

PEKING REVIEW

19

May 12, 1961

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Cultural Exchange, Theatre and Other Features

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A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE NEWS AND VIEWS



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A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE
NEWS AND VIEWS

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ROUND THE WEEK

Keeping Pace with the Season

According to the Chinese lunar calendar the climatic period of *lixia* (the beginning of summer) started last Friday. Of course summer does not come to every place on China's vast expanse on the self-same day, so this signifies rather the coming of warmer weather and a faster growth of crops. That's why for the past few weeks the peasants across the land have been giving the final touches to their spring farming.

As of last week, the sowing of spring wheat was practically completed all over the country. The main spring wheat belt extends from the northeast, through the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, across the northwestern plateau, to the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region. Throughout this area the peasants are turning their attention to the care of the young wheat shoots.

In Liaoning Province in the north-east the spring wheat acreage has been increased by 40 per cent compared with last year. In Kirin Province the peasants completed their sowing plan in spite of difficulties caused by a heavy snowfall at the height of the sowing.

In the south, in the Yangtse River basin, China's major rice bowl, transplanting rice seedlings to the paddy-fields is the order of the day. In Kwangtung Province, which boasts the biggest early rice acreage in the country, more than 80 per cent of the transplanting has already been done. On Hainan Island at the country's southern tip, the whole job has been completed. In Fukien, Kwangsi and Yunnan the work of transplanting early rice is at its height. In southern Kiangsi, the peasants happily set out their rice seedlings in the paddies in a welcome drizzle. In most parts of these provinces rice transplanting was begun immediately after the harvesting of crops sown last winter such as wheat, barley and beans.

Not everything was smooth sailing. This year is having its share of nature's tantrums too. In some parts of Kwangtung and Kwangsi farmers transplanting rice seedlings have had to fight floods from recent rainstorms. In some seriously affected areas, peo-

ple's commune members even had to transplant new seedlings after flood washed away those already transplanted.

Drive for Perfection

The drive for a bigger range of better goods, which was touched off by the Party's recent call to industry, is gathering momentum in enterprises all over the country. It has only been going on for a few months but it has already netted significant gains in both light and heavy industry. Last week, a Shanghai dispatch reported that several of that city's light industrial products, such as bicycles, fountain pens, gourmet powder, thermos flasks and enamelware, already noted for their quality, are now better than ever. Varying degrees of improvement have been made in 45 products the quality of which was not uniform in the past.

Quite an amount of extra thought and effort has gone into that extra quality. The case of the Chungking Enamelware Works in Szechuan is a typical one.

One of the leading producers in its field, Chungking Enamel's products are noted for their fine workmanship — good designs and hard-wearing qualities — nevertheless, quality, at times, fluctuated. This was mainly due to the fact that it had only a relatively small core of experienced and highly skilled veteran workers among a much larger group of young, new hands. The plant approached the task of eliminating this technical gap by organizing special study groups for sparetime technical research and encouraging the workers to undertake specific scientific and technical studies and research.

The workers' research groups carefully compared and studied a wide range of enamelwares produced both in their own shops and in factories in other provinces. In the workshops veteran workers were asked to demonstrate their skills to the young workers. Chou Teh, a specialist in cutting, succeeded in teaching 87 per cent of the new workers the fine points of cutting. Kou Wen-ping has risen from the bench to become the works'

chief engineer and then vice-director of the whole plant. He too proved to be a good teacher. Whenever a new product was produced he would explain to the workers in detail the technical skills involved. When the technical innovations campaign got under way, special technical teams composed of administrative personnel, technical inspectors and veteran workers made the rounds of the workshops checking up on goods at every stage of production. These teams also helped the workers on the spot to improve their skills and iron out technical "bugs." Thus the drive for perfection in Chungking Enamel is well sustained by a complementary drive for technical know-how. These efforts are paying off handsomely. Among the main goods produced by the factory the ratio of first grade products increased by 20 per cent in January compared with the fourth quarter of last year. In February it topped the January ratio by 3.9 per cent, and the campaign is still going strong.

May 4th Anniversary

Forty-two years ago, in 1919, at the Peace Conference held in Paris after the defeat of the Kaiser's Germany, the British, U.S. and French imperialists joined with Japan to turn down China's demand that, among other things, foreign troops be removed from China, that extra-territorial rights be ended and the notorious 21 demands which the Japanese imperialists had forced on China, be withdrawn. The imperialist powers high-handedly decided that the rights formerly held by Germany in China's Shantung Province be turned over to Japan. This scandalous deal set the whole nation boiling with fury. On May 4, thousands of students in Peking took the lead and held a protest demonstration at Tien An Men. The imperialists' Peking puppets tried to brow-beat the demonstrators by large-scale arrests. This not only failed to subdue the students but added fresh fuel to the anger of the nation. In city after city students quit classes, workers went on strike, and merchants closed shops in angry protest. Finally the Northern Warlord regime was compelled to back down. It ordered its delegate in Paris to refuse to sign the peace treaty.

This nationwide movement which mobilized the Chinese people against



Shepherd and Sheep

Painting in Chinese ink and colours by Ya Ming

imperialism and feudalism — the May 4th Movement as it is known — had far-reaching effects on the Chinese revolution. It stands today as an important landmark in the history of modern China. It raised the curtain on China's new democratic revolution. It was also a movement of cultural revolution opposing reactionary, feudal culture and spearheading the spread of Marxism-Leninism in China. Since youth played so big a role in the movement, May 4 has also been made Youth Day in China.

Last week young people all over the land commemorated the 42nd anniversary of the May 4th Movement. Commemorative meetings and discussions were held. Many exhibitions on that important episode of Chinese history were arranged. The History Department of Peking University, whose name is inseparably linked with the movement, arranged a talk on the part played by that university's students in this struggle against the imperialist and feudal forces. At Tsinghua University, one of China's foremost polytechnic institutions, more than 10,000 joined a campfire commemoration party. In Wuhan, in central China, more than a thousand young men and women attended a mass singing of revolutionary songs.

At all these commemorative meetings, the younger generation reviewed the revolutionary struggles of their elders when they were young and the con-

tributions made by the young people in revolution as well as in construction. They pledged to carry forward the revolutionary spirit of their fore-runners with revolutionary drive and a scientific method of work so as to achieve even greater successes under the guidance of the three red banners — the general line for building socialism, the big leap forward and the people's communes.

Peasant College Graduate

Readers will probably remember our story about Wang Pao-ching, the green-fingered peasant experimenter who went to college (*Peking Review*, No. 3, 1961). Now we received word that he and eight of his colleagues from the Fenghuo People's Commune have just graduated from the Northwest Agricultural College in Sian and are returning to the countryside to apply their newly acquired knowledge in their commune farms.

Wang Pao-ching was one of the trail blazers among the many peasants of the new China who eagerly turned to scientific experiments in the fields to wrest bigger yields from the soil. He had only a year and a half of regular schooling but his pertinacious work to improve farming techniques and particularly his success in cross-breeding maize helped boost local farm outputs and won him national recognition. (See *Peking Review*, No. 29, 1959.)

Last year, the Communist Party committee of his native Shensi Province sent him and his colleagues, all outstanding farmers, to agricultural college to get a proper college education. The idea of a peasant going straight from the fields to college was undreamt of in the old society when education was confined to the privileged few. But one of the goals of New China's cultural revolution is to enable the masses of workers and peasants become well educated. Wang Pao-ching and company are the first of a growing stream of working peasants who will enter the gates of the nation's higher educational institutions.

It fell to their lot to blaze a trail through many difficulties and set many new precedents. They were handicapped by their lack of a formal education and the faculty of the Northwest Agricultural College in the 28 years since its establishment had never enrolled a peasant. The college, however, devised for them a special curriculum of thirteen general and specialized courses ranging from mathematics, chemistry and botany to the cultivation of crops, plant physiology and pathology. The peasants proved to be as good scholars as farmers—practical, patient, diligent. They had to put in some real hard work. Discussions were always lively and down-to-earth. Together with their instructors they found the way to crack the hardest nut—how to explain scientific principles in terms peasant students could readily understand. The solution was to amend the orthodox textbooks by citing examples as much as possible from actual production and life.

The wiser for their new book-learning and scientific training these seasoned farmers will assuredly bring great benefit to their people's communes. Their scholastic success will inspire and encourage yet more of their colleagues to "storm the cultural fortresses" and promote the cultural revolution.

Life Rewrites a Textbook

Wang Pao-ching's story, of course, illustrates only one aspect of the cultural revolution. That aims not only to make the workers and peasants intellectuals but foster intellectuals of the working people, that is, to make

the working people well educated and transform the ideology of the intellectuals into that of the working people. It is in accordance with this policy that the nation's intellectuals constantly go to work and live among the workers in the factories and the peasants in the rural people's communes. Practical experience shows that this policy is richly rewarding. In the field of education, for instance, the combination of education and labour leads to better integration of theory and practice. As a result, the quality of both teaching and studying is raised and scientific research promoted. In this connection, the case of Lu Hsiao-wu, an associate professor of animal husbandry at the Shansi College of Agriculture, is highly instructive. His story was recently published in *Renmin Ribao* and has been widely discussed.

Under the *xiafang* (work at the grass-roots) programme Professor Lu went in 1958 to do a spell of productive labour on the farms of Lingchuan County, Shansi Province. As a specialist in sheep-breeding, he went to live and work among the shepherds. He had taught sheep-breeding for 16 years, but he had never in his life herded sheep. On the pasture, he found, to his chagrin, that he didn't even know where to stand while shepherding! A little more than a year's practical work in the countryside and coaching by veteran shepherds taught him a lot of new things. Since his return to his college, drawing on his new working experience, he has rewritten the college textbook on sheep-breeding.

In the first place, he found that while the question of how to raise sheep in the spirit of the general line for building socialism—more, faster, better and more economically—was a subject often discussed among the shepherds. This was, of course, never mentioned in the old textbooks. They devoted a great deal of space to the controversy as to whether winter lambing is better than spring lambing but in actual life in Shansi he found that lambing goes on in all four seasons and the best lambing season is autumn. By careful tending, shepherds are able to make ewes lamb twice a year and thrice in two years. Such lore was not found in the books, either.

Shansi's shepherds have also found ways of considerably advancing the first successful mating of ewes and

they also have their own ways of getting more sheep to grow a heavier than usual fleece.

Professor Lu also found that the shepherds had remarkable practical knowledge of the best ways of pasturing. Sometimes they let the sheep graze under the sun; sometimes in the shade. Sometimes they let the sheep roam about over a wide expanse; at other times they keep them within a small area. Their methods vary with the season and the condition of the herd. Herein lies the secret of getting more and better lambs! This, too, was not covered by his old textbooks.

Summing up his experiences Professor Lu writes that they taught him particularly the value of Chairman Mao's words: "If intellectuals do not identify themselves with the masses of workers and peasants, they can accomplish nothing."

New World Record

Chen Ching-kai, China's weightlifting champion, hits the news again with another world record. Competing in Taiyuan at this year's national championships which opened simultaneously in other cities in various parts of the country, 25-year-old Chen Ching-kai succeeded, on his third and final attempt, in lifting 148.5 kg. for the clean and jerk event in the feather-weight class. He thus broke his own record of 148 kg. which he established at the Moscow International Championships in March 1959. There was a tremendous ovation from the capacity crowd in the competition hall when all the three national judges flashed their lights in unanimous confirmation of the record-breaking lift. Chen won first place in the feather-weight class with a total lift of 345 kg., having pressed 100 kg. and snatched 97.5 kg. That evening, Chen weighed 59.4 kg.

Chen Ching-kai's present excellent performance came as heartening news to China's sports fans. He has been away from competitions for over a year owing to a sore muscle. This is the seventh time Chen has set up a world record since, as a bantam weight, he first came into the limelight in 1956 with the world-record lift of 133 kg. for the jerk. He still holds the world record of 140.5 kg. for the jerk in the bantam-weight class. He established this in 1958 at the Leipzig International Championships.

Premier Chou En-lai on the Convening of the Enlarged Geneva Conference

Premier Chou reiterates the Chinese Government's consistent stand for a peaceful settlement of the Laotian question in accordance with the principles laid down at the 1954 Geneva Conference, expresses the hope that the enlarged Geneva Conference will take place successfully, overcoming the obstacles placed in its way by the United States, and declares that the Chinese Government Delegation will work for the success of this conference together with the government delegations of the participating countries who sincerely desire a peaceful settlement of the Laotian question.

THE Government Delegation of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam headed by Ung Van Khiem, the Delegation of the Royal Laotian Government headed by Quinim Pholsena, and the Delegation of the Neo Lao Haksat Party headed by Phoumi Vongvichit, to the forthcoming enlarged Geneva Conference arrived in Peking on May 6 and 8 on their way to Geneva. On the evening of May 8, Premier Chou En-lai gave a banquet warmly welcoming the members of these three delegations. Premier Chou made an important speech at the banquet. He said:

"The Chinese Government has consistently stood for a peaceful settlement of the Laotian question in accordance with the principles of the 1954 Geneva Conference concerning respect for the sovereignty, independence, unification and territorial integrity of Laos, non-interference in its internal affairs, non-participation by Laos in military blocs and prohibiting the establishment of new military bases on Laotian territory. As a result of the victorious struggle of the Laotian people and the initiatives taken by the Royal Laotian Government headed by His Royal Highness Prince Souvanna Phouma and the Neo Lao Haksat Party and the joint efforts of the socialist countries and the peace-loving countries and peoples, conditions already exist for a peaceful settlement of the Laotian question which everyone has been concerned about. The Chinese people are happy about this.

"However, we cannot but also note that the United States and its followers have not stopped their disruptive activities. The United States claims that it is for a cease-fire, but it is actually helping the Laotian rebel clique continue military activities, extend its occupation and obstruct the reaching of an agreement on a cease-fire. The United States, resorting to the despicable means of sowing discord, has up till now also prevented the three sides in Laos from holding political talks and even the convening of the enlarged Geneva Conference proposed by Prince Sihanouk is threatened. The U.S. Government glibly professes that it does not object to the convening of the enlarged Geneva Conference, but no one knows whether the United States is going to take part in this conference sched-

uled to be convened in Geneva on May 12. These two-faced tricks played by the United States cannot but make one doubt how much sincerity it has for a peaceful settlement of the Laotian question.

"The Chinese Government firmly supports the convening of the enlarged Geneva Conference and regards it as an effective way to the peaceful settlement of the Laotian question. We hope the many obstacles placed in its way by the United States will be overcome and the conference will be successfully convened. It is our belief that everyone concerned about a peaceful settlement of the Laotian question ardently hopes, as we do, that Prince Sihanouk who proposed this conference will still attend it. The Chinese Government Delegation is willing to strive, together with the Government Delegation of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Delegation of the Royal Laotian Government and the Delegation of the Neo Lao Haksat

Chinese Delegation to Geneva Conference Appointed

On May 8, the State Council of the People's Republic of China designated Foreign Minister Chen Yi as plenipotentiary delegate of the Government of the People's Republic of China to attend the enlarged Geneva Conference for the peaceful settlement of the Laotian question. Other members of the delegation include Vice-Foreign Ministers Chang Han-fu and Chi Peng-fei; Chiao Kuan-hua, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs; Chang Yen, Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the State Council (Secretary-General of the delegation); Feng Hsuan, Deputy Secretary-General of the State Council; and Wu Leng-hsi, Director of the Hsinhua News Agency.

Party, for the success of this conference in conjunction with the government delegations of the participating countries which have a sincere desire for a peaceful settlement of the Laotian question."

The banquet took place in an atmosphere of unity and friendship. The speeches made by Quinim Pholsena, Phoumi Vongvichit and Ung Van Khiem, the heads of the three delegations, were warmly applauded. During the banquet, Premier Chou En-lai and Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Chen Yi, the leaders of the three delega-

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The Kennedy Administration's True Face

Following is a translation of the "Renmin Ribao" editorial of May 8. Subheads and bold-face emphasis are ours. — Ed.

THE enlarged Geneva Conference for the peaceful settlement of the Laotian question will begin soon. Can the Laotian question be settled peacefully? The people throughout the world are following the attitude of the United States with close attention.

At a press conference in the latter part of March U.S. President Kennedy made this high-sounding declaration: "I want to make it clear to the American people and to all of the world that all we want in Laos is peace and not war . . . a settlement concluded at the conference table and not on the battlefield." But what counts is not words, but deeds.

Up to now, as people have noted, the U.S. Government has not officially announced its participation in this conference. It insists on holding the international conference only after a cease-fire has been verified. At the same time it creates all kinds of pretexts to put off the cease-fire negotiations. Is this a desire to settle the Laotian question "at the conference table," or to obstruct its settlement "at the conference table"? What is more, even after the appeals of the Geneva Conference Co-Chairmen, the United States has stepped up its intervention and aggression against Laos, forming a "Military Assistance Advisory Group" to take direct command of the rebel troops in the fighting and making intensive arrangements for the member states of the aggressive SEATO bloc to enter the Laotian war openly. Is all this evidence of the United States' longing for "a settlement concluded at the conference table and not on the battlefield"?

Gap Between Words and Deeds

An analysis of this gap between the Kennedy Administration's words and deeds is of extremely great practical significance. It will enable people to discover what is of essential importance in the confusing phenomena so that they may benefit from the series of events that have taken place.

tions, Hoang Van Hoan, special counsellor of the Government Delegation of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, Tran Tu Binh, Vietnamese Ambassador to China, and others present proposed many toasts to the peaceful settlement of the Laotian question, peace in Indo-China, Southeast Asia and the world, and to the profound friendship between the Chinese, Vietnamese and Laotian peoples.

Before the start of the banquet, Premier Chou En-lai received the leaders and members of the three delegations and held cordial and friendly talks with them.

As everyone knows, in his inaugural speech and in a series of messages sent to Congress since he assumed office, Kennedy used many attractive words such as "peace," "freedom," "co-operation," "reason," "restraint" and so on. He boasted that his Administration "signifies changes and also signifies a new beginning." These Kennedy gestures were loudly acclaimed by his enthusiastic admirers. People were even asked to believe the allegation that "American policy has come out of the groove. It isn't static. There are some important changes and, I think, in the right direction." The propaganda machine of the Yugoslav Tito clique, the weekly *Komunist*, even swore that "the more positive American policy . . . will make extraordinary contributions to the building of a better world of coexistence and more normal international co-operation."

"A new beginning," "changes in the right direction," "extraordinary contributions to the building of a better world," how attractive all these are! It would seem that the Kennedy Administration greatly differs from its ignominious predecessor, the Eisenhower Administration. If this were true, we should thank heaven for it. Unfortunately, Kennedy's own deeds have belied his boasting as well as the chorus of his sycophants. What a sharp contrast, what bitter irony is provided by a comparison of Kennedy's words and his actual deeds since his assumption of office!

Kennedy's Record in Latin America

Let us first take a look at Latin America. Kennedy has expressed special "concern" for the neighbouring countries of the United States. He said in his first State of the Union Message after assuming office: "To our sister republics to the south . . . our goal is a free and prosperous Latin America." To manifest his "acts of goodwill," he called for the establishment of an "alliance for progress" so as "to satisfy the basic needs of the American people for homes, work and land, health and schools," and to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in certain miserable areas in the Western Hemisphere. But in the fourth month after taking office, Kennedy launched a large-scale invasion of Cuba, something which his



Kennedy's Brainchildren

Cartoon by Wei Chi-mei

predecessor Eisenhower had not dared to attempt. In the light of the flames of war which Kennedy kindled in Cuba the people of Latin America and the rest of the world come to see that Kennedy's "acts of goodwill" towards the "sister republics" represent, after all, armed aggression and that the "freedom," "prosperity" and "progress" he peddled actually mean turning Cuba again into a country of slavery, poverty and darkness under the control of U.S. monopoly capital and the rule of the Batista dictatorial regime. Furthermore, this bloodthirsty "concern" of Kennedy's has not been lessened one jot since the utter rout of the invading mercenaries. On the contrary, to prepare for new "acts of goodwill," Kennedy has appointed Maxwell Taylor, the U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations during the United States' aggressive war against Korea, to study so-called "para-military actions," sent reinforcements to the Guantanamo base and concentrated more than 30 war vessels around Cuba.

In Africa

Let us then look at Africa. Kennedy declared that he would pursue a policy "consistent with U.S. interests and responsive to the forces underlying Africa's own evolution." He indicated that he wanted to settle the Congolese question "peacefully," and made a four-point proposal for a so-called "political settlement." But it was just at that very time that the U.S.-controlled U.N. forces connived with the Belgian colonialists and the Tshombe and Mobutu cliques in murdering the Congolese national hero Lumumba and others. More and more people are now aware that the so-called U.N. forces in the Congo have become a tool of U.S. neo-colonialism. This is another dirty deal in the history of the United Nations after its support for the U.S. aggression against Korea. The so-called "political settlement" proposed by the United States is nothing but a synonym for carving

up and then swallowing the Congo. The U.S. Government has also expressed its "sympathy" for the Algerian people. But in fact, it is the United States which has provided the French colonialist forces with huge quantities of military equipment for slaughtering thousands upon thousands of Algerian people. Kennedy's double dealing is used not only against the Congolese and Algerian peoples, but even against the "allies" of the United States, the Belgian and French colonialists. Kennedy "enthusiastically" indicated that he wanted to strengthen the co-operation between the United States and Belgium. But before long the troops of the Kasavubu clique of the Congo arrested Tshombe, chieftain of the Katanga rebel clique. Everybody knows that this was an act of the United States in pressing for concessions on the part of the Belgian colonialists to the U.S. neo-colonialist plan of swallowing up the Congo. After the putsch by the French ultra-colonialists in Algeria, Kennedy especially wrote to de Gaulle, expressing his "continuing friendship and support." But what Western newspapers and journals disclosed at great length indicated that the putsch was plotted behind the scenes precisely by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, an organization of special agents.

In Asia

Now let us turn to Asia. Kennedy has declared that he "respects and values the position of those countries who want to be neutral." The tone is indeed somewhat different from that of the late notorious U.S. Secretary of State Dulles who attacked neutrality as an "immoral conception." But people can get a very clear idea from the Laotian question as to how Kennedy "respects" and "values" the position of neutral countries. The U.S. Government, during Eisenhower's term of office, twice subverted the Souvanna Phouma government which pursued a policy of peace, neutrality and national amity,



Kennedy's "Settlement" of the Laotian Question at the "Conference Table"

Cartoon by Lan Chien-an

and started the civil war in Laos in violation of the agreements of the 1954 Geneva Conference on the restoration of peace in Indo-China, which the United States had declared that it would not "disturb." After coming to power, Kennedy not only followed Eisenhower's policy of intervention and aggression against Laos in its entirety, but actively expanded the civil war in Laos and arranged for open participation by the SEATO bloc in the Laotian war. Another striking example is seen in U.S.-Burmese relations. When the Burmese Government launched a campaign to clear its territory of remnant Kuomintang bandits, the Kennedy Administration indicated that the United States was not in any way responsible for the presence of or for supplying these "irregulars" in Burma, and declared its willingness to help "evacuate" these remnant brigands to Taiwan. What happened then? The so-called "evacuation" was merely a nominal, and not a real one. The United States not only continues to give military supplies to the remnant Kuomintang bandits just as before, but has also ordered them to collude with the rebels in Burma's Shan State to undermine Burma's independence and sovereignty. As to those remnant Kuomintang bandits who were driven out by the Burmese forces, they have, under U.S. orders, invaded Laos where they co-ordinated with the Phoumi-Boun Oum rebel clique in fighting against the Royal Laotian forces.

Towards the Socialist Countries

With respect to the socialist countries, Kennedy said that the United States wanted to make a "beach-head of co-operation" with the socialist countries "in the jungles of suspicion." But at the same time, he went all-out to slander the Soviet Union and China, clamouring that the United States "must never forget our hopes for the ultimate freedom and welfare of the Eastern European peoples." He also slandered Poland, Hungary and the German Democratic Republic as practising cruel exploitation and lacking in freedom. This shows that Kennedy's version of "co-operation" and "friendship" is exactly the same old stuff as Eisenhower's "policy of liberation." One of Kennedy's aims in energetically training so-called "special forces" since assuming office is precisely to carry out subversive activities against the socialist countries.

These things constitute Kennedy's main record since taking office. **They show that there exists a wide gap between Kennedy's words and deeds. In other words, Kennedy is playing a double-faced game with gestures of peace on the one hand, and on the other, intensification of the policy of arms expansion, war preparations, intervention and aggression.**

"Olive Branch" and "Arrows"

In his first State of the Union Message, Kennedy referred to the insignia of the U.S. President as summarizing the policy designed to cope with the perils confronting the United States and "to meet this array of challenges." He said: "On the presidential coat of arms, the American eagle holds in his right talon the olive branch, while in his left is held a bundle of arrows. We intend to give equal attention to both." He added, "First, we must strengthen our military tools." Kennedy has been doing just this during the past 100 days and more.

If there is any difference in method between the Kennedy and Eisenhower Administrations, it is that the

deceptive tactics of the Kennedy Administration are more cunning, and its gestures more fashionable: to engage in "quiet diplomacy," to "begin anew the quest for peace," to organize a "peace corps," to launch "operation kinship," and to carry out the "food-for-peace programme" and so on and so forth. What a rich assortment!

How could a nefarious imperialist robber become so gentle, as if turned into some sort of a benevolent buddha of mercy?

"Strategy of the Underdog"

The answer is to be found in the light of the changes in the world situation. **The general characteristics of these changes are: the East wind prevails over the West wind; the forces of the socialist camp are increasingly surpassing those of imperialism, the forces of national liberation are increasingly surpassing those of colonialism, the people's forces of revolution are increasingly surpassing those of reaction, and the forces of peace are increasingly surpassing those of war. Storms of struggle against imperialism and its lackeys are rising in Asia, Africa and Latin America.** In order to cope with this situation, Kennedy admitted in a speech as early as August 14, 1958, that the United States had lagged far behind the Soviet Union in military strength, and that there was a "missile gap" between the United States and the Soviet Union. **Hence, Kennedy was of the view that the United States must carry out a "policy of readjustment" and adopt a so-called "strategy of the underdog."** He said: "It is basically a strategy of making the most of all (our) remaining advantages and making the most of the enemy's weaknesses—and thus to buy the time and opportunity necessary to regain the upper hand." It is not difficult to understand that **this "strategy of the underdog" does not mean at all an acknowledgement of defeat and abandonment of the butcher's knife, rather is it to gain time to stage a come-back. The "peace" gestures of the Kennedy Administration mean nothing but a continued seeking of its aggressive aims and serving the policy of war. Whenever the U.S. Government thinks that there is a chance, it openly adopts the crudest and vilest means to engage in intervention and aggression.**

African, Latin American, Asian Views

This is precisely the view of broad sections of public opinion in Africa, Latin America and Asia after the murder of Premier Patrice Lumumba and the invasion of Cuba.

In a statement issued on April 20, the National Confederation of Workers of Guinea said: "In the recent period U.S. imperialism has hidden itself behind a screen of deception, behind its customary lies, and claimed to be the real friends of those countries that wish to be independent and completely liberated. But the wolf cannot remain in a sheep's clothing all the time; when neo-colonialism cannot succeed it will resort to violence and aggression."

Ekwalla Robert, Secretary of the Kamerun General Confederation of Labour, said: "People should not deceive themselves, nor have any illusions about the Kennedy Administration. Kennedy and Eisenhower are different only in name. The man has changed, but not the policy."

The *Ghana Times* wrote: "United States propaganda goes out of its way to spread the myth of U.S. anti-

colonialism." It said: "To abduct Africa, the moguls of American business pretend to be its friends and benefactors. But no mask can conceal their fangs. U.S. imperialism is the worst enemy of the peoples of Africa, now fighting for complete liberation."

Erinayo O. Ogwalakwel, Deputy of the People's Congress Party of Uganda who attended the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Council Meeting in Bandung, said: "The new Kennedy Administration is the worst government in the United States; it is bent on undermining the peace of the whole world. Soon after Kennedy came to power, the Yankees and U.S. imperialists sought an opportunity to murder Congolese Premier Patrice Lumumba in the interests of Rockefeller's investment in Katanga Province." He added that the U.S. imperialists, having seen the achievements of the Cuban Government, "decided to launch aggression against Cuba which is busy with its economic construction."

Juan Emilio Pacull, President of the Chilean Journalists' Association, said on April 20 that the armed aggression openly launched by the United States against Cuba proved that "the Kennedy Administration has taken a step further in aggression than the Eisenhower Administration, and the policy adopted by Kennedy is the same stuff as that of Eisenhower."

The Ceylonese weekly, *Forward*, said in an article on April 22: "Kennedy's actions now reveal him in his true colours. They expose the myth assiduously peddled by some 'neutralists' that he is somehow more liberal than Eisenhower, more sympathetic to the desire of the peoples to be independent."

Commenting on the U.S. armed aggression against Cuba, the Indian weekly, *Janashakti*, said editorially on April 19 that it fully exposed before the world the deceptive peace role played by Kennedy.

It appears that Kennedy, like Eisenhower—if he does not actually out-do Eisenhower—is a very good teacher by negative example to the people of the world.

Western Bourgeois Press Comments

It is worth noting that a number of Western bourgeois newspapers and magazines have recently commented quite a lot, either regretfully or sarcastically, on the exposure of the true colours of the Kennedy Administration after his first 100 days in office.

The London *Daily Mail* said on April 29 that it had carried Kennedy's inaugural address 14 weeks before because "it was an important and inspiring speech." The paper said: "A hundred days have now all but passed. The atmosphere has, if anything, worsened. Blows to American prestige have rained at least as fiercely as they did during the worst doldrums of the Eisenhower regime."

The *New Statesman* of Britain wrote on April 21: "This is bad enough. It is tragic to see Mr. Kennedy and his advisers, whose first months in office had brought new hope to a sick world, wreck their reputation for straight-dealing in this miserable adventure" [meaning the armed aggression against Cuba].

L'Express of France on April 20 published an article by the noted French bourgeois writer Jean-Paul Sartre,



The Kennedy Style — "Peace Corps" Uniform
Cartoon by Chiang Yu-sheng

who wrote: "I don't have much confidence in the Kennedy Administration." He said: "The changes as compared with its predecessor seem to me mainly verbal."

An article in the French paper, *Le Combat*, on April 21 said that the failure of the U.S. aggression against Cuba "has greatly impaired the prestige of the United States," and that it "diminishes, if not dashes to pieces, the grand hopes pinned on Kennedy and his gang nearly everywhere." *Le Monde* also said that Kennedy had thus lost that capital of sympathy, which he won by his promising start when he entered the White House.

In the one hundred days and more since he took office, Kennedy has furnished many up-to-date and most vivid proofs confirming the thesis of the Moscow Statement: "U.S. imperialism is the chief bulwark of world reaction and an international gendarme; it has become an enemy of the peoples of the whole world." The Kennedy Administration has done what the Eisenhower Administration dared not do in many years. The notorious murder of Lumumba, the invasion of Cuba, the open commanding of the Laotian rebel armed forces and the manoeuvring for SEATO's open participation in the war in Laos are the most outstanding events.

Worse Than the Eisenhower Administration

While receiving prominent African and Asian personages on April 28, Chairman Mao Tse-tung pointed out that "U.S. imperialism, in hastily launching this attack against Cuba, has once again revealed its true face before the whole world, and this proves that the Kennedy Administration can only be even worse, and not better, than the Eisenhower Administration."

What the Kennedy Administration has done during the one hundred days and more since it came to power does much to unmask once again the vicious features of U.S. imperialism. U.S. imperialism will never change its ferocious, cruel, aggressive nature, although it may make various "peace" gestures at a moment when it runs into extreme difficulties and isolation, with its policies of ag-

gression and war meeting with resistance everywhere. People must be adept at knowing how to discern the essential nature of U.S. imperialism through the double-faced tactics it is playing and be prepared to deal with such tactics.

At the present time, because its policy of aggression and intervention against Laos has suffered a serious defeat, the U.S. Government has expressed its willingness to solve the Laotian question by peaceful means. Nevertheless, just as U.S. Secretary of State Rusk admitted on May 4, the United States, since January this year, has all along pursued a "double track" of war and talks on the Laotian question. Even if the United States participates in the

Geneva Conference, its double-faced tactics must not be forgotten. The peace-loving countries and people of the world earnestly hope that an enlarged Geneva Conference will be convened to endeavour to reach an agreement which will truly ensure the sovereignty, unification and territorial integrity of Laos and non-intervention in its domestic affairs. At the same time, high vigilance must be maintained against the U.S. Government's adventurist plan to wreck the Geneva international conference and again provoke and even expand the war in Laos. In striving to solve the Laotian question by peaceful means, the people of Laos and throughout the world still have to face a serious and complex struggle.

Peking Rally Backs

Anti-Imperialist Struggle in Angola

FROM Africa comes more heartening news. Angola, long considered a "silent zone" by the Western colonialists, has made its awakening known to the world with a mighty shout for freedom. Despite bloody repression by the Portuguese slavemasters, the armed struggle of the people has spread to 6 of Angola's 13 districts. Starting with bows, arrows and knives, the Angolan patriots are now battling their enemy with modern weapons seized from the colonialists themselves.

Greeting this new and significant development in the African national liberation movement, the Chinese people held a mass rally in Peking on May 8. Over 1,500 people from all walks of life along with African guests and students attended it. They heard addresses by Li Chieh-po, Vice-President of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, Bernard Dombele, Vice-President of the National Union of Angolan Workers, Michael A.O. Imoudu, President of the Nigerian Trade Union Congress, J. P. Addei, Secretary for Publicity of the Ghana Trade Union Congress, and A. M. Kheir, Sudanese peace champion.

The Peking rally, in the great anti-imperialist tradition of the Chinese people, gave militant support to the Angolan and other African peoples in their fight for freedom. Speaking on behalf of the Chinese workers and people as a whole, Li Chieh-po, Vice-President of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, saluted the embattled Angolan people and condemned the inhuman and brutal crimes the Portuguese colonialists are perpetrating against them. "The imperialist colonial system," he declared, "is fast collapsing in Africa. The day is not far off when the imperialists will finally be driven out of the continent of Africa." A prolonged ovation greeted the Angolan speaker Bernard Dombele who told the rally, "The massacres, bombings and scorched earth policy of the enemy can never stamp out our national liberation movement which already embraces a big part of our country."

U.S. Imperialism: Arch Enemy of African Peoples

In Angola, as in other parts of Africa, the U.S. imperialists, bulwark of all reactionary forces and pillars

of colonialism, are playing a double-dealing game. While professing "sympathy" for the Angolan people and advocating so-called "systematic reforms" in Angola, they are supplying the Portuguese colonialists with arms and munitions with which to massacre the Angolan people. They maintain military bases in Angola and Mozambique. They are also trying to meddle in Angola through the United Nations. But the African people have come to recognize ever more clearly the true features of U.S. neo-colonialism. Exposing the U.S. plot to turn Angola into another Congo and replace Portuguese rule by a trusteeship, Bernard Dombele said: The imperialist aggressors have not laid down their arms; the Angolan people will maintain keen vigilance and be ready to fight any imperialist intervention. "There should be no more illusions about the United States and the United Nations," declared another African speaker. "The only way out is to organize the broad masses, struggle and fight for complete liberation from imperialist domination."

Full Backing for Angolan People

The people of Angola certainly do not stand alone. Their heroic fight has aroused the attention and sympathy of peace- and freedom-loving people the world over. The Third All-African People's Congress, held recently in Cairo, gave strong support to their struggle. Michael A. O. Imoudu put it eloquently at the Peking rally when he declared: "Angolan brothers! Fight on with all your might, for you are fighting for a just cause. Your homeland is yours! All the progressive people of the world support you!" As for the Chinese people, their backing for the people of Angola, as for all people fighting against colonialism and imperialism, is complete and consistent. *Renmin Ribao* and other Chinese papers have issued editorials to this effect. A message unanimously adopted at the Peking rally reaffirmed this stand in clear-cut terms: "The 650 million Chinese people resolutely support the armed uprising of the people of Angola against colonial rule and for national independence; they support the national liberation movement of the people of the other Portuguese colonies in Africa."

Port Ahmed and the Hodeida-Sana Highway

The Yemen's new, modern Port Ahmed, built with Soviet aid near the coastal city of Hodeida, was completed on April 2, while the important highway from Hodeida to the Yemeni capital Sana will be finished soon with Chinese help. The following is based on correspondence sent by Kuan Yun-chiu, Hsinhua reporter in Yemen, and Wang Chan-yi, a Chinese expert working on the highway. — Ed.

THOSE approaching Yemen by air get an excellent view of two big new constructions: the fine port of Ahmed, four kilometres north of Hodeida, and the Hodeida-Sana Highway, stretching like a silver ribbon from Hodeida, inland. All Yemen, after cheering the completion of Port Ahmed, is now looking forward to another joyful celebration—the speedy completion of the Hodeida-Sana Highway.

Yemen faces the Red Sea with a narrow coastal plain and its mountainous hinterland—the Djebel. When it gained its independence, it had no sea port of its own. The only modern port in the area was to the south at Aden which is still occupied by the British imperialists. Apart from the new highway, Yemen has no modern highway connecting the high hinterland with the coast. This naturally retards the growth of its domestic and foreign trade. Agricultural and other products from the mountains inland can be moved only slowly and with difficulty down to the coastal plain; inland markets have similar difficulties getting aquatic and other products and imports from the seacoast. With independence, Yemen set about ending its old state of economic backwardness. The completion of Port Ahmed and the Hodeida-Sana Highway will be an important help to Yemen in this task.

Port Ahmed's installations can simultaneously handle the loading or unloading of cargo from three ships of up to 10,000 tons displacement each. It is Yemen's biggest modern port and will greatly aid its independent economic growth. Here at the juncture of the two continents, it will play an important role in developing the trade of Europe and Asia.

The 200-kilometre-long Hodeida-Sana Highway is naturally closely linked with Port Ahmed. Chinese experts are helping on the spot with its construction. Starting from Hodeida, about 100 kilometres were already completed on January 31 and are in use. Previously it took three days of hard travel to get from Hodeida to Sana. When this new, all-weather highway is completed, the 200-kilometre trip will take only 8 hours by truck or bus and 5 hours by car.

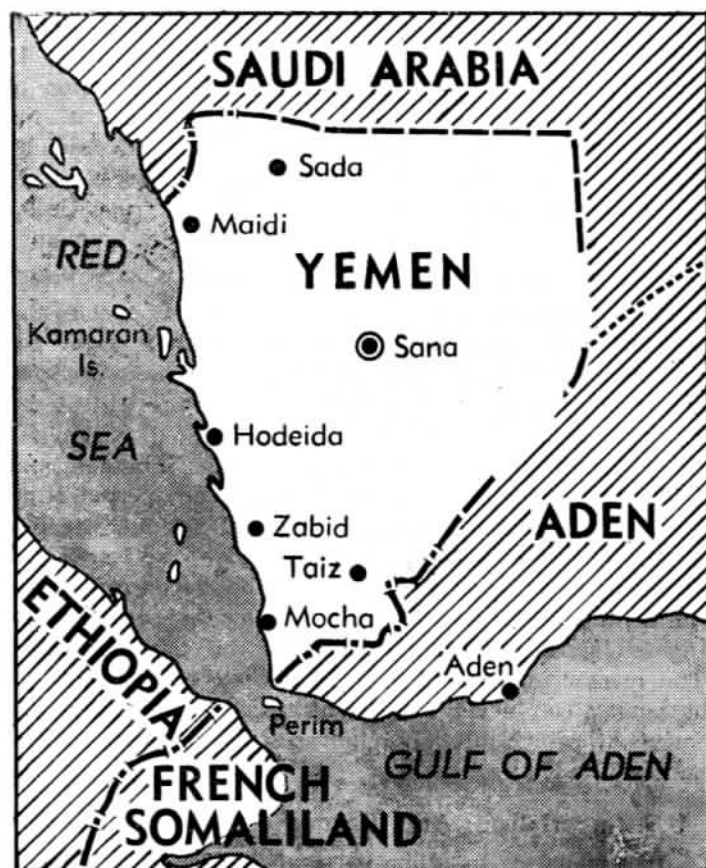
The Hodeida-Sana Highway links up Port Ahmed and Yemen's biggest economic centre, Sana, hence its importance. The Yemeni people have called it "Yemen's economic artery."

The people of Yemen are full of praise for these two projects. They hail them as expressions of the sincere friendship of the Soviet and Chinese peoples for Yemen. As one Yemeni official has put it: "Yemen could only get this sort of help and friendship from countries like the Soviet Union and China."

Sino-Yemeni Friendship

The long friendship and trade relations between the Chinese and Yemeni peoples began early in the 15th century. The Yemeni people have long known and liked Chinese tea, porcelain and silks. Friendly links have further developed in the last few years since the signing of the Sino-Yemeni agreement on scientific, technical and cultural co-operation in 1958. Friendship has been strengthened with the forging of many personal ties during the building of the Hodeida-Sana Highway.

Chinese experts arriving in Yemen for the job got a hearty welcome from the Yemeni Government and people. They soon learnt to recognize the oft repeated phrases "Alsin Hassana!" (China is good!) "Alanaaban alsiniyou Wal Yamaniyou shakikan!" (Chinese and Yemeni are brothers!) These warm words make them feel at home. When they were scheduled to do surveying in the Manakha



"Peking Review" map

Mountains halfway up the route of the new road, the mayor of Manakha immediately sent them the best horses he could find. Local people greeted them at get-togethers with folk dances. When guides were needed, there were no lack of offers from people who knew the area well.

The Chinese experts have made many firm friendships as they work with and share the life of their Yemeni colleagues on the job and off. They have regarded it as an essential part of their work to pass on all they know of road building techniques to their Yemeni friends. During the surveying of the highway, the Yemeni Government selected a group of students to study the skills involved. They got not only technical guidance on the construction site, but training in a special technical class set up for them with the most experienced Chinese experts

Industry

Chemicals Aid the Farms

by KU WEI-LIN

ONE of the primary tasks of New China's chemical industry has, from the first, been to help agriculture. It has had a particularly good record in this field over the past few years. In 1960 output of chemical fertilizers was nearly three times what it was in 1957. Output of other farm chemicals increased 2.4-fold in the same period.

The production of farm chemicals and other chemical products needed on the farms is closely linked with the production of many basic chemicals, so their increased output calls for a joint effort among many plants. Increased production of calcium superphosphate fertilizer, for instance, is dependent on an increased production of sulphuric acid and phosphorous ores; a bigger output of 666 insecticide means a bigger need for benzene and other chemicals. The energetic support which the chemical industry is giving to agriculture is the fruit of the concerted efforts of all the workers and employees in the industry.

What the Industry Supplies

Fertilizers top the list of chemical products used by the rural people's communes. Their importance to farming is reflected by the peasant saying: "Water decides if there's to be a harvest, fertilizer decides its amount." When crops are seriously affected by insect pests and plant diseases, the availability and efficacy of chemical insecticides and germicides may be the decisive factor determining the outcome of the harvest. The peasants also want more weed killers and plant growth stimulants.

There is a steadily increasing sale in the countryside of rubber products — including tyres for tractors, motor vehicles and carts and rubber hose. By supplying these items of farm equipment, the chemical industry is making a big contribution to the switch-over on a big scale from low efficiency transport with goods carried by manpower or by animal traction to modern transport on the farms, mechanized irrigation, and other mechanized processes.

The chemical industry also supplies the pharmaceutical products which are a basic guarantee for protection of the

as instructors. The Yemeni workers on the job are keen and industrious students. In the past two years, about a thousand trainees, many of them former peasants, have been trained as truck and bus drivers, operators of various engines, drilling machine workers and road maintenance workers.

On the anniversary of China's National Day in 1960, over 700 local workers and inhabitants in the town where the Chinese experts stayed, led by the local government officials, greeted the Chinese experts with the sound of firecrackers and music on their national musical instruments. They performed folk dances, and sang their melodious Yemeni songs in a gay celebration that ended with shouts of "Long live Sino-Yemeni friendship!" "Long live the People's Republic of China!"

peasants' health. They play an especially important role in localities subject to such diseases as malaria and hookworm. The industry also supplies the drugs for animal use which are indispensable in livestock breeding.

Stepping Up Output

Since the start of this year, chemical plants throughout the country have been going all out to meet the rising demands of the farms. Chemical plants in Kwangtung Province surpassed their first quarter's output target for chemical fertilizers by 14 per cent in the first two months of the year. Compared to the last quarter of 1960, costs of production were reduced by from 15 to 30 per cent. This refers to the large modern plants; in addition, production of chemical fertilizers and insecticides was increased in thousands of small plants run by county authorities and people's communes in that province.

In its output of chemicals for the prevention of wheat rust the Tientsin Insecticide Plant, one of the biggest in China, reported a February increase of 46 per cent compared with the same month last year.

Like several other provinces, Szechuan in the southwest gets its insecticides from Tientsin, but it is doing well with its own plants too. Its Santai County holds the national red banner for manufacturing insecticides by indigenous methods. By mid-March, the Santai factories had not only greatly improved the efficacy of their products, but had boosted output by one-third compared to the same period in 1960.

In preparation for the spring sowing this year, many chemical enterprises undertook a thorough check-up of their installations and equipment right after the New Year. Thanks to such a check-up and the repairs and improvements made, the Peking Experimental Chemical Plant was able to raise its monthly output of nitrogenous fertilizer to several hundred tons above the state plan quota.

A considerable number of chemical plants have also increased mechanization and labour productivity as a result

of the movement for technical innovations and technical revolution. By setting up a mechanized production line for the manufacture of a phosphate fertilizer, the Hengyang Chemical Plant in Hunan greatly increased output, improved quality and saved manpower.

Many plants increased their output of farm chemicals by using hitherto waste liquids, gases and materials. Chemical factories in Tientsin have set a good example in this line. Dyestuff plants there have succeeded in producing ammonium sulphate from waste ammonia and sulphuric acid. The Tongsheng Chemical Factory there is making insecticides from its industrial waste.

Helping Smaller Plants

Many of the older chemical works shoulder a dual task in supporting agriculture. In addition to making products to meet rural needs, they use their powerful resources to help areas where the chemical industry is weakly developed as well as small chemical plants manufacturing farm chemicals. These older plants, especially the big modern chemical works, have given great attention to these two tasks and achieved admirable results in the past few years.

The Talien Chemical Company in Lushun-Talien, a modern works in northeast China, built a small prototype plant with a capacity of 800 tons of synthetic ammonia a year. It has run perfectly since it was formally commissioned in October 1959, and serves as a model of its kind. Now similar plants have been built in 20 provinces within a year after they sent people to Talien to see this plant and master the techniques needed to build and operate such a plant. The Talien works rapidly found itself becoming a centre to train technical personnel to run these small plants; to date it has trained 7,700 technicians and skilled workers for plants built along the lines of its prototype.

It has carried on the good work further to help solve the problems which have cropped up in the new plants. To cope with this task, it organized 15 technical aid teams which visited each of the new plants to give whatever help was called for. The teams also took the chance to solicit

opinions about how to improve the prototype plant. They collected many very valuable suggestions.

This Talien works has also helped the near-by rural people's communes to build seven small chemical fertilizer plants of their own. It provided much-needed all-round help—technical personnel, production experience, raw materials—out of its resources. With this support the seven small plants raised their daily output from between 0.45 and one ton in the latter half of 1960 to between 3 and 15 tons now. They have also made big improvements in the quality of their products. During the second half of 1960, these seven plants produced nearly 5,000 tons of chemical fertilizers from waste liquids of the Talien works.

The Nanking Chemical Company south of the Yangtze is another enterprise known for both its production of farm chemicals and its aid to local chemical plants. It is the designer of a small plant which produces 400 tons of sulphuric acid a year by the contact process. Many places have adopted this design and the plants they have built are in many cases supplying the greater part of the sulphuric acid consumed in those areas, particularly that in the small local calcium superphosphate plants.

Kiangsu, Anhwei and several other provinces over the past years have built a number of small plants making nitrogenous fertilizers. These received direct aid from the Nanking works in their designing, construction and supply and installation of equipment. The Nanking works transferred more than 500 experienced staff members and skilled workers to reinforce the technical staff of these local plants, and also trained for them some 3,400 skilled workers, section chiefs and workshop heads.

The output of chemical products directly serving farm needs has increased enormously, but their supply still falls short of soaring demand. The industry has, therefore, been called upon to devote an even bigger effort than hitherto to supporting agriculture. This year every one of its plants has put support to agriculture at the top of the agenda. When the harvest for this year is in one can be sure that these chemical plants will have made a still greater contribution to the result.

Historical Profile

Chan Tien-yu—Architect of First Chinese-Built Railway

by LI KUANG-CHI

AT Blue Dragon Bridge in the shadow of the Great Wall 70 kilometres to the northwest of Peking is a statue of Chan Tien-yu, outstanding engineer who built the Peking-Changchiakou Railway, the first line designed and built completely by the Chinese. Cast in dull grey metal, on a low pedestal, it seems at first sight a rather pedestrian example of "official" portraiture. He stands a rather stout, squat figure in a frock coat, but in the face with its moustache and grave mouth is surely a look of calm determination. This at least the sculptor has captured

in the character of the man who in his time so well personified the grit and dedicated spirit of China's patriotic working intellectuals.

A Time of National Humiliation

It was a tough time to be living in. Chan Tien-yu was born in Nanhai County, Kwangtung Province, in 1861 soon after the Second Opium War when the Anglo-French imperialists jointly invaded China and fastened two more of the unequal treaties on the country. Since his childhood

he had heard tales of the Pingyingtuan (Quell the British Marauders Corps) and other stories of the people's struggles against the imperialists. He knew that his grandfather, a modest owner of a tea firm, saw his business razed to the ground by British shells during the Opium War. He grew up at a time when the Western countries joined with the Ching rulers in bloodily suppressing the Taiping Revolution and other peasant uprisings. As a young man he witnessed how the imperialists and the corrupt imperial rulers step by step reduced China to the humiliating status of a semi-feudal and semi-colonial country. Throughout his youth Chan Tien-yu saw or heard of the crimes committed by the imperialists against China. With the best of his generation, he was filled with a rankling indignation against these humiliations and a patriotic ardour that inspired him throughout his life to restless activity in the service of his country.

Tien-yu was a bright young chap. At court there was an influential group which was clamouring for Chinese to "learn from the foreigners," and, looking for just such youngsters, they chose him at the age of eleven for a government scholarship, one of the very first, to study abroad. Chan learnt with a will, graduating from Yale University with honours. He brought back something more than his diploma: a memory of the shocking treatment meted out to Chinese labourers in the United States.

When he returned from abroad in 1881, twenty years old and the first railway engineer in Chinese history, he had to wait seven years before he got his first job on a railway.

Railway building in China was controlled by various foreign capitalist concerns. They worked hand in glove with their governments seeking concessions and other spoils. Building a railway line through a part of China was a favourite device at the time among the imperialists in their scramble for "spheres of influence" in China. Nevertheless, Chan Tien-yu finally got his big chance. It came in 1905 when Britain and tsarist Russia were deadlocked in a struggle for the right to build the projected Peking-Changchiakou Railway, the first section of a railway from the capital towards the northwest that offered intriguing strategic possibilities to the country which built and controlled it. As a compromise it was finally decided that the Ching imperial government would build the line itself, and Chan Tien-yu was appointed chief engineer. This appointment was not just the happy result of a squabble among the imperialists. At that time a popular campaign was on foot to enlist support for a movement to "reject foreign loans and technicians, annul concessions and build all-Chinese railways." The raising of these demands followed the failure of the Reform Movement of 1898 and the anti-imperialist Yi Ho Tuan movement of the following year. It was an expression of the demands of the nascent Chinese national bourgeoisie which now began its activities in defence of Chinese sovereignty and territorial integrity, and for the independent development of the Chinese national economy. It was this popular pressure that forced the hand of the Ching court.

The imperialists were openly contemptuous of the idea that the Chinese could plan and build a railway. "Old China hands" wagered over their drinks that if the Chinese themselves tried to build a line to Changchiakou it would take them 50 years at least — if the whole scheme didn't



Chan Tien-yu

for ever remain a paper dream. Spineless Chinese "mandarins" and their intellectual hangers-on, bereft of national self-respect, had the gall to upbraid Chan for his "perverted boldness" in attempting to build a railway without foreign help. Chan replied to their taunts, recalling China's magnificent history of creative achievements, the skill of its artisans, its rich resources. "We should be ashamed to have to depend on foreigners to build our railway!" he declared. He was determined to make the critics eat their words.

An Engineering Feat

The Peking-Changchiakou line is not long, only some 200 kilometres, but it presented considerable engineering difficulties. To get the line through the mountainous terrain northwest of Peking means both tunnelling and blasting a ledge along the sides of sheer cliffs. Chan had to balance nicely the costs of these methods against safety, time and efficiency. Pitting his knowledge against scornful critics, he was encouraged by his realization that this was not just a matter of success or failure of a railway building job but a matter of the nation's honour.

He was no desk-bound builder. He went out with the surveying parties himself, climbing the mountains, making maps and plotting the route methodically stage by stage. He personally supervised the work, living and working alongside the builders and inspiring them with his own great drive and vigour.

He surveyed three alternative routes. The best, from Fengtai near Peking via Shacheng to Changchiakou, was not only the shortest but technically the most efficient, permitting the largest amount of traffic. It was, however, the most costly and on this score alone was turned down by the imperial court which was always stricken by an attack of parsimony wherever it concerned the national welfare and not the imperial pleasures. Chan therefore

had to be content with the second best route. This was still much shorter than the one proposed by Kinder, a British engineer who had made a secret survey in confident expectation that Britain would get the concession to build the line. But it still had to overcome the difficulties of the Kuankou stretch between Nankou and Chataocheng. Here the line goes up the Chuyungkuan Pass and then cuts right through the Pataling range along the ridge of which the Great Wall runs.

After surveys and studies made jointly with other Chinese engineers and construction personnel, Chan boldly discarded Kinder's proposed route which called for a very gradual gradient and therefore more and longer tunnels. He increased the gradient and designed a Y-track ("switch back line") ascending the mountain first in one and then in the opposite direction at Blue Dragon Bridge station. By reducing the length of the Pataling tunnel by half and dispensing with several other tunnels altogether, this greatly reduced construction costs and building time. To solve the problem of climbing the steeper gradient, Chan Tien-yu proposed the use of two engines instead of one on this section. To make the coupling between carriages more secure when negotiating the steep gradients he invented a new type of automatic coupling that was later known under his name and adopted throughout the world.

While actual construction was going on, he took attentive note of suggestions made by the workers on the job. Keeping a constant eye on the way the work was going he improved methods of construction and labour organization. When building the Pataling tunnel, for instance, he not only drove in from both ends at once but sank two shafts down from the sides of the mountain, thus cutting the long tunnel into three sections and enabling the work to go ahead at six work faces simultaneously. This helped to cut the construction time of this tunnel from the scheduled 18 months to 9.

Relying on the People's Own Efforts

Although he was in sore need of modern building machinery, Chan resolutely rejected offers by profit-grabbing foreign contractors and ingeniously solved his difficulties by home-grown methods. He used pulleys and buckets in place of pumps to drain the tunnels of rain water. Not having regular ventilators, he attached fans to cast iron pipes and so drove fresh air down to his tunnellers. He built many arch bridges in fine traditional Chinese style with the Chinese-made cement and stone quarried on the spot. The bridges stand today, sturdy and beautiful. They saved a great deal of expensive steel.

Chan Tien-yu's patriotism was manifest in everything he did. In an attempt to push sales of their equipment in China, foreign business men tried their best to make the Chinese railways conform to their own particular technical standards. At one time China's railways actually used four different gauges: British-American, Belgian-French, Japanese and Russian. To clear up this confusion, Chan insisted that the new line should use the 1.435-metre standard gauge that suited Chinese conditions best. He aimed to set a precedent that would ensure that all main line railways built in China should conform to one national standard.

In September 1909 the entire Peking-Changchiakou line was completed. The builders had beaten their schedule by

two years! Its cost was considerably less than any comparable line built at that time. Even the imperialists who had predicted failure had to admit that the Chinese builders had done an excellent job.

Dreams Now Realized

The success of the new railway gave a lift to the spirits of every patriot in China. But with the Ching rulers and their warlord successors sinking into ever greater apathy and corruption and falling more and more under the thumb of their foreign masters, there was little scope for Chan Tien-yu's talents. The Fengtai-Shacheng variant of the new railway had been effectively scotched. His plan for a Chungking-Chengtou line was pigeonholed. He worked tirelessly for a full decade on the projected Szechuan-Hankow Railway and then this plan too was put in cold storage. On April 24, 1919, a few days before the May Fourth Movement, the watershed in modern Chinese history that marked the beginning of the new-democratic revolution led by the proletariat, Chan Tien-yu died, overworked and frustrated at the age of 58.

Chan Tien-yu's dreams and plans were fulfilled and more than fulfilled only after China's liberation ushered in a new era for the nation, and for railway building. In the 73 years in old China from 1876 when the first railway was built to 1949, the year of liberation, only 24,000 kilometres of railways were built. Due to years of war and Kuomintang sabotage, less than half of this was open to traffic on the eve of liberation. Most of this length was concentrated in the northeast and north China and in the coastal areas. The vast hinterland of the country was practically devoid of railways.

In the 11 years since liberation, 25,176 kilometres of railways have been built. A well co-ordinated national railway network is taking shape. Chan Tien-yu's old dream, the Chungking-Chengtou Railway, the first in mineral and agriculturally rich Szechuan Province, was completed in 1952. The Fengtai-Shacheng line, another of Chan Tien-yu's dreams, was built in 1955 and is now being double-tracked. The new China has built lines very much more difficult and longer than the Peking-Changchiakou line. The new Paoki-Chengtou line that links up the southwest with the northwest and the rest of China cuts right through the great Tsinling Mountain Range. The Paotow-Lanchow Railway crosses the waterless Tengri Desert; the Yingtan-Amoy line spans Amoy Bay on a long railway dyke, and, of course, there is that engineering wonder, the 1,670-metre double-deck Yangtse River Bridge at Wuhan.

And this is only the beginning. The great work of railway construction pioneered so well by Chan Tien-yu is being developed with the greatest vigour by the new China. Its socialist system provides the most favourable conditions for railway development. Much that is new is being done. It continues to be inspired by the example of Chan Tien-yu. It is his spirit of relying on the people's own efforts in making China strong, his fine style of work, his drive and indomitable courage in face of difficulties that are being further developed today. These were the aspects of his legacy that were especially noted at the memorial meeting held last month to commemorate his centenary.

More Medicinal Herbs to Protect Health

by HO SHAN

CHINESE medicine is one of the oldest in the world. For thousands of years traditional Chinese drugs, tonics and innumerable medicaments, largely derived from herbs, barks, roots, flowers, fruits and seeds and supplemented by animal and mineral substances, have proved efficacious in the treatment and cure of different kinds of diseases. Ancient Chinese doctors knew that certain metabolic disorders could be effectively treated with seaweed to regulate the functioning of the thyroid gland. About 2,000 years ago, Chinese doctors began to treat skin diseases with sulphur and mercury. The use of chaulmoogra oil against leprosy and ephedrin against colds, asthma and hay fever, treatments which are now well known and widely used, were outstanding contributions made by Chinese medicine.

Though Chinese medicine and pharmacology constitute a priceless heritage, they were regarded with ignorant contempt and neglected by the pre-liberation reactionary regime. It was not until the founding of the People's Republic that they received a new lease on life and growth.

Proceeding from consideration of the needs of the people and scientific development, the Communist Party of China has consistently placed great store by both traditional Chinese medicine and Western medical science introduced into China a little over a century ago. In the study of traditional Chinese medicine the correct application of modern scientific methods is demanded, so that what is best in it can be preserved and further developed. Thus, the goal of Chinese medical personnel today is to master the essence of both schools in the service of the people and make new contributions to world medicine.

A Record of Growth

With improved standards of living and the extension of free medical service to workers and staff members, more and more people are availing themselves of the benefits of Chinese medicine. Consequently, there has been an enormous increase in the demand for drugs. Both the collection and planting of medicinal herbs have been greatly expanded in post-liberation years.

Preliminary statistics for 1960 show the area sown to medicinal herbs increased by 60 per cent compared with 1959. Collection of wild medicinal herbs also registered substantial growth. Besides cultivating locally-grown varieties of medicinal herbs, many provinces succeeded in transplanting herbs from other parts of the country. As a result, *Rahmannia glutinosa* and *Carthamus tinctorius* are now no longer limited to a few provinces but have taken root in a large number. Wild medicinal herbs and non-domesticated animals, certain organs of which serve pharmaceutical purposes, have been cultivated or bred on the farms. They include among the animals, deer, and among scores of plants, *Pinellia tuberifera*.

Though each prescription generally calls for from a dozen to 20 medicinal stuffs, Chinese traditional doctors

have an enormous range from which to pick. In the *Ben Cao Gang Mu* (Compendium of Materia Medica), compiled by the great pharmacologist Li Shih-chen in the 16th century, more than 1,800 different kinds of medicines were listed under 16 categories. In the past few years, people's commune members and medical workers have discovered a great many new sources and varieties of medicinal substances, thereby further enlarging and enriching the supply.

Geared to Other Tasks

Cultivation of medicinal herbs, now being extensively undertaken by some rural people's communes, is a matter of great significance to the people's health. It is, however, closely integrated with other farming tasks. The general practice in these communes is to make the planting of food crops their key work and allow for the collection and growth of medicinal herbs in accordance with their plans for overall development and a diversified economy.

Since huge numbers of herbs grow in mountain regions, their intercropping with saplings in suitable forest areas has been steadily adopted. This method has produced satisfactory results. Some 30 kinds of medicinal herbs were thus planted on more than 300,000 *mu* of mountain slopes in Shansi, Szechuan, Hunan and three other provinces. Experiments are also being made on the intercropping of herbs with regular crops.

Medicinal herbs under cultivation are for the most part those widely used in prescriptions. But they also include some rare plants which naturally grow in remote mountain regions, are difficult of access and consequently in short supply. An example of the latter type is *Panax ginseng*, the root of which is highly valuable in the treatment of a series of diseases as well as renowned for its tonic properties.

Herb-growing counties and people's communes have recently expanded their fields sown to medicinal plants to meet rising demands. Nanchuan County in Szechuan, southwest China, is a natural source of medicinal herbs. In addition to a county-run state farm producing such plants, it has some 50 commune-run farms and teams specializing in their cultivation. Last year Nanchuan enlarged its area under medicinal herbs to 10,000 *mu*, 45 per cent greater than in 1959, and collected or cultivated as many as 900 varieties. Shansi's Wuhsiang County in the north last year sowed 90,000 *mu* with 75 kinds of medicinal herbs. Earnings from this source averaged some 40 yuan per household in the people's communes.

The energetic measures taken have produced satisfactory results in providing the public with sufficient quantities and varieties of high-quality medicinal herbs at reasonable prices. Prompt and economical satisfaction of the needs of the people in this field means better protection of the people's health.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Albanian Art Wins Our Hearts

May Day has been gone quite a while now, but residents of Peking's eastern district are still talking with delight about the spirited and charming contribution which the more than 60 artists of the Albanian State Folk Song and Dance Ensemble made to their May First celebrations. Eastern Peking's residents celebrated the day in Chungshan Park adjoining the old Imperial Palace and the Albanian artists led off a rich festival programme with their songs and dances. They added a Chinese song specially rehearsed for the occasion, *A Song to Mao Tse-tung*, thunderously applauded both for the artistry of its performance and the deep friendship of which it was a token. Peking Radio Station gave a live broadcast of this Chungshan Park performance over the national network.

The members of the Chinese-Albanian Friendship People's Commune on the outskirts of Peking will also long remember the friendly visit which the Albanian troupe paid them on May 2. This dawned a fine day. Peasants came in from all over the commune to welcome their guests with traditional drums and gongs. While the Albanians sang their delightful melodies which included the

cantatas *Song to the Party* and *When the Sun Sets* and performed the Albanian folk dances *The Runaways* and *Old Men and Young Brides*, their hosts too presented several dances including a folk dance of China's Mongolian nationality, *Ordos*, and were proud to show their guests around their farms.

Thus when the opening performance of the Albanian Ensemble took place on May 3 at the Tienqiao Theatre, it was clear that many in the audience already had their favourite items. The solos sung by Ibrahim Tukici and by Lucie Miloti especially were greeted with repeated "encores." The two singers also sang a duet, *The Budding Flower*, long a popular favourite in China. When they came to lines, "Come, come quickly, you, my rose, come!" they sang in Chinese. The applause almost brought the hall down and they had to answer many, many curtain calls.

In addition to two performances at the Tienqiao Theatre, the troupe also gave one at the Great Hall of the People attended by ten thousand people including Vice-Chairman Tung Pi-wu, Vice-Premiers Chen Yi, Lo Jui-ching, and other Party and Government leaders. Ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps in Peking, well-known writers and artists were also present.

The ensemble has now left on a tour of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. After this it will return to tour China for three weeks.

THEATRE

"The Centre Forward Dies at Dawn"

— Argentine Play in Peking

In *The Centre Forward Dies at Dawn*, by the Argentine playwright Augustin Cuzzani, Peking sees the first modern Latin American satirical comedy ever staged in China. It is clearly slated for a long run at the China Youth Art Theatre. "Fresh, biting humour!" is the comment most often heard as the audience streams out after a performance. "New Form, New Style, New Type of Satirical Drama," reads the title of an enthusiastic review in a recent issue of *Beijing Ribao* (*Peking Daily News*).

In the early dawn in a Latin American city, a wanderer lying on a street bench is roused from sleep by a pris-

on warder. It appears that someone will be hanged at this very street corner at daybreak. Who is the victim? Even the warder can't give a clear answer. As he turns away, a notebook is flung out from a window of the prison and falls at the feet of the wanderer. On its first page is a request from the condemned: "Whoever finds this, please tell the world the truth about what has happened to me!" As the wanderer reads on, the play tells the story.

Beltran, the condemned, a star football centre forward is sold up as part of the belongings of a bankrupt football club and finds himself become the property of a financial magnate by the name of Lupus (Wolf). Lupus has so much money that he can't think up enough ways of spending it. He has long since tired of such ordinary hobbies as collecting stamps, antiques or Old Masters and so has started to collect "biological objects." In addition to Beltran he already has a prima ballerina, a dumb circus strongman, a great Shakespearean actor who has been bought to play his finest role, Hamlet, permanently in real life, and an eminent scientist whose field is nuclear weapons. Having thus already acquired "beauty, strength, art and science," he has bought Beltran as a synthesis of all these united in sport. He keeps this unique collection under guard in a pseudo-18th century style palace. Only a few privileged visitors are allowed from time to time to inspect his "treasures."

Delivered to the billionaire's palace in a wooden crate marked "Fragile — this side up!" Beltran learns the truth of his situation from his fellow exhibits and is by turns enraged and desperate. He must have freedom. He wants to play football again. To be cooped up in this gilded prison where everything but liberty is provided for, is to live a living death. He falls in love with the ballerina and they plan to escape. Lupus at first is rather pleased when he discovers the love match between "beauty and sport" and has thoughts of starting a "breeding farm" which will be advertised by jet plane skywriting. But when he sees Beltran's intransigent nature — Beltran refuses to move to a more secure part of the palace when the scientist accidentally blows up part of its walls — he thinks better of it, refuses to allow them to marry and announces that he will mate the ballerina to the ape-man. This is too much for Beltran; in a



Dancing "Old Men and Young Brides"
Sketch by Li Ke-yu



Set for the final scene of "The Centre Forward Dies at Dawn" at the Youth Art Theatre

Sketch by Jack Chen

struggle he kills his tormentor and master. This is why he has been arrested and condemned to death.

The judge, summing up, declares: "The special feature of this case does not lie in the fact that a great man has been murdered, but in the fact that here is an attempt to subvert our existing social system, an attempt to overthrow our way of life. . . . Property has revolted against its master!"

Centre Forward is a witty fable in itself. It pungently exposes the perverted commercialization of everything in a capitalist society, the "cash nexus" that is the cement of that way of life. Cuzzani embellishes it with a wealth of wit and biting humour. The denouement comes in the last moment of the last act. It is the moment of the dawn, the moment of truth. The dim light of the street corner lamp grows pale in the morning light. A fantastic crew, the upper crust of society and its agents, gathers before the gallows. They are waiting for a ceremonial execution in the name of protecting the sacred right of private property. In comes a posse of U.S. military police, the bodyguard of a Yanquis entrepreneur, Kennys, who enjoys a monopoly of hangman's rope. Kennys congratulates his hosts: "Your court has upheld that great principle of Western democracy: No object is allowed to disobey its master. Now our company proclaims that second great principle of Western democracy: Every neck, excepting those who own capital, needs a rope!"

Beltran, standing beneath the gallows, makes his final impassioned speech, a plea for liberty. As he speaks, the gallows recedes. The whole wretched crew of his tormentors fades into darkness. The wanderer, commenting on the scene, declares that other principle: Everything must find its fitting place. The spotlight shifts from Bel-

tran to Kennys and the menacing shadow of the noose that now hangs around his neck.

Wu Hsueh and Hsiao Chi, the directors of the China Youth Art Theatre, have given a lively, witty production to a witty and imaginative play. A reviewer in the *Beijing Wanbao* (*Peking Evening News*) writes: "In

Latin America there may be no such real life auctions of actors, football players or scientists, but, in a more or less concealed manner such trade in human beings is of daily occurrence under the capitalist social system. The author has torn aside the veil used to hoodwink the public."

Another critic answers his own question "Is this all a fantastic playwright's dream?" with a categorical "No, decidedly not. This play is a true reflection of a bitter reality." He praises the imaginative insight of the young Argentine playwright who completed his play in 1955 when he was only 29 years old. This satire hits straight at its target, he declares, because it is firmly grounded in reality. Though expressed in grotesquely allegorical terms, it brings out its meaning in bold relief and in compelling artistic form.

The Youth Theatre has been praised for its originality of staging and particularly its dramatic use of lighting. The scene where Beltran is auctioned off is especially effectively done and with a great economy of means by using the traditional form of the Chinese shadow theatre. The shadows of the players — Beltran's looking like a colossus, stage-high — are thrown on a screen divided to look like one of those modern steel and glass skyscraper facades.

The original stage directions call for a mass of players in a busy, crowded auction room. The Youth Theatre has achieved the necessary effect with a handful of actors, a gauze screen — and a liberal dash of ingenuity.

The acting is good all round but particular mention must be made of Mei Hsi in the role of Beltran, and Tu Peng as the wanderer.

The theatre was fortunate in being able to enlist the advice of Antonio Sarina, an Argentine friend now in Peking. He was able to give the pro-

ducers the local colour and background they needed. The producers also got Chinese football players who had played in Latin America to share their first hand experience of play there with the *Centre Forward* cast. It is by such means that the Youth Theatre, like the playwright, has firmly anchored its production in real life and made this allegory live on its stage.

SHORT NOTES

Sinkiang's Flourishing Literature. Sinkiang occupies a vast area in China's northwest but it is sparsely populated. People of over a dozen nationalities live there. Today they are developing their national cultures in fraternal unity. The Autonomous Region's branch of the Union of Chinese Writers has recently announced that it now has 88 members representing 10 different nationalities. Eight members have been accepted as members of the national organization, the Union of Chinese Writers. At the time of liberation, Sinkiang had only a handful of professional writers. Now it has more than 700 professional and amateur writers who are regular contributors to the region's three literary magazines published in the Uighur, Kazakh and Han languages.

Sinkiang writers, who are always found taking an active part in current events, find that unity among the nationalities is their favourite theme. This is the central theme of *In the Course of Struggle*, a novel by the outstanding writer and public figure Saifudin (who is Chairman of the Autonomous Region), and *A Fighting Comradeship Sealed in Blood*, a novel by Burhan, also a well-known writer and public figure. Three anthologies of poems have recently been published. They are by 150 Uighur, Han, Kazakh, Mongolian and other poets. They give vivid expression to the thoughts and feelings of Sinkiang's people towards the fast-developing socialist revolution and socialist construction and their new life.

* * *

Reminiscences of the War of Liberation. A new book just brought out by the China Youth Publishing House, it includes 22 reminiscences written by veteran revolutionaries and published in newspapers and magazines during the last few years. While each may be read as an independent piece complete in itself, together they provide a panoramic view of a great insight into the War of Liberation (1946-49).

CHINA AND THE WORLD

Czechoslovak Liberation Day

China celebrated the 16th anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia on May 9. In Peking, state leaders and representatives of popular organizations attended the gala reception given by Czechoslovak Ambassador Josef Sedivy. There were celebration gatherings by people of all circles and the Sino-Czechoslovak Friendship People's Commune on the outskirts of the capital.

A joint congratulatory message sent to the Czechoslovak leaders by Comrades Mao Tse-tung, Liu Shao-chi, Chu Teh and Chou En-lai expressed the happiness of the Chinese people over the achievements made by the Czechoslovak people during the past year in socialist construction, in the struggle against imperialist aggression and for peace in Europe and throughout the world. "The friendship between the peoples of China and Czechoslovakia," the message declared, "is eternal and unbreakable."

Vice-Premier Lu Ting-yi, speaking at the Czechoslovak Ambassador's reception, paid tribute to the Czechoslovak people who, he said, had built their country into a socialist state with a highly developed industry. The Chinese people, he stated, resolutely support the Czechoslovak people in their struggle to oppose U.S.-fostered West German militarism and defend European security. The Chinese people, he pledged, would strive to strengthen further the solidarity of the Communist Parties and states of China and Czechoslovakia and the unity of the entire socialist camp on the basis of the Moscow Declaration of 1957 and the Moscow Statement of 1960.

40th Anniversary of Rumanian Communist Party

The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party has sent a message of greetings to the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers' Party on the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Rumanian Communist Party on May 8.

The message reads in part:

"The birth of the Rumanian Communist Party was an event of great significance in the history of the Rumanian people, ushering in a new stage in their liberation movement.

"Since their liberation, the Rumanian people, under the leadership of the Rumanian Workers' Party headed by Comrade Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej, have devoted their creative labour to socialist construction and attained brilliant achievements. Now they are working for the realization of their Six-Year Plan and their long-range programme. We heartily wish the Rumanian people still more brilliant successes in carrying out their new construction plans.

"The fraternal friendship between the Chinese and Rumanian peoples is profound and unbreakable. It is our firm belief that the friendship and unity between the two peoples, based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, will be further consolidated and developed in their joint efforts to build socialism, oppose imperialism and defend world peace."

To mark the anniversary, a pictorial exhibition on the history of the Rumanian Workers' Party is now on in Peking.

Sino-Hungarian Treaty Anniversary

May 6, the second anniversary of the signing of the Sino-Hungarian Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation was joyously marked both in China and Hungary. In Peking, Vice-Premier Chen Yi attended the banquet given by the Hungarian Ambassador Martin Ferenc. In Budapest, the Hungarian Foreign Minister Sik Endre was present at the reception given by Chinese Charge d'Affaires ad interim Hsieh Feng. Members of the delegation of the China-Hungary Friendship Association led by its President Chu Wu, the Delegation of All-China Federation of Trade Unions, the Chinese Trade Delegation and the Chinese Delegation to the Budapest Spring Industrial Fair also attended the reception.

Close Sino-Burmese Co-operation

The Chinese-Burmese Joint Boundary Committee has just held its 6th session in Peking. It discussed the draft boundary protocol, checked the

newly made detailed maps of the Sino-Burmese boundary and prepared for the signing of these documents, and thus successfully accomplished the tasks laid down for it in the Sino-Burmese Boundary Treaty.

Brigadier Aung Gyi, Vice-Chief of the General Staff of the National Defence Forces of Burma, and other Burmese delegates to the Committee were given a hearty welcome while in Peking. Sino-Burmese kinship and the close co-operation between the two countries was many times toasted at banquets given in their honour by Premier Chou En-lai, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Chen Yi, and Vice-Premier and Chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Lo Jui-ching.

Premier Chou En-lai expressed warm congratulations on the final completion of all the documents relating to the Sino-Burmese border and on the growing friendly ties between the two countries. He stated that while 1960 was the year of friendship between China and Burma, 1961 would witness a still further growth of this friendship.

Vice-Premier Chen Yi declared that the world would witness close Sino-Burmese co-operation in all fields. "In the cause of supporting our mutual close neighbour, Laos, in setting up a peaceful, neutral, independent and democratic country, China and Burma will again carry out effective co-operation to make joint contributions to peace in Indo-China and throughout Asia."

Vice-Premier Lo Jui-ching, in particular, condemned U.S. imperialism for using the remnant Kuomintang troops to expand the war in Laos and encroach upon the sovereignty and independence of Burma. "The Chinese people and the Chinese People's Liberation Army," he declared, "give full support to the statement by the Prime Ministers of China and Burma that, if necessary, both parties would act in co-ordination and co-operation to solve the problem of the remnant Kuomintang troops. They are determined to strive together with the Burmese people and the National Defence Forces of Burma to safeguard the security and peace of the friendly boundary between the two countries. The Chinese and Burmese peoples will never allow others, no matter whom, to harm or endanger the border of

lasting peace and friendship which they have long cherished and established with their own hands."

Brigadier Aung Gyi warmly greeted the growing friendship and close co-operation between the two countries. He emphasized that now that the Sino-Burmese boundary of peace and friendship had been established, no foreign enemy would be allowed to damage or destroy it.

Brigadier Aung Gyi and members of the Burmese delegation are now on a tour in south China.

Sino-Indonesian Cultural Ties

An Indonesian Writers' Delegation led by Sitor Situmorang, President of Indonesian National Cultural League, recently completed a three-week tour of China. Before its departure, it issued a joint statement with the Union of Chinese Writers calling on all Asian and African writers to support the Second Afro-Asian Writers' Conference scheduled for November this year.

The statement affirmed that literature in our age should oppose imperialist aggression against the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America in the political, economic and cultural fields because, it declared, "historical experience has shown that unless imperialism and colonialism in Asia, Africa and the rest of the world is completely eliminated the national cultures of the Asian and African peoples cannot achieve speedy development." The statement also pledged that Chinese and Indonesian writers would help their Governments to implement the recently signed Sino-Indonesian Cultural Co-operation Agreement as this would enrich the literary treasury of the two peoples and promote their long-standing friendship and solidarity.

* * *

A Chinese art troupe has just completed a very successful tour in West and Central Java. Arriving in Indonesia at the time of the official visit of Vice-Premier Chen Yi, these Chinese artists were true cultural envoys. They brought to the Indonesian people Chinese art as well as friendship.

The troupe received the warmest of welcomes during its stay of more than a month. It was given warm receptions by Indonesian officials and had many happy get-togethers with Indonesian artists. Each of its 18 public performances was a notable local event.

Altogether around 400,000 people saw its programme in Djakarta and other cities. At its May 1 performance in Djakarta, a huge throng began to stream into the Ikada Stadium five hours ahead of time and waited long on the stands despite the heat of the tropical sun and a sudden heavy downpour. Many among the audience came from Bogor and other cities in West Java.

The troupe's repertoire included not only Chinese songs, dances and acrobatics but also Javanese classic dances, Sumatran folk dances and Indonesian songs which the Chinese artists had studiously learnt during their visit.

First Mali Ambassador

Koniba Pleah, the first Mali Ambassador to China, has arrived in Peking. This raises the total of African states with ambassadors in China to five — the U.A.R., Guinea, Ghana, the Congo and Mali.

In their speeches delivered at the ceremony for the presentation of credentials by the Mali Ambassador, both Tung Pi-wu, Vice-Chairman of the People's Republic of China, and Ambassador Koniba Pleah emphasized that the friendship between the two countries was solidly grounded on the common struggle against imperialism and colonialism and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

Ambassador Koniba Pleah stated the determination of the Mali Government to devote its maximum efforts to strengthening friendly relations with China. Vice-Chairman Tung Pi-wu expressed the conviction that the peoples of China and Mali would for ever be friendly and make joint contributions to Asian-African solidarity and world peace.

China-Brazil

A Chinese trade delegation headed by Nan Han-chen, Chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, is currently visiting Brazil. It is the guest of the Brazilian Government, the Brazilian Committee for the Promotion of International Trade and the National Industrial Confederation. Its members have been received by Brazilian Vice-President Joao Goulart and Minister of Industry and Commerce Bernardes Filho. On both occasions, their Brazilian hosts expressed the desire to de-

velop trade and friendly relations with the People's Republic of China.

Meanwhile, the Brazilian Economic Delegation left for home after touring various parts of China. In Peking, it was received on separate occasions by Chu Teh, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Vice-Premier Chen Yi and Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade Lei Jen-min.

Other recent arrivals from Brazil are Srs. Helio Vitor Ramos and Segismundo Andrade, Members of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies.

Latin American Guests

Several Latin American delegations are currently touring China. Among them are:

A parliamentary group from Peru, headed by Senor Jose Wilbert Salas Rodriguez.

An Argentine cultural and goodwill delegation.

The Delegation of the National Federation of Railway Workers of Cuba.

Brisk Trade at Canton

Business is good at the current Chinese Export Commodities Fair in Canton. In its first 15 days from mid-April to the end of the month, transactions concluded involved a sum of 200 million yuan (over 29 million pounds sterling).

More than half of the contracts concluded were for farm produce such as soya beans, assorted beans, rice, tung oil, tea and medicinal herbs. Other commodities dealt in included tinned foods, cotton piece goods, silks, woollen fabrics, knitwear, handicraft goods, chemicals, medical apparatus, precision instruments, cement, rolled steel, coal and machinery.

More than 1,600 visiting business men are attending the fair. They come from all parts of the world. Most have made purchases from the Chinese export corporations. They express appreciation for the great variety and excellent quality of the goods available at the fair.

The ninth of its kind, the current fair displays a total of over 20,000 commodities. One-tenth of them are new products being exhibited for the first time.

CHINESE PRESS OPINION

Tanganyika Moves to Independence

The achievement of "internal self-government" by Tanganyika, in East Africa, on May 1 and its scheduled proclamation of independence on December 28 represent "an important development of the struggle of the people of Tanganyika for independence and freedom and an initial victory in their anti-colonialist fight," says *Renmin Ribao's* Commentator (May 2).

Facing the Indian Ocean, Tanganyika has an area of 939,400 square kilometres with a population of 9 million. A former German colony, it was turned over to Britain as a "mandate territory" after World War I. Since the end of World War II, Britain has continued its colonial rule there under the signboard of a U.N. "trusteeship."

Tanganyika's self-government and its forthcoming independence, Commentator points out, reflect the surging national independence movement in so-called British East Africa which also includes Kenya, Uganda and Zanzibar; they mark the further deepening of the crisis of British colonialist rule there. The colonialists' seizure of the most fertile lands from the Africans, their rapacious plunder of strategic materials, their unscrupulous building of military bases and arrogant practice of racial discrimination have turned these lands into living hells and aroused the ever growing resistance of the African peoples there. The national liberation movement is sweeping through Africa in mounting waves, and in this excellent situation, the East African peoples' movement for independence and freedom is also advancing irresistibly.

Tanganyika is the first among Britain's East African colonies to win self-government as a prelude to independence. This is the result of the protracted struggles carried on by the people of Tanganyika, Commentator notes. And he draws particular attention to the fact that the massive struggles waged by the workers and peasants of Tanganyika in recent years have dealt telling blows to the imperialist forces of aggression and given a powerful impetus to the national independence movement.

The Chinese people, Commentator writes, profoundly sympathize with and support the national independence struggle of the people of Tanganyika. On the occasion of Tanganyika's attainment of "internal self-government," they wish the people there ever fresh victories in their fight for national independence.

From their own experience, Commentator concludes, the Chinese people are keenly aware that imperialism will not lightly give up its vested interests. It is not unlikely that the people of Tanganyika will meet new obstacles on their way to national independence, but they will surely defeat all colonialist schemes as long as they hold high the banner of national unity and carry forward their struggle indomitably.

Iranian Teachers and Students Demonstrate

The mass demonstrations of Iranian teachers and students in Tehran in

early May and the continued strike of all teachers in Iran were reported in the Chinese Press. A news analysis in *Renmin Ribao* (May 8) points out that "these events are fresh indications of the grave consequences of the Iranian ruling clique trailing behind U.S. policies of aggression and war and of the rising anger of the Iranian people over this state of affairs." The Iranian teachers are protesting against hunger and demanding higher wages; they have won the sympathy of the students.

"During the past few years," the analysis stresses, "Iran's sovereignty has been trampled on, its territory turned into a U.S. military base and the financial and economic situation in the country, too, has continued to deteriorate because of its participation in the CENTO aggressive military bloc and its signing of a bilateral military agreement with the United States."

Iran's annual military expenditure accounts for 50 to 60 per cent of its total budget. The amount was 4,200 million rials six years ago when the country joined the Baghdad Pact (predecessor of the CENTO), but it had risen steeply to over 14,000 million rials in fiscal year 1959-60. With

THE PASSING SHOW

What a Month!

— S.O.S. from the
White House —

First Gagarin con-
quered space;

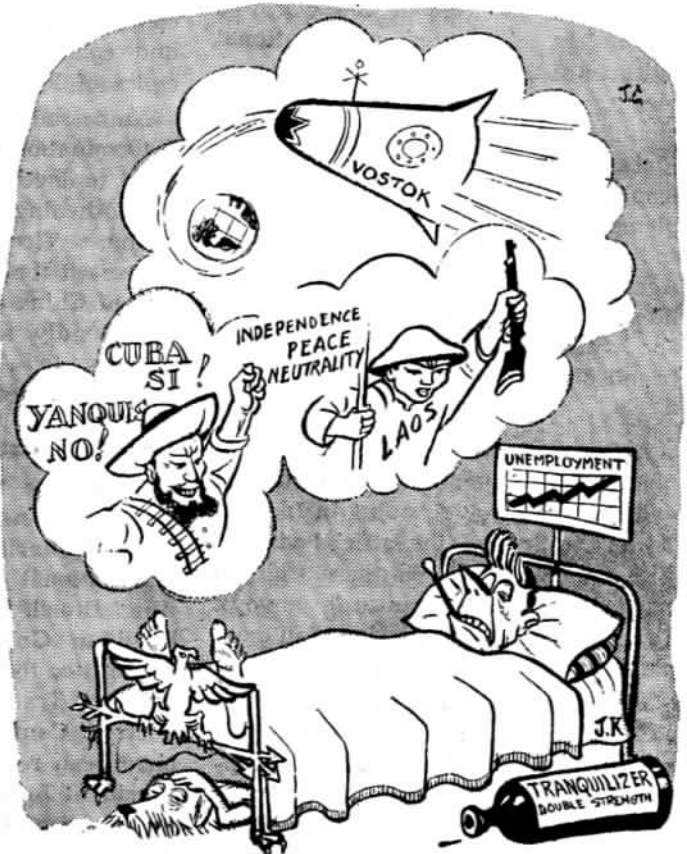
Trumping my astro-
nautical ace.

Peace threatens now
in Laos!

Chaos!!

My fingers burnt on
Cuba's beaches!

Who said: "Experi-
ence teaches?"



heavy military expenditure come budgetary deficits and inflation. Steadily increasing foreign debts, it was announced, amounted to more than 600 million U.S. dollars by the end of last year.

As a result of the policy of national betrayal pursued by the Iranian ruling circles, foreign capital has moved into Iran in a big way. The more than 1,000 agencies of foreign corporations operating in the country have brought Iran's economic lifelines under their control. Foreign goods flood the Iranian market, and national industries are being throttled. The oil monopolies, mostly controlled by U.S. and British capital, keep a firm grip on Iran's rich petroleum resources. They wrest from the country over 70,000 million rials in oil profits every year. In 1959, other foreign companies in Iran raked in nearly 1,000 million U.S. dollars. These companies include the "Bank for the Development of Mining and Industry," the biggest foreign-owned bank in Iran which is dominated by American capital. Iran's foreign trade runs up an unfavourable balance every year. The import excess amounted to 440 million U.S. dollars in 1959 and 500 million U.S. dollars in 1960. Last year, Iran's total value of imports was six times as much as its exports.

In these circumstances, the Iranian people become steadily impoverished. The Government, while allocating ever larger sums for military purposes and for suppression of the people, have reduced expenditures in such fields as public health and education. Intellectuals, teachers and students have found their plight increasingly intolerable. In 1959, twenty thousand students applied for college admission, but the handful of Iranian colleges could enrol only 1,700 and tuition fees were prohibitively high. When a group of high school students gathered in February last year to demand that the Government expand college enrolments, 11 of them were killed and more than 100 wounded by troops and police sent by the Government.

The Iranian students have an anti-imperialist tradition and stand in the forefront of the struggle for democratic rights. During the past few years, they have braved brutal government repression and demonstrated again and again. They are struggling valiantly against reactionary rule and to win their rights, the news analysis concludes.

SIDELIGHTS

If There's One, There's a Thousand.

Only a few years ago the new Wuhan Iron and Steel Works started its first sparetime workers' art group with eight members. By 1960, it had 38 groups with 1,200 members—among them amateur poets, writers, cartoonists, musicians, painters, actors, dancers. More and more such worker-artists are budding out among China's working people. Factory workshop walls are gay with colourful drawings and cartoons, poems and songs. Art makes living quarters gay. At Shenyang's No. 3 Lathe Plant, the occupants of 120 rooms on the fourth floor of the bachelors' dormitory have their walls decorated with an artistic covering of poetry, calligraphy and painting. Today it's a poor factory or mine indeed which hasn't its own writers, poets or cartoonists ready to rise to any occasion.

The themes of this working-class art are naturally those that are closest to the hearts of the workers—their rich and varied life and pursuits, their enthusiasm in building socialism and battling for mankind's great causes, their love for the Communist Party. When workers of the Dalien Shipyard completed a 10,000-ton ocean-going vessel in the record time of 58 days, there was a burst of creative enthusiasm in the yard. The stories, anecdotes, poems and drawings produced were enough to make up a book, *History of a 10,000-Ton Ship*, which vividly records in the workers' own language how they achieved their feat.

At the national amateur song contest held last year, the song which won first prize was written by a worker at a Shanghai glass plant to music by a precision tool plant worker. It runs:

A big red flower is what I would wear,

A tall red steed is the one I would ride.

A leap-forward song is what I would sing,

Forward, ever with the Party!

The popularization of art and literature, which takes many forms—exhi-

bitions, performances, short-term art and literature classes, reports and lectures, and especially personal visits from well-known artists and writers to factories to give their personal help—introduce the workers to the arts. Once launched on the creative path, they are making swift progress.

More Than a Store. Hemmed in by pathless mountains 17 villages inhabited by the Lisu nationality in Yunnan Province led a primitive life until liberation. After the Party sent in cadres to help them overcome their economic backwardness by helping them to take up modern farming and other productive occupations the life of the little community of 142 families rapidly changed for the better. The state-owned general store set up there also played a part in this change.

Some rice was grown locally but low temperatures in that high altitude kept the seedlings from reaching the transplanting stage in time. This is essential for a good harvest. After consulting with the people and careful investigation, the local Party organization found that an application of ammonium sulphate gave that extra boost required by the rice seedlings to offset the adverse temperatures. The general store which sold the fertilizer was given the task of persuading the people to employ this method to ensure a good crop. The staff of the store readily accepted. The experimental plot they planted and tended in one village gave convincing evidence of the ammonium sulphate's effectiveness. Soon all 17 villages adopted this practice, resulting in bigger rice harvests for all.

Thus was evolved the method by which the general store introduced new procedures and tools into production. A pilot project in one village provided a testing ground. What was successful was subsequently popularized. Similarly, pig-breeding, bee-keeping, the selection and use of local vegetation for fodder, the gathering of herbs which abounded in the surrounding mountains, improved hunting and fishing equipment and so on were introduced and readily adopted by the Lisu people with good results. Gradually both production and incomes expanded.



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