who doesn't?" said Grandpa.

"Yes indeed. Everybody shows the greatest concern for public affairs." Liu Ping said gravely as if he were delivering a speech.

"That's true! In the past we slaved for generation after generation and had nothing to show for it. Now we have done away with the bitter roots of poverty and starvation. No matter how much care and concern we put into public affairs, we feel happy about them." Grandpa Liu spoke excitedly, his forehead shining brightly. "The Communist Party and Chairman Mao really know what's what. See what practical methods we have to uproot poverty. . . . However, Chen. . . ."

He stopped in the middle of his sentence and looked at me intently. "However, what?" I asked.

"You see. . . . You know a lot of things. . . . Say. . . ." he faltered.

"Stop beating about the bush and say what you want!" chided Auntie Ming.

Grandpa Liu scratched his bald head and then asked me direct: "What do you think: is it possible that things will change mid-way?"

"What do you mean by 'change mid-way'?"

"For instance, if there's not a good harvest, will there still be rice for all to eat free of charge?" His eyes admitted the misgivings of an old man. "This is all that worries me. . . ."

"What a fool!" retorted Auntie Ming. "Best take care you don't over-eat yourself now!"

Liu Ping began to explain: "Where Chairman Mao leads things don't change mid-way!"

"Don't worry," I assured him. "Even if there happens to be a bad year and the harvest isn't so good, we shall tide things over by practising thrift together."

Grandpa listened attentively, nodding his assent.

"Moreover," I went on, "our Party never goes back on its words. If there is a change, it must be a change for the better. With everybody giving so much care and attention to public affairs, and all pulling together to increase production, it's certain we'll all of us enjoy *kou ju* more frequently. There's no doubt everything will be much better in a few years."

"That's true!" agreed Grandpa Liu. His face brightened up again, and he didn't mind Auntie Ming's teasing.

It was time for me to say goodbye. Liu Ping insisted that I have supper in his dining-room, and only let me go when I told him that I wanted to visit the dining-room of another brigade. But I reassured him: "I shall come for *kou ju* at the New Year."

I had hardly finished speaking when Auntie Ming put in: "Why not come to see our nursery?"

"Yes indeed, I'll come—but only after you have introduced your new ways!"

As I took leave of these happy people, filled with hope and elated by their forward march on the broad road opened up by the communes, I was in a still better frame of mind than when I came.

A New Book

Annals of a Provincial Town

by KAO YUN-LAN

Annals of a Provincial Town is a story of the people's struggle against the reactionary and treacherous Kuomintang government in Amoy at the time of the Japanese invasion in the thirties. Those were bitter days for the people of Fukien. In the countryside, traitor landlords battled to keep their land and power by favour of the invaders. They did not hesitate to betray patriot peasants. In the cities, Japanese *ronin* and Chinese traitors ruled the streets. Selfish merchants traded in Japanese goods. Japanese espionage agencies and Kuomintang reactionaries collaborated in a plot to make Fukien "autonomous." But the people fought back valiantly. *Annals of a Provincial Town* is a story of that struggle, of the workers, fishermen, youth, intellectuals and others who joined together in a broad united front to free Fukien.

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China Backs Cambodia's Policy of Peace and Neutrality

Vice-Premier Chen Yi has pledged the Chinese people's "full support to the policy of peace and neutrality followed by the Kingdom of Cambodia and the desire of the Cambodian people to develop their national economy." He was speaking at a reception given by the Cambodian Ambassador Leng Ngeth on March 6 to celebrate Cambodia's National Day and the 64th birthday of King Norodom Suramarit.

"The Cambodian Government, under the leadership of Norodom Sihanouk," Chen Yi noted, "has successfully followed a foreign policy of peace and neutrality and safeguarded Cambodia's independence. Under the leadership of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Cambodian people are united as one in their efforts to build up their motherland. . . . We are confident that the Cambodian people will achieve new and greater successes in all aspects of safeguarding their independence and building their motherland."

Reiterating China's support for the peoples of the Indo-China states in their struggle to preserve their independence and defend peace, Vice-Premier Chen Yi declared: "We hold that the Geneva Agreements must be observed, that foreign aggressive forces must not be allowed to disrupt peace in Indo-China and endanger the security of the Indo-China states.

"Some foreign forces are currently intensifying their aggressive activities and interference in Indo-China, inciting countries under their control to conduct subversive activities and military provocations against their neighbours, sabotaging implementation of the Geneva Agreements and creating tension in Southeast Asia. This has attracted the serious attention of all the peace-loving countries and peoples."

Vice-Premier Chen Yi noted with great satisfaction the fact that since the establishment of normal diplomatic relations, friendship and co-operation between China and Cambodia have made great progress on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence. He expressed confidence in the continued extension of such friendly relations.

"The Chinese people," he stressed, "have always greatly valued the friendly relations between our two countries because these relations conform with the

interests of our two peoples and the safeguarding of peace in Asia and throughout the world."

Referring to Ambassador Leng Ngeth's expression of thanks for China's economic and technical aid to his country, Vice-Premier Chen Yi said that such assistance was in fact quite small, pointing out that because of China's sympathy for the desire of the Cambodian people to build up their motherland, China had done what she could in spite of her limited resources. He added: "We will not forget the support given us by the Kingdom of Cambodia in international affairs. This sincere relationship of mutual assistance between our two countries has become an example of friendly co-operation between countries with different social systems."

Premier Chou En-lai, who was present at the reception, toasted King Norodom Suramarit's birthday, the friendship between the peoples of China and Cambodia, and the health of Prince Sihanouk.

Statement on Thai Trade Ban

In a statement issued on March 6, a leading official of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade described the Thai Government's ban on the import of Chinese goods as "an extremely unfriendly act of the Thai Government towards the Chinese people which runs counter to the will of the Thai people and to the Bandung spirit"; he said it will only play into the hands of the U.S. imperialists in their moves to create tension in Southeast Asia.

The official noted that Thai merchants who had been handling Chinese merchandise had suffered great losses as a result of the prohibition of imports from China; that confusion now existed in the Thai market and prices were rising steadily. All this has caused dissatisfaction among the Thai people, particularly in business and commercial circles.

The official recalled that trade relations had traditionally existed between China and Thailand, but following the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Thai Government had adhered to the U.S. "embargo" policy and trade between the two countries was interrupted. After the Bandung Conference, because of an in-

creasing demand from the Thai people for trade with China, the Thai side time and again requested trade with China; so China, always ready to promote friendship through trade based on equality and mutual benefit, opened direct trade contacts with Thailand. Since 1956, a number of Thai businessmen visited China, signed trade contracts and sold a number of commodities then in surplus supply in Thailand. This helped tide over some of their export difficulties. Such trade clearly benefits the Thai people. In the past few years, although Sino-Thai trade had not been large, Thai officials made no secret of the fact that Chinese goods had helped to steady prices on the Thai market.

The official pointed out that the U.S. imperialists don't want a growth of friendly relations between China and Thailand, that the Thai Government is doing just as the U.S. wants and this will certainly do no good to Thailand.

Remarking that China has always been ready to develop trade relations of equality and mutual benefit with Thailand on the basis of peaceful coexistence, the official stressed that "Sino-Thai trade was originally proposed by the Thai side; that it will not in any way affect China now that the Thai Government itself has wrecked it; on the contrary, by thus repaying good with evil, the Thai Government will suffer the consequences of its own acts."

Struggles in Japan Supported

The nationwide campaign the Japanese people are currently engaged in to make their country truly independent and peaceful has the wholehearted backing of People's China. This found expression in the joint statement issued on March 3 by the Chinese and Japanese Communist Parties (see full text on page 9). It voices China's full support for the efforts of the Japanese Communist Party and people to get abrogation of the U.S.-Japan "Security Treaty," withdrawal of U.S. troops from and abolition of U.S. bases in Japan and the return to Japan of Okinawa and Ogasawara Islands.

On February 28, the eve of the fifth anniversary of the American hydrogen bomb tests at Bikini as a result of which the crew of a Japanese fishing vessel were poisoned by radioactive fall-out, a mass rally was sponsored in Peking by the China Peace Committee and other people's organizations to show their solidarity with the Japanese people in their struggle against the nuclear arming of Japan.

In the keynote speech at the rally, Liu Chang-sheng, Member of the Stand-

ing Committee of the China Peace Committee and Vice-President of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, expressed the deep sympathy of the Chinese people for Japanese victims of the U.S. atomic bombings and hydrogen-bomb tests.

Liu Chang-sheng condemned the U.S. aggressive nuclear war policy as the root cause of the threats to world peace and the security of all nations. The Kishi clique was betraying the national interests of Japan by following the U.S. policy of war and aggression in Asia and attempting to revive Japanese militarism; the Chinese people who had suffered at the hands of both the U.S. imperialists and the Japanese militarists and were still suffering from U.S. imperialist aggression, could not but show grave concern and express their great indignation at the Kishi government's policy of following Washington in its hostility towards the Chinese people, he declared.

"The Chinese people," Liu Chang-sheng went on, "hope Japan will become a peaceful and neutral nation. This policy conforming to the national interests of Japan and the common interests of the Asian and other peace-loving peoples of the world, commands the broad support of the progressive parties and all sections of the Japanese people. Kishi, however, is against Japan taking this path and viciously slanders these hopes of the Chinese people as 'interference in Japan's internal affairs.'" Exposing this as a scheme to fan the flames of chauvinism, the speaker declared: "Everybody knows that it is the United States which is stationing its nuclear-armed troops in Japan, which is setting up military bases of occupation in Japan, trying to make this occupation permanent and meddling with Japan's political and economic affairs and its foreign policy. So it is none other than the United States—whose policy Kishi invariably supports—which is interfering in Japan's internal affairs."

"The Kishi government, too," Liu Chang-sheng pointed out, "has supported the Chiang Kai-shek clique in its plot to 'counter-attack the mainland,' put military bases at the disposal of the U.S. imperialists in their aggression against our territory of Taiwan, and toed the U.S. line of creating 'two Chinas.' All this shows that it is not China which is interfering in the internal affairs of Japan, but the Kishi government which is following the United States in interfering in the internal affairs of China."

Liu Chang-sheng declared in conclusion that the Chinese people "are ready, together with the peoples of Japan and

the rest of the world, to work for an environment of lasting peace, free from the scourge of nuclear war."

A message of support adopted at the rally was addressed to the Japanese Conference for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the Prevention of the Nuclear Arming of Japan which met in Tokyo.

The Chinese Federation of Trade Unions and other people's organizations also cabled greetings and support to the Japanese Joint Committee for Spring Struggles, and the Japanese National Congress for the Abolition of the U.S.-Japan "Security Treaty" and Restoration of Japan-China Diplomatic Relations and the Central Meeting of the Japanese People's March Against War and Unemployment, both of which met recently.

G.D.R. Army Day

Vice-Premier and Minister of National Defence Peng Teh-huai has reiterated China's support for the efforts of the German people to establish a united, peaceful and democratic Germany.

Speaking at a Peking reception to mark the third anniversary of the National People's Army of the German Democratic Republic on March 1, Marshal Peng Teh-huai recalled the recent China-G.D.R. joint statement in which China declared that any assault on the G.D.R. would be regarded as an attack on the whole socialist camp and would give all-out support to repulse it.

Marshal Peng Teh-huai paid warm tribute to the contributions of the G.D.R. National People's Army in defending the fruits of the German people's socialist construction, the security of the socialist camp, and European and world peace.

Chinese Pavilion at Leipzig

China is again well represented at this year's International Leipzig Spring Fair. The Chinese pavilion has some 7,000 exhibits occupying a floor space of over 6,000 square metres, one and a half times as large as last year's. The heavy industries have sent 40 per cent of the items and the light industries 30 per cent. These give a vivid picture of China's big leap forward in 1958.

The G.D.R. Deputy Foreign Trade Minister G. Weiss described the Chinese exhibition as proof of the failure of the "embargo" policy of the West. He drew attention to the fact that many "embargoed" goods were being exhibited at the Chinese pavilion and offered for sale.

A Chinese government delegation led by Hsi Chung-hsun, Secretary-General

of the State Council, attended the fair's opening ceremony on March 1.

BRIEFS

Gamesu Kofi Amegbe, Secretary-General of the Preparatory Committee of the All-African People's Conference and editorial advisor to the Ghana magazine *Pan-African Age*, and Moses Fairchild Gohoho, publisher of the magazine, are now visiting China as guests of the Chinese Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity.

On March 6, the second anniversary of Ghana's independence, the guests addressed a large audience in Peking on the struggles of the African peoples for freedom and Ghana's achievements since independence.

* * *

Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois, noted Negro leader and American scholar, has been lecturing in Peking. He addressed audiences at Peking University, the Institute of International Relations, and the Chinese Writers' Union on the history and rebirth of Africa and Negro writers in the United States.

Shirley Graham (Mrs. Du Bois) spoke to Chinese musicians on Negro music.

* * *

The Chinese Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity on February 27 sent a cable asking the Pakistani authorities to release Maula Bashani and Faiz Ahmad Faiz, distinguished Pakistanis and workers for peace. Earlier, a group of prominent Chinese writers wrote protesting against the arrest of Faiz Ahmad Faiz, who is well known in China as a poet.

CULTURAL NEWS

A preparatory committee for a Bolivia-China Cultural Association has been set up in the Bolivian capital La Paz. The association is to promote cultural exchange and friendship between the two countries.

* * *

An exhibition of oil paintings and sketches by artists of the Indonesian People's Painters Association is now open in Peking. It includes the works of Gunawan, Trubus and other noted contemporary Indonesian painters.

* * *

More than 10,000 people visited the Paris exhibition of contemporary Chinese paintings which ended recently. A film of the exhibition has been made by the France-China Friendship Association and will be shown in other French cities.

* * *

A monthly exchange of newsreels has been arranged between China and the Syrian Region of the U.A.R.

CHINESE PRESS OPINION

Time to Solve the German Question

"The Soviet Union's reply on March 2 to the notes of the Western countries once again shows the way to solve the German problem," says *Renmin Ribao* editorially (March 5). It declares that the Chinese people, in line with the people of all other countries who value European security and world peace, fully support the Soviet proposals and demand that the Western countries give them serious consideration. It emphasizes: "A peace treaty with Germany must be concluded and the occupation regime in West Berlin must be ended."

The Soviet Government has again proposed the calling of a summit conference to discuss the questions of a peace treaty with Germany and of West Berlin, with representatives of Poland, Czechoslovakia and the two German states taking part in it in addition to the four Powers, and has suggested that if the Western countries are still not ready to take part in such a summit conference, there can be a conference of foreign ministers of the above-mentioned countries. The Soviet Government has also suggested that the work for the foreign ministers' conference should not extend beyond two to three months. "This is necessary," writes the editorial, "otherwise there is the danger that the questions of the German peace treaty and of West Berlin may be dragged on by the Western countries through endless negotiations and remain for ever unsettled."

It must be noted, *Renmin Ribao* further points out, that influential groups in the United States are exploiting the German and West Berlin questions in order to intensify international tension. They are shouting that they will not exclude the use of force to maintain their occupation regime in West Berlin. During Macmillan's visit to the Soviet Union, it continues, floods of cold water poured out from Washington, Paris and Bonn, thousands of miles away, in an attempt to solidify the ice blocks of the "cold war" which might thaw under the pressure of public opinion. Eisenhower also declared that there are no prospects of success for the summit conference. This all adds up to the fact that the imperialists, headed by the United States, still insist on their "cold war" policy.

Further delay in solving this question involving the security of hundreds of millions of people is impermissible and threats of force will be of no avail, the

editorial declares. If the bellicose clique of imperialists dare to use force, they will not only be held responsible for starting a new war, but will themselves be the ones to be exterminated in such a war.

The urgent task of all who desire peace is to step up the struggle to force the Western countries to change their rigid stand, bring about a peaceful settlement of the German and West Berlin questions and ease world tension, the editorial concludes.

The Common Cause of the Chinese and Japanese Peoples

Commenting on the joint statement of the Chinese and Japanese Communist Parties (see p. 9), *Renmin Ribao* declares editorially (March 6): "This is an event of great historic significance for our two fraternal Parties. It will undoubtedly have a far-reaching and profound influence in further strengthening the fraternal unity of our two Parties in their struggle for a common cause and in enhancing friendship and co-operation between the peoples of China and Japan."

The views on the settlement of the Far Eastern question and the question of the restoration of diplomatic relations between China and Japan put forward in the joint statement conform fully with the common interests and common aspirations of the peoples of the two countries and are in full accord with the universal demand for peace in the Far East and the whole world. The joint statement, the editorial continues, is therefore a great programme of the Communist Parties of China and Japan to unite the peoples of the two countries still more closely in their struggle for the defence of peace in the Far East and the world against U.S. imperialist aggression.

In fighting against U.S. imperialist aggression and the revival of Japanese militarism, the Japanese Communist Party has been the most resolute champion, consistently defending the interests of the Japanese people, *Renmin Ribao* adds.

Analysing the current situation in Japan, the editorial observes that the Communist Party and people of Japan are shouldering a very difficult and yet glorious task. The U.S. imperialists are colluding even more closely with the Japanese reactionaries, plotting to revise the Japan-U.S. "Security Treaty," to

revive Japanese militarism, to turn Japan into an atomic war base of the United States for aggression in the Far East so as to make the Japanese "pull the chestnuts out of the fire" for them. The plans of the U.S. aggressors are, in Western Europe, to revive the fascist forces in West Germany, to turn West Germany into an American nuclear war base; and in the Far East, to revive the forces of Japanese militarism and to turn Japan into an American nuclear war base. It is clear that the United States and Japanese reactionaries have recently been stepping up their preparations for the revision of the Japan-U.S. "Security Treaty" because they wish to further these ulterior motives of the U.S. aggressors. The success of the Japanese people in their struggle against the U.S. plans for an aggressive war is of great significance not only for Japan but for peace and security in the Far East and Asia as well, the editorial points out. Without Japanese militarism as its accomplice the U.S. aggressors will find it very difficult to start a war in the Far East.

Since the winter of last year, the Japanese people have let loose a tremendous tide of resistance to the scheme to revise the Japan-U.S. "Security Treaty," and to the revival of Japanese militarism, the editorial writes. This struggle is continuing to expand. It is a great struggle unprecedented in Japanese history.

As the joint statement declares, the Communist Party of China and the Chinese people firmly support the just and patriotic demand of the Japanese Communist Party and the Japanese people. We are firmly convinced, *Renmin Ribao* concludes, that in this struggle the Japanese people will certainly strengthen their unity and united action further and eventually defeat the intrigues of the U.S. and Japanese reactionaries and realize their aspirations for genuine independence, democracy, peace and neutrality.

New U.S. Moves to Wreck Peace

"A New Step Taken by the U.S. to Wreck Peace in Asia" is the title of an editorial in *Renmin Ribao* (March 7) on the recent signing of bilateral military agreements between the United States and the three remaining Bagdad Pact countries—Turkey, Iran and Pakistan.

The editorial points out that like many other aggressive military agreements the United States had patched up in the past, these new agreements were negotiated under the pretext of "defence against the communist threat." But what is especially worthy of note is that this time the United States and its followers have also put forward a new idea that

"resistance to any direct or indirect aggression" includes "non-communist aggression." This clearly shows that these new pacts are directed not only against the socialist countries but are, in the first place, also a threat to such nationally independent neighbouring countries as India, Iraq and Afghanistan. These new military pacts will enable the United States to intensify its suppression of the national liberation movements, and threaten peace and security in Asia.

The Soviet Government on many occasions gave serious warnings against the signing of these military agreements. The underhand activities of the United States in negotiating these agreements have also been condemned and opposed by public opinion in the Asian-African countries. The U.S. aggressive bloc has signed these new military agreements, however, in defiance of the strong objections of the peoples of the world and of the Asian and African countries. This makes it all the more clear that the U.S. is assuming a stubbornly hostile attitude to the peoples of Asia and Africa and is deliberately undermining peace in Asia and the world.

The U.S. imperialists are launching new attacks against the Asian peoples along the West Asian and Southeast Asian fronts. In West Asia, they are doing all they can to split unity between and within the Arab countries, so as to subjugate them one by one; simultaneously, they are intensifying their armed threats and subversive activities against Iraq and other countries. In Southeast Asia, they are using Thailand and south Viet-nam as bases for their underhand activities in Laos and Cambodia so as to completely wreck the Geneva Agreements and turn Indo-China into a U.S. sphere of influence. In this context, the signing of these bilateral military agreements with Turkey, Pakistan and Iran takes its place as a major part of their new attacks against the Asian peoples.

The unseemly haste of the U.S. aggressive bloc in carrying out these new aggressive moves is due to the series of disastrous failures it suffered in the Near and Middle East and Asia in 1958. It has not given up its ambitions; it is still trying to press forward its vain schemes, but it can be said with complete confidence that the fate of the new military aggressive system knocked together by the U.S. on the ruins of the "Bagdad Pact," will not be any better than that of the "Bagdad Pact" itself.

Those Asian countries which have adhered to the U.S. policy of aggression will not improve their position by means of these military agreements. In fact these will only serve to tighten the U.S. grip on them and tie them still more closely to the U.S. war chariot. The

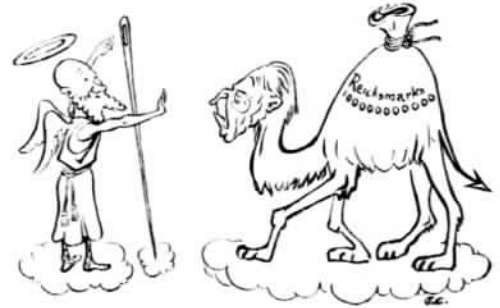
THE PASSING SHOW

On Hopes of Heaven, Camels and Eyes of Needles

Federal German Prime Minister Adenauer's vested interest in "cold war" tension is growing.

Der Alte himself is a shareholder of Daimler Benz of Stuttgart. His son is a director of the Rhine Soft Coal-Mining Co. of Cologne, an enterprise with atomic interests, and now his nephew is to head the board of directors of the new armaments concern created around the I.V.G. complex by the Federal German Government.

Der Alte should remember:
"You can't take it with you!"



Through the eye of a needle. . .

By Jack Chen

result will be that even though they themselves have no intention of going to war, their native soil will inevitably be thrown into the holocaust of war by the U.S. war maniacs the moment the U.S. starts an aggressive war and makes use of them as advance bases. The establishment of U.S. military bases on their soil, far from bringing them greater security, is just the thing to drag them to the brink of war.

The Governments of Pakistan, Turkey and Iran, it must be pointed out, were all participants in the Bandung Conference which adopted the principles of peaceful coexistence. In signing these fresh military agreements with the United States which threaten peace and security in Asia and their neighbours in particular, they are clearly in contravention of the resolutions adopted at Bandung.

As an Asian country, and especially as a neighbour of Pakistan, China cannot but be gravely concerned about the conclusion of these military agreements. The Chinese people are resolutely opposed to the new U.S. plans of aggression against the Asian peoples. Together with the peace-loving countries and peoples, they will struggle resolutely to smash these plans for aggression.

Bolivia Answers U.S. Insult

The Chinese press with ready sympathy and support at all times devotes great attention to news of national independence struggles in Latin America. The meeting of the representatives of fraternal Parties from twelve Latin American countries with Chairman Mao Tse-tung was prominently featured in all papers (see p. 10). The recent demonstration in Bolivia against U.S. imperialism was also widely reported and commented on.

Renmin Ribao's Commentator (March 4) characterizes the big anti-U.S. demon-

stration in La Paz, the Bolivian capital, on March 2 as another major event in the Latin American struggle against U.S. imperialism following the recent demonstration of a million people in Havana against U.S. intervention.

The demonstration was sparked by an article in the U.S. weekly *Time* which grossly insulted Bolivia, quoting a U.S. diplomat as saying that U.S. financial "aid" to Bolivia was money going down the drain and that the country should be divided up among its neighbours. Commentator declares that this sinister attack on Bolivia by a U.S. diplomat was a grave insult to the national respect of a sovereign state and exposed the imperialist aggressive character of the U.S. rulers who frantically seek to carve up small, weak countries at will. It also pulled the mask off U.S. "aid" to the under-developed states.

As in other Latin American countries, the Bolivian economy has run into difficulties as a result of plunder and exploitation by U.S. monopoly capital. Commentator continues, and the U.S. has taken advantage of these difficulties to intensify its plunder and extend its control over Bolivia. This cannot but rouse the anger of all patriotic forces in Bolivia, he writes.

The Bolivian people have a glowing tradition of anti-colonialist and anti-imperialist struggle, and in recent years, under the influence of a situation in which the East wind prevails over the West wind and there is an upsurge in the national independence movements of Asia, Africa and Latin America, the Bolivians are demanding an end of U.S. control. Their struggle for economic and political independence waxes stronger every day.

The Bolivian people will not tolerate these U.S. insults and threats, Commen-

tator states. The La Paz demonstration and nationwide denunciation of the U.S. *Time* magazine is the Bolivian people's reply to U.S. imperialism. It "has dealt a new and serious blow to the U.S. imperialist policy of plundering and enslaving Latin America," Commentator concludes. "It marks the continued upsurge of the national independence movement of the Latin American peoples. This powerful movement to throw off U.S. control has become an irresistible tide. It will eventually break the U.S. imperialists' grip on Latin America."

Murder in Nyasaland

"Stay the murderous hands of the British colonialists!" This is the appeal made by Commentator in *Renmin Ribao* (March 5) protesting against the suppression and killing of the people of Nyasaland who are now struggling heroically for independence and freedom.

"All fair-minded people throughout the world who are in sympathy with oppressed nations should take immediate action to stay the blood-stained hands of the British imperialists," writes Commentator. He points out that the present savage repression and slaughter in Nyasaland is the outcome of a carefully planned and utterly contemptible scheme of the British colonialists who had brought in massive forces from southern Rhodesia and Tanganyika in preparation for this bloody act. This was unleashed at the very moment the Nyasaland African National Congress was in session.

In fact, he notes, the political platform of the Nyasaland African National Congress is rather moderate. It demands only the dissolution of the federation with Rhodesia and the formation of an autonomous government for Nyasaland. It envisages Nyasaland's full independence by stages while remaining within the British Commonwealth. But obviously the British colonialists are not inclined to agree even to this. And when the people of Nyasaland rally together, the British colonialists swoop down with fire and sword.

But, says Commentator, the brutal repression of the Nyasaland people by the British colonial authorities is by no means a sign of the strength of British colonial rule in Africa. On the contrary, it is a clear indication of its extreme shakiness.

This is true of the colonial rule of all the Western imperialists in Africa, declares Commentator. The massacre in Nyasaland by the British colonialists is a hopeless attempt to maintain their colonial rule. But the fiercer the repression, the stronger the resistance. However desperately the British colonialists may try, they cannot save themselves from complete defeat in Africa.

Document

Note on the Korean Question

The following Note was delivered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China to the Office of the British Charge d'Affaires in Peking on March 4, 1959. — Ed.

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Office of the British Charge d'Affaires and requests it to communicate the following to the British Government and, through it, to the Governments of the other countries on the United Nations Command side.

The Chinese Government, in its own name and entrusted by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, deems it necessary to make the following statement in regard to the Note delivered on December 4, 1958 by the British Government on behalf of the Governments of the countries on the United Nations Command side.

The Korean and Chinese Governments consider that from British Note No. 129 not the slightest sincerity for a peaceful settlement of the Korean question can be seen on the part of the Governments of the countries on the United Nations Command side. The Note failed to give any satisfactory reply to the question of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Korea raised in the previous notes and statements of the Korean and Chinese Governments, and adopted an evasive attitude. The Governments of the countries on the United Nations Command side failed to take any measure to withdraw their forces from Korea. It is especially necessary to point out that the United States has, in repeated violation of the Korean Armistice Agreement, introduced large quantities of new-type weapons including atomic weapons into south Korea and conducted military manoeuvres near the military demarcation line to aggravate the tension in Korea. Therefore, the Governments of the countries on the United Nations Command side, and particularly the U.S. Government, must be held responsible for the lack of a speedy peaceful solution to the Korean question and for the deterioration of the Korean situation and all its consequences.

It is even more absurd that the British Note should have forwarded the so-called United Nations resolution adopted under the manipulation of the United States.

As everybody knows, under the domination of the United States, the United Nations has been reduced to a belligerent in the Korean war and has long since lost the competence and moral authority to deal fairly and reasonably with the Korean question. Therefore, any resolution on the Korean question adopted by the United Nations is unilateral and null and void. Any attempt to impose the will of one side on the other can only be interpreted as deliberate obstruction of the peaceful unification of Korea and an endeavour to create a pretext for the prolonged occupation of south Korea by U.S. armed forces.

The Korean and Chinese Governments hold that all foreign forces must be withdrawn from Korea, that the Korean question should be settled by the Korean people themselves through consultations between north and south Korea without any outside interference, that the desire of the Korean people for the peaceful unification of their fatherland must be satisfied, and that the countries concerned should undertake to ensure the peace of Korea and non-interference in Korea's internal affairs. The Korean and Chinese Governments have made unremitting efforts for the peaceful unification of Korea, and the withdrawal of all Chinese People's Volunteers from Korea was already completed in October 1958. The Governments of the countries on the United Nations Command side should respect the will of the entire Korean people to unify their fatherland and make corresponding efforts to withdraw all their armed forces from south Korea at once. Otherwise, they cannot escape the grave responsibility for obstructing the peaceful unification of Korea.

THEATRE

Hunan Opera

Peking has just had a memorable visit from the Hunan Opera Troupe. It brought two operas: *An Imperial Concubine Banished*, a *chiyang* opera, and *Drawing Lots for Life or Death*, a *huaku* opera. Hunan's *chiyang* opera is sung in a high pitch, hence its nickname of "the opera which you can hear on the other side of the mountain." Steeped in local artistic tradition, it has been popular for centuries not only in Hunan but in Kwangtung, Kwangsi, Kiangsi and Kweichow. *Huaku* opera evolved out of local folk song, mountain songs and tunes the working people sing during festivals. Its popular roots are deep. It is well-loved particularly in the countryside where performances are often staged by the peasants themselves. Since liberation, it has developed rapidly; some objectionable elements, picked up as a result of feudal landlord influence, have been weeded out, and it has proved to be an expressive medium for reflecting the new life of the people.

Both operas shown this time in Peking by the Hunan troupe are traditional pieces, polished over the years to a high level of artistry. Both, though by different means, make a moral point in uncompromising terms. Since liberation, theatrical workers have done a great deal to salvage, resuscitate and reform fine local operas which have been forgotten, spoiled or neglected. These two Hunan operas are a good example of what they have achieved.

An Imperial Concubine Banished is about the ill-fated imperial concubine of the Emperor Yuan Ti of the Han dynasty (206 B.C.-220 A.D.), the Lady Wang Chao-chun who was sent to marry the king of the invading Hsiung Nu by the Han court in a cowardly act of appeasement. This story is well known among the people and it has been the subject of several ballads and plays. One version by Ma Chih-yuan, a dramatist of the Yuan dynasty (1279-1368 A.D.), based on this story, satirizes the cowardliness and decadence of the Han court. The stage version presented by the Hunan troupe puts the emphasis on the patriotic spirit of Lady Chao-chun. She is portrayed as a woman who would rather die to preserve the honour and

dignity of her country than live a luxurious life in an alien land. Her tragic death, with which the play ends, dramatizes the moral of the story.

The success of the play depends on the portrayal of Lady Chao-chun who, and the groom and her escorting guard, are the central characters. Hsieh Mei-hsien gives an outstanding portrayal of this woman, stubborn in her rectitude, wrathful, mortally aggrieved. She makes the most of the dramatic opportunities presented by the episode of the long journey on horseback from the Chinese capital, Changan, to the Hsiung Nu kingdom. On her way to the inhospitable northland Lady Chao-chun twice sees flocks of geese flying south. Her raised head and backward look evoke sorrow and nostalgia, intensified as she speaks the lines: "I would rather be a ghost in my own country than queen in an alien land," and expresses the hope that her death will put the Han rulers to shame.

The progress of the journey is told in recitative, song and pantomime by the three travellers in a beautifully co-ordinated episode. As they approach the border, Lady Chao-chun's horse stumbles several times. At the last stumble, the long neigh of the horse—imitated by a shrill note on a *sona* (a type of wind instrument)—brings the three of them to a sudden stop. The surprise is heightened theatrically by the backward somersault of the groom and his frantic tug at the make-believe bridle to steady the animal. Each is startled into the clear awareness that even the horse is unwilling to leave its homeland and cross the border to an alien country. This opera has many well-remembered lines: "The geese fly south, a moving line in the sky; with tear-filled eyes Chao-chun goes to the alien north"; "Generals and ministers throng in the court; but they have sent a woman from the palace instead."

Drawing Lots for Life or Death is said to be based on a real incident in Heng-

shan County, Hunan, in the Ming dynasty (1368-1644 A.D.). Huang Po-hsien, the county magistrate in the play, is ordered by General Ho, the local garrison commander, to sentence an innocent girl to death on the framed-up charge that she has killed and robbed the general's son. The fact is that the general's son, who is a rake, has slipped and drowned in a river while pestering the girl, Wang Yu-huan, with his unwanted attentions. The magistrate, true to his public trust, insists on investigating the case. He finds that the girl is innocent and, what's more, that her father once saved his life. He is determined to save her, but how? Merely to release her will not save her from the tyrant and will cost him his own head as well. Huang's own daughter and god-daughter, determined to repay their father's debt of gratitude, plead to be allowed to die in Wang Yu-huan's place. Yu-huan, of course, refuses to allow this, but finally the three of them agree to draw lots in a darkened room for the honour of making a sacrifice that will at least save one life. Huang's daughter, Hsiu-lan, draws the death lot. Happy that Wang Yu-huan will be saved but grief-stricken for the fate of his daughter, the magistrate takes his child to the execution ground. But at the last moment they are saved by the inspector of the province who, on discovering the false charge, sets the innocent free, and arrests the tyrannical General Ho.

There are quite a number of traditional Chinese operas with this theme of sacrifice of oneself to save others, but as far as moral impact and dramatic effect are concerned, *Drawing Lots for Life or Death* and *The Orphan of the Chao Family* (see *Peking Review*, Vol. I, No. 43, 1958) are two of the best. The Hunan troupe forcefully treats the former opera as an indictment against injustices typical of a feudal society in which the ruling class rode roughshod over the weak and poor. It also brings out the determination of the oppressed to defend themselves and help each other against tyranny. Dramatic truth gains by the treatment of magistrate Huang Po-hsien. He is no flaming champion against evil and injustice, but honest according to his lights. At the trial he ruminates: "If I set this girl free without condemning her, I may lose my position and my head. But if I sentence her to death now, she may die an undeserved death." He refuses to sentence Wang Yu-huan to death as ordered and insists on a fair investigation. Later, finding that she is wronged and, motivated by an honest gratitude to his saviour, he finds the courage to stand up to the general at least by a risky piece of trickery.



Scene from *An Imperial Concubine Banished*, with Hsieh Mei-hsien as Wang Chao-chun and Wang Chiu-hsi as the groom

The opera is compact, with an intricate plot. The attention is focussed from the very beginning on the struggle between right and wrong, justice and injustice. And the tension mounts steadily to the scene in which the three girls draw the fatal lots in a darkened room. As they enter, they sing together: "Hand in hand the sisters enter the darkened room, but in the dark their hearts are intertwined." When the magistrate, lantern in hand, enters the room to find that his

own daughter has the death lot in her hand, he has a difficult role to play: the daughter of his benefactor will be saved, but at what a cost!

The scene at the execution is melodramatic in the best sense of the word. The magistrate dare not say farewell to his own daughter, for fear that the general may discover that the girl is not Yuhuan. Suspense mounts to be released suddenly at the very end when the provincial inspector appears to right all

wrongs. The inspector might have appeared as a fortuitous *deus ex machina*; in fact his role is woven skilfully into the action so that there is nothing unnatural about it. He appears in the last but one scene disguised as a fortune-teller, and discovers the truth about the case. In the last scene when he brings the tyrant General Ho to book, he is doing what everyone in the audience by that time demands heart and soul.

—WU PIN

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

▲ **THE PURSE OF GOOD OMEN** A traditional opera. A rich man's daughter helps a poor girl. Her generosity is later rewarded when she herself stands in need after all her property is destroyed by flood. Produced by the Peking Opera Company of Peking.

Mar. 10, 7:00 p.m. Renmin Theatre

▲ **TEARS AT THE DESERTED MOUNTAIN VALLEY** A tragedy of old China. Heavy taxation ruins a poor peasant family. The father and son are killed by tigers; the mother dies of grief and worry and the daughter-in-law commits suicide. Produced by the Peking Opera Company of Peking.

Mar. 11, 7:00 p.m. Renmin Theatre

▲ **DRAWING LOTS FOR LIFE OR DEATH** A magistrate is ordered by a local military commander to sentence an innocent girl to death. Once rescued by the girl's father, he determines to save her life. His daughter and god-daughter offer to die in her place. The three selfless girls draw lots to decide who will make the sacrifice needed to save the lives of the rest. The timely arrival of a just inspector saves the situation (see p. 22). Produced by the China Peking Opera Troupe.

Mar. 11, 7:00 p.m. Guang He Theatre

Mar. 12, 7:00 p.m. Renmin Theatre

▲ **THE WHITE-HAIRED GIRL** One of China's most famous modern operas in traditional Peking opera form. It is based on the actual story of a peasant girl who, persecuted by a landlord, fled and lived in hiding in a mountain fastness for many years until saved by the people after liberation. Produced by the China Peking Opera Theatre.

Mar. 13, 7:00 p.m. Renmin Theatre

▲ **AT THE CROSSROADS** and **HUNG NIANG** The first is the well-known "fighting in the dark" acrobatic play; the second is based on episodes from *The West Chamber* concerning the vivacious servant-maid Hung Niang. Produced by the Fourth Troupe of the Peking Opera Company of Peking.

Mar. 13, 7:00 p.m. Xi Dan Theatre

▲ **PAN CHIN-LIEN** An episode from the novel *Water Margin (All Men Are Brothers)* about the beautiful but ill-fated Pan Chin-lien. Wu Sung, the tiger-killer, punishes the tyrant who has caused her ruin. Produced by the Fourth Troupe of the Peking Opera Company of Peking.

Mar. 14, 7:00 p.m. Minzhu Theatre

SHAOHSING OPERA

▲ **MENG LI-CHUN** A traditional opera. Meng Li-chun has been promised in marriage to the son of a traitor. To escape this fate she disguises herself as a man and

runs away, eventually to become a high court official. Produced by the visiting Tientsin Shaohsing Opera Troupe.

Mar. 10-16, 7:00 p.m. Ji Xiang Theatre

PINGJU OPERA

▲ **MU KUEI-YING** A brave warrior-maid of Sung times wins the heart of a young general after defeating him on the battlefield, and later helps him drive out foreign invaders.

Mar. 10, 7:00 p.m. Da Zhong Theatre

▲ **BITTER FLOWERS** A play about the Shantung peasants who rose against oppressive traitors and landlords at the start of the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression.

Mar. 11 & 12, 7:00 p.m. Da Zhong Theatre

MODERN OPERA

▲ **MADAM BUTTERFLY**—Puccini's famous opera in Chinese. Produced by the Central Experimental Opera Theatre.

Mar. 17-19, Tianqiao Theatre

THEATRE

▲ **THUNDERSTORM** A tragedy of incest written in classic form in 1933 by the famous playwright Tsao Yu. A damning exposure of the family of semi-feudal and semi-capitalist society in pre-liberation China. Produced by the Peking People's Art Theatre.

Mar. 10-12, 7:00 p.m. Shoudu Theatre

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

Mar. 11-13, 7:00 p.m. China Youth Art Theatre

▲ **SUNRISE** Another well-known play by Tsao Yu. A story of the fate of women in a pre-liberation treaty port. A vivid picture of upper-class life there and also of its underworld. Lu Lu, its central character, is a good-time girl who is a victim of the old society. Produced by the Peking People's Art Theatre.

Mar. 13-19, 7:00 p.m. Shoudu Theatre

FILMS

▲ **LETTERS FROM THE FRONT** When Shen Chi-lan learns that her husband, a C.P.V. in Korea, has been killed in action, she avenges her husband's death by throwing herself heart and soul into the campaign to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea.

Mar. 11 & 12, Guang An Men, Peking Workers' Club, Zhongyang

▲ **RED SHOTS** A young woman Communist's adventure in an enemy occupied village during the War of Liberation.

Mar. 11-15, Xin Zhong Guo, Guang He

▲ **TWO PATROL MEN** The struggle against Kuomintang agents on the southern frontier. A feature film produced by the Chiangnan Film Studio.

Mar. 13-17, Guang An Men, Peking Workers' Club, Zhongyang, Shoudu Cinema, Peking Exhibition Centre Cinema, Xin Jie Kou

▲ **BALTIC STORY** A Russian sailor, hating the despotism of the tsarist regime, joins the revolution and lays down his life for it during World War I. A Soviet film dubbed in Chinese.

Mar. 11-14, Da Hua, Jiao Dao Kou, Ertong Mar. 15-19, Guang An Men, Peking Workers' Club, Zhongyang

▲ **WHENCE AND WHERE TO** Must a man help his wife do the housework? Problems of a pair of newly weds. A Czech film dubbed in Chinese.

Mar. 11-14, Guang An Men, Peking Workers' Club, Zhongyang

▲ **LE ROUGE ET LE NOIR** An adaptation of Stendhal's famous novel, jointly produced by French and Italian film workers, dubbed in Chinese.

Mar. 11-14, Dong Dan Workers' Club, Peking Theatre, Shoudu Theatre

▲ **DON QUIXOTE** Soviet adaptation of Cervantes' famous novel, dubbed in Chinese.

Mar. 11 & 12, Shoudu Cinema, Peking Exhibition Centre Cinema, Xin Jie Kou

EXHIBITIONS

▲ **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION** In eleven halls, it shows New China's great achievements in agriculture. Open daily (except Mon.) 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. At San Li Tun, east suburb.

▲ **CHINESE PAINTINGS IN TRADITIONAL STYLE** by women artists of the Yuan, Ming and Ching dynasties. An exhibition in celebration of Women's Day.

At Palace Museum

▲ **OIL PAINTINGS AND SKETCHES** by Indonesian Artists. Sponsored by the China-Indonesia Friendship Association.

At Beihai Park

ACROBATICS

▲ **JOINT PROGRAMME** of conjuring, juggling and acrobatics presented by the China Acrobatic Troupe.

Mar. 12, 7:00 p.m. Minzhu Theatre

SPORTS

▲ **FOOTBALL MATCHES** The visiting "Zenith" Football Team of Leningrad will play matches in Peking:

Mar. 11 v. "Peking" Team
Mar. 15 v. "August 1" Team

At Peking Stadium

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