

PEKING

August 4, 1959

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REVIEW

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How Chenhsien County Conquers Disease

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NEWS AND VIEWS

August 4, 1959 Vol. II No. 31

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The Conquest of Mt. Muztagh

PEKING'S sports world gives a rousing welcome to the Chinese alpinists who scaled Muztagh Ata (7,546 metres) last month. The young mountaineers—25 men and 8 women—chalked up three new world records: the largest group of people ever to scale a mountain of such height, the highest summit ever reached by women mountaineers, and the largest number of sportswomen ever to reach such a height.

In this issue we publish some excerpts from the diary of a member of the expedition. In unvarnished terms it shows the stubborn courage of the young climbers as they battled their way to the top of Muztagh Ata.

Muztagh Ata, soaring above the Pamirs, is near China's western border in the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region. 1,900 metres higher than Mt. Elbrus, the highest in Europe, and blanketed with a thick layer of snow, ice and glaciers, the "Father of Ice Mountains" was conquered for the first time in 1956 when a joint team of Chinese and Soviet mountaineers battling storms, reached the summit in freezing 14°C. below zero weather.

Mountaineering is a very young sport in China. It was promoted in our country with the help of Soviet climbers. Four years ago, in August 1955, four Chinese sportsmen joined their Soviet colleagues in scaling 6,773-metre Mt. Unity and 6,780-metre Mt. October in the Soviet Union. This marked the beginning of Chinese mountaineering. Since then Chinese alpinists have conquered a number of peaks. The following are among the more notable climbs: In June 1957, Mt. Minya Konka, 7,590 metres above sea level, in Szechuan Province, was conquered. In September 1958, 17 Chinese climbers joined Soviet mountaineers in scaling 7,134-metre Mt. Lenin in the Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic. Early this year 72 Chinese mountaineers climbed to the top of Mt. Tungpei (6,177 metres) in the Tanglas in Tibet.

Chinese mountaineering through its scientific work is closely linked to the national effort to build socialism. In 1956 while climbing Muztagh Ata for the first time, Chinese mountaineers collected scientific data on the way. In April 1958, when they scaled Mt. Chingtieh in Kansu Province, the sportsmen also took on the job of locating mineral resources. Again, in August 1958, mountaineers joined survey teams of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in the study of glaciers in Kansu and Chinghai Provinces.

During the four short years of its history mountain climbing is rapidly gaining in popularity. 4,700 people associated with the College of Geology in Peking alone are now on the list of the nation's qualified mountaineers. The recent conquest of Muztagh Ata is a good indication of the advance of mountaineering in China. It also reflects the growth of sports in general in liberated China where millions have turned to physical culture and sports.

But the efforts in mountaineering to date are still only a beginning. China has many high mountains, many of them world famous which still await exploration. While we congratulate our young mountaineers on their recent success, we are also looking ahead to further victories.

ROUND THE WEEK

Wugang's New Stage

China's second metallurgical base at the triple-city of Wuhan—"Wugang" for short—is entering a new stage in its high-speed construction. Ground was broken on July 28 for its blooming mill. In the morning the steelworkers of Wugang, engineers, and administrative staff, gathered at the construction site which was decked out with colourful banners, to witness the ceremony that will usher in the second stage of its construction: the stage of building the mills and workshops to make steel and steel products. With the construction of the blooming mill and its auxiliary shops the great iron and steel complex of Wuhan turns to the last of its many sets of production units.

Wugang's blooming mill, designed with Soviet assistance, will be installed with the most up-to-date equipment. It will tower in the Wuhan skyline to a height of a seven-storey building. Until now work has progressed on 28 projects connected with the giant No. 1 open-hearth furnace which is on its way up. The rest of 1959 will see Wugang concentrating its manpower and resources on the building of steel and blooming mills, now that its two giant blast furnaces are already in service, one since September 1958 and the other since July 14 of this year (see *Peking Review*, No. 29, 1959). Thus Wugang, with all those tall steel structures already completed, giant derricks and cranes towering over the construction sites, and internal highways and railway line under construction, is shaping up on the southern bank of the Yangtse.

The "Double Rush"

All the southern provinces are busy at the moment with what is known among the peasants as the "double rush"—the rush to bring in the early rice harvest and complete the summer sowing. This is the first harvest of early rice since the founding of the people's communes and a rich one is expected, so members of the people's communes are tackling the job with great verve and vigour.

In some areas where the crop ripened earlier, the harvest began in the middle of June, as in the Pearl River Delta where it was completed before the onslaught of the flood waters, the southern part of Fukien Province and the Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region. Now the harvest of early rice is going forward at a terrific pace in the provinces of Chekiang, Kiangsu, Anhwei, Kiangsi, Hunan, Hupeh and Szechuan.

In each of these provinces from three to five million people are turning out daily to gather in the early rice.

The planting of late rice and other food crops for the autumn season goes hand in hand with the harvesting. But since as much as three-fourths of the total annual acreage of farmland for growing food is under the autumn crops, and mostly high-yielding crops at that, the second "rush" is just as vital as the first.

During the harvest much attention was paid to selecting improved seeds for the next crop. The fine strains of two provinces have come to the fore—those cultivated by the peasant seed specialist, Yang Kuang-pao, who is Deputy Chairman of Luchiaow People's Commune in Huangyen County, Chekiang Province, and the tested new strain known as "short-stalk nante" in eastern Kwangtung Province, which is superior to the best of the species used so far.

In this "double rush" job the women members of the people's communes are playing their part to the full. In the fields you see them cutting the rice stalks handling the sickles as expertly as the men and planting the rice shoots with equal dispatch. The women get equal pay for equal work. The best hands challenge the men to contests in the double rush. Some have made national headlines with their record-breaking feats in reaping the big harvest and planting the late rice shoots, which requires great skill.

Wulien Scores Double Victory

Wulien County in Shantung Province was frontpage news in *Renmin Ribao* some days ago. Known far and wide as a poor mountain area, it had always

been a grain-deficient county. Things improved steadily after liberation and in 1958 it became self-supporting in grain for the first time, thanks to the sustained effort to get rid of its backwardness over the past few years. This was no small achievement.

But this year the county scored a double victory. It reaped an extraordinarily rich summer harvest of grain and drew a handsome income from its diversified farming—raising pigs, cultivating honey and cocoons, growing various kinds of fruits, etc. Its success in pig-raising is particularly notable. By the end of June this year the peasants here had raised the number of their pigs from 115,000 head at the end of 1958 to its present 180,000—a leap of 56 per cent.

Wulien County is a fairly good example of how things have been moving in the countryside since the coming of the people's communes. The peasants achieved their success by devoting primary attention to agricultural production and not forgetting to develop forestry, animal husbandry, farm side-lines and fisheries at the same time.

This stress on developing the side occupations along with agricultural production is aimed at providing China's expanding light industry with raw materials. About 60 per cent of the raw materials used by the factories generally come from agriculture, from the people's communes which are well-equipped to produce the things light industry needs most.

In urging the people's communes to develop their diversified farming so as to produce more and better raw materials for industry, *Renmin Ribao*, in its editorial dated July 29, pointed out that this will not only benefit the country's light industry and contribute to the improvement of the livelihood of the people as a whole, but add to the income of the people's communes as well. The



Reaping the ripe, planting the new

Sketch by Wu Chueh (Hunan Province)

people's communes are now making a great effort to meet this need, since the big hurdle in the expansion of the light industries is the question of supply of raw materials.

Negotiating the Hurdles

Meanwhile, Chungking and other cities are tackling this question by setting out to provide their own supplies of raw materials, formerly brought in from other parts of the country, sometimes quite a long way off. Transport adds much to the cost of production. Now the factories in these cities are developing local resources. This has many advantages. For one thing it cuts down production costs considerably; for another it assures a steady supply of raw materials.

Chungking has worked out an effective way of meeting the problem. It has, for example, set up workshops near the sources to process the raw materials needed or sent technical personnel to the outlying farming districts to supervise production. Shanghai is doing pretty much the same thing in building up its pulp-making centres on the outskirts of the city to feed its paper industry, which has much higher targets this year than in 1958. The publishing houses in the country need much more newsprint and paper to provide enough reading material for the increasing numbers of people who are learning to read and write for the first time in their lives.

But in its rapid development light industry faces not only a question of quantity but of variety too, since people nowadays have more money to spend. It was different ten or fifteen years ago. Then the pressing problem for the greater part of the population was how to keep body and soul together. What is a necessity today was a luxury in old China. There was no question of whether industry was producing, say, enough rubber shoes to meet demand, let alone the variety of patterns and styles, which would win the approval of the public.

Today all this is changed. Not only the townspeople but the peasants too want more consumer goods and types which satisfy their diverse tastes. That's why the light industries in Shanghai and other industrial cities are devoting a good deal of attention to variety and style to cater to the constantly more demanding customer. In Shanghai alone, in the first six months of this year, the factories producing articles of everyday use turned out more than a thousand new types of products, as pleasing to the eye as they are practical in use.

The Customers Who Didn't Buy

Shanghai is also the scene of another story involving consumers. Some fifty

people recently descended all at once on the enamelware section of Shanghai's largest department store. The counters were surrounded by these seemingly keen "buyers" scrutinizing the merchandise and comparing notes with one another. But for all their apparent interest none ventured to buy anything, not even a tea mug. The shop assistants were baffled but soon found out that they were in fact the makers of the Jiuxin brand of enamelware—the very people who were responsible for the dead stock of water basins on their hands.

In all fairness to Jiuxin, it should be clear at the outset that this factory used to make some of the best enamelware in the country and had a reputation for the fine and varied designs on its water basins. But in the grading of enamel products this year Jiuxin was not listed among the best makes, and for once the "red banner" for fine products eluded the Jiuxin workers. What had gone wrong? Some suspected the designs. Probably they were already too old-fashioned for the customers. Others argued that water basins were in great demand, in the countryside as well as in the urban areas, and what did designs matter if the quality were good. To make sure just where the shoe pinched, the factory's Communist Party organization decided to take some of the workers, design artists and administrative staff members to the department store to have a good look at their articles and find out why they did not hit it off with the public.

In the display section of model products they saw as many as a hundred water basins with different and attractive designs. None of them bore the Jiuxin trade mark. In picking up an article of enamelware these days, the shop assistants told the Jiuxin visitors, the customers look for design first, then durability, and finally price.

Now they knew where the trouble lay. The design artists and workers concentrated on better designing. Many new water basins with colourful designs were soon produced and for the first time in the trade's history woodcut drawings were used to decorate enamelware. In the department store's special display counter today, the new attractive Jiuxin products often fill up half the space. Of course, the rate of output has slowed down a bit as a result of paying greater attention to variety and new designs. But the Jiuxin workers feel fully compensated now that they are better satisfying the taste of the people.

Communist Youth League Call

All the young people of China who work in the factories, mines or rural areas are called upon by the Communist Youth League to take a still more active part in the current campaign for in-

creased production and economy. This is the keynote of the measures decided by its Central Committee which met in plenary session recently at Tsingtao, the well-known seaside resort on the Shantung coast. It also discussed the question of building and strengthening the organizations of the Communist Youth League at the primary levels and throughout the countryside.

The Central Committee proposes that young men and women in the rural areas, now in the height of the farming season, should take time out to sum up the experiences of the rich harvest this year and pave the way for a still bigger one in the autumn. Stress is put on the development of diversified farming, and here the Youth League wants all its members, and all the youth as well, to play an active and leading role in developing livestock farming. On the industrial front, the Central Committee instructs the Youth League organizations in the factories and mines to press forward with the campaign for increased production and economy, to draw all young workers into the movement which has higher output and better quality as its aim.

Sinkiang's Oil Output Up

As one of the rising oil centres of China, Sinkiang has taken big strides forward. In the first six months of this year the output of crude oil registered by the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region in China's far west was 2.6 times greater than the output of the same period in 1958.

Sinkiang's major oilfields lie in Karamai, which means "black oil mountain" in the local language, an area in the northwestern part of the Dzungarian Basin hardly known before. During the past few years many surveys were conducted here and the findings by the geologists establish the Karamai oil structures as very rich and rewarding. With most of the geological surveying completed, the oil workers and engineers are turning their attention to the actual extraction of oil on a large scale.

Large numbers of workers and technicians have been transferred to Karamai from other parts of the region and a supplementary line to the major pipeline, from the Karamai oilfields to Tushantse, the refinery centre, is being laid to speed up the dispatch of crude oil. A number of oil-bearing tanks with capacities ranging from 5,000 to 10,000 cubic metres are being built at pumping stations along the pipeline, so that a regular supply of oil is kept up. The expansion project at Tushantse, where a new refinery is expected to be completed soon, is proceeding at top speed too.

Controlling the Waters and Rivers

by HUANG HSIEN-LIU

1958 saw unprecedented progress in China's water conservancy work. State investments in capital construction in this field for that year alone amounted to something over four-fifths of what was invested during the whole of the First Five-Year Plan (1953-1957) but the actual amount of work done was greater. This was due, of course, to greater experience in making economies in construction, higher productivity of labour and so on, but primarily to the vigour with which the mass of the nation's co-operative farmers threw themselves and their own resources into the task of putting man in control of the elements.

As a result of these efforts, more than half as many large water conservancy projects were completed as in the previous five years. There were more large reservoirs built and under construction in that one year than during the whole of the First Five-Year Plan.

These big national projects and the hundreds and thousands of smaller projects, canals, ditches and wells brought 480 million *mu* of farmland under irrigation. This was more than double the increase during the First Five-Year Plan, also double the area at the time of liberation, the result of centuries of labour. This brought China's irrigated area to 1,000 million *mu*, or 60 per cent of all its farmlands. In September 1957 that figure was only 31 per cent. But this wasn't all. Initial work was completed to check loss of water and soil over an area of 320,000 square kilometres. This meant the terracing of more slope land, the building of more reservoirs and dams, afforestation, etc. In addition to this, the combined efforts of the government and people's communes brought an initial solution to the danger of water-logging on an area of 210 million *mu*. Furthermore, large numbers of small hydro-electric power stations and water mills were built. Along with the skilled technicians and workers on the larger projects like the great Sanmen Gorge project on the Yellow River, millions of devoted peasants took part in this tremendous campaign to bring China's waters and rivers under control.

Comprehensive Plans

The effectiveness of the vast efforts made depended on the correctness of the policy guiding them. This has been evolved as a result of the accumulated experience of the last ten years.

Today the stress is on storage of water, construction of small-scale projects and building by the people. The idea is not merely to get rid of flood waters but to hold them for future use. The necessary drainage, and large or medium-sized projects with government funds will, of course, also be undertaken where necessary and they will be closely integrated with the small projects built by the masses. Past experience and a close study of the

economic, political and natural features of the country has gone to the shaping of this policy.

In harnessing rivers the stress is now being put on comprehensive transformation of large areas of mountain, hill, plain and low-lying land in a catchment area.

Such is the policy and such are the main achievements scored in its application last year. A review of some highlights and special successes will help to make clearer what its application has meant and means in specific cases.

In the Mountains and Plains

One of the most imaginative of the small projects of the year was in Wushan County in Kansu Province. This mountainous area suffered perennially from drought but last year its Tungliangshan peasants solved the problem by building a 30-kilometre irrigation canal that winds across mountain slopes 1,900 metres above sea level. This involved cutting tunnels totalling 100 metres, hacking a ledge for another 100-metre section on the side of a sheer precipice and carrying the water by aqueducts across 40 gullies. The peasants displayed no little ingenuity in overcoming these difficulties. The completed canal carries enough water to irrigate 30,000 *mu* and turn them into paddyfields.

Peasants in the hill areas of Siangyang Special Administrative Region, Hupeh Province, found their own way to solve their local water problem. Working according to a unified plan, they have dammed streams in the hills at different levels and diverted their flow to a series of reservoirs and ponds where water can be stored before it runs down to the plain. All the scattered channels, small reservoirs, ponds and cisterns are interconnected to form a gravity operated irrigation system.

The Tientsin Special Administrative Region in Hopei Province faces very different conditions. It inherited a problem of annual water-logging in its large areas of low-lying land. It began to tackle this problem in a comprehensive way in 1955. This involved strengthening dykes and dredging rivers, putting embankments around cultivated plots and planting trees in the uplands along the upper reaches of the rivers. This not only prevents soil erosion in the uplands but to a certain extent checks the amount of water flowing to the low-lying lands. Furthermore the tracts of marshland and rivers have been inter-linked, greatly expanding the capacity to store or drain off water. As a result, 5 million *mu* of former water-logged land are now planted with paddy rice.

The 38,000 square kilometres of plain in Anhwei north of the Huai River "suffered from big floods when there was heavy rain, small floods when rainfall was low and drought when there was no rain." Things have much improved since liberation, of course, but the local people are setting their sights higher now. They have started

projects to achieve a fundamental solution of the local water conservancy problem. They have dredged and widened many big and small rivers and dug over 120,000 channels and ditches. These are linked with a great number of ponds. Many wells too have been sunk. In this way, they expect to make full use of rain water as well as water from rivers and subterranean sources. These water conservancy projects will carry away and store considerable amounts of water when it rains heavily. In case of drought the stored water can be drawn on for irrigation. This kind of work, though not fully completed, already enables the local peasants to plant huge tracts of paddy rice and raise farm yields.

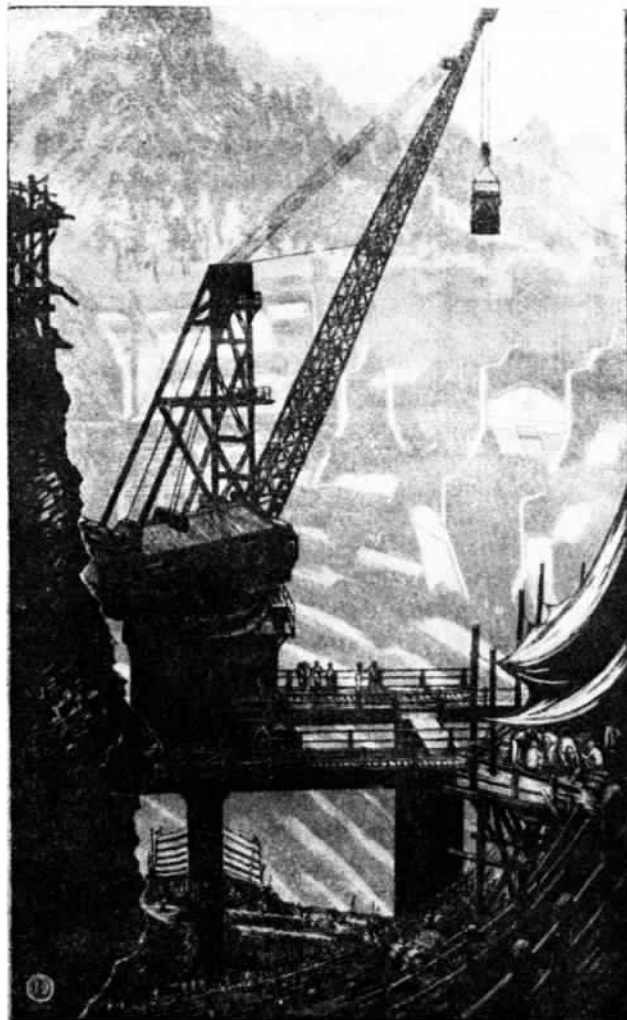
Great headway was also made last year in water and soil conservation on the hills and mountains. Yuhsien County, Honan Province, was notorious as a low yield area because of the triple plague of wind, drought and flood. Last year the local peasants determined to get to grips with the problem, in 100 days they completed conservation projects on several hundred of their hills and over 100 of their gullies. These included tree-planting and digging of "fish scale pits" (crescent shaped pits dug in series on slopes for planting trees and crops and holding water) on the sharper slopes, terracing the land and sinking cisterns on the gentler slopes, and building earth dams and reservoirs in the gullies. This multitude of varied engineering works to conserve water and soil at different levels and reduce run-off, have greatly checked water and soil losses. Some hills have already stood the test of a 500-millimetre rainfall and there have been immediate benefits to crop yields.

Harnessing Rivers

A great deal of experience has been gained in taming medium and small rivers and this was put to good use in 1958. The Mang and its 170 tributaries of various sizes have played havoc in Chiyuan County in Honan for centuries. By following the principle of overall planning, using comprehensive and varied methods of harnessing waterways, putting the stress on small projects, the peasants have done brilliantly in controlling the whole 130-kilometre course of the Mang and its tributaries. The flood volume of that river has been reduced by six-sevenths; because ample supplies of water are now stored, drought has lost its terrors and soil erosion is being gradually checked. This is only one of many examples.

1958 also saw a big leap in the building of big and medium-sized water conservancy projects undertaken by the People's Government. The major multiple-purpose scheme to control the Yellow River at Sanmen Gorge, Honan, is going ahead rapidly. The cofferdam built there has successfully sealed the gorge. It held up the recent flood waters of 1959 and forced them to flow down the temporary spillway in a reasonable flow that was no danger to the lands on the lower reaches. Construction has also started on the multiple-purpose projects along the Yellow River at the Liuchia and Yenkuo Gorges, both in Kansu Province, and the Chingtung Gorge in Ninghsia Hui Autonomous Region. These all form part of the "stair-case plan" of dams to harness the Yellow River. The Tanchiangkou water conservancy project on the Han River is another big multiple-purpose project started last year.

Work on the Huai River system continued in 1958. Three sluice-gate projects on its middle reaches were com-



A hydro-electric power station taking shape

Woodcut by Wang Li

pleted, and work was started on several new projects. These include the Chaopingtai Reservoir on the upper reaches, the Linhuaikang control scheme on the middle reaches and, on the lower reaches, the project to divert part of the Huai north to the Yi River.

The estuary of the Hai River that empties itself into the sea near Tientsin was dammed so that high tides could not mix salt water with the fresh water of the river which is used for industrial and domestic purposes in Tientsin. Work has begun also on several reservoirs on its tributaries to hold its flow back to manageable proportions. Surveys and preparations for drawing up plans went ahead on many other great rivers including the Pearl, the Liao, the Sungari and the Heilungkiang.

Combating Drought and Flood

A number of places in China suffered from drought last year. In certain areas it was fairly serious. 470 million *mu* of farmland was affected, but thanks to the people's persistent efforts and the building of all kinds of water conservancy works, 380 million *mu* saw the crisis through successfully. The rest suffered less damage from drought than normal.

Certain areas were also badly hit by big storms in the summer of 1958. Rainfall ranging between 300 millimetres and 400 millimetres or even up to 500 millimetres over a matter of 20 days, was reported in a number of districts. In the old days, such rainfall would have flooded

or water-logged tens of millions of *mu*. In actual fact, however, the affected area was only a fraction of this. Water conservancy works stood the test by storing water and controlling the run-off. The stored water was later used for irrigation, thereby achieving the dual function of reducing floods and helping farm production.

Last year unusually big flood waters poured down the Yellow River and the Han River but these too were conquered. In the middle of July 1958, concentrated rainfall along the Yellow River and its tributaries in Shensi and Honan Provinces, and particularly in the latter, raised the flow to the highest levels ever recorded in the river's annals. At Huayuankou near Chengchow, Honan, the flow reached 22,300 cubic metres per second, 200 cubic metres more than the peak flow in 1933. With the support of the whole country, more than two million people in Honan and Shantung went into action, battled the unprecedented flood waters for ten days and nights and succeeded in keeping the river safe within its channel. This was a sharp contrast to the situation in 1933, when floods breached the dykes in more than 50 places and affected over three and a half million people.

Long-term Construction

This review has indicated some of the very varied topographical and climatic conditions which exist in China, and that give rise to special water conservancy problems. Some of these are fairly manageable; to deal adequately with others will require work on a huge scale. The distri-

bution of rainfall is very uneven as between seasons and regions. For instance, there is more rain in summer and autumn than in the other two seasons and more water in rivers in the south than in the north. These are not easy problems to handle. To solve the latter may, for instance, require the diversion of rivers from south to north. That is, although big successes have been achieved it will still take a fairly long time for China to end the threat of floods and drought.

That threat still hangs over large areas. This was demonstrated by the floods caused this summer in south China by the big rainbursts. Urgent remedial action is still therefore necessary, but whatever is done will look resolutely to the future. In taming and harnessing its big rivers the nation will continue to make plans for whole river valleys. Certain necessary big-scale projects will be started while the capacity of existing works will be increased. Plans for the harnessing and development of medium-sized and small rivers will be worked out on a priority basis. And all water conservancy projects built by the masses and the government, irrespective of size, will be co-ordinated so as to control and fully use water from rainfall, rivers and subterranean sources. Plans will also be worked out for nationwide co-ordination and management of water resources, for their comprehensive use for irrigation, navigation, power, etc.

The massive achievements in water conservancy in 1958 have laid a good foundation for all future work to aid production and prevent disasters from flood and drought.

Caribbean Currents

6,000,000 Cubans Answer Washington

by SUNG LI

HALF a million Havana citizens joined by half a million peasants from all parts of the island republic paraded in the streets and staged a mammoth rally in the Cuban capital on July 26. The date was the anniversary of the Castro-led attack against the Batista Moncada Barracks six years ago. The giant mass rally celebrated the victory of the national democratic revolution and demonstrated the popular support for the Cuban Government led by Fidel Castro and the land reform programme now being carried out in the country.

The Havana demonstrations, climaxing a nationwide protest movement, were the reply of the six million Cuban people to the U.S. imperialists who are trying to hold back their forward march through intervention of the crudest sort.

Washington's hostility to the Cuban revolution was apparent from the very beginning. When the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship, hated by the Cuban people, was toppling under the blows of the people's forces, it threatened armed intervention. This was followed by a slander campaign against the new government when it tried members of the Batista gangs for crimes against

the people. Washington also turned the economic screws on Cuba—sugar imports were cut and threats to stop loans, cut sugar imports still further and force Cuba to exhaust its limited supply of foreign exchange had been brandished freely.

When the Cuban Government promulgated its land reform law in May, blatant diplomatic pressure was ap-



"About turn! Quick march!"

Cartoon by Ying Tao

Peking Review

plied against it. In an official note to Cuba, Washington expressed "serious concern" and demanded that Havana "exchange views" with the United States on the "effects of the reform law." At the same time, U.S. government officials and Congressmen shrieked for the ouster of Castro by means of another "revolution," and U.S. troops stationed at the Guantanamo Base in Cuba were greatly reinforced.

These pressures were accompanied by even more sinister cloak-and-dagger intrigues. Miami, Florida, only about 100 miles from Cuba, became the U.S. centre of operations of the Batista gang and a base for subversive activities against Cuba. U.S. weapons were airdropped to arm the reactionary elements in Cuba, and batch after batch of U.S. spies were sent into the country to stir up trouble and even to try and assassinate Castro. Strenuous attempts were also made to sabotage the Cuban revolution from within through the efforts of the reactionary pro-American elements. Many of these plots have been unearthed. One of the latest involved the former chief of the Cuban air force Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz who escaped to Washington and slandered the Castro government at U.S. Senate hearings.

American imperialism isn't relying entirely on subversive activities, the prospects for which are not very bright since the Cuban Government has the solid support of the Cuban people. Washington knows this and is also preparing for armed intervention from without. This is a familiar pattern of U.S. aggression in Latin America — the invasion of Guatemala in 1954 is still fresh in the memory of the world. This time the United States is using the Dominican dictator Trujillo. A so-called "anti-Communist foreign legion" composed of the fascist scum of Latin America, Europe and Asia is being assembled in the Dominican Republic with an eye to Cuba.

More recently, Washington has been trying to use the Organization of American States to do its dirty work. After Eisenhower personally attacked Castro for causing trouble in the Caribbeans and asked the OAS to "recommend" action, U.S. State Department has pressured the OAS Council to agree to a foreign ministers' conference in August to "study" the situation in the area. Washington's intentions are apparent when we recall that the invasion of Guatemala was preceded by a similar conference and that the U.S. Senate has already passed a bill allocating \$29.5 million to finance a so-called OAS police force.

Land Reform Is Essential

For the Cuban people, land reform is a necessary step of their revolution. The regime of the big landlords, finance magnates and U.S. monopolists has been overthrown. The hated dictatorial apparatus, including the hand-picked Batista administration, National Congress, army and police, has been done away with. But to develop the national economy and increase the people's income, the country's economic structure must be changed. First of all freedom from the exploitation of the U.S. monopolists and the big landowners must be achieved.

Cuba's economic facts of life are clear. Sugar is the chief source of national income. But more than half of the sugar companies in the country are run by the U.S. monopolies. U.S. capital also controls half of the country's railways, one-third of the banks, most of the mining industries, public utilities and processing industries, and all of the power industry and postal and telecommunica-



"For Whom the Bell Tolls"

Cartoon by Hua Chun-wu

tion services. As to foreign trade, two-thirds of Cuba's exports go to the United States and three-fourths of its imports come from the United States.

The feudal land system which has kept the country's agricultural production extremely low is a component part of this colonial picture. The *latifundistas* (big estate owners) have over 46 per cent of cultivable land of the country while 70 per cent of the peasant households own only 12 per cent of the land. Among the *latifundistas*, the U.S. sugar monopolies are the biggest. They control 75 per cent of the country's fertile land and two-thirds of the sugar plantations.

While the U.S. monopolists reaped fabulous profits from Cuba, they brought indescribable poverty to the Cuban people and choked their national industry. From a total investment of \$1,000 million in Cuba, U.S. companies reaped a profit of \$750 million between 1952 and 1957! But for the half a million Cuban agricultural labourers, the average income for a family of six is a meagre 45 pesos a month. Most of them have only seasonal jobs, while another 700,000 — one-third of the country's labouring force — are jobless.

The land reform law announced by the Cuban Government on May 17 is thus a very important measure to improve the people's livelihood and help the country become economically independent. Because of this, it has the support of the overwhelming majority of the people. The law provides for the distribution of land belonging

to the government or confiscated from Batista followers and the taking over of all land, with compensation, in excess of 30 *caballerias* (1 *caballeria* = 33 acres) belonging to foreign and local landowners, for distribution among the peasants.

U.S. Imperialists Hard Hit

Since the U.S. firms are the major landowners, they are hit the hardest by the reform. The American sugar magnates have their hands on particularly large tracts of waste and fallow land. The Atlantica del Golfo owns 500,000 acres, the Cuban American Sugar Co. 330,000 acres and United Fruit Co. 266,000 acres.

But Washington's fury against the Cuban Government does not stem merely from immediate economic considerations. The reform actually hits the material foundation of the U.S. political and economic domination over Cuba. Over the years, the U.S. monopolies have used the *latifundio* system both to reap immediate super-profits and to keep Cuba in a state of backwardness and dependence on the United States. The Batista and other pro-American regimes Washington propped up in Cuba all supported this system. If U.S. domination is the tree and the Batista dictatorship the branch, then the *latifundio* system is the soil in which it grows. Precisely for this reason, Washington pretended to be calm when Batista was overthrown in January; it hoped that if the soil could be kept intact, some other evil tree of its choice could be cultivated.

The repercussions of the land reform in Cuba extend far beyond the Caribbeans. Throughout Latin America, the *latifundio* system and the possession of land by U.S. monopoly capital are the bane of the people. The peasants who form 70 per cent of the Latin American population are chronically land-hungry, while the *latifundistas* and U.S. and other foreign monopolies control over two-thirds of the cultivated land. One U.S. company, United Fruit, for example, owns four million acres of land in Central America alone. That is why land reform has long been the most urgent demand of the Latin American peoples. Countries like Mexico, Guatemala and Bolivia, under popular pressure, have attempted in past years to carry out land reform of one sort or another, but all were thwarted by bald intervention from the U.S. imperialists. The most glaring example of this is Guatemala. The democratically elected Arbenz government was overthrown by the U.S.-backed Castillo Armas gang when it tried to put an end to the *latifundio* system. No land reform! — is a cardinal Washington policy for Latin America.

The Cuban land reform has become a focal point of interest throughout Latin America. Everywhere the people are saying: what the Cubans can do, we too can do. The drafting of an agrarian reform law by the Venezuelan parliament is a straw in the wind. Washington is mortally afraid of the Cuban precedent and this deepens the significance of the Cuban people's great struggle.

Travel Notes

In the Kwangsi Autonomous Region

by C. F. YANG

The editor of "Peking Review" recently visited the Kwangsi Autonomous Region for the Chuang People. This is the first instalment of his impressions. The second, "Among the Yao People in Kwangsi," will appear in our next issue.

THE Peking-Pinghsiang Express pulled out of Peking station at 12:05. I was off on my first trip to the Kwangsi Autonomous Region for the Chuang People since liberation. To me, however, Kwangsi is no terra incognita. Back in the early forties, I worked in Kweilin, then the capital of Kwangsi Province, as a journalist. That was in the most difficult days of the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression. The Kuomintang, behind its anti-Japanese facade, was savagely persecuting the Communists who were fighting the Japanese invaders most successfully. The warlords of Kwangsi cracked down on the genuine patriots, particularly the outspoken newspapermen and magazine editors who dared to lash out at their discredited policy of national betrayal. Now I was on my way back again.

On the train I was struck by the cheerful, well-mannered conductors. As far as I could make out, they were

mostly young people in their late teens or early twenties. I spotted several Kwangsi lads by the accent and turn of speech which is peculiar to the region. These rather boyish conductors were always on the move, bringing drinking water and meals to the

passengers, sweeping the floors and wiping the windows, answering questions as to when the train would get to a given station, helping women and elderly passengers with their children and luggage get on or off the train. Their smiling faces and ready services soothe nervous passengers.

The train reached Hengyang, in Hunan Province, in the wee hours of the morning. What's worse, there was a heavy rain. Tough luck for the departing passengers. A girl conductor was helping an old woman get off the train, holding an umbrella over the lady with one hand and carrying a big valise with the other. I heard the grateful woman say to the conductor: "Many, many thanks, girlie."



You look like one of my granddaughters and you help me as she would have helped me. A new society and new ways of doing things." The strong emotion in her voice indicated that she was deeply moved.

Young Cadres

In my subsequent visits to factories, farms, construction sites, Communist Party committees and government offices, young people were much in evidence in the leadership and on the administrative staffs. This was particularly noticeable at the grass-roots levels, where young men and women stand out in every branch of activity. On the state farm in Kweihsin I found that the majority of the production team leaders were under thirty. Many of them were trained and tested in the land reform and the farm co-op movement, with many years of practical experience already under their belts. A rising generation of cadres needed to build socialism—Communist Party functionaries, government workers, farm managers, factory directors, production team leaders, industrial and agricultural technicians and clerical workers—is growing steadily. In some respects these young cadres may be inexperienced, naive or even impulsive. But their optimism and initiative, their dogged determination and perseverance and their complete confidence in the socialist cause leave no doubt as to their mettle and their future.

When I visited Tuan, an autonomous county for the Yao people, I had the opportunity of attending the delegates' conference of a people's commune. The conference was called to sum up the experiences gained during the past year and to elect the management committee of the commune. The conference was fully representative. There were hump-backed old peasants with weather-beaten and careworn faces, stoutly-built middle-aged peasants with chapped hands and suntanned young peasants with a lighthearted air. From the speeches at the conference it was clear that every shade of opinion was represented. It was mainly the young people, quite a large number of girls among them, who kept the ball rolling at the group discussions.

Calling a Spade a Spade

The delegates spoke their minds freely. They had a lot to say. Often, before one speaker had finished, another broke in with remarks expressing approval or voicing objections. Sometimes when the topic under discussion was highly controversial several delegates spoke out at the same time, each claiming to be heard. In my opinion, it didn't matter much whether or not all the parliamentary niceties were observed at these meetings. As far as I was concerned, the most important thing was the serious and responsible way the commune delegates thrashed out their problems. They meant what they said and they said what they meant. I was greatly impressed by their simple and forceful expression of views. In discussion they came straight to the point and called a spade a spade instead of beating about the bush and mincing words. This was a striking contrast to the shadow-boxing and long-winded abstract talks characteristic of some meetings of high-brow intellectuals which I had attended.

During my stay in Kweilin in the days before liberation, I somehow held the impression that the Kwangsi natives were people of few words. They differed from the slickers who can talk the hind leg off a mule. But

you can rest assured that they would never take a beating lying down. They would pay you back in your own coin some day, if not right away. More often than not, they looked cool and reserved. But here at the delegates' conference, the speakers talked excitedly, gesticulated, shouted and displayed their emotions. I pondered over the big difference. The delegates here were working out their own problems. They naturally showed their keen personal interest and went about their business with feeling and a high sense of responsibility. Everywhere I went I heard people talking with a sense of pride and affection about "our commune," "our farm," "our factory," "our reservoir," etc. They know that they are the owners of the farms and factories where they work. This strong sense of being the masters accounts for the high level of initiative and creative energy of the people in their work. And this is one of the most striking contrasts to the indifference and apathy of the people in the pre-liberation days.

The minority people are fond of singing and dancing. One evening after supper, a group of student singers and dancers performed for the delegates. Sometimes the delegates sang popular songs in unison with the young performers.

Evening was usually a favourite time for rest and leisure. Some Yao delegates played their special chess game, using different coloured beans as pieces. Others sat in groups, telling stories or jokes, or singing songs. I did not understand their language. But their frequent outbursts of laughter indicated what a jolly good time they were having.

Encounter on a Bus

During the one-day bus ride from Nanning to Tuan, an elderly Chuang woman and her daughter-in-law with a baby in her arms were sitting in the same row with me on my left. The baby took a curious interest in my spectacles and stretched out his hands towards me. I snapped my fingers to catch the baby's attention. "The baby is very cute," I said to the young mother while looking up to the old lady with a smile. The mother poked the corner of the baby's mouth and said sweetly, "Show uncle a smile, sonny." The baby broke into a broad smile. I took the baby and sat it on my knees.

The grandmother looked very pleased, but still felt a bit timid. Seeing that her grandson and I were getting along so well, she finally screwed up her courage and asked me quite politely: "You, comrade, where do you come from and where are you going?"

"From Peking. I'm going to Tuan," I replied.

"Pe . . . king? Where is it?" she said, half to me and half to herself, scratching her head in bewilderment.

The old woman had scarcely finished when a young peasant sitting behind her blurted out in a contemptuous tone of voice, "You don't even know where Peking is?! What a shame! It is where Chairman Mao lives."

"I know Chairman Mao lives in Peking. But this comrade's pronunciation sounds unfamiliar to me." Then she repeated "Peking" several times and her puzzled face brightened up. She added, "I know Chairman Mao."

I felt keenly embarrassed. Back at home, my daughters who speak standard Peking pronunciation always



Student singers and dancers perform for the delegates of people's communes at Tuan

complain about my bad or even wrong accent and pronunciation. My wife has time and again remonstrated with me, saying: "You have been living in Peking for nearly ten years and yet your pronunciation still sounds terrible." My lame answer has always been that old dogs cannot learn new tricks. But unconvinced she says: "It's never too late to learn." This time, I felt quite upset.

Chairman Mao Seen by Minority People

"You're not to blame, granny," I hastened to apologize to the old woman. "My pronunciation is rotten. By the way, did you say you know Chairman Mao?"

"Know him? Why, I saw Chairman Mao before."

"Do you mean to tell me that you have met Chairman Mao before?" I asked with ill-concealed surprise.

"I saw Chairman Mao twice in the movies," came her prompt reply, her eyes half closed as if she were recalling the scenes in the movies. "Now I see him every day. I have his picture on the wall back at home," she continued.

That explained it. In Kwangsi each of the national minorities takes Chairman Mao for one of their own. The Chuangs claim that Chairman Mao is a Chuang while the Miaos contend that Chairman Mao is a Miao. The Yaos, Tungs and other minorities do the same. Their reasoning is quite simple. Only their own men can be so good to them.

The regular showing of films and newsreels has proved not only a favourite form of popular entertainment, but also an effective and useful medium of education to keep the minority people posted on what's going on in China and all over the world.

Everywhere people look with reverence to Peking, the symbol of national unity and the inspiring leadership of the Communist Party and the People's Government. Overfulfil the production plans and go to Peking to see Chairman Mao! That is the cherished desire of every outstanding worker and commune member.

The ten years since liberation have effected tremendous changes in every aspect of the Kwangsi scene. Impressive statistical data on the development of industrial and agricultural production and the material and cultural life of the people spell out a moving story. As in other parts of the country, socialist construction and socialist transformation have radically changed the face of Kwangsi. However, success has not been achieved without hard work, difficulties and setbacks.

Sikiang State Farm

In Kweihsin, I stayed at the Sikiang State Farm for three days. I visited the fields and workshops. I interviewed many people representing all the units of the farm—production team leaders, engineers and apprentices, agronomists and technicians, tractor drivers and electrical workers, poultry raisers and cattle breeders, Communist Party

secretaries and administrative staff members, rank-and-file factory hands and commune members. I felt the pulse at the grass-roots, as one comrade said half in jest, half in earnest.

The farm was first established in the winter of 1953 in an area which was formerly described as bandit-ridden, malaria-infested and flood-stricken low-lying land overgrown with weeds. During the Ching dynasty and the Kuomintang days, repeated attempts had been made to reclaim this vast tract of land, but each time the plan was dropped because of seemingly insurmountable difficulties.

When the farm-building got under way in 1953, there were problems aplenty. They had to construct roads and houses, reclaim the land, build dykes, literally starting from scratch. Now after six years of hard work, the farm has thirteen units including a tapioca-making workshop, an oil-pressing mill, a machine shop, cassava and sugarcane plantations, orchards, poultry and livestock farms. Much of the farming is done by tractors. The office building and dormitories for the workers and their families are modern-style brick houses with electric lights. The farm has its own dining-rooms, primary school, nursery and clinic well-equipped with both foreign and Chinese medicines.

Learning on the Job

The growth of the farm, however, was not without twists and turns. During the first few years of its existence, the farm was not a going concern because it lacked an appropriate policy. At the very beginning, the farm concentrated on raising food crops. Then it shifted to cash crops—with sugar-cane as the main item of agricultural production. Later on, animal husbandry became the primary concern, with corresponding stress on the planting of corn for fodder. Frequent shifts of policy which failed to take into full consideration the local conditions fared rather badly. This painful experience, however, taught useful lessons and helped the manage-

ment of the farm determine the right line of policy if the farm was to be operated successfully.

After much discussion, it was finally decided that the farm should engage in agriculture, industry, and animal husbandry under a closely-related plan and that these three branches of productive activity should be well-coordinated and properly balanced so that they can help one another forward. The implementation of this policy yielded quick results and placed the farm on a solid foundation. At long last, the farm was on the right track.

At present, the agricultural production of the farm is centred on the planting of cassava and fodder crops with due attention to oil-bearing crops, sugar-cane and fruits. In the industrial field, the farm concentrates on manufacturing tapioca and edible oil with some attention to turning out farm tools. Animal husbandry on the farm emphasizes raising hogs. Agriculture, industry and animal husbandry are inseparably interwoven with one another. Cassava and oil-bearing crops provide the essential raw materials needed for the making of tapioca and edible oil and the dregs make good fodder. Hog-raising not only supplies more meat, but also provides manure for agriculture.

Health Campaign

How Chenhsien County Conquers Disease

by LING YANG

SUMMER, among other things, witnesses a stepping up of the perennial mass campaign to improve public health. The movement is spearheaded against the "four evils" (flies, mosquitoes, rats and grain-consuming sparrows), but in many parts of the country, also against widespread parasitic diseases which are part of the legacy of poverty and backwardness from the old society.

Much headway has been made during the past few years in combating these diseases. Schistosomiasis, the most rampant disease, has been practically wiped out in 60 per cent of the infected areas, mostly south of the Yangtse. Mao Tse-tung's famous poem, *Farewell to the God of Plague*, was inspired by news from one of the counties which overcame this scourge. Notable progress has also been registered in the fight against malaria, hookworm, filariasis and other local diseases. But the question is often asked: where did China get the medical personnel and supplies to succeed in doing this among so many people over such vast areas?

Wiping out diseases is, of course, a medical question. But political guidance and mass mobilization play such a decisive role that it is far from just a medical question.

Chenhsien — A Case History

For a case study of a victorious fight against filariasis we take you to Chenhsien County in southern Hunan Province. Chenhsien is a hilly and sparsely-populated rural county which was traditionally plagued by mosquitoes. Malaria was the Number One scourge

The state farm at Kweihsin is really a pilot farm, helping other farms in the neighbouring counties to adopt improved farming techniques and introduce better seeds and strains. The cassava and hogs raised on the farm, I was given to understand, contained some of the best varieties and breeds imported from abroad, and have been widely introduced in other counties in Kwangsi. Apart from that, large numbers of agricultural technicians, farm managers, tractor drivers, and expert cattle breeders have been trained on the farm and sent to work elsewhere on newly-established farms.

The growth of the state farm at Kweihsin tells its own instructive story. The road it has traversed has not been without obstacles and pitfalls. But the builders of the farm never faltered in the face of difficulties and setbacks. They learnt dearly-bought lessons, pressed forward and eventually made a success of it.

Trial and error. Learning on the job. Forging ahead in the teeth of overwhelming difficulties and temporary reverses till success is achieved. That, it seems to me, is the way we Chinese people are engaged in building socialism in this vast homeland of ours.

for the past century. "When you visit Chenhsien, malaria visits you," an old saying had it. Vigorous drives carried out since liberation practically eliminated this disease. But a second "God of Plague," filariasis, still haunted the county's population of 270,000. Although the situation improved greatly compared with the old days, this chronic parasitic disease still caused much suffering and financial losses. Its victims are subject to regular attacks of chills and high fever once or twice a month, in the early stage, and every attack means an average of five days in bed for the patient. At a later stage, the victims suffer swollen feet and legs and in the worst cases lose the power to move about. The dire poverty of the masses before liberation and the resultant bad sanitation, malnutrition and lack of medical care were the social breeders of the filariae (threadworms) which are carried to man by mosquitoes. As the people's livelihood rose steadily in recent years, the conditions ripened to put a halt to this scourge.

The Campaign Against Filariasis

It was against this background that the Communist Party's county committee, after summing up the campaign against malaria, issued its call early in 1958 to wipe out filariasis as a part of the nationwide campaign against disease.

Like going into a battle, the first thing you must have is the will to fight and confidence in victory. The county Party committee immediately went to work to build up the necessary morale. Many patient discus-



Away with the "God of Plague"

Woodcut by Ho Lin

sions were held and detailed analyses of the situation were made. Most of the cadres gained confidence in one way or another and they pooled their ideas. It was pointed out that malaria, which was more rampant than filariasis, had been overcome because the masses of the people, and not only a limited number of medical personnel, were drawn into the fight. It was also pointed out that in addition to the small corps of medical personnel trained in the Western school, there were about 330 practitioners of traditional Chinese medicine scattered throughout the county and 2,600-odd rural health workers trained in the course of the anti-malaria campaign who could be mobilized for the coming battle. As for medicine, the provincial authorities had promised to give Chenhsien 900,000 tablets of hetrazan, a modern medicine of proven efficacy. Besides, the local population could be mobilized to contribute their varied indigenous prescriptions which could be helpful after scientific examination and selection. As for equipment, dozens of microscopes, for instance, could be obtained from various sources including the laboratories of local schools. The consensus of opinion formed in these deliberations was that victory could be won with the Party organization in firm command and the masses of people drawn into the battle.

Mobilizing the Masses

Vigorous organizational work followed. A 5-member group was set up to guide the whole operation of the county with the deputy-secretary of the county Party committee as head. More than 80 specialized personnel were organized into three contingents, each taking charge of a number of the county's 20-odd townships. Each contingent, in turn, was composed of teams in charge of propaganda, technical research, data and statistics, supplies and "reconnaissance" (gathering relevant information about the disease), etc. When they went into the field after a short period of intensive training, the local people set up the necessary teams and groups to work under their guidance.

The fight was on. The next step, it seemed, would be getting down to diagnosis, administering the medicines, etc. But things worked out differently. Each contingent found that its paramount task was to mobilize the masses, that is, to give full information to the people as to what it was all about, to kindle their enthusiasm, to pool their ideas and thus enlisting their help in the true tradition of the Communist Party's "mass line."

The people wanted to get rid of filariasis but they still had many backward ideas left over from the old so-

ciety. Some still adhered to superstitious explanations of the cause of the disease and did not believe medical treatment would do much good. Some were sceptical because the evil, rampant for generations, seemed deep-rooted and inevitable to them. Others feared that the treatment might not be effective and the money spent on it would be wasted. Still others worried that the treatment might confine them to bed for long periods of time and thus reduce their income. And the victims of the disease in the earliest stage often refused to believe that they had contracted the disease although the blood tests showed that they had. In a few extreme cases, medical doctors who offered to visit the patients at their homes, without charge, were politely refused. All in all, although there were many enthusiasts, much propaganda and educational work was needed to organize a really massive and effective battle against the filariasis worms.

The services of all who could lend a helping hand were enlisted. Rural propaganda workers put up huge placards and banners, sometimes on rooftops, to popularize the anti-filariasis campaign. Amateur drama groups dramatized the theme on make-shift stages. Primary school pupils were organized into choruses to sing old familiar songs with new lyrics about the health drive. At the meetings of production brigades and teams, lantern slides of microscopic studies of filariae were shown to counteract superstitious ideas. Communist Party members and Communist Youth League members, as in every other drive to further the interests of the people, worked tirelessly to publicize the campaign.

The people responded. They flocked to the medical teams for blood tests and treatment. To handle the job quickly, many rural health workers and new activists were given short-term, intensive training so that they could help make the blood tests, compile rosters of patients, record their case histories, etc. As soon as a patient was discovered, medicine was administered accordingly. Non-technical or less technical jobs, such as delivering medicine, keeping records, were entrusted to new recruits of the work teams.

Vigorous Medical Work

The success of the battle now hinged on the efficacy of the medical treatment. The medical personnel were now playing a decisive role. They worked conscientiously, garnering new experiences, conducting research and improving prescriptions as the treatment went on.

An important innovation was reported in the thick of the battle. Traditionally, the curing process with hetrazan was described as "small doses over a long

period." It usually took 57 days and an amount of medicine costing about 30 yuan to heal a patient. In one locality of the county, however, a number of patients refused to take a second dose because of their physical reaction to the first dose—fever, vomiting, headaches and dizziness. But blood tests indicated, quite surprisingly, that one dose had virtually eliminated the filariae and larvae. This prompted the medical workers to explore the possibilities of heavier doses over a shorter period of time. A doctor who is a member of the Youth League organized a full-scale experiment with 480 patients and found that a drastically shortened curing process was effective in more than 90 per cent of the cases treated. This was a real contribution; it reduced the amount of time, drugs and money required for the treatment as well as the sufferings of the patients from the usual reaction to hetrazan. When studied and approved by the provincial health department, this method was popularized in the county.

Meanwhile, the medical workers set out to find ways of alleviating the strong reactions to, and the complications caused by, hetrazan. The people now co-operated enthusiastically. They informed the medical workers of many traditional and indigenous prescriptions which could alleviate the pains of the victims during the periodic attacks.

The medical personnel also investigated the many indigenous cures for filariasis recommended by the local practitioners of traditional Chinese medicine. Some of them were found to be promising, particularly for the serious later-stage patients, many of whom were still unable to work or even to move about after being treated with hetrazan.

The shock attack against filariasis continued for weeks on end. The operation wound up with a new

blood test of all the patients. Most patients were completely rid of the filariae. It was a resounding victory.

Pulling Up the Roots

"To get rid of the weeds, you must pull out the roots," as the old saying goes. The wiping out of filariasis has to be coupled with the elimination of mosquitoes. Chenhsien had gone a long way in this sphere during the previous fight against malaria. Nevertheless, it continued to press ahead the attack against mosquitoes—again with the full participation of the entire population. The improvement of sanitary conditions, closely linked with measures to boost production such as collecting manure, is an imperative step in any successful drive against pests. The peasants had already moved their cow stalls and pigsties, which were traditionally situated close to the homes, to places outside the villages. The peasant households, though very modest, became increasingly spick and span. Lime powder as an insecticide was applied to possible breeding grounds of mosquitoes and flies. The local people became highly "hygiene-conscious." Locally produced, inexpensive medicinal herbs, proven efficacious in preventing contagious diseases, are now prepared and used regularly in many homes.

The campaign against filariasis in Chenhsien was effective. Sampling tests of 2,000 former patients taken throughout the county up to last spring showed that there were no more filaria larvae in 90 per cent of the cases. The local population, however, did not rest content with their success. Fighting parasitic diseases, like the campaign against the "four evils," is a continuous battle. Chenhsien is still pressing ahead towards the final goal of completely routing the century-old enemy. And the example of Chenhsien shows the general pattern of how China fights diseases the mass way.

A Mountaineer's Diary

High Conquest—The Second Ascent of Muztagh Ata

by **WANG FENG-TUNG***

Friday, June 12, 1959

We left Kashgar today by car. Our party of more than fifty Chinese men and women climbers is going to climb Muztagh Ata—the "Father of Ice Mountains" rising 7,546 metres above sea level in the Pamirs. Except for the few who conquered this same peak three years ago together with Soviet mountaineers, most of us are strangers to this place and have been climbing for only two or three years. The average age of our party is around 20, the eldest is 34. We come from many walks of life but a

*The author is the instructor of the expedition.

common interest in mountaineering has brought us together. Among us are Hans, Tibetans, Uighurs and Huis, lumbermen from Szechuan, herdsmen and dairymen from Lhasa, college students and scientific workers as well as men of the P.L.A. Frontier Guard. Nearly one-third of our party are women climbers; they have less experience than the men members. But everyone is in high spirits. We pledged to do our extra special best when we were warmly received by the Communist Party and government leaders in Kashgar.

In less than three hours' drive, we found ourselves entering the mountainous Pamir plateau. In Kashgar it

was so hot that you perspired even though you had practically nothing on, but here even woollen underwear and eider-down coats aren't enough to keep one warm.

Since the mountain highway between Kashgar and Tashqurghan was open to traffic last October the journey between Kashgar and the foot of Mount Muztagh takes only a few hours by car. Three years ago, it took a camel-train 18 days to carry the supplies and equipment for the joint Sino-Soviet expedition over the same distance. But we had started late so we covered only half the distance by nightfall and had to camp on the upper reaches of the River Gaitze, about 70 kilometres from Muztagh.

Saturday, June 13

After a detour around the blue waters of Lake Kara Kul where wild ducks flew in great flocks, our cars drew close to the western foot of Muztagh Ata. Here heavy clouds hung low, the entire mountain mass was wrapped in mist; all we could see was a dozen or so silvery glaciers running down to the lower slopes of the snow-covered mountain. Above that we knew towered the formidable peak which had defied both the noted Swedish traveller Dr. Sven Hedin and the English climber Eric Shipton. Sven Hedin hadn't managed to get beyond 6,800 metres. Because of the cold Shipton was forced to give up at 7,000 metres. Muztagh Ata thus remained unclimbed until 1956 when it was conquered by a joint expedition of 31 Chinese and Soviet mountaineers.

An advance unit of our party had preceded us by several days and they had already set up our base camp at Kartumak, a highland 4,500 metres above sea level. This had a kitchen, a radio station, an office, and living quarters. The 1956 Sino-Soviet joint expedition had pitched their Camp I at this site, about 500 metres above their base camp. This time we made this spot our base camp. It saved a great deal of trouble travelling up and down and also helped our climbers to acclimatize themselves better to the rarefied air and weather conditions on the mountain.

Our base camp was set up with the help of the Khalkhas herdsmen who live nearby and the chief of the civil affairs section of the Ketzulaisu Autonomous *Chou* had come here personally to see to all the necessary arrangements. These cheery herdsmen had helped to carry some 15 tons of equipment and food supplies to our base camp by horse and camel.

Tonight the mercury dropped to 6½°C. below zero and the ice in the water tanks was an inch thick. But we all felt warm and comfortable in our felt tents. We made ourselves at home here for it would be our base for several days before the test of conquering Muztagh Ata.

Friday, June 19

A week has passed since we left Kashgar. We got up at dawn in some excitement as Shih Ching, our deputy-leader, blew his whistle, adding: "It's a lovely day, not a cloud overhead!"

So far we had done five days of training. Every morning we had climbed to the Yambulak Glacier to fetch snow for our kitchen crew to melt and boil our rice in. This had become part of the regular exercise of camp life, but yesterday, Hsu Ching, our leader, had told us that today the whole party would undergo a further process of acclimatization at the greater altitude of 5,500 metres above sea level while all the beginners would also be required to go through what we call ice and snow drill there. Everybody greeted the news with great excitement and got busy making preparations for our first real encounter with Muztagh Ata.

At 10:55 hours local time (12:55 Peking time), our whole party began its march towards Mount Muztagh, along a ridge between the Yambulak and Kartumak Glaciers. This was the same route taken by the Sino-Soviet expedition in 1956, the route that led them to victory. We climbed steadily to an altitude of 5,000 metres. After a long trudge over an expanse of detritus we passed beyond the snow line. Here even the highland yaks of the transport team began to slow down their pace. The lack of oxygen at this altitude irritated them; some of them shook off their loads, others butted the porters when they whipped them to quicken their pace. At last, we had to give in and allow them to take their own time.

There was a snowfall on the mountain yesterday, and as we came near the 5,500-metre mark the frozen snow was so slippery that it was hard to keep on one's feet. We covered the last 100 metres with the help of our ice-picks. All of us arrived safely at our Camp I but this ascent of 1,000 metres had taken us five solid hours! Thanks to the acclimatization process we had gone through at the base camp in the last few days, none of us suffered from mountain sickness. Chung Chen and Wang Kuei-hua, two Han women climbers, and Thrinlai, a Tibetan woman climber, were the only ones who suffered slightly from headache but they kept doing all sorts of odd jobs to accustom themselves to the height as quickly as possible.

Snow came again; and the temperature sank to around 10°C. below zero. We pitched our tents for the night and melted snow to prepare our meal. After dusk, the blizzard was soon over; in the clear air twinkling stars in clusters were spread all over the dome of space.

Saturday, June 20

After breakfast, every member of the party got ready for drills in ice and snow climbing: we had our nailed boots on, snow glasses and light packs. A reconnaissance party of six was formed and sent ahead to ascertain conditions along the route to our next camp at 6,200 metres above sea level. They were Shih Chan-chun, Hsu Ching, Liu Ta-yi and Chen Jung-chang, all Masters of Sports, and Wang Chen-hua and Chang Hsiang, Sportsmen, First Class.

This section of the climb lay over some of the most difficult terrain on Mount Muztagh, a region of "ice cascades" where there were countless open and unsuspected crevasses, ice slopes and snow cornices. A single act of negligence here can lead to disaster. Since most of the

women climbers and some of the men too were still tyros at snow and ice climbing, it had been decided that some preliminary drilling was necessary to master this craft.

The party was divided into ten ropes each composed of four people.

At 3:30 in the afternoon, the reconnaissance party returned safely.

Friday, June 26

Last night we camped at Camp I. We completed our second drill yesterday after five days' rest.

Today we started early at eight sharp. Everybody carried a load of 15 kilogrammes. The tracks left by the reconnaissance party several days ago were already obliterated by snow so the more experienced members of the reconnaissance party again had to lead the way.

The first difficulty we encountered was an ice slope with a gradient of 40 degrees. More than 50 metres long, it led straight to the Yambulak Glacier which shone like a mirror on our left. As we were about to cross this slope someone shouted, "Watch out!" A new climber had slipped as he mounted the slope. The rest of the team dropped to the ground, grappled on to the slope with their picks and his fall was broken.

We continued our ascent and soon came to the second most difficult part of the journey—the "ice cascade" ahead of us. From afar, it looked as if there had been an earthquake here: there were cracks in every direction and here and there were jumbles of fallen ice blocks. Our most experienced climbers threaded their way around these open crevasses one by one testing the snow with their picks to make sure there were no concealed crevasses in their path. All the rest moved carefully forward in the footsteps of their leaders. The ropes that bound the teams together were extended as long as forty metres: this would give extra time for action in case of a fall.

However, thanks to the care and skill of our leaders, we all crossed the "ice cascades" without accident. Next we were faced with a long snow slope with a gradient of 60 degrees. Here the snow was knee-deep. Hsu Ching, our path finder and leader of the expedition, at every step had to pull out his leg from the snow by using both hands and his pick as his support. We were all pretty winded and we made halts about every thirty minutes. We were fatigued too and would willingly have fallen to sleep during the halts.

As we neared the site of our Camp II at 6,200 metres above sea level, a deep chasm suddenly barred our way. But after following its edge for about 100 metres we discovered a snow bridge spanning it. Once our leaders had negotiated this it was not difficult to get all of us over with the support of ropes though it must have been a dizzying experience for the new climbers to see the sheer drop below them.



Those who first arrived at the site of Camp II immediately pitched the tents and before long the whole party had arrived. Our cameraman Shen Chieh who had been recording the expedition on colour film got busy taking shots of us as we put up the tents. But as he was walking away from one of the tents he stepped into a hidden crevasse before he knew it; he threw his arms wide and this fortunately kept him from slithering further down. But every time he tried to pull himself out he sank lower into the crevasse. "Stay where you are, don't move!" someone shouted. It was Shih Chan-chun, Director of the Mountaineering Section of the Physical Culture and Sports Commission under the State Council. So saying he crawled on all fours to Shen and pulled him out with the aid of a rope. As Shen was coming back along the old track, he had another narrow escape. A snow bridge which had got quite shaky after many people had crossed over it gave way beneath him. But luckily he was roped together with Shih and he suffered nothing worse than another shaking up. To avoid similar accidents, our leader now drew a line around the tents and no one was allowed to go beyond that circle.

Here at Camp II, while most of us were not seriously affected by the rarefied air, a few had severe headaches and vomited. Lack of oxygen made us short of breath and many could not go to sleep until they had taken sleeping pills.

Sunday, June 28

We returned to our base camp yesterday.

At ten this morning, Shih Chan-chun addressed the whole party and proposed that we skip the third drill and head straight for the summit. The two drills, he said, had shown that all the climbers had acclimatized themselves to the high altitude and were well able to carry on despite the lack of oxygen and radical changes in temperature. And since we had already carried enough food to the higher camp sites, there was really no need of a third drill. Shih's proposal had the ready acceptance of

the whole party, for nearly everyone had got the same idea after the second drill.

Wednesday, July 1

Tonight we lit a bonfire at our base camp and held a meeting and party to celebrate the 38th birthday of the Chinese Communist Party. In his speech Hsu Ching, secretary of the expedition's Communist Party group, encouraged us and expressed his confidence in our success in conquering Muztagh Ata.

Then we had a number of impromptu turns: folk dances, Peking opera singing, games. Our programme lasted until midnight and ended in the *Song of the Mountaineers* sung by the whole expedition.

Tomorrow is going to be an unusual day.

Thursday, July 2

The decisive moment has come. Today the whole party of men and women climbers started the ascent of Muztagh Ata. In front of us is the towering ice- and snow-covered, pyramidal 7,546-metre peak. It will take us at least six days to reach that summit even if weather conditions are ideal.

By the time we had finished breakfast, Muztagh Ata's icy sides were glittering under brilliant sunshine. We had reduced our packs to the minimum, to something around 8.5 kilogrammes in weight. In addition to the indispensable tent, eider-down sleeping bag and coat as well as special warm shoes, everyone carried rations of dried boiled rice, preserved vegetables, pickled beancurd and some canned fruit.

At ten o'clock Shih Chan-chun, on behalf of the Physical Culture and Sports Commission and the expedition's Communist Party group, presented a national flag to the party, and we vowed to plant this on the summit of Muztagh Ata.

At 10:30, with the national flag at our lead we headed for the main peak of the mountain.

(To be continued in our next issue)

CHINESE PRESS OPINION

Vile U.S. Slander

Under the title "The True Face of the Slanderers," an article in *Renmin Ribao* (July 29) comments on the joint resolution recently adopted by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives which authorizes the U.S. President to designate the third week of July each year as a so-called "captive nations' week." Its list of so-called nations "enslaved by Communist imperialism" includes Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, the People's Republic of China, the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam and even a number of the republics of the Soviet Union.

This resolution of the U.S. Congress is shot through with lies and vain hopes that have completely obscured truth and reality. Throughout the post-war period, the article recalls, the Wall Street bosses and their agents have time and again plotted to overthrow the new-born socialist countries and re-establish their imperialist rule; they have resorted to economic blockade, subversion, open provocation and even military aggression. The logic of history, however, is ruthless: the socialist countries have grown stronger than ever, and it is becoming ever clearer that a restoration of capitalist rule in these countries is mere wishful thinking. The imperialists have reluctantly discovered that there is not much they can do about it. These are the circumstances under which this shameful resolution of the U.S. Congress was adopted. It is written in the bitter gall of hatred the U.S. ruling clique has for the socialist countries and all nations who have won their freedom and independence.

Exposing so-called "democracy" and "freedom" in the U.S., the article says that today, on U.S. territory, there are nearly twenty million Negroes and coloured people who are being daily humiliated, who are enslaved and deprived of their rights, while the overwhelming majority of the American population who have to sell their labour power are also wearing the shackles of capitalist exploitation.

Since the Second World War, the U.S. imperialists, by economic plunder, political infiltration and military expansion, have spread their tentacles to every part of the world they could reach. The U.S. has chosen to play the role of international gendarme; it has become the most vicious enemy of national liberation movements all over the world.

The fact that the U.S. Congress chose this particular moment to sound off its

slanders against the socialist countries is clearly an attempt to create obstacles to the peaceful coexistence of countries with different social systems and to the development of normal international relations. It is an attempt to poison the international atmosphere.

But today more and more Americans are seeing through the fogs of such U.S. propaganda and have begun to understand the peaceful policy of the Soviet Union and the truth of its achievements in building communism. There is a stronger demand that the U.S. Government cancel restrictions on Soviet-U.S. trade and cultural exchanges. These developments are causing apprehension in U.S. ruling circles. That is why they have not hesitated to use this Congress resolution to slander the Soviet Union and other socialist countries in another attempt to twist the truth about the lands of socialism and weaken the tremendous impact of their economic construction and peaceful policy.

The U.S. Vice-President Nixon is now visiting Moscow; his talk about coexistence and peaceful competition stands in sharp contrast to the resolution of the U.S. Congress with its load of anti-Soviet venom and its vain hopes of subverting the socialist countries, says the article.

Laotian Authorities Plunge in Deeper

The Peking press sharply condemns the latest U.S. instigated activities of the Laotian Government which disrupt the Geneva agreements and threaten peace in Indo-China.

Renmin Ribao's Commentator (July 27) draws attention to a joint communique issued on July 23 in Vientiane by the Governments of Laos and France, revealing that the Laotian Government has decided to train "powerful troops" using arms and military supplies provided by the United States, and to ask "U.S. military experts to tender help."

"This is a new development and proof of the deliberate attempt by the U.S. aggressive forces and the Laotian reactionaries to undermine the Geneva agreements utterly, to extend the civil war in Laos and threaten peace in Indo-China," says Commentator.

This joint communique, he points out, indicates that the United States will

interfere even more openly in Laos' affairs and tighten its control over the Laotian government troops, so as to realize its aim of grabbing the whole of Laos. As the Indian weekly *Blitz* revealed, the aim of the U.S. imperialists "is to crush the Laotian movement striving for democracy and independence, suppress the bias of the Laotian people towards peace and neutrality, and draw this country into SEATO."

In fact, Commentator further points out, long before it instigated the Laotian authorities to launch civil war, the U.S. had already illegally shipped big quantities of military materials, arms and ammunition into Laos, as well as a large group of variously labelled U.S. military personnel. Now, at the instigation of Washington, the Laotian authorities are openly asking for U.S. "help" in training their troops; this is a patent attempt to "legalize" U.S. interference in Laotian internal affairs and sabotage of the Geneva agreements.

It is worth noting, Commentator says, that during his latest visit to Bangkok the Laotian Foreign Minister Panya openly declared that SEATO and the United Nations would "defend" Laos. Simultaneously, under U.S. direction, the authorities in Thailand and south Vietnam have stepped up their collaboration with the Laotian authorities, with an accompanying clamour in Bangkok and Saigon for SEATO interference in Laos.

Despite protests and warnings from various interested countries and condemnation and criticism by world public opinion, the Laotian authorities have decided to put the fate of the Kingdom of Laos into the hands of the U.S. imperialists, and embark on the course of expanding the civil war. Such actions violate the national interests of the Laotian people and the interests of peace in the Indo-China region and throughout Asia. The Laotian authorities should give consideration to the grave consequences of their obstinate decisions and actions, Commentator warns.

Kishi Detains Koreans

Although the Korean and Japanese Red Cross Societies reached an agreement on June 24 on repatriation of Korean residents in Japan, the unreasonable objections raised by the Kishi government have prevented any further progress being made on this issue during the past months, states *Da Gong Bao* in a commentary (July 31). The legitimate rights of more than 100,000 Korean residents in Japan who are ready to leave for their homeland have been wantonly abused, it adds.

August 4, 1959

THE PASSING SHOW

Prayer for Captive Peoples

*Lord God! confound those pesky slaves
Who dare to build a Paradise on earth
And hang their man-made stars in space.
Un-Christian they who spurn to turn the other cheek!
Pray give us strength and weapons of destruction, which we seek
To free them from their freedom
And grind their cities into wrecks.
Turn round the Eastern Wind, O Lord,
It's blowing down our necks.*



by Mi Ku



Two Chi Pai-shih chicks tearing SEATO

The Long Nose of the Law

A characteristic of SEATO is the growing ability of its members to smell subversion everywhere. The Director-General of Thailand's Police Department has banned an album of the late Chi Pai-shih's sketches of grasses, insects, flowers and chicks.

People of various circles in the Korean Democratic People's Republic have insistently demanded that the Japanese side sign the agreement without further delay, the commentary continues. The Korean residents in Japan have held meetings in 120 cities and towns urging the Kishi government to allow them to return home immediately. Popular organizations in Japan have also taken active steps to help the Koreans get back to their homeland. Nevertheless the Kishi government has ordered the Japanese Red Cross Society not to sign the agreement whose terms have already been agreed upon. This violation of international usage and exhibition of bad faith has made it clear that the Kishi government was from the very beginning not sincere in wishing to permit repatriation of the Koreans. At the very moment representatives of the Korean and Japanese Red Cross Societies began their talks, the commentary recalls, the Kishi government tried to make difficulties with its so-called "screening" proposals. Later, it made other excuses to obstruct agreement between the two sides. Now, under the pretext that the agreement cannot be signed pending the approval of the International Committee of the Red Cross, it

is again attempting to drag out this matter indefinitely.

The repatriation of Korean residents in Japan is a question that concerns Korea and Japan only, the commentary points out. In adopting its present absurd stand the Kishi government is trying to shift the blame on to the International Committee of the Red Cross, and use this matter of repatriation of Koreans as "capital" in its political horse-trading with the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique.

The U.S. Government has been displaying a quite extraordinary "concern" about this matter and has been doing all it can to obstruct the wish of the Korean residents in Japan to return home, the commentary points out. At the same time, the Syngman Rhee clique has been raising a clamour about preventing the repatriation of these Korean nationals "by all means, including the use of force." These brutal and deliberate acts to prevent the Koreans from going back to their homes contravene all humanitarian principles; they are intolerable to the Korean people and to all fair-minded people throughout the world, declares the commentary.

PEKING OPERA

New Talent for Peking Opera

The first group of graduates of the Peking Opera School gave their graduation performance in the latter part of last month before a critical and also warmly appreciative audience that included most of the veterans of the Peking opera stage. The sixty-five students who acted had completed seven years of rigorous training under expert guidance in acting, singing, acrobatics and dancing. Now they were on the eve of starting an even more searching school on the public stage. They have all been assigned to the three leading Peking opera companies led respectively by Mei Lan-fang, Hsun Hui-sheng and Shang Hsiao-yun, the three foremost actors in *dan* (female) roles today. They will continue to learn while taking part in performances. For all of them this seeing the foremost actors of the day at close range, and enjoying their daily help, will be a unique opportunity to improve their art. Mei, Hsun and the others were all in the graduation audience, watching them with their instinctive little appreciative nods or frowns, and it was clear that nothing that went on on the stage escaped their attention.

Seven years ago most of these youngsters were barely ten years old. Today they have completed a high school education and have learnt to perform about sixty operas. Not a few have mastered as many as ninety. When they started, their school, founded in 1952, was housed in an old temple where Peking opera actors were wont to gather for a chat and to do their daily training. All the equipment it had then was a couple of dozen bamboo sticks to use as "weapons" and various props; six faded, tasselled whips, their symbolic "horses"; and a mattress for tumbling. Today new buildings have been built beside that temple. With the help of the People's Government, the school has been turned into a modern, well-equipped establishment, beautifully surrounded by green shrubbery and flowers. Ho Shou-chen, who in his day was a celebrated actor in the role of "painted face" heroes, has been its able principal, and many other veteran artists have been teaching there.

In the old days the would-be actor faced a tough road to the Peking opera stage. As often as not, indenture contracts contained clauses which put the apprentice actor completely in the power of his master. With luck, he might come through those long years of ordeal and rise to stardom; if not, he would have to be content with some grossly underpaid job back-stage or in the crowd. In

those days the patronage of some well-known "master" or stage entrepreneur was considered essential to success. Those ordeals are ended. Li Yu-fu, one of the sixty-five new graduates, has had all her wants looked after by the state ever since she entered the school; some of the best masters of the theatre have been her teachers, and now she has been assigned to a first-class troupe. Her older brother, by contrast, after years of study was forced to quit the theatre before liberation because he failed to find a suitable patron. With families connected in one way or another with the theatre, most of the graduates are able to compare yesterday with today. That undoubtedly is one of the ingredients of their high *esprit de corps*, their keenness at their studies (they finished their courses six months ahead of schedule), and their determination to maintain and develop the splendid traditions of Peking opera that each of their new teachers represents.

The Mei, Hsun and Shang companies are among the finest in Peking opera today. In singing and acting, in make-up and costuming, each has its distinctive features. Each also has a number of operas for which it is particularly famous. Mei Lan-fang has created a great tradition of artistry in *dan* roles; the name of Mei is almost a synonym today for operatic excellence. His performances in *Beauty Defies Tyranny* and *The Drunken Beauty* are remembered as flawless by connoisseurs of the art. Now Li Yu-fu, who has a good voice and has

already learnt a number of operas that are well known in the Mei troupe's repertoire, will join that troupe. Shang Hsiao-yun is noted in his troupe for another type of *dan* role—the courageous type of woman which requires dexterous, acrobatic body movements, vigour in acting and dancing, as well as good singing. Another young graduate, Sung Ching-yuan, has been assigned to his care precisely because she shows talent in these respects. Two other graduates, Li Ya-lan and Sun Yu-min, with particularly clear voices and great delicacy of movement, have been assigned to the Hsun Hui-sheng troupe that makes a speciality of such romantic operas as *The Western Chamber* with its heroines like the clever, vivacious Hung Niang.

If the youngsters are overjoyed at the opportunities that now open out for them in their chosen art, so are Mei, Hsun and Shang at getting this access of fresh new talent to whom they can pass on their art. Shortly after liberation, in his *Forty Years of Stage Life*, Mei Lan-fang described the private Peking opera "school" of the old days as a "little boat drifting on the open seas. In a storm it easily capsized." Today the People's Government has put theatrical training on a solid foundation. Students and the art of Peking opera have an assured future.

—WANG LEIH

THEATRE ARTS

P.L.A. Festival Highlights

In these columns we have already described some of the items in the big People's Liberation Army theatre arts festival which started on June 1 and ended on July 24. During its course thirty-seven troupes representing army units stationed in all parts of the country gave nearly three hundred performances with over four hundred items. These included modern Chinese plays and operas, dance-dramas, "living newspaper" skits, local operas, dancing, singing, recitals of music and poems, and variety shows: an amazing demonstration of the vitality of the arts in the P.L.A. They covered a wide range of theme; many new and interesting theatrical forms were used to portray life in the army, revolutionary heroes and their deeds, and the rapid progress of the country over the past few years, particularly the great leap forward in 1958.

This was a theatrical kaleidoscope that reflected for its audiences many of the key episodes in the revolutionary struggles of the Chinese people over the past



Peking opera actress

Woodcut printed in water-colours
by Fu Wen-shu

three decades. Heroic images of the men of the Red Army during the famous Long March were created in the dance-dramas of *The Eighteen Heroes*, about the crossing of the Tatu River, and *Capturing Luting Bridge*, an exploit that was a matter of life and death to the Red Army in its march across Szechuan. The opera *Red Eagles* took the audience back to the difficult days when the Red Army crossed the marshy grasslands. This tells the story of a woman medical worker who had to drop behind her comrades and remain in the region where the Tibetans lived, to lead them later in their struggle against the Kuomintang reactionaries. This is a moving story of how the seed of the revolution took root and flowered in the regions through which the revolutionary army passed in its northward march and how Tibetan revolutionary cadres matured under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party.

The period of the war against Japanese aggression was reflected in some of the best performances of the festival. The dance-drama *Wild Geese* is based on the exploits of the Communist Party and its army leading the people in the fight against the invaders in the area around Lake Paiyangting in central Hopei Province. The dramatic recital of the poem *To the Memory of General Yang Ching-yu* was rated an unqualified success. It recalled the struggles of the Anti-Japanese Democratic United Army led by General Yang against the Japanese invaders in the snowy mountains of north-east China. *Prelude to the Eastward March*, a modern Chinese play, can best be described as a political drama. It is set in the period when the war between China and Japan seemed to be developing into a stalemate. The reactionary Kuomintang clique was then on the verge of capitulation; the Communist Party waged a vigorous struggle to rally the people of the country against the capitulationists and the splitters of national unity. It is this struggle and its fateful outcome that is here vividly enacted.

The dance-drama *Red Clouds* and the play *Song of the South China Sea* (see *Peking Review*, No. 27, July 7, 1959), and other performances portrayed episodes in the War of Liberation which drove the Kuomintang reactionaries from the mainland. The plays *On the 38th Parallel*, *Young Eagles* and *Friendship* and other items showed the Chinese Volunteers fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Koreans against U.S. aggression. Finally, in the ten years since the founding of the Chinese People's Republic, the P.L.A. has developed into a modernized army that is a mighty force in the defence of the

country and in the building of socialism. Many festival items reflected this latest phase of the P.L.A.

The festival showed that over the past few years P.L.A. cultural workers have been making bold experiments in new forms of stagecraft. They have clearly given a great deal of attention to learning from traditional Chinese art forms, but at the same time they have assimilated much from other countries, particularly in giving expression to modern themes. This was seen in the dance-dramas, for instance. Based on the traditional and folk dances, these incorporated many ideas from the Western ballet. Though they still lack polish, the efforts made should undoubtedly be encouraged. There were many innovations too in staging modern Chinese plays, and in making use of the techniques of traditional Chinese operas. This was particularly noteworthy in the *Prelude to the Eastward March*. The dramatic recitation, combining recitation by one or several persons with dramatic gesture and dancing to the accompaniment of music, was also used to good advantage.

Former units of the Chinese People's Volunteers gave an unusual musical performance. Practically all the instruments were made by the soldiers themselves with whatever materials they could obtain then at the Korean front. For percussion instruments they used captured steel helmets worn by U.S. soldiers, empty shells and beer bottles. With these improvised instruments, they gave a spirited performance of the *Song from the Battlefield* which they used to play during spells between battles.

With the exception of a few orchestral items, practically all the items performed during the festival were new works written or composed during last year's great leap forward. Responding to the call of the Party, cultural workers last year went in large numbers to the villages and factories and out among the people, to live and work with the masses. It was an immensely fruitful time. They collected a great deal of material for new creative works. Many fresh, new talents came to the fore among army cultural workers. These included directors, conductors, actors and actresses, both professional and amateur. Many successful works were produced like *Song of the South China Sea*, *Red Eagles*, *Red Clouds* and *Prelude to the Eastward March*. The festival gave ample proof that a broad and solid foundation has been laid for the further promotion of cultural activities in the P.L.A.

—HSIAO CHOU

Youth Festival Table-tennis Victories

A young Chinese girl who hails from Canton carried off three gold medals at the table-tennis tournaments sponsored by the Seventh World Festival of Youth and Students in Vienna at the end of last month. She is nineteen-year-old Hu Keming. Besides winning the women's singles title, partnered with Chuang Tsu-tung and Bosa (Czechoslovakia) respectively, she helped carry off both the mixed doubles and the women's doubles.

The men's doubles was won by Chuang Tsu-tung and Li Fu-jung who defeated Miko and Polakovic of Czechoslovakia 3:1. Chuang and Li, aged 18 and 17 respectively, are two up-and-coming players, both playing an all-attacking game. Li Fu-jung came second in the men's singles which Miko of Czechoslovakia won 3:1.

Hungarian and Cambodian Basketball Teams in Peking

The eagerly-awaited basketball matches between the strong Hungarian National Basketball Team and top-ranking Chinese teams took place at the Peking gymnasium in the middle of last month. The visiting Hungarian team played four matches here: two against China's national team, one against the Peking Team and one against the August First (Army) Team which won the national championship last year. The Hungarian and Chinese national teams met earlier this year in Budapest; then the Hungarians won 85-71. Rated as one of the best in Europe, the Hungarian team has such famous players in international basketball as Greminger Janos, Simon Janos, Banze Janos and Banhegi Laszlo.

This time, the Chinese National Team had the advantage of playing on home ground. Besides, it had picked up many tips during its recent tour of Hungary and other countries in eastern Europe. Playing an all-out attacking game of great speed, the Chinese team won both matches by a narrow margin: 73-70 and 65-60. As the scores indicate, both games were hard fought. Though the Chinese players led all the way in both matches, the Hungarians pressed them hard, and the scores tied time and again. The Hungarian team lost to both the Peking Team (76-68) and the Army Team (73-59).

The Cambodian National Basketball Team visited Peking in late July. It lost all three matches it played with the Chinese National Team, the Peking Team and the Army Team. The young Cambodian players, however, displayed a fine sporting spirit that impressed Peking basketball fans.

CHINA AND THE WORLD

Chinese Journalists in Cuba

The Chinese journalists' delegation which left Havana on July 28 after an extended stay was the first Chinese delegation to visit Cuba since its revolution. Its members were given many opportunities to acquaint themselves with many facets of Cuban life. They conveyed China's sentiments of friendship and solidarity for the Cuban people in their struggle against U.S. imperialist intervention.

On July 26, the Cuban people celebrated their revolution with a great parade in Havana at which they expressed their determination to carry out land reform despite U.S. pressure. The Chinese journalists were invited to the reviewing stand and greeted Premier Fidel Castro on behalf of the Chinese people. Earlier, they were received by Cuban Commander-in-Chief Raul Castro, Education Minister Armando Hart, and other government officials and leading members of the July 26 Movement. They also called on the leaders of the two Cuban businessmen's federations—PADRON and PINA—and the Rector of Havana University, Dr. Clemente Inclan. They were guests at the offices of the leading Havana newspapers—*Revolucion*, *Noticias de Hoy*, *El Combate*, *Nacional*, *Excelcior* and *El Mundo*. All their Cuban hosts expressed the hope that Cuba and China will develop commercial and cultural ties.

The Chinese journalists were especially interested in the land reform now under way in Cuba. They were present at sessions of the Havana forum on agrarian reform which was attended by many representatives from other Latin American countries, and interviewed Nunez Jimenez, Director of the Cuban National Institute of Agrarian Reform.

Chinese newspapers have reported developments in Cuba with warm sympathy and have carried several dispatches from the visiting pressmen.

Messages of Support to Japanese People

On July 25, the fourth day of united action of the Japanese people against revision of the Japan-U.S. "Security

Treaty," the China Peace Committee sent a message of support to the Japanese Peace Committee and through it to the organizing body of the day. The message reads: "The criminal attempt of U.S. imperialism and the Kishi clique to form an aggressive military alliance, revive Japanese militarism and drag Japan onto the path of nuclear war through the deceptive scheme of revising the Japan-U.S. 'Security Treaty,' directly threatens the security of the Japanese people and gravely undermines peace in Asia and the world. The Chinese people wholeheartedly support the Japanese people in their righteous struggle against the Japan-U.S. 'Security Treaty,' and are convinced that final victory will go to the Japanese people as long as they strengthen their unity and persist in their struggle."

Similar messages of solidarity were sent by the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, and the Chinese People's Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries to their Japanese counterparts.

Czechoslovak and German Delegations

A Czechoslovak journalists' delegation led by Oldrich Svestka, Editor-in-Chief of *Rude Pravo*, is now on a four-week tour in China. It was preceded by a Czechoslovak cultural delegation which visited Peking, Nanking, Shanghai and Hangchow. While in China, members of the delegation, outstanding experts in the fields of mathematics, medicine, water conservancy and education, exchanged views with their Chinese colleagues and lectured at Chinese universities.

A journalists' delegation from the German Democratic Republic has also arrived in Peking. The group is led by Karl-Heinz Cikursch, Secretary of the Editorial Board of *Berliner Zeitung*.

Also in Peking on a tour is the G.D.R. Model Racing Ship Team.

Nepalese Buddhists in Peking

A six-member Nepalese Buddhist Delegation headed by the Reverend Amritananda, President of the Dharmodaya Sabha, a Nepalese Buddhist association, and Vice-President of the World Fellowship of Buddhists, is now on a visit to China.

In Peking, members of the delegation had many friendly meetings with the Reverend Shirob Jaltso, President of the Chinese Buddhist Association and leader of a Chinese Buddhist delegation to Nepal in 1956, and other leading Chinese monks and lay Buddhists. The guests

paid homage to the relic of the Buddha's holy tooth in the 800-year-old Kwangchi Monastery and saw precious copies of Buddhist sutras in Chinese, Tibetan, Pali, Japanese, Burmese, Singhalese and other languages. They also visited Yung Ho Kung, the largest lamasery in Peking, and the famous Tunghchiao Nunnery.

Speaking at a banquet given by the Chinese Buddhist Association, the delegation's host in China, the Reverend Amritananda said that the visit has shown that the rumours he heard before coming to China about there being no freedom of religious belief and that Buddhism had decayed in China were utterly groundless. "We feel quite at home here among our Chinese brothers," he added.

Visitors

From Asia:

Major-General Sahib Singh Sokhey, noted Indian bacteriologist and member of the World Peace Council.

An Iraqi Students' Delegation.

The Iraqi Armed Forces Football Team.

The Delegation of the Employee's Union of the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs.

An Indonesian delegation of the Saving, Credit and Mutual Aid Co-operative of Veterans of the Students' Corps.

From Latin America:

The Bolivian song and dance ensemble, Fantasia Boliviana.

The Chilean writer Lautaro Yankas and his wife.

More U.S. Intrusions

Despite repeated warnings from China, U.S. aircraft and warships continued to violate China's territorial air and waters.

A U.S. naval vessel intruded into China's territorial waters in the Pingtan and Paichuan areas, Fukien Province, at between 13:58 and 16:37 hours on July 19 and again between 1:28 and 3:15 hours on July 20. On July 25, between 9:49 and 10:01 hours, a U.S. naval patrol plane flew over the Yunghsing and Shih Islands in the Hsisha Islands, Kwangtung Province. On July 31, at 11 hours, a U.S. naval patrol plane again flew over Yunghsing Island.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry has issued the 58th, 59th, 60th and 61st warnings against these military provocations.

CULTURAL BRIEFS

A new, unique type of museum was recently opened in Chuanchow, Fukien Province. It contains over four hundred

relics, sculptures, books, stone rubbings and pictures showing China's ancient contacts with foreign countries.

Chuanchow was a famous trade and cultural centre in ancient China. As far back as the Tang dynasty (618-907 A.D.), it was already China's third major sea port. Many travellers from India, Persia, Arabia and other countries sailed to Chuanchow to trade and proselytize; some eventually settled down there. A number of stone sculptures connected with Brahminism, Manicheism and other religions have been found in the city in recent years.

Film workers from China and the German Democratic Republic are co-operating on a full-length, colour, wide-screen

documentary to commemorate the tenth anniversaries of the founding of the two states, both of which come in October.

The script was written by Chinese and German scenarists and will show the progress made by the two countries and their growing ties and co-operation.

To celebrate the coming G.D.R. anniversary, the Shanghai People's Art Theatre is rehearsing Schiller's *Love and Cunning* and Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children*. Both will be staged in October.

A 32-volume anthology of Chinese classical literature has been printed in Japanese by the Heibon Publishing House in Tokyo. It contains works ranging from

the *Book of Odes* to masterpieces of the Ching dynasty, including *The Three Kingdoms*, *Water Margin*, *Record of the Western Lands*, *Strange Tales from a Studio*, *The Dream of the Red Chamber*, and other collections of poems, plays and short stories.

A 12-volume anthology of modern Chinese literature was published in Japanese some time ago.

A Polish version of Mao Tse-tung's poems has been printed by the Polish State Publishing House.

A collection of Chinese short stories including Lu Hsun's *New Year's Sacrifice* has been edited by the Danish Time Publishing House.

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

▲ **ORPHAN OF THE CHAO FAMILY** Prime Minister Chao Tun of the ancient State of Tsin is killed by the ruthless minister Tu An-ku who orders the wholesale execution of all his kith and kin. Chao's two friends, Cheng Ying and Kungsun Shu-chiu, save Chao's infant grandson, sole heir of the Chao family, by a desperate plot in which Kungsun gives his own life and Cheng Ying lets his own son die in place of Chao's grandson. Produced by the Peking Opera Company of Peking.

Aug. 4, 7:30 p.m. Musical Hall in Zhongshan Park

▲ **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.

Aug. 8, 7:30 p.m. Renmin Theatre

SONG AND DANCE

▲ A programme of Szechuan folk songs and dances of the Tibetan and Yi peoples performed by a visiting song and dance troupe from Szechuan.

Aug. 6, 7, 10 & 11, 7:30 p.m. Renmin Theatre

Aug. 8 & 9, 7:30 p.m. Musical Hall in Zhongshan Park

CHINESE DANCE DRAMA

▲ **WOODCUTTER SHIH I** Adapted from an ancient Chinese folk tale. A brave and kind woodcutter, Shih I, saves a princess from the clutches of the nine-headed bird and is promised her hand in marriage as his reward. But his rival, the wicked Wang En, plots to marry the princess himself by pretending that it was he who actually saved her. However, the truth prevails and all ends happily. Produced by the song and dance troupe of the visiting Tientsin People's Art Theatre.

Aug. 4 & 5, 7:30 p.m. Peking Workers' Club

THEATRE

▲ **YANG CHING-YU** A moving story about the life and death of the heroic General Yang Ching-yu who led the people in the northeast in the struggle against the Japanese invaders during the 1930s. Produced by a drama troupe from Kirin.

Aug. 4-10, 7:30 p.m. Peking Theatre

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

Aug. 4 & 5, 7:30 p.m. Shoudu Theatre

▲ **TARTUFFE (THE HYPOCRITE)** The famous play by the great French dramatist Moliere. Produced in Chinese by the Central Drama School.

Aug. 4-9, 7:30 p.m. Shiyun Theatre

FILMS

▲ **THE CLEVER MAN** tells how the vice-chairman of a farm co-op, with the support of the Communist Party and his fellow co-op members, introduces new ways of carrying mud in their water conservancy construction work, in spite of many difficulties and much opposition from conservatives. Produced by the Haiyuan Film Studio.

Aug. 5-8, Shoudu, Xin Jie Kou, Peking Exhibition Centre Cinema

▲ **THE RED BANNER FLYING OVER THE SEA** A feature film by the Tienma Film Studio of China's seamen's bravery and dauntless spirit in conquering difficulties.

Aug. 5-8, Da Hua, Jiao Dao Kou, Ertong

▲ **THE SECOND NATIONAL SPORTS MEET OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY** A colour documentary film, by the August First Film Studio, showing China's Army at play.

Aug. 5-9, Da Hua, Jiao Dao Kou, Ertong

▲ **THE CUCKOO SINGS AGAIN** A colour film produced by the Tienma Film Studio. A country girl finds out that the young man with whom she falls in love and is just about to marry is really a selfish, narrow-minded fellow. Wanting her to be his "tame" wife, he tries to prevent her from becoming a tractor driver. He gets his just deserts.

Aug. 5-8, Shengli, Xi Dan Theatre

▲ **THE CAPTAIN'S DAUGHTER** A Soviet wide-screen film adapted from the great

Russian poet A. S. Pushkin's novel of the same title. Dubbed in Chinese.

Aug. 5-11, Shoudu Cinema

▲ **WE ARE FRIENDS** With the giant construction sites and beautiful scenery of the U.S.S.R. as background, this Soviet film brings us the music, dances and songs of more than thirty countries. A symphony of peace and the fellowship of man.

Aug. 5-8, Shoudu, Xin Jie Kou, Peking Exhibition Centre Cinema

▲ **THE LAKE FAIRY OF WARSAW** A Polish feature film adapted from a fairy tale about a lake fairy in Warsaw who defends the happy life of the people in Warsaw by defeating the devil of the River Vistula. Dubbed in Chinese.

Aug. 5-8, Shoudu Theatre, Peking Theatre, Peking Workers' Club

EXHIBITIONS

▲ **THE "FLYING HORSE" EXHIBITION** of the Korean Democratic People's Republic. It shows the rapid strides made in every field of economy and culture since last year. Graphs, charts, photos, models, and cinema shows. Beginning Aug. 5. Open daily 9:00-12:00 a.m., 2:00-7:00 p.m.

At Cultural Palace

▲ **POLISH PHOTO EXHIBITION** showing Poland's achievements in industry, agriculture, culture and education during the past fifteen years. Open daily 8:30-12:00 a.m., 2:00-6:30 p.m.

At Building Construction Exhibition Centre

▲ **EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS** by Ming and Ching dynasty artists. Open daily 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Close on Aug. 9.

At the Gallery of the Artists' Union

ACROBATICS

▲ **EQUESTRIAN ACROBATICS AND OTHER FEATS** presented by the China Acrobatic Troupe. Daily at 7:30 p.m.

At Dong Dan Stadium

SPORTS

▲ **THE 1959 NATIONAL CYCLE-RACING CHAMPIONSHIPS** will be contested in the newly erected velodrome in the southwestern part of Peking. Don't miss the finals on Aug. 4 at 7:30-11:30 a.m., 3:00-6:00 p.m.



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