

PEKING REVIEW

44

November 3, 1961

CHINA'S SUBSURFACE WATER RESOURCES

Little known before are now being mapped and
tapped (p. 6).

Thailand—U.S. Base in S.E. Asia

(p. 13).

TELL-TALE SILENCE

Washington's double-dealing in Africa (p. 11).

Lu Hsun's "Old Home" Revisited

Big changes in a Chekiang village (p. 15).

That Yawning Gap in Space

Theatre, Sports and Other Features

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A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE NEWS AND VIEWS

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Illustrated

142 pages

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(BEIJING ZHOUBAO)

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE
NEWS AND VIEWS

November 3, 1961 Vol. IV No. 44

CONTENTS

ROUND THE WEEK 3

Autumn Harvest; Happy Anniversary in Tibet; Consumer Goods for the Villages; Shelter Pelt for Desert Railway; Recruits for Service Trades; New Book on Rice-Growing

ARTICLES

China's Subsurface Water Resources
— Yen Hsi-yu 6

That Yawning Gap
— Liu Chuang 8

Tell-Tale Silence
— Yuan Li 11

Thailand — U.S. Base in S.E. Asia
— Ke Hsien-wei 13

Lu Hsun's "Old Home" Revisited
— Ren Hsin 15

The Coming of the Yanks
— Chi Feng 20

SIDELIGHTS 17

CHINA AND THE WORLD 18

Burmese Parliamentary Delegation;
Sino-Nepalese Highway Construction;
Polish Exhibition;
Trade News; Cultural News; U.S.
Military Provocations

CHINESE PRESS OPINION 19

Cambodia's Just Stand Upheld;
Workers' and Peasants' Struggle
in France

THEATRE, SPORTS 21

Opera from Lu Hsun's Home
Town; Hungarian Volleyball
Team in China; Short Notes

WHAT'S ON IN PEKING 23

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ROUND THE WEEK

Autumn Harvest

Shuangjiang (Frost Descends) is the Chinese calendar term for the coming of frost in the Yellow River valley lands. So a week has passed since *shuangjiang* arrived. The autumn harvest which accounts for the bulk of the annual crop draws to a close in most parts of the country. The sowing of winter crops is either nearing completion or still at a peak. Good organization on the farms got a large part of the ploughing done even while the harvesting was going ahead.

The southern provinces first gathered in their semi-late rice, and then set about harvesting the year's second rice crop, the late rice. This latter job is not quite finished. Up in the north the crops under the sickle have included maize, sorghum, millet; the soya beans have been plucked and the sweet potatoes are in. Among the late autumn industrial crops were cotton and groundnuts.

This year the weather has been more than unkind for the third year in a row. Drought and flood raged over large farming areas. In some places their havoc was aggravated by other natural calamities — typhoons, hailstorms and insect pests. They inflicted considerable damage on the crops, though counter-measures blunted their full impact. Anhwei, for instance, was one of the worst affected provinces. A long spell of drought seriously threatened its semi-late and late rice crops and their yields seemed certainly to suffer substantial losses. The peasants, however, made good use of the water conservancy works. Incidentally, they could bring into action this year irrigation equipment with a total of more than 300,000 h.p. Those fields that nevertheless succumbed to the drought were replanted with alternative crops. The upshot was that most returns exceed what has been originally expected in view of the drought.

Nationwide, many places reported reaping a better harvest than last year's.

The sowing is practically completed in the winter wheat belts south of the Great Wall. Southern Shensi had sown 10 million *mu* by mid-October. This meant that two-thirds of the plan had been fulfilled ahead of time. Hopei, another leading winter wheat region, hasn't been lagging, either. The autumn ploughing there has been well done, the seed has been well prepared too.

Meanwhile people's communes along the Yangtse are still busily sowing rapeseed, beans, wheat and green manure crops that will ripen next year. In Chekiang, part of the green manure crop are past the seedling stage and are growing sturdily. This means some good spade work has been done for next year's fertilizers.

As the outcome of the 1962 harvest is to a certain extent decided by the preparations being made now, the peasants are giving a lot of thought to ensure better yields in the coming year. On many farms in Heilungkiang in the far northeast, the most experienced veteran peasants were assigned the job of selecting the best seed for the spring sowing.

Happy Anniversary in Tibet

Tibet was peacefully liberated ten years ago. An agreement on its peaceful liberation was signed by representatives of the Central People's Government and the Tibet local government in May 1951, and the People's Liberation Army entered Tibet that year. Since then momentous changes have taken place there.

At a large gathering held in Lhasa on October 26 to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the P.L.A.'s entry into that city, Chang Ching-wu, representative of the Central People's Government in Tibet and Secretary of the



Autumn Harvest

Woodcut by Chen Chia-yung

Tibet Working Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, enumerated the great achievements and victories gained by the Tibetan people in consolidating the unity of the motherland, in strengthening the solidarity of all nationalities and in the political, economic and cultural development of Tibet. He attributed these successes to the wise and correct leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the correctness of the Party's policy towards all nationalities, the warm support of all the nationalities of China and the concerted efforts and close co-operation of the P.L.A. units and the cadres in Tibet, and Tibetans of all sections of the population.

Speaking at the rally, Tsuiko Dongchutseren, Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Tibet Autonomous Region, paid tribute to the P.L.A. units stationed in Tibet. He hailed the tremendous contribution they had made to the liberation of serfs and to construction in Tibet in these ten years. He also sternly condemned the inclusion of the so-called "Tibetan question" on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly as a result of the machinations of U.S. imperialism. This anti-Chinese plot, he declared, was doomed to fail; it could not in the least damage China or the Tibetan people. On the contrary, he emphasized, the Tibetan people, under the leadership of the Communist Party, would march forward heroically from victory to victory.

That night, Lhasa's citizens and members of the People's Liberation

Army there celebrated the anniversary at a big party.

Consumer Goods for the Villages

Late autumn is a brisk trading season. A swelling volume of two-way traffic is flowing between town and countryside. Most of the harvest is in and the rural commune members are selling their best grain and industrial crops to the state to support industry and the urban areas.

Industry, in its turn, is sparing no effort to supply the rural areas with just the kind of industrial consumer goods needed by the peasants. Roomy and comfortable, with soles made to last, the galoshes made specially for farmers by Shanghai factories are in heavy demand. Rural buyers are more than delighted by the new rubber-soled Chinese-style cloth shoes which are being made. These now have rubber toe caps to keep the feet from getting wet in the morning dew. There is also a new "portable" alarm clock that has a ring like a fire alarm. It won't be popular among city dwellers, but it is just the thing for production teams of the rural people's communes. It can be hung on a tree; its ring can be heard by people working at some considerable distance and its large numerals can be seen from afar.

These hot new items are not just the brainchilds of the workers. The distributing trades did their bit too. In co-operation with manufacturers,

the wholesale distributing centre in Shanghai sent out market survey teams to ten counties in the city's suburbs, and villages in Kiangsu, Fukien, Hunan, Hupeh, and even as far afield as Liaoning and Kirin up in the northeast. They took samples of rubber footwear, clocks, enamelware and a score of other items to local retail distributors, commune administrators, veteran farmhands and young peasants for comments and suggestions. The new wares now on sale in the countryside indicate how much weight these opinions have carried.

Rural markets have their special demands, but a characteristic of them today is their stress on quality and better styling.

With standards of living steadily rising, the peasants are demanding metal cased thermos bottles as well as bamboo cased ones; they now prefer aluminium kitchen utensils to wooden and ironware and are developing a taste for plastic products too. In the case of items equally in demand in city and countryside, light industry is stepping up production to satisfy both, with priority going to the latter.

Shelter Belt for Desert Railway

The Paotow-Lanchow Railway in northwest China completed just over three years ago (in July 1958 to be exact) made the headlines again lately; although it runs through the great Tengri Desert for a total distance of 40 kilometres, it has been kept open to traffic without interruption ever since 1959, thanks to the newly planted sand- and wind-break shelter belts which have effectively held the shifting sands of that desert in check.

This important 1,009-kilometre trunk line is itself an engineering feat. Starting from Paotow, that rising steel base in Inner Mongolia, it runs to Lanchow, the new railway hub, oil centre and capital of Kansu Province, via the fertile area inside the Yellow River bend and the famous Wuchung area in the Ningsia Hui Autonomous Region. It was the first trans-desert line ever built in China; millions of cubic metres of sand had to be cleared for its road bed over the Tengri Desert and bridges built for its three crossings of the Yellow

River. Yet it was completed in only 16 months.

To protect it from sandstorms and shifting sand dunes, a forest plantation, a weather station and a research centre were set up in 1958 to supervise a plan of large-scale afforestation — a project undertaken in co-operation with the local people's communes. Now, less than three years later, a wall of trees 45 kilometres long and 1-2.5 kilometres wide runs parallel to the tracks, a vivid green contrast with the vast stretches of yellow sand which it holds in check. In addition, a cellular mechanical defence has been set up. Extending over a distance of 20 kilometres and spreading like a fish net over an area of some 15,000 *mu*, it literally nails down the sand dunes. Designed by Chinese scientists with the help of Soviet experts, this defence is formed of intersecting walls of rice or wheat straw pegged down with wooden stakes. The squares or cells vary from one to two square metres each and serve as cradles for growing saplings and shrubs. These are doing well. So well, indeed, that today, young foresters armed with axes, scythes and hunting rifles have replaced a large force of road maintenance workers who in the early days maintained a round-the-clock vigil to keep the rail line free from sand-drifts.

In a wilderness where there were few signs of human habitation before, the people, the masters in their own house, have not only built a railway, but a forest belt as well to keep it functioning smoothly. The experience gained here is of considerable importance for the future of the desert areas of China.

Recruits for Service Trades

With the steady improvement in the people's living standards, the service trades in this country have expanded rapidly. But a good chef or a good barber is hard to get. It takes years of training to produce a qualified master in these and other service trades. To meet the need for new hands, local government departments in many cities are making a drive for recruits to these trades.

Shanghai, the big metropolis in east China, is a typical case. The city has grown rapidly in recent years; it prides

itself on the excellent service of its restaurants, hairdressers, laundries, photo studios and other services and naturally doesn't want to dull its shining reputation. But many of its masters in the service trades are getting on in years; the majority of them are near or in their fifties. Besides going to strengthen the staffs of the many new shops and restaurants opened in the city, quite a number of them have gone to help the new cities and towns that have risen across the land. This has put quite a strain on the existing work force. It is for this reason that since 1958 the city's trade departments have been recruiting large numbers of young people to reinforce the ranks of the service trades. During the past two years some 2,500 young recruits have been trained in various service trades.

Training is mostly done on a master-apprentice basis. Each recruit is assigned to a restaurant or a shop, working right beside a master. They also attend general courses, as well as the theory and practice of their special trade. From time to time they go to practice under the supervision of veterans in one or the other of the 36 experimental shops maintained by the city. Most of these new hands are now able to work independently.

Last year, the Shanghai Trade School also offered special courses for 400 young recruits to the restaurants, hairdressers, cleaning and dyeing shops and photo studios of the city. When they have completed their 4-year course they will have a middle school education and become highly skilled in their trade.

Besides training young recruits, the city's service trades have not overlooked the need to improve the skill of workers who have already had several years of practical experience in their trade. In the past two years more than 1,000 such workers have attended three advanced 6-month courses, where such leading lights as the famous barber Liu Jui-ching and the well-known chef Yu Ying-hsiang have given them special coaching. Many of these students have now become qualified masters and are themselves teaching apprentices.

New Book on Rice-Growing

One of the comprehensive books on the subject ever produced, *The Cul-*

tivation of Paddyrice in China, containing 700,000 words in Chinese, has recently come off the press. More than 50 professors and experts in research institutes of agricultural sciences and agricultural colleges took part in its preparation. It was compiled under the supervision of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Ting Ying, President of the Academy and an eminent scientist in this field, was chief editor.

Rice leads all other staple food grains in China. The overwhelming majority of the population are rice eaters and a quarter of the nation's cultivated land is planted to this crop each year. This alone indicates the importance of a new major work on this crop.

Ancient Chinese books record that rice was cultivated here as far back as 2,000 B.C. and even earlier. Archaeology is still seeking to set a firmly proven date for the start of its cultivation, but the character "rice" has already been found on oracle bones 3,000 years old. Over the centuries the Chinese farmers have built up a rich experience in rice planting and achieved much in its scientific study too.

This new book gives a detailed account of this experience in all its aspects, both practical and theoretical. It also devotes a considerable space to a systematic summary of the valuable experience gained over the past three years. Certain specific technical problems arising out of it such as deep ploughing, close planting and other major farming methods are treated at special length.

In 24 chapters, it deals with the following subjects: the origin and evolution of paddyrice in China; the relation between its growth and climate, soil and other environmental factors; the classification of rice strains in China, and the selection and breeding of good strains; skills and theories relating to the cultivation of bumper rice crops on large areas; the major farming methods developed under the "Eight-Point Charter" for agriculture, etc. This book is certainly a valuable contribution to the national agricultural drive.

China's Subsurface Water Resources

by YEN HSI-YU

CHINA has long been known to be richly endowed with surface water resources. Now, large-scale exploration conducted since liberation proves that it is also rich in subsurface water. Since the big leap forward in 1958, particularly energetic efforts have been made to exploit these latter resources, and encouraging results have been achieved.

Efforts to use subsurface water riches have a long historical tradition behind them in this country. As a matter of fact China is one of the earliest countries in the world to utilize subsurface water. It is sometimes claimed that the world's first artesian well was sunk in Artois, France in 1126 A.D., but historical records show that some Chinese wells antedate that French well by at least a dozen centuries. The famous wells at Tsukung, Szechuan Province, for example, were bored in the Chin Dynasty (221-206 B.C.). Well-boring technique in fact attained a high level of development in this country as early as the first century B.C. Some of the wells sunk at that time were several hundred metres deep. It is also probable that *karese* irrigation originated in China. A *karese* is an underground channel leading water over considerable distances from an underground water source to overground irrigation channels. It is built by first sinking a well to the water source and then a number of vertical shafts from which interconnecting horizontal shafts are driven to lead the water in the required direction. These *karese* are widely used in northwest China and the arid regions of Central Asia. The *Historical Records* compiled in the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-220 A.D.) contain a description of a *karese*, known as the Dragon Head Channel, constructed in the second century B.C. in Tali County, Shensi Province. This is believed to be the first *karese* in the world.

New Data on Subsurface Water

As in every other field of endeavour, the founding of the People's Republic of China gave a fresh impetus to hydrogeological work and developments have been rapid in the past decade and more. A great deal of new work has been done in surveying, research and exploitation by the organizations concerned — the Ministry of Geology, the coal, metallurgical and building industries, water conservancy and agricultural organizations, and institutions of higher learning and

scientific research. A great amount of valuable data has been made available to the planners.

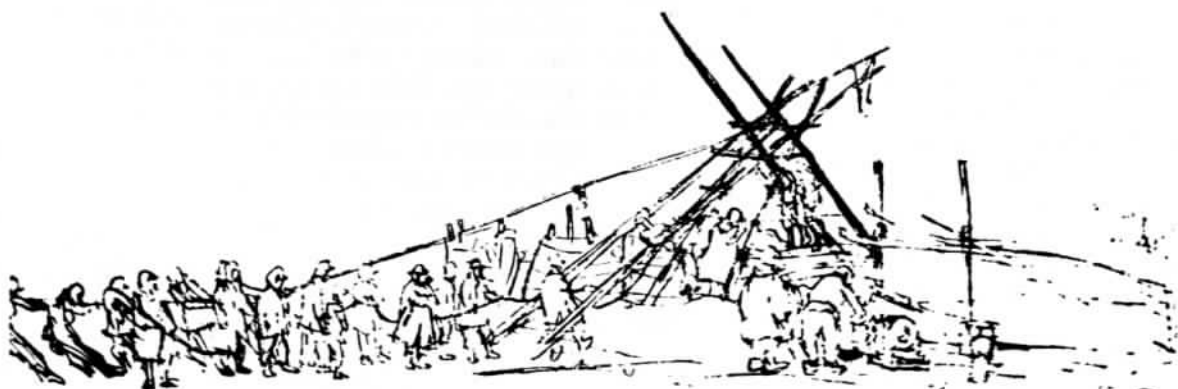
Climatic, geological and geographical conditions vary very considerably from region to region over China's vast expanse and needs for subsurface water, therefore, differ likewise. Generally speaking, the south is humid and has an abundant rainfall. Its terrain is hilly or mountainous. Both surface and subsurface water abound. The north is arid with relatively scanty rainfall. Plains, plateaus, grasslands and deserts make up most of this area. Surface rivers are not well developed, but extremely rich subsurface water resources can be tapped to meet the area's economic needs in industry, agriculture and stock breeding.

In the south therefore, with its abundant surface water, the problem is mainly one of draining off excess water in the rainy season and of adequately storing up surface water for irrigation in the dry seasons in reservoirs and ponds. In the plains and basins surrounded by mountains in this part of the country, however, it may still be necessary to tap artesian water lying deep underground for irrigation purposes.

Subsurface Water Abundant in Arid North

The problem is very different in the north and northwest.

North China, the country's main wheat and cotton belt, is semi-arid. Only a fraction of its irrigation needs can be met from surface water sources. Hydrogeological surveys and data gathered from the actual working of a large number of mechanized wells, however, show that this area is well endowed with subsurface water. The available surface water resources in Hopei Province, for example, can meet the irrigation needs of only 15 per cent of the province's farm lands. Proper utilization of subsurface water, however, could extend irrigation to about 60 per cent of the arable land.



The north China plain consists mainly of thick quaternary unconsolidated sediments. Subsurface water abounds especially beneath the piedmont plains along the Yenshan and Taihang Mountain Ranges. Here ordinary wells can tap a certain amount of ground water and the boring of artesian wells will bring big benefits by tapping the abundance of artesian water. Many such wells have been sunk in Yuncheng County, Shansi Province, and water from them is stored in reservoirs and ponds as a double insurance against drought.

Hydrogeological conditions in the centre of the north China plain are rather complex as they are influenced by the courses of the Yellow and Huai Rivers. Mineralization of phreatic water increases gradually from west to east, but an abundant supply of fresh artesian water is still found at a certain depth sufficient for irrigation and urban and industrial use. There is the possibility of using this fresh subsurface water for washing and irrigating the soil and so desalinating and making large areas suitable for cultivation.

In Shansi, Shantung and the northern part of Hopei the farmlands are distributed on plains and basins surrounded by mountain ranges. These areas have not only an abundance of subsurface water in the quaternary strata, but large amounts of karst water in paleozoic limestone strata which can also be utilized. Tsinan, capital of Shantung and a well-known city of springs, makes extensive use of karst water.

Northwest China and Inner Mongolia are arid, with an average annual rainfall of less than 250 mm. Some regions, however, get as little as 50 mm. of rain a year. There is little surface run-off and most rivers are seasonal. But hydrogeological surveys and studies confirm that there is plenty of subsurface water in this area too. There are many good natural artesian basins surrounded by tall mountains. Rich subsurface water resources are found in nearly all the important agricultural and stock breeding areas such as on the northern and southern flanks of the Tianshan Mountains, the Hohsi Corridor (also known as the Kansu Corridor), the Tsaidam Basin, the Yinchuan Plain, the Yellow River Bend, the Inner Mongolian Plateau and the Ordos. The possibilities of exploiting artesian water are particularly great there. In the Ordos, for example, artesian water is found at a depth of 170 metres. A single artesian well sunk there gave a gush of 10,000 tons of water within 24 hours.

Prospects for Transforming Deserts

Reliable data show that even in the most desolate areas such as the Tengri Desert and deserts in the Dzungarian and Tarim Basins, there are fairly rich reservoirs of subsurface water which can be utilized to transform these desert areas.

The Kuanchung Plain in Shensi Province is known as a granary of northwest China. The known subsurface water resources here are sufficient to irrigate more than half its farm lands. Properly used in conjunction with surface water, they will go a long way towards ensuring rich harvests here even in the face of severe droughts. Once the heroic people of the loess plateaus in Shensi and Kansu learnt that their farms had subsurface waters that could be tapped, they swiftly developed a number of ingenious methods of getting this water to their fields. They dig underground channels to bring the water to a



Boring Wells

Sketches by Lu Chih-hsiang

point beneath their fields on the loess plateaus and then sink wells to bring the water to the surface.

Surface run-offs are well developed on the Sungari-Liao, Sungari-Nun, and Sanchiang Plains in **northeast China**. They are easily accessible and so form the chief means of irrigation. Subsurface water in this area, however, is also abundant and lies close to the earth's surface. Artesian water too is found in many areas and these auxiliary sources can be profitably exploited in conjunction with surface water.

In **southwest China**, paleozoic and mesozoic limestone strata are widely distributed in Yunnan, Kweichow and Kwangsi. These areas are covered by a thin blanket of unconsolidated sediments and the karst topography of the area is exceptionally well developed due to long years of erosion by moisture and rainwater. Underground reservoirs and rivers abound. Some rivers flow underground for considerable distances before they emerge above ground. In this area, surface water dries up very easily and the utilization of subsurface water is therefore of particular importance to the area's economic development.

Exploitation of Subsurface Water

Put in a nutshell, the water utilization policy of New China prescribes energetic exploration and exploitation of subsurface water while fully utilizing surface water, and the combination of the use of wells and channels. Closely

co-ordinating their activities with the peasants' fight against drought, geological teams have made extensive surveys to discover subsurface water. Regional hydrogeological surveys have already been carried out on an area of more than 2.7 million square kilometres — nearly 30 per cent of China's total area. Detailed surveying in some areas has ascertained in general the distribution of subsurface water and provided such sources for over 100 big cities and large industrial enterprises, and for farm irrigation and stock breeding.

In 1959, and subsequently, many parts of the country have been hit by serious droughts. It is in the fight against them that the peasants, led by the Communist Party and the People's Government, have made particularly strenuous efforts to develop subsurface water sources for irrigation. Hopei was among the provinces badly hit and the geological department there devoted some 80 per cent of its manpower and materials to the search for reliable subsurface water sources. In co-operation with the commune farms and other agricultural organizations, 1,800 mechanized wells were bored and this freed about half a million *mu* of land from the menace of drought. This is typical of the intensity of the efforts made recently in this field.

In Shansi Province, 587 wells were sunk in 1960 alone. Hydrogeological surveying was completed over 80 per cent of the area of the province, providing reliable data for rational exploitation of subsurface water. In

Kansu Province the people of the "Burning Ditch" area on the Gobi Desert had worried about water for generations before liberation. The work done to survey and utilize subsurface water carried out after liberation has substantially changed conditions there. By boring artesian wells, a production brigade of a people's commune in this area has been able to extend its cultivated area from 400 *mu* to more than 2,000 *mu*.

Utilization of subsurface water has helped the farmers raise rich harvests in the teeth of serious drought. Thus in Poai County, Honan Province, a rich crop of wheat was brought in last year from 110,000 *mu* of land irrigated by artesian water in face of a prolonged drought. Many similar instances could be cited from other parts of the country.

What has been accomplished in this field over the past few years has indeed dramatically borne out what Chairman Mao Tse-tung wrote in an editor's note of the second volume of *Socialist Upsurge in China's Countryside*: "Socialism has not only liberated the labourer and the means of production from the old society, it has also set free vast natural resources, which the old society was unable to utilize. The creative power of the masses is boundless. They can organize themselves and press ahead in every field in which it is possible to bring their power into play, deepen and broaden production and daily improve their livelihood."

American Survey

THAT YAWNING GAP

— Why the U.S. Lags Behind in Space Exploration —

by LIU CHUANG

FOUR years ago, the start of the new age of mankind's conquest of the universe was heralded by the flight of Sputnik I — the first artificial Earth satellite. This was followed up by a whole series of other Soviet "firsts" in this field — among them the world's first lunar moon probe, the first spaceship and the first manned spaceship to orbit the Earth. The superiority of the socialist system was demonstrated again and again.

Sputnik I came as a shock to the ruling circles of the United States, complacent and befuddled by their own anti-Soviet propaganda; and they hurriedly set up a host of committees to look into the causes of their lag in space. The Rockefeller group formed seven panels under a "Special Studies Project" to devise counter-measures. The Gaither Committee (of the Ford group) which also went into the matter finally issued a report which was a bombshell in official circles. It was said to be so revealing that Washington dared not release it, for fear of the public alarm that it might stir up. It was even kept secret from the prying eyes of congressmen.

Four years have gone by since then, the United States

still lags in the space race. This is certainly not for want of U.S. trying.

The Missile Rush

It is estimated that U.S. budget allotments for rocket armaments increased from some \$1,000 million to well above \$6,800 million between fiscal 1951 and 1959. Since Kennedy assumed office, he has pushed up the amount allotted to missiles to over 32 per cent of the military orders for fiscal 1962, while doubling the budgetary allotment for space flight under "non-military" headings — from \$900 million to \$1,800 million.

The Kennedy Administration set up a "National Aeronautics and Space Council" in April this year with Vice-President Johnson as chairman. Greater powers have been given to the U.S. air force to push the development of more powerful rocket boosters (engines). According to *The New York Times*, it is now trying to develop a rocket with over a million pounds of thrust, three times that of "Atlas" rocket. Besides its arrangements with research institutes maintained by the big monopolies, the U.S. Government has contracts for research and development of guided missiles with as many as 92 universities

and higher institutes, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, California Institute of Technology and Cornell University.

The production of rockets is going ahead on a scale never before seen in the United States. The lion's share of actual production is in the hands of 75 companies; while about 300,000 other enterprises have sub-contracts for parts. Some 400,000 people are directly engaged in producing rockets. As many as 1,209 firms are involved in the production of the "Atlas" alone. Convair (General Dynamics), the main constructor for this intercontinental ballistic missile, has 12,000 employees, half of whom are engineers. The Mercury project, supposedly for space travel, has as many as 9,000 plants engaged in the manufacture of its carrier rocket and astronaut's capsule.

Yet, despite this huge effort, this vast organization for missile production, involving the work of an army of skilled manpower and billions of dollars, the United States still fails to catch up with the Soviet Union. In fact, the missile gap is growing wider. Kennedy admitted on April 21 that "the Saturn [for moon flight] is still going to put us well behind [the Soviet Union]." "Regardless of how much money we spend on the Saturn," he lamented, "we are still going to be second!" Following the successive flights by Gagarin and Titov in manned spaceships, Kennedy was forced to swallow still bitterer pills. "We are now behind. . . . We can look for other evidences of their [the Soviet Union's] superiority in this field," he confessed to reporters.

The people of the socialist countries look upon space exploration as part of their search for human happiness and are therefore ready to contribute their collective wisdom to this noble cause. Moreover, only the socialist system can co-ordinate the efforts of the scientists to penetrate the secrets of the universe in a purposeful, planned way and with maximum efficiency. Capitalist America, dominated by those whose sole concern is military might and fabulous profits, has nothing to match this.

The Scientific Lag

This defeat of the United States in the competition in space is mainly due to its backwardness in science and technology as compared with the Soviet Union. Space exploration is a highly complex scientific and technological enterprise that does not rest on the development of any one particular science or technology, but rather on a nation's scientific and technological level as a whole. And the question of the development of science is closely connected with the nation's social system. Discussing the question of why the balance of strength in scientific personnel as between the Soviet Union and the United States is shifting more and more in favour of the U.S.S.R., Dr. John Victory, Deputy Director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, frankly admitted at a meeting of the American Consulting Engineers Society in December last that, in addition to the fact that the academic standards of American science and engineering students are lagging more and more behind those of Soviet students, in the United States scientists and university professors are paid little attention and are not even free from worries about their daily bread.

The U.S. magazine *Fortune* also noted as early as the end of 1957 that quite a number of engineers in the



Money from Space

Cartoon by Mi Ku

United States had given up their special line of work because of meagre salaries and turned to business or gone to take up administrative posts instead.

More than that; there are numerous examples of scientists being persecuted or otherwise ill-treated and of waste of talents in U.S. capitalist society. In 1950, for example, the U.S. Government laid down, in the National Science Foundation Act, that any applicant for a grant from the foundation must sign an affidavit proclaiming himself to be a non-Communist and pass a loyalty check. This loyalty check, as Joseph Kaplan, noted physicist and Chairman of the U.S. National Committee for International Geophysical Year, has pointed out, has prevented many learned and skilled scientists in the country from developing their talents. It creates an atmosphere of fear which many scientists are reluctant to bear, he said. In addition, they are also maltreated spiritually, by being forced to use science unscrupulously for military purposes. Under such circumstances, many scientists who are well-equipped to do so fail to devote themselves to research in basic science. Some tempted by pecuniary gain are doing all they can to help the big monopoly capital concerns in their grab for profits by making novelties and luxuries for faddists. In a speech delivered in February 1958 Kennedy himself admitted that ". . . we have too often applied it (American inventive genius) to gadgets and luxuries while the Soviets intensified their basic research." Science and the training of scientists take second place in a hedonistic and money-crazed capitalist society such as that in the United States. It is dropping further and further behind in the march of progress.

Profits Up, Missiles Down

The U.S. lag in the space competition is also a result of the fierce fight among the big firms in the United States

for patent rights in the development of guided missiles and rockets and the clash between labour and capital in the arms industries there.

Unlike aeroplanes and conventional weapons, there are no standard market price-tabs in the field of manufacture of rockets and guided missiles, nor are there any generally accepted costing standards. The merchants of death are free to quote millions or even tens of millions of dollars for a single missile and who is to say them nay? This has brought fabulous super-profits to U.S. monopoly capital. Victor Perlo, a progressive American economist, estimates the cost of a "Titan" or an "Atlas" at 35 million dollars. General Dynamics and the Martin Company would thus get payment of \$7,000 million on an order for 200 such missiles. According to rough estimates, it costs \$110 million in equipment to launch a "Vanguard" earth satellite weighing 3.25 pounds. This works out at an average of \$34 million per pound. In 1957 the average rate of profit of 500 leading U.S. manufacturers was 11.4 per cent. That same year, 12 major contractors for military orders made profits at an average rate of 17.9 per cent! Heading the list was General Dynamics with a 19.7 per cent rate of profit. Profits in the arms industry thus run at nearly twice the rate of those in the civilian goods industries.

Naturally in such circumstances the scramble for profits is particularly ferocious and hard fought. The leading monopoly capital groups in the United States are now all engrossed in a grim race for missile orders. The leading companies producing guided missiles are: General Dynamics which is connected with the three financial houses of Rockefeller, Lehman Brothers and the Morgan groups; the Martin Company, under the Rockefeller and Mellon groups; the North American Aviation, Inc. controlled by the Du Pont group; the Douglas and Lockheed aircraft corporations under the Californian financial group and the General Electric Company which is part of the Morgan empire. The Rockefeller group, in particular, holds the lead in missile production.

Buying Up the Pentagon

These monopoly groups, contending for profits on military orders, fight like Kilkenny cats for the right to shape military and political policies. This is sharply reflected in the disputes among the three services, each of which has its own behind-the-scene backers. Behind the navy stand the steel magnates; behind the army, the auto magnates; and behind the air force are the oil magnates, the magnates of the aeronautics industry and of the chemical and electrical industries. This, of course, is only a rough division of their spheres of influence which never remain for ever unchanged. The iron and steel companies thus boost the role of giant aircraft carriers through the mouth of the navy; the auto plants demand ever more tanks of various types through the mouth of the army; while the aircraft, oil, chemical and electrical industries insist through the mouth of the air force on the importance of the strategic bombers. Meanwhile all three services scramble for the right to build missiles.

To make sure of getting the best and juiciest government contracts, the big U.S. capitalists are not satisfied

with mere lobbying but are out to seize the Pentagon itself. This is an open secret in Washington. The munitions merchants employ and pay handsomely a large number of retired military officers as go-betweens to get military contracts. Congress sources and the U.S. press have disclosed that 100 of the biggest U.S. arms corporations employ 1,400 retired officers above the rank of major. They include 546 colonels and 216 generals. General Dynamics alone employs 27 generals, one former Secretary of the Army, and six former Deputy Secretaries of Defense and of the Army. These retired officers hold important posts in the munitions corporations at fat salaries, but they know very little about production; their job is to use their connections with the Defense Department and the Senate and House of Representatives to get military orders for their firms.

The big U.S. munitions corporations manufacture their rockets and guided missiles under many names and in great variety. Instead of helping each other, they keep their technical knowhow strictly to themselves; and they do all they can to squeeze out their competitors. General Motor, Bell Telephone Company and Douglas Aircraft Corporation all connected with the manufacture of the intermediate-range missile "Thor" have recently joined forces to fight against granting of contracts to Chrysler Corporation for manufacturing the intermediate-range missile "Jupiter." The contractual right to manufacture the intercontinental ballistic missile "Minuteman" has long been a bone of contention between Convair, North American Aviation, Inc., Lockheed, Douglas, Martin and Boeing.

Strikes Delay Missiles

The sharpening of class contradictions in the United States also of necessity affects the missile development plans of the U.S. Government. The report of a congressional investigation shows that 327 strikes occurred at 22 U.S. guided missile bases and testing grounds since 1956, involving a loss of 162,872 workdays. In 1960, strikes among missile workers were more widespread than ever, sweeping the missile city Cape Canaveral in Florida in the east and San Diego in California in the west, and involving a loss of 84,000 workdays. The U.S. Defense Department complained that strikes of missile workers have delayed the missile production plan and proposed that Congress enact bills to outlaw strikes in the war industry. Kennedy recently declared that strikes by workers at missile bases should be prohibited. But since U.S. workers in the war industry and at the missile bases know how cynically they are being exploited and their living conditions are steadily worsening along with all other ordinary U.S. workers, these measures will not alleviate class contradictions in the United States, rather the opposite. And this cannot fail to handicap seriously the development of the missile industry and technology.

The U.S. lag in the space race is caused by the fact that the U.S. capitalist system hinders the real development of science. Washington can spend as many dollars as it likes. No matter how it bloats its military machine and contrives to suppress the strikes of workers demanding their rights, the United States cannot be saved from its declining position.

TELL-TALE SILENCE

by YUAN LI

IN his address to the United Nations General Assembly on September 25, President Kennedy waxed eloquent about freedom and self-determination for all peoples. The United States, he said, did not "ignore the remaining problems of traditional colonialism. . . . The continuing tide of self-determination which runs so strong has our sympathy and our support." Yet throughout this lengthy speech he uttered not a word about such matters as the anti-colonialist struggle in Algeria and Angola.

Why this silence? Why did Kennedy shy away from these burning issues of the day? What is the U.S. stand on Algeria and Angola?

In answering these questions, it is revealing to recall another speech Kennedy made five years ago. Speaking in the U.S. Senate in July 1957, Senator Kennedy openly criticized the Eisenhower Administration for refusing to recognize Algeria as a problem and remaining silent on this issue. He took Vice-President Nixon to task for failing to mention Algeria in a report following a visit to Africa and called for "a full and frank discussion" of the Algerian issue, stating that Washington should refuse to support the "Western imperialism" of the French and "shape a course toward political independence for Algeria." This Kennedy speech stirred up such a storm of criticism in France that Dulles, then U.S. Secretary of State, was compelled to make a statement to hush up the row.

Kennedy's Words vs. Deeds

But, how do Kennedy's deeds after coming to power square with his former forthright words? Well, compared with his predecessor, it can't be said that Kennedy has failed to try a "fresh approach."

In April this year, when the French-Algerian talks were temporarily suspended as a result of the intransigence of the French colonialists, the Kennedy Administration without prior consultation with Paris held its first talks with representatives of the Algerian Provisional Government. In the same month came the U.S.-backed armed revolt against de Gaulle in Algeria. But did these moves indicate that Washington was "shaping a course toward political independence for Algeria," and refusing to back French "Western imperialism"? Far from it! On the one hand, the revolt, supported by Washington's C.I.A. agents, was organized by the French Ultras, who are the hard-core diehards of "Western imperialism." On the other hand, the U.S. oil tycoons, who already have a hand in exploiting the oil of the Sahara, want to tighten their grip on the underground riches of Algeria, and if they can't do it through the French, then they are quite prepared to undercut their "allies" and take things over direct. They have long been demanding that Washington

take steps to strengthen U.S. positions in the Sahara and the contacts which the Kennedy Administration made with the representatives of the Algerian Provisional Government were directed precisely to this end. As the Radio Voice of the Algerian Republic pointed out at the time of the first U.S.-Algerian contact, basic U.S. policy towards Algeria—the policy of neo-colonialism—has not changed and the Algerian people should not be deceived.

So, despite the fact that during the Kennedy Administration vast quantities of U.S. arms continue to flow into the hands of the French colonial army, these stab-in-the-back tactics of Kennedy were naturally irritating, to say the least, to his "friend" de Gaulle in the Elysee Palace. The Ultras' revolt caused some more bitter feelings between Washington and Paris. An explosive rift in NATO unity was only checked when Kennedy went in person to Paris to do some fast explaining.

Double-Dealing in Angola

So much for Algeria. As to Angola, the United States is using the same double-dealing tactics.

When the U.N. Security Council discussed the Angolan question last March, U.S. delegate Stevenson, under instructions from Kennedy, took a stand which was completely unexpected by its Western allies. He stated that "the people of Angola are entitled to all the rights guaranteed them by the U.N. Charter," and added that in the Portuguese territories "advancement toward full self-determination" is "imperative." The U.S. also voted for a resolution demanding that Portugal implement the U.N. resolution on independence for colonial countries and providing for the sending of a sub-committee to investigate the Angolan situation. An AP dispatch then boasted that "the new U.S. position indicates a break with the Western allies on some colonial issues and a swing toward the views of the new Asian and African countries."

But pretty soon, U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk let the cat out of the bag. Speaking at a press conference on March 20, he slandered the Angolan people's struggle, calling it "rioting," and tried to intimidate the colonial peoples in Africa and prevent them from following the Angolans. This, coupled with the fact that U.S. weapons are being used by the Portuguese colonial troops against the Angolan patriots, shows that the "sympathy" and "support" of the Kennedy Administration for the Angolan people are just so many empty words.

The Salazar regime is, of course, simply a junior partner in the U.S.-dominated NATO. But even it found Kennedy's manoeuvres in the U.N. hard to swallow. It

immediately retaliated by staging an anti-U.S. demonstration in Lisbon. Old colonialist countries like France and Belgium backed up Salazar while West Germany also expressed its disquiet over American ways. This produced yet another crack in the much-troubled NATO alliance.

The Kennedy Administration was thus compelled to patch things up with Salazar. An article in the *Washington Post* at the time explained the "sophistication" of Kennedy's tactics. "It would be a mistake," it explained, "to interpret the American position in the U.N. as one of hostility to Portugal. In the revolutionary climate of Africa, unless such practices [as those of Portugal's] are changed voluntarily, in all likelihood they will be changed forcibly. What the U.S. is attempting to do is to influence and moderate the change. . . ."

When the Angolan situation again came up for discussion in the U.N. Security Council in June, the U.S. delegate, playing both ends, came up with another tune. He described as an "encouraging development" Salazar's statement of his intention to "introduce reforms in Portugal's overseas territories"—an obvious trick aimed at perpetuating Portuguese colonial rule. The U.S. delegate also opposed a Soviet draft resolution calling for condemnation of Portuguese genocide in Angola. Thus, the much-vaunted "new" U.S. position turned out to be so much hot air.

The Neo-Colonialist Line

What lessons can one draw from these twists and turns in the Kennedy Administration's policy regarding the national-liberation struggles in Algeria and Angola? It is impossible not to see that the United States is playing a two-faced game; it assumes an anti-colonialist attitude for the benefit of the African peoples while in reality it backs to the hilt the bloody repressions perpetrated by the Western European colonial powers against the African peoples; while it pays lip service to "Western solidarity," it is in fact doing everything in its power to edge its Western allies out of Africa and replace them.

This neo-colonialist line has long been U.S. policy in Africa. Yet, when still a senator, Kennedy was quite critical of the Eisenhower Administration's policy vis-a-vis Africa. In that same speech in the Senate delivered in 1957, Kennedy disparaged the Republican administration for its "tepid encouragement and moralizations to both sides"; for the fact that while "expressing dependence upon her European friends," the United States also "professed her dedication to the principles of self-determination." This, he said, was self-deception. "We have deceived ourselves into believing that we have thus pleased both sides and displeased no one with this head-in-the-sands policy—when, in truth, we have earned the suspicion of all," he very rightly said.

Now Kennedy himself is using precisely the same tactics. What Kennedy opposes, then, is not this two-faced stand itself, but the fact that the United States has not been adroit enough in this game. It is in this sense that Kennedy, when addressing the U.N. General Assembly, said that "my country intends to be a partici-

pant and not merely an observer in the peaceful, expeditious movement of nations from the status of colonies to the partnership of equals." In Kennedy's view, faced with the rising tide of the national independence movement in Africa, the United States should be less tepid and more active so as to further the success of U.S. neo-colonialism in Africa.

It is precisely because of this that Kennedy, since assuming office, has decked himself out as an "anti-colonialist hero." He has backed "the theory of Africa for the Africans" which the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State G. Mennen Williams expounded during his recent trip to Africa. (Williams later said the term "Africans" meant all people in Africa, regardless of race or colour, including Europeans who have their homes in Africa [i.e. the colonialists].)

But it is also the same Williams who, speaking to an American audience, said: "Africa is not only a challenge but an opportunity." He also stressed that "for our own interests," Africa is an area truly worthy of U.S. attention. When Stevenson voted for an investigation of the Angolan situation, he was making use of the "opportunity" and acting in the "interests" of the United States. As many American papers candidly pointed out, in voting as he did, Stevenson was making a move which would "win" the United States the entire African continent.

Then, when Kennedy's neo-colonialist manoeuvres brought about a sharpening of U.S. contradictions with its Western allies, as they inevitably would, he switched around to curry favour with his Western allies. With that, he inevitably dropped his mask and revealed his true colonialist features before the African people.

Just Like Ike — Only Worse

At the recent secret meetings of American diplomats accredited to south of the Sahara, a report was delivered admitting that "our contacts with the Africans were characterized by sharp criticisms against us" and that "everywhere U.S. position and prestige had been seriously damaged" by American expressions of solidarity with the colonial powers of NATO, particularly France, Portugal and Britain.

Kennedy thought that he could be more adroit than Eisenhower in this double-dealing game, but in fact he fares no better than his predecessor. On Algeria and Angola, as on other vital anti-colonialist issues in Africa and throughout the world, Kennedy's neo-colonialist face stands fully exposed. And it is this which compelled him in the U.N. General Assembly to resort to the same head-in-the-sands trick as regards Algeria and Angola which he himself ridiculed five years ago.

But his silence will also prove futile. Reporting on African reactions to the Kennedy speech at the U.N. General Assembly, even the UPI was forced to admit that "African delegates found fault with Kennedy's speech in that . . . he omitted any mention of the French-Algerian and Portuguese-Angolan situations."

As the Chinese saying goes, if you want to keep it dark, there is nothing better than not doing it.

Thailand—U.S. Base in S.E. Asia

by KE HSIEN - WEI

Receiving instructions direct from Washington, Thailand is playing an important part in U.S. intervention and aggression in Laos. It is being turned into U.S. imperialism's major military base in S.E. Asia.

IN September 1950 Bangkok and Washington concluded an economic and technical agreement. This was immediately followed in October by another agreement on military aid. After that and especially since Thailand became a member of the aggressive Southeast Asian military bloc (SEATO), U.S. imperialism has used that country as a tool for aggression in Southeast Asia and for interference in the internal affairs of neighbouring countries. This has posed a serious menace to peace in Southeast Asia.

Since the Kennedy Administration stepped up its policy of aggression and war, the United States has further tightened its control over Thailand. There has been a steady flow of high-level U.S. government personnel into that country to keep the devil's brew of underhand activities going. They have included U.S. Vice-President Johnson, President Kennedy's special envoy Harriman, Lemnitzer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, O'Donnell, Commander-in-Chief of the U.S.A.F. in the Pacific, and, more recently, Maxwell Taylor, special military adviser to the U.S. President and protagonist of "limited wars." Besides making the usual bellicose speeches and statements they have also worked closely with the reactionary authorities in Thailand on plans to butt into the internal affairs of Laos and other neighbouring countries. As a result, tension in Southeast Asia is being aggravated.

U.S. Tool for Interference

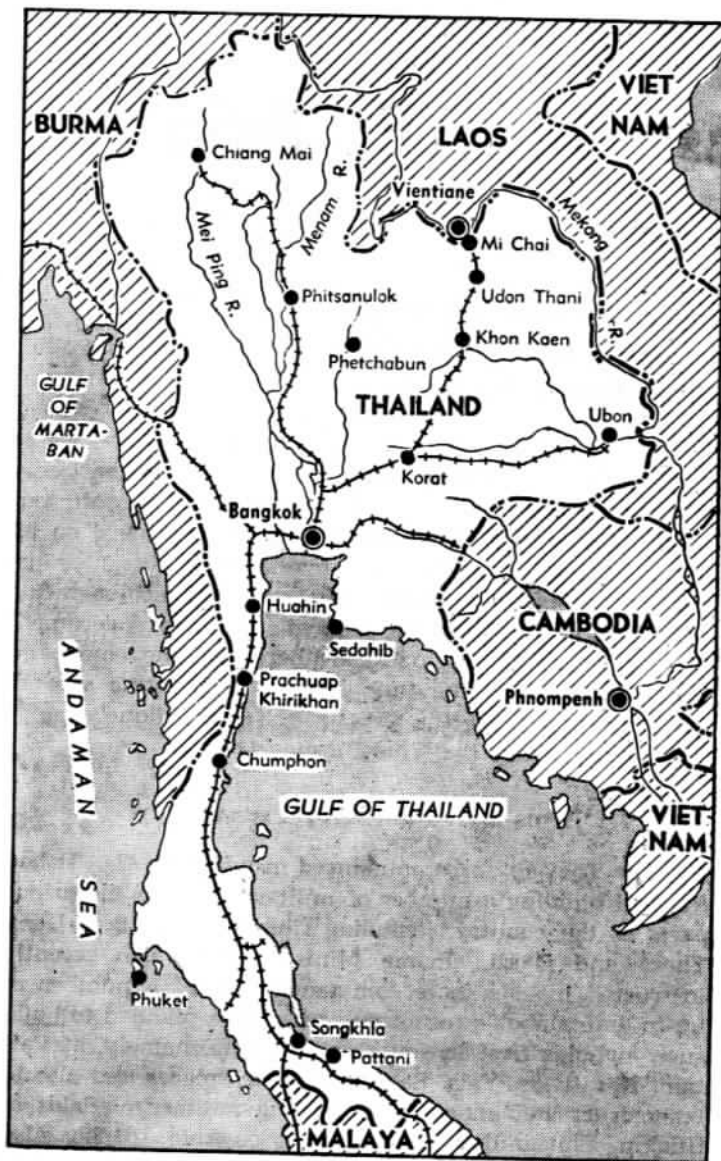
Recently the Phoumi Nosavan rebel clique in Laos has been making efforts to rekindle civil war. In line with these efforts, the Sarit Thanarat regime in Thailand has been training Phoumi's troops in Thailand and also sent large numbers of Thai officers to take direct command of Nosavan's rebel troops in the field. A considerable number of U.S., Filipino and south Vietnamese troops as well as some remnant brigands of the Chiang Kai-shek clique are now massed in Thailand. The radio station of the Pathet Lao Fighting Units has reported that Thai troops have marched into Vientiane, Luangprabang, Savannakhet, Paksane and other places in Laos. Using the pretext that "the threat of Communist subversion will spread from Laos to Thailand," the Thai authorities have asked the United States for more "military aid." A 30,000-strong "guerrilla force" has been organized in northeastern Thailand bordering on Laos; trained by U.S. military personnel they are intended for an invasion of Laos in accordance with U.S. concepts of guerrilla warfare.

The Sarit Thanarat clique, in addition, is constantly threatening and provoking neutral Cambodia. A traitorous clique of Cambodians has been fostered and egged on by Sarit & Co. to engage in subversive activities against the Cambodian Government. Thailand is also co-operating with U.S. imperialism and Malaya's Rahman government in suppressing the national-liberation movement in Malaya. At the same time it gives clandestine support to the remnants of the Chiang Kai-shek clique's gangs still roving along the Thai-Burmese border.

Arms Drive and War Preparations

The Thai air force announced in mid-June that it had finished building a number of military airfields in various parts of the country, including Chiang Mai, Udon Thani and Dakli. Prime Minister Sarit also recently instructed his air force command to build a number of up-to-date airfields for strategic use. It is planned to build such airfields first in southern Thailand, namely, at Pattani, Naratiwas, Yala, Satun and other places and also to reconstruct and expand the existing military airfields at Huahin, Phitsanulok, Phuket and Songkhla. It has also been decided to reconstruct and expand the airplane repair works at Donmeng. For "strategic reasons" the United States will set up an "international aviation training-centre" at Huahin, Prachuap Khirikhan, in central Thailand. This will bring together seven flying schools so as to step up the training of aviation personnel for Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries.

Thailand has established an up-to-date naval base at Sedahib. With the aid of U.S. imperialism and under its supervision, Thailand has recently undertaken to build a number of new strategic highways. The Thai Government has officially announced a speed-up of work on highways in the northeastern part of Thailand, in Korat, Khon Kaen, Udon Thani and Mi Chai. Many modern strategic highways have already been completed in areas bordering on Cambodia, Laos and Burma; some of them are so constructed that they can be used by jet fighters to land or take off. The United States has handed over to Thailand a modern 125-kilometre strategic highway that runs between Phitsanulok and Phetchabun. A Thai newspaper reported last March that Sarit had ordered the government departments concerned to build and complete as soon as possible another first-grade strategic highway linking Bangkok with Chumphon in southern Thailand. There are reports that the large-scale, six-year strategic highway building plan started last year is being



Sketch Map of Thailand

By Su Li

speeded up. This 2,373 million baht plan is for the building or repair of some 17,000 kilometres of highways.

U.S. imperialists are training and equipping Thai military personnel and gradually taking more and more direct control over the Thai army, navy and air force. Thailand's armed forces have increased from 160,000 men in 1956 to over 200,000 today. They are equipped with all kinds of up-to-date American weapons and a considerable number of Thai military personnel have received and are receiving training in the United States. The Thai newspaper *Sara Seri Press* disclosed on September 5 that in the last 11 years a total of 2,000 Thai officers and military personnel have received military training in the United States and Okinawa. Thailand's major military departments are today under the direct control of U.S. military personnel.

Over the last few months, huge quantities of American arms have been pouring into Thailand. In January, twenty F86 Sabre jet fighters equipped with missiles were delivered to the Thai air force as part of U.S. "aid." In late May came twenty-five 105 mm. howitzers and in July another shipment of air-to-air "Sidewinder" missiles and eight all-weather jet trainers. In late June, Thailand's Vice-

Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Thanom Kittikachorn announced that Washington would give his country additional military "aid" to the amount of U.S.\$50 million to build more barracks, and augment Thai military strength.

Led by Sarit, the Thai Government is straining the country's resources in an effort to toe the U.S. line. The feverish military measures and other preparations for war undertaken by Thailand's reactionary rulers are bringing that country face to face with a serious financial crisis. Its huge annual military expenditures are a heavy financial burden on the country. In 1960 they amounted to 2,901,900,000 bahts, about 36 per cent of the nation's total expenditure. Taken together with expenditure on the construction of military bases, airfields, and strategic highways, the expense of keeping up the U.S. "military advisory group" in Thailand, and other expenses for military purposes that come under other heads, they add up to about one half of Thailand's total budgetary expenditures. Such huge military expenses have resulted in fantastically large financial deficits. The deficit for the last fiscal year was 771.9 million bahts. This, added to the deficits of the previous nine years, makes a deficit of 11,957 million bahts, a sum nearly equal to Thailand's total budgetary expenditures for a year and a half.

From Bad to Worse

To extricate themselves from their financial predicament, the Thai authorities are now pinning their hopes on getting more "aid" from the United States. Johnson, the former U.S. Ambassador to Thailand, stated that from 1951 to June 1960, U.S. military and economic "aid" to Thailand amounted to U.S.\$500 million; but 90 per cent of the so-called economic "aid" was appropriated for military purposes.

The United States has decided to give Thailand another \$74 million in military "aid" this year. But, whether it is called economic or military "aid," one can be quite sure that it will enable the United States to tighten its grip on Thailand politically, economically and militarily. Far from rescuing Thailand from its deteriorating financial situation, this money will merely push things from bad to worse. Each new instalment of such "aid" leaves Thailand's treasury in worse shape than before, while its national economy sags and its national industries edge closer to complete bankruptcy. This shaky economy steadily increases unemployment; prices rise and the lot of the people is daily worsened; dissatisfaction mounts.

The broad masses in Thailand are getting more and more restive under the criminal rule of imperialism and the reactionary circles in their country. An article in the July issue of Hongkong's *Far Eastern Economic Review* vividly exemplifies the hatred which the Thai people have for imperialism. When a shining Mercedes-Benz glides over a super-highway in Thailand, the bare-footed peasants in the dust react with anger, and certainly not gratitude to the foreigners for having brought these things to their country, says that journal. Anti-government handbills appear frequently in the streets of Bangkok. The people of Thailand are raising their voices ever more vehemently against U.S. imperialism and the Sarit regime which is betraying them.

Lu Hsun's "Old Home" Revisited

by REN HSIN

LU HSUN died twenty-five years ago, on October 19, 1936.

But Lu Hsun never really left us. He has lived on in our hearts. A great man of letters and a revolutionary, Lu Hsun has bequeathed us many great works. Many of the immortal characters he portrayed—like Kung I-chi, Ah Q, Hsiang Lin's Wife, Jun-tu and others—have become household names among the Chinese people.

I had occasion recently to recall especially Jun-tu, that affecting figure of a peasant whom Lu Hsun described in "My Old Home." As a boy of eleven or twelve, Jun-tu was quite a little hero: "He had a round, crimson face and wore a small felt cap on his head and a gleaming silver necklet on his neck." But life treated him harshly. When Lu Hsun met him again twenty years later, he found quite another Jun-tu. His round face, crimson before, "had become sallow and acquired deep lines and wrinkles; his eyes too had become like his father's with rims swollen and red. . . . He wore a shabby felt cap and just one very thin padded jacket, with the result that he was shivering from head to foot . . . nor was his hand the plump red hand I remembered, but coarse and clumsy and chapped, like the bark of a pine tree."

Typical of most Chinese peasants in the early 20s, Jun-tu was one of those millions of unfortunates in an abnormal society, crushed and squeezed "as dry as a mummy" by "famines, taxes, soldiers, bandits, officials and landed gentry." As Jun-tu himself put it: "We haven't enough to eat . . . and then there is no security . . . all sorts of people want money. . . . You grow things, and when you take them to sell you always have to pay several taxes and lose money. . . ."

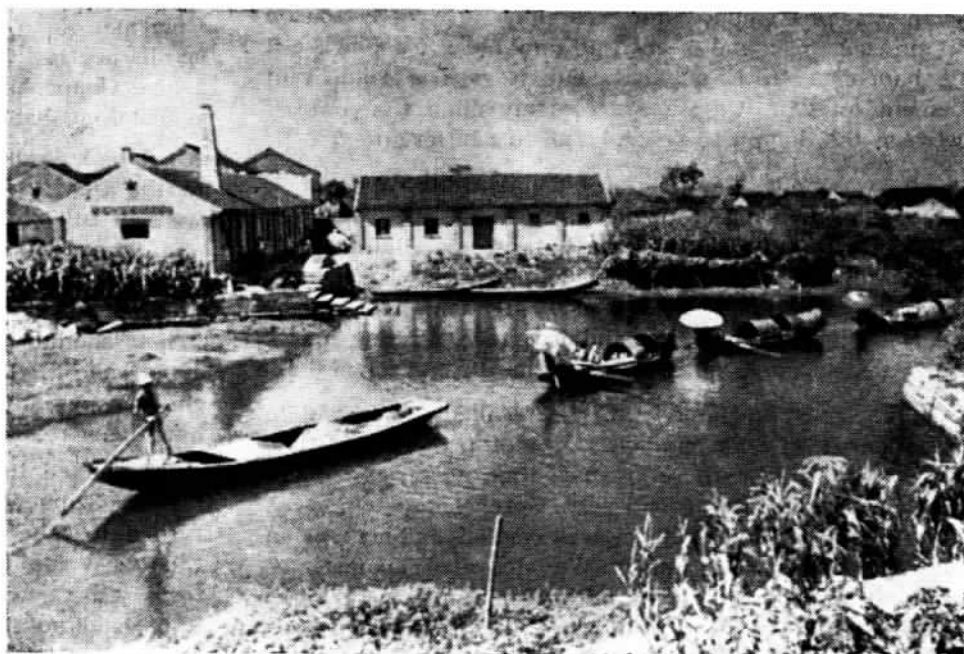
That paints a true picture of China's countryside and its peasants in those days. In describing Jun-tu, Lu Hsun took as his model a peasant called Chang Yun-shui, a farmhand who worked all his life for the landlords to earn just a bare living. Chang Yun-shui died the same year as Lu Hsun, leaving five children. His eldest son and youngest daughter died soon afterwards. Another daughter grew up and was married to a peasant in a neighbouring village. His two other sons are still living in Tupu Village where the family has lived for generations.

How are Jun-tu's, or rather Chang Yun-shui's, sons getting on now? I could not help asking myself this question when I thought of Lu Hsun and his moving short story "My Old Home." It was with some excitement that I set out on a visit to Tupu Village, Jun-tu's old home, in eastern Chekiang Province.

The Old Home Has Changed

It was mid-autumn. The sky was exceptionally clear. A gentle breeze was blowing, a bit chilly, but somehow soothing. Our boat drew near the village. When I pulled back the bamboo awning of our boat and looked out of the cabin, I saw before me not the "few desolate villages, void of any sign of life, scattered far and near under the sombre yellow sky" that Lu Hsun described in his story, but greenery all around—on the slopes, in the fields and by the river. The verdant paddyrice swayed gently in the wind. Against the background of an azure sky stood several villages from which the cackle of hens could be heard. In the paddyfields and amidst the hemp could be seen the figures of men working in twos or threes, weeding or giving the plants another dressing of fertilizer.

Before long, we sighted Tupu Village which stood on the banks of the Tsaongo River. We saw many new houses; over the fields electric wires were strung on tall poles, and there was the low hum of motors in the distance. As we picked our way to the village after landing, we met peasants carrying hoes and baskets on their shoulders, talking and laughing as they walked



A corner of Tupu Village



Jun-tu's grandchildren picking pumpkins

along, and groups of Young Pioneers returning home from school with satchels slung over their shoulders. . . .

Could this be the desolate village Lu Hsun described in his story? It was difficult to believe it.

It was noon when I reached the house where Chang Yun-shui, Lu Hsun's Jun-tu, had lived. As I stepped over the threshold, I saw an old peasant sitting on a stool making straw rope. He was well over fifty. When he saw a visitor had come, he stood up in welcome. After introducing myself, I learnt he was Chang Ah-ming, Chang Yun-shui's second son.

Ah-ming was sparing of words, but his face was creased with smiles. He was getting on in years now, but lived quite comfortably on his modest income. When the table was laid, his eldest son and daughter returned from the fields. Without much ceremony I was invited to lunch with them and we chatted as we ate. Ah-ming's youngest son was still a child, five or six at the most. It was a good sight to see him sitting there at the table with us, holding a bowl of rice in his chubby hands and eating with such good appetite. His eyes kept staring at the salted fish, shrimps, eggs and other dishes on the table. Then, standing on his chair, he was on the point of lunging forward to reach for them with his chopsticks when Ah-ming stopped him. Smiling, he swiftly took a bit of each dish and heaped it into his son's bowl. It all happened in a moment, but it was a significant moment to me. It flashed across my mind the contrast between this happy scene and Jun-tu's bitter life.

It was not long before Chang-ming, Ah-ming's younger brother, also returned from work. He lived just next door. When I dropped in, he and his children were still taking their meal. Unlike his brother, Chang-ming was very loquacious. He talked of all manner of things, from struggles against the landlords to Shaohsing opera. He rattled on and on, and I could hardly get a word in.

"We never had any land," he recalled. "We had to work hard for the landlords, sometimes as full-time labourers and sometimes as part-time farm hands. In fact, we took whatever odd jobs were coming our way. After liberation, land reform was carried out here as in other parts of the country. We struggled against the landlords and settled scores with them. We were given our own share of land and, since then, we don't have to bother as we did before about our next meal. . . ." He was a Shaohsing opera fan, I learnt. On holidays

he would put on his new felt cap, dress in his best and go to Shaohsing Town to enjoy the opera.

I watched with joy this middle-aged peasant and his 18-year-old son sitting opposite me. Both were solidly built, their eyes cheerful and their demeanour buoyant. I looked but could find no trace of likeness between them and

Jun-tu whose "face was lined with wrinkles, not one of them moved, just as if he were a stone statue."

Chang Yun-shui, from whom Lu Hsun drew his character Jun-tu, probably never expected that he would have twelve grandsons and granddaughters and that they would not have to worry about not having enough to eat or about their livelihood. Three of them, the oldest being now more than twenty, were working in Shaohsing, Hangchow and Shanghai; four were doing their bit in farming; and four others were still in primary school. The youngest was at home, too young for school. All those I met were as healthy and energetic as could be. Those at primary school were doing extremely well, and they had all become Young Pioneers. Kuan-pao, now thirteen, was an honour pupil of the sixth form, and its class monitor too. Then there was Wen-fu, naughty and very friendly; Wen-chen, one of the more sober type, and Ah-yu whose captivating smiles I shall never forget.

As far as Chang Yun-shui and his ancestors were concerned, they never knew what it was like to go to school. Things began to change only after liberation. The houses of the Changs, I found, were decorated not only with photographs of laughing children but also with school certificates and awards enclosed in wooden frames hanging on the walls. There was also a portrait of Chairman Mao Tse-tung flanked on both sides by red scrolls bearing the words: "I love the Communist Party! I love Chairman Mao!" They were written in the clear, painstaking handwriting of primary school pupils.

I took leave when it was time for Chang-ming to go to the fields again. The sunflowers outside the house were in full bloom, their large yellow-rayed flower heads atop the long, slender stalks glittered in the warm sunshine. How symbolic they were of the life of Jun-tu's descendants today! My ears rang with Lu Hsun's words: "They should have a new life, a life we have never experienced." He was referring to Jun-tu's children, the children of millions of China's peasants. Now his wishes have been realized.

I walked to our boat along an embankment by the fields. Tupu Village receded in the distance. When I turned to take a last look at it and the houses of the Changs, I could not help recalling what Lu Hsun said forty years ago: "Hope cannot be said to exist, nor can it be said not to exist. It is just like roads across the earth. For actually the earth had no roads to begin with, but when many men pass one way, a road is made."

SIDELIGHTS

The Sea Their Playground. Down on Chingpin Island off the coast of Chekiang, boys and girls out of school prefer the sea for a playground. Regattas are held with planks for oars and wooden tubs for boats. The small fry sit firm on the sand, braving each breaker without budging. The youngsters dive under water fleet as fish.

Practically every child of this fishermen's commune will tell you that when he grows up he wants to be a fisherman. It is a vivid reflection of the changed life of the fisherfolk, who had "the sky for a roof and the sea for a tomb" in the old society but today make as good a living as any in this land of the working people. The kiddies' "ambition" too is swayed by their worship for their heroes—the elder fishermen.

There was that time when they recovered a sunken ship for instance. The "lost" treasure was its 200-h.p. engine. Twenty of the best deep-sea divers went under the blue-green sea to secure it with a steel cable; four junks towed the engine to shore on the swelling tide amidst the cheering of the crowds.

And then there is Yang Yuan-fu, 27-year-old Communist Party member whose courage is a byword. An orphan, in the old days he had dived deep under the sea for mussels yet never earned enough to buy a cotton quilt to sleep in. Now the pilot of a motor junk, he is the very man to have around when there's trouble. Once in a storm at sea, Yang on his motor junk saw a small fishing boat drifting straight for the rocks. Quick as a flash he'd plunged into the boiling sea with a coil of rope, swam to the threatened boat, secured it and then pulled it to safety with his motor junk. The kids can tell many such stories. A life full of thrills, they say, that they wouldn't exchange for anything.

A Comedian Looks Back. On the National Day anniversaries there are always many letters in the press from people recalling with an ever fresh sense of astonishment the past as compared with the present. Chou Po-chun, one of the best-known comedians of the Shanghai comedy stage, recently voiced some random thoughts on this theme.

"Before liberation you'd find me at the 272-seat Chinkuo Theatre. While the audience roared—sometimes not with laughter—we on the stage were worried stiff. The bills were unpaid, the kids hungry, and then there was the sheer humiliation of the way we were treated. One day a cousin of mine invited our troupe to perform at her house. She'd 'gone up in the world,' and she warned me: 'We'd better pretend not to know each other.' Another time two of us hurried to a rich man's mansion to give a private performance. At the door we were met by four tough-looking thugs. On learning who we were they whipped out automatics and brandished them in our faces, just because we were a bit late! All through our performance the steel-blue barrels of these guns never left off pointing at us. You can imagine how 'funny' we felt that day.

"Now—well, now it's simply different. The other day we performed for a P.L.A. garrison. Soldiers came miles to escort us in, not with guns but with a huge red streamer saying 'A Big Welcome to Our Brothers!' Once we performed at a people's commune. The threshing floor was our stage and the audience overflowed onto the tops of haystacks and barns. We could see that they really enjoyed it, which was the best reward we hoped for. As we were leaving, a pretty girl came up to us and insisted that we let her drive us back to town. It turned out that what she drove was a tractor—so back to town we went in style on the tractor and its trailer.

"What more can I say? Look at a typical day we spend: in the mornings we rehearse or gather in the park to discuss our work. Afternoons we have off—incidentally I've become a great soccer fan in recent years and I play forward myself. Nights we perform at the 1,000-seat Changchiang and Meichi Theatres, or the 100-seat Cultural Square. Come to think of it, it's only since liberation that my laughter has been coming from the right place—straight from the heart!"

Medicinal Capital. Over the centuries the Chinese people have found in the plants of their plains and hills a whole pharmacopoeia of herbal remedies to combat disease and alleviate human pain. Some localities, which grow an exceptional number of healing herbs, long ago became established as drug-producing centres. One of them is Changshu in Kiangsi Province. Sur-

rounded by herb-bearing hills, Changshu became an important producer of remedial drugs as early as 1,700 years ago. At the height of its prosperity the city had over 200 big drug companies marketing their goods all over populous south and east China. No less than a third of its population was engaged in collecting, preparing and compounding drugs, work requiring great skill and sound medical knowledge. Changshu herbalists transplanted many valuable herbs from other provinces to add to the rich medicinal flora already abounding in their hills.

Then in 1914 a hard blow was dealt the flourishing industry. The traitor and self-proclaimed emperor Yuan Shih-kai banned the use of traditional herb medicine. Later in 1929, the reactionary Kuomintang regime, also trying to show the world how "modern and progressive" it was, slapped another ban on traditional Chinese herb medicines. These ridiculous edicts could not be enforced owing to popular resistance but they disrupted the traditional channels of trade and caused an untold amount of harm and suffering. Changshu rapidly declined and many skilled druggists were forced to give up their profession.

Changshu today is again a flourishing city; its health-restoring products have a bigger market than ever. The People's Government has set up a special pharmaceutical plant to process the 200 wild and 56 domesticated herbs the people's communes there now collect; a research institute has also been set up to find new remedies, and new uses for herbs. These are only two of the many measures taken to revive and develop this ancient industry so as to provide the people with more and better medicines.



CHINA AND THE WORLD

Burmese Parliamentary Delegation

The 16-member Parliamentary Delegation from Burma led by Thakin San Way, Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, is now visiting China at the invitation of Chairman Chu Teh of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. The delegation has just concluded a visit to the Korean Democratic People's Republic.

At the banquet of welcome given by Chairman Chu Teh toasts were drunk to the final settlement of the Sino-Burmese boundary question and to the kinsman-like relationship between the Chinese and Burmese peoples. Hosts and guests alike held that this visit adds new lustre to Sino-Burmese friendship.

On October 26, Chairman Liu Shao-chi received all the members of the delegation.

While visiting the Chinese Revolutionary Museum, Thakin San Way said he was deeply impressed by the heroic and unswerving spirit of the Chinese patriots during their century-long fight against imperialism. In addition to visiting scenic spots and cultural centres, the delegation paid a visit to one of the famous Buddhist temples in Peking, the Kwangchi Monastery, where they paid homage to the holy tooth-relic of the Buddha which is kept there. They are now touring other parts of China.

Sino-Nepalese Highway Construction

An agreement to construct a highway from the Tibet region of the People's Republic of China to Kathmandu in the Kingdom of Nepal was signed on October 15, 1961, in Peking. The two governments will each be responsible for building the sections of the highway within their own borders.

The Chinese Government has agreed to grant the Nepalese Government economic aid amounting to 3,500,000 pounds sterling. This gift without any conditions or privileges attached will be given in instalments between

July 1, 1962, and June 30, 1966, for use in construction of the section of the highway within Nepalese territory. The assistance from China will include the sending of experts and technicians, supply of the necessary machines and materials and the training of Nepalese technicians and skilled workers.

Polish Exhibition

The Polish industrial exhibition in Peking which had been visited by nearly 1,200,000 people including workers, government and Party cadres, students, members of the rural communes and servicemen, closed on October 29 after its successful one-month showing. Polish experts gave many technical reports during the exhibition which greatly interested the visitors, and Polish technicians were given a rousing welcome when they demonstrated the operation of some farm machinery at a people's commune on the outskirts of Peking.

This exhibition has helped the Chinese people gain a deeper understanding of the achievements of Polish industrial construction and will strengthen economic, scientific and technical co-operation between China and Poland.

TRADE NEWS

A Ghanaian trade delegation headed by Krobo Edusei, Minister of Light and Heavy Industries, arrived in China on October 29 to finalize the last details of the agreements signed between China and Ghana during President Nkrumah's recent visit.

The first payments agreement between China and Morocco was signed on October 27 in Rabat.

The 1961 Autumn Chinese Trade Fair, the 10th trade fair jointly sponsored by various Chinese state export and import corporations, opened two weeks ago in Canton. It has already been visited by more than 1,200 trade representatives from various countries. Over 20,000 export commodities are on show, including many new light and heavy industrial products.

CULTURAL NEWS

A Chinese table tennis team led by Li Wen-yao, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Table Tennis Association, is now visiting Nepal. The team of

seven players includes Chiu Chung-hui, the reigning world women's singles champion, and Chang Sheh-lin, the men's singles semi-finalist at the 26th World Table Tennis Championships. The Chinese men and women players won their group events 5:0 and 3:0 respectively against a Nepalese table tennis team in the first game of the tour on October 29.

After a successful showing in Bamako the Chinese photographic art exhibition was displayed at Segou, the second major city of Mali, between October 20-22, where it attracted great interest.

The Rumanian folk arts exhibition opened in Shanghai on October 28 after its showing in Peking. The 300-odd exhibits include traditional folk art, porcelain, earthenware, national costumes and popular decorative art objects.

The Danish exhibition of fine art comprising 74 oil paintings and 6 pieces of sculpture by 13 members of the "Cornor," a famous Danish art society, opened on October 18 in Peking after a two-week display in Shanghai last month.

U.S. Military Provocations

More U.S. military intrusions into China's territorial air and waters occurred during October.

On October 19 between 12:34 and 12:47 hours, a U.S. military plane flew over the area south of Swabue and Pinghai in Kwangtung Province. On the same day between 13:48 and 19:01 hours, a U.S. warship intruded into China's territorial waters east of Pingtan in Fukien Province. On October 25 between 14:38 and 14:51 hours, a U.S. military plane flew over the Chilien, Yunghsing and Shih Islands in the Hsisha group in Kwangtung Province. The next day 6 U.S. warships intruded into China's territorial waters east of the Tamkon Islands in Kwangtung Province between 18:15 and 21:30 hours. On October 27 between 9:57 and 10:32 hours 3 U.S. warships again intruded into China's territorial water southeast of the Tamkon Islands.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman has issued the 175th, 176th and 177th serious warnings against these military provocations.

CHINESE PRESS OPINION

Cambodia's Just Stand Upheld

"We support the just stand taken by the Royal Government of Cambodia in hitting back at Thailand's outrageous provocations," writes *Ren-min Ribao's* Commentator (October 21) on Cambodia's severance of diplomatic relations with Thailand.

The attack by the Thai ruling clique on the Cambodian Head of State, Commentator adds, is a breach of general diplomatic practice and an insult to the honour of the Khmer nation. Its aim evidently is to undermine Cambodia's independent and neutral foreign policy and conjure up a pretext for military aggression against that country.

It is clear that the provocations of the Thai ruling clique are closely connected with U.S. imperialism's recent schemes to extend its military adventures and create tension in Southeast Asia. The United States is stepping up its policies of aggression and war in this area in order to carry out further intervention in south Viet Nam and Laos and undermine peace in Southeast Asia. To maintain its colonial rule and military bases in south Viet Nam and Laos, the U.S. needs to get its lackeys in Southeast Asia to do dirty work for it.

Cambodia is situated between Thailand, Laos and south Viet Nam on the Indo-China Peninsula. It pursues an independent and neutral foreign policy; it stands for peace and opposes aggression. So, the U.S. has been trying hard to exert influence on it and has more than once expressed the hope that Cambodia would "alter its position." The U.S. has even instigated Ngo Dinh Diem to "propose" to Cambodia to sign a military treaty with south Viet Nam so that they may take joint action against the so-called "communist guerrillas." When these schemes were justly rejected by Prince Sihanouk, the U.S. and its lackeys shamelessly slandered the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Of late, the Thai ruling circles, under orders from U.S. imperialism, have interfered more and more flagrantly in the internal affairs of the states in Indo-China, endangering peace in Southeast Asia. It is high time that the Thai ruling circles

stopped these dangerous policies before it is too late.

Workers' and Peasants' Struggle in France

The vigorous struggle of the French working people against reaction is the subject of an article in *Da Gong Bao* (October 30).

This year, the French working class and other broad sections of the working people, particularly the peasants, have been waging tremendous mass struggles against the de Gaulle government's reactionary policies, to defend their living standards and democratic rights and end the colonial war against Algeria. In these struggles, the mass of French workers and peasants have enhanced their political understanding and strengthened their organized forces; they have dealt powerful blows against the French monopoly capitalist groups and achieved considerable successes.

Extremely broad sections of the French working class took part in this year's struggles. Workers in public and private enterprises, in heavy and light industries and even in war industry, government functionaries, teachers, bank clerks, shop assistants and scavengers have all held strikes and demonstrations involving thousands of people. More national strikes took place in France this year than last year. The railway workers organized four such strikes. At no time since the de Gaulle government came to power has the French workers' struggle been waged on such a large scale and with such impressive strength. In the first half of this year alone, this struggle caused the capitalists a loss of 1,230,000 workdays.

Peasant demonstrations against the French Government's agricultural policy broke out in Brittany, West France, early in June. In less than a month the demonstrations spread to every part of the country, involving increasing numbers of peasants who have shown the firmest resolution in standing up for their rights. Of particular importance is the fact that the peasants' just struggle is resolutely supported by the French working class. This heroic struggle of the peasants and particularly the joint action taken by the workers and

peasants has seriously upset the French ruling circles.

Analysing the causes of this struggle of the French workers and peasants, the article notes that continuation of the war against Algeria by the French Government and its frenzied arms drive and war preparations have brought untold suffering to the French people. Military expenditure accounts for 32 per cent of the French Government's budget for fiscal 1961. Military appropriations are 290 million francs more than last year. Budgetary revenues increased by 3,780 million francs as compared with last year, and of this sum 3,080 million francs are expected to come from indirect taxes levied on the working people. In face of the government's increased taxation, soaring commodity prices, lower wages and the constant threat of unemployment, the French workers are demanding wage increases, a shorter working day and improvements in working conditions.

In agriculture, the French Government is pushing forward its policy of squeezing out the small farmers. In order to strengthen the competitive position of the big agricultural capitalists in the "Common Market," the French Government is prepared to reduce the number of agricultural workers by 2.5 million as soon as possible and eliminate 800,000 small "uneconomical" farms. In 1959 and 1960, more than 160,000 peasants were compelled to leave the countryside and go into towns to find work. The difference in prices of industrial and agricultural products is widening daily. Since 1958, prices of agricultural produce rose only 1.2 per cent while prices of industrial goods rose by 13.3 per cent. Since the formation of the "Common Market" in 1958, France has imported 25 per cent more farm produce from the "Common Market" countries while exports of French farm produce dropped by 70 per cent. This has still further worsened the conditions of the French peasants.

The reactionary policy of the de Gaulle government is daily impoverishing the French workers and peasants. It has also helped to enhance the people's political understanding stage by stage and enabled them to recognize the true nature of the de Gaulle government. These are the main causes of the upsurge in the workers' and peasants' movement in France.

The Coming of the Yanks

by Chi Feng

Do you hear those shufflin' feet?

"A-okay — I'm hip — you're beat!"

Hear those accents clear! Oh, dear!

Citizens! Beware! Beware!

The Yanks! The Yanks are coming!

South they go,
the South has trouble.

North they go,
North gets it double.

East they quest,
Look out! Or East goes West!

West they scan
with snooping eyes,
Spying on their dear allies,
Even where they're not invited.

Never mind! They don't feel slighted.

Into Africa they grin!

Lion! Hold fast to your skin!

The new colonialism's coming in!

In Washington, ivory's all the rage.

Elephant! Mind that cage!

Into Asia, seeking wealth.

Jeeping, slithering in by stealth

In the Yank guerrilla way
(overtime needs extra pay).

The Yankee, Buddha venerates.

Especially heads.

These he decapitates
and sends back stateside, packed in crates.

Latin America sees his face.

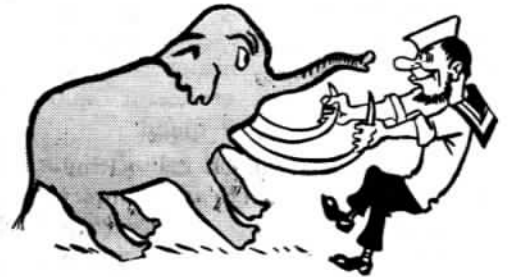
He thinks this land a charming place
— a charming place for a military base.

Yankees, Yanquis everywhere!

Can't you hear the people swear?

Around the world the people shout
the call of the 20th century —

"Yanks, get out!"



THEATRE

Opera from Lu Hsun's Home Town

In his short story "Village Opera," Lu Hsun gives a poetic account of a childhood experience watching an open-air opera performance from a river boat. It is *shaoju* opera he describes, a local style very popular among the peasants of his own home county of Shaohsing in Chekiang Province. Lu Hsun also wrote two reminiscences, "Wu Chang," or "Life-Is-Transient" and "The Hanging Woman," recalling three ghost characters from the prelude, *Summoning of the Ghosts*, to the Shaohsing play known in his time as the *Drama of How Maudgalyayana Rescued His Mother* in which this disciple of Buddha brings back his mother from hell. Lu Hsun gives a fascinating description of Wu Chang, whom he describes as "the only humane character among all the ghosts," the Hanging Woman, who to his mind was "an avenging spirit, finer and stronger than all other ghosts"; and the Hanging Man. In the performance of the Hanging Man a noose of cloth is suspended at the centre of the stage and a dancer-acrobat twists through it and suspends himself from it in forty-nine different ways. In Shaohsing then all the other roles of the Maudgalyayana Drama were performed by the village folk but such were the difficulties of the dance of the Hanging Man that a professional had to be employed to do it.

Lu Hsun was writing about 65 years ago. But then this *shaoju* folk opera and drama all but died out and for years they could not be seen. Now they have been revived, and Peking is having an opportunity to see these apparitions during the current visit of the Shaoju Opera Troupe, arranged as part of the activities commemorating the 80th anniversary of Lu Hsun's birth.

The Shaoju Troupe presented two full-length operas and a number of selected items including the ghost dances and interludes. In view of Lu Hsun's accounts the ghost items were naturally of particular interest. Chang Wu (played by Chi Ling Tung) appears as a man who has a grudge against the ways of the world and he blows hot and cold in a very human way about them. In earthy, colloquial language,

he jibes at and satirizes various kinds of "blue bloods" and willing stooges of evil-doers. The Hanging Man wears short trousers, as Lu Hsun describes, but with a sleeveless tunic, both in bright red, and he suspends himself with fantastic dexterity from the cloth noose not in 49, but 72 different ways.

Then there is a sound of mournful trumpeting, the flash of a blazing fireball and before the smoke has cleared the Hanging Woman suddenly appears at the footlights. Throwing back her dishevelled hair she reveals a round, chalk-white face; thick, pitchblack eyebrows; darkened eyelids and dark lips. She tells the bitter story of her life: Sold to a brothel, she was driven to suicide by the unending insults and bitterness she was forced to endure. She appeals to heaven and earth to do her justice. Chang Yen-chiu in this role sings expressively. Her dancing, with great precision of timing and rhythm, adds to the intensity of her words. Her eyes are eloquent. They broodingly reflect the humiliations she suffered, the dreams she cherished, fear at the thought that there was no way out, and her burning anger when she resolves to be avenged. She gives a performance of great artistry that goes far beyond the mere ghost thriller. As one reviewer points out: "You appreciate the joy of life today better when thus reminded of how life was yesterday."

The popular hit of the tour, however, was undoubtedly the full-length opera *Monkey Subdues the White Bone Ghost*, an episode from *Pilgrimage to the West*. Monkey Sun Wu-kung is a perennial favourite on the Chinese stage and any actor essaying this role faces the challenge of comparison with a number of splendid predecessors. Liu Ling Tung boldly brings his own original style to the part and does not disappoint even the most fervent Peking admirers of Monkey. Played by Chi Ling Tung, Pigsy, gluttonous, lazy and impulsive, but well-meaning and, despite all, lovable, makes an excellent foil for

him. In this episode Tripitaka, the pilgrim monk, becomes more and more outraged when Monkey unceremoniously kills first a beautiful maiden and then her old mother. He does not realize that these are really disguises of the White Bone Ghost who wants to catch and eat him. When Monkey attacks an old man who claims to be the father, Tripitaka's patience runs out and he dismisses the quarrelsome ape. Monkey returns to his Mountain of Flowers and Fruits and Tripitaka, honest but too trusting soul that he is, immediately falls into the latest trap of the Ghost. Pigsy alone escapes. His first thought is to return to his lady love but his second thought triumphs. He goes to get Monkey's help. Gaining entrance to the Ghost's domain by a stratagem, Pigsy, Monkey and the monkey cohorts dispose of the Ghost in a terrific battle and free the monk. In a word, this is excellent Monkey business.

When opera and Shaohsing are mentioned together most readers will think of Shaohsing opera and wonder what is the difference between the Shaohsing and the *shaoju* variety. Both, it is true, come from the same place and both began as types of folk entertainment, but (among other differences) Shaohsing opera draws most of its themes from love stories—the *Butterfly Lovers* (*Liang Shan-po and Chu Ying-tai*), *The West Chamber* and others—which are well-suited to the lyrical music, the subtle acting style and deeply poetic lyricism that one expects of a Shaohsing opera performance. *Shaoju* opera is marked by vigour and strength of theme and presentation and earthy colloquialisms in



A scene from "Monkey Subdues the White Bone Ghost"

which much of the dialogue is couched. Pigsy, for instance, makes great play with these. "Kuaichi (Shaohsing) is the home of vengeance, not a place to tolerate filth," wrote one Ming scholar quoted with approval by Lu Hsun. This might well serve as a general description of the *shaoju* repertoire, which includes such operas as *When Dragon and Tiger Fight*, the other full-length opera brought on this tour to Peking.

Shaoju has a history of some 300 years. It claims a traditional repertoire of 500 operas and has enjoyed periods of immense popularity. Theatre history during the past two centuries or so records the names of as many as 157 amateur and professional *shaoju* troupes, not to mention multitudes of village troupes. The steady decline of China's rural economy around the turn of the century drove most of the existing *shaoju* troupes out of business or forced them to try to earn a precarious living as itinerant players touring the cities and towns. What with Kuomintang misrule and later Japanese invasion it became impossible to make a living even in this way and, by the time of liberation, *shaoju* was on the verge of extinction.

New China has given *shaoju* a new lease of life. Old actors have emerged from retirement and young ones have been trained. Chekiang now boasts eight companies, including the visiting Chekiang Shaoju Opera Troupe, specialized in this operatic style. They are still mobile, but in a very different way: no longer forced to seek a living where they can, they travel systematically, carrying their art to the villages and towns in every part of the province and performing for the workers and other townspeople, the peasants and P.L.A. units. A Shanghai studio has now made a film version of *Monkey Subdues the White Bone Ghost*, thus presenting this old opera for the first time on the screen and making it accessible to yet larger audiences all over China.

SPORTS

Hungarian Volleyball Team In China

The visit of the Hungarian Men's Volleyball Team is a highlight of recent sports activities in China. Chinese volleyball fans eager to see

the visitors in action were all treated to some splendid volleyball. The Hungarian players were in fine fettle and played extremely well; winning six of eight matches on a highly successful tour.

Opening in Tientsin, the visitors engaged the Chinese National Team in one of the most exciting international volleyball matches ever seen in China in recent years. The home side opened strongly to lead 10:2 before the visitors rallied and equalized. Then amid mounting excitement the score moved up point for point to 16 all before the visitors took the first game 18:16.

The second game was much like the first. China again had an early lead and the score was tied seven times before the Hungarians won 15:12. By combining hard smashes with clever drop shots China took the third game 15:11. But the visitors fought back to win the fourth game and the match 15:9. More than 5,000 spectators saw this dramatic match which was the harbinger of the keen tussles that characterized the other matches of the tour.

It was in play against Shanghai, China's national champion for the past two years, that the visitors suffered their first defeat. The match was a study of contrasting styles: powerful smashes by the tall Budapest Team and accuracy, fast teamwork and a variety of tactics by the Shanghai players. It was a hard-fought match in which Shanghai carried the day by 3:2 (15:11, 13:15, 7:15, 15:7 and 15:5).

The match against the China Youth Team gave the Hungarian Team their only straight victory of the tour. Inexperience told against the Youth Team, a new team of promising young players. They could find no effective answer to the fierce Hungarian close-to-the-net attack and high-handed smashes, and they went down 7:15, 6:15 and 12:15.

The last leg of the tour took the visitors to China's capital and here they defeated first the Peking Team 3:1, then the August First Team by 3:2. The August First Team put up a tremendous fight and forced the visitors to go all out before they could win the match.

The final match of the tour was billed as another international



Mei Lan-fang as Tu Li-niang in
"The Peony Pavilion"

match between the national sides of China and Hungary. As in their first encounter at Tientsin, the Chinese side opened the scoring and pushed the pace hard for an early lead. This time, however, they made sure there was no letting up and 15 minutes from the start China took the first game 15:5. With one game up the Chinese side played with still greater confidence, spicing their play with some tricky and successful feinting. The Hungarians countered with all they had — hard smashes and skilful drop shots. But the Chinese side, fighting fit, answered smash for smash. The game lasted 35 minutes and services changed hands 76 times in this seesaw battle. Close teamwork which gave added speed and edge to their attacks won the Chinese side the second game 15:13. In the third and final game the Hungarians were still unable to find an effective counter and the Chinese players delivering powerful smashes pressed home their attack to win 15:5.

SHORT NOTES

Film Festival in Honour of Mei Lan-fang. China is honouring its great artist, the late Mei Lan-fang, with commemorative showings of films in 15 cities including Peking, Shanghai, Sian, Wuhan, Chengtu and Shenyang. In Peking for a week till November 4, 11 cinemas will be showing four Mei Lan-fang films: *Mei Lan-fang's Stage Art* (Parts One and Two), *The Nymph of the River Lo* and *The Peony Pavilion*, the latest film Mei Lan-fang made towards the end of 1959. The festival is part of the activities planned by the special committee set up a

month ago to organize commemorative activities in honour of the great Peking opera actor who died on August 8 this year of heart disease.

Of the many other activities planned, some have already begun. Special radio and television programmes, forums and discussions are being devoted to Mei Lan-fang's art. The China Record Factory in Shanghai has reissued gramophone recordings of all his important opera roles.

A reprint of Mei Lan-fang's works, *Forty Years of Stage Life, Selected Operas*, and his writings on trips

abroad are being prepared. The committee also has plans to issue a set of commemorative stamps, to produce a documentary film on Mei Lan-fang's life, and to organize an editorial board to publish his unpublished writings, his best plays of all periods, his arias and reproductions of his paintings and calligraphy. Also in preparation are a pictorial album with photographs telling the life story of the artist, a symposium of essays on his art by the artist's friends, colleagues and other Peking opera lovers. His burial place at Hsiangshan in the Western Hills, about 20 kilometres west of Peking,

is being developed into one of the capital's beauty spots.

Club for Peking Film Workers. Peking's film workers have inaugurated their own club.

In addition to the usual social activities, the club will have special screenings and discussions of domestic and foreign films and forums on selected foreign films with special reference to acting and directing. Outstanding cinema actors and actresses will also be invited to pass on their creative experiences in the cinema.

WHAT'S ON IN PEKING

HIGHLIGHTS OF CURRENT ENTERTAINMENT, EXHIBITIONS, ETC.

The following programme which is subject to change is scheduled for the coming week.

PEKING OPERA

▲ **STEALING THE SILVER WINEPOT** In the time of the northern Sung Dynasty, Chiu Hsiao-yi steals a general's silver winepot to pay for debts incurred during illness. When he learns that an innocent old man gets into trouble for it, he confesses his guilt and obtains the general's pardon, but not before he has been dared to steal the pot again, this time right under the general's own nose. On the same programme: **SAN CHI CHANG**, a version of the story also known as *Lady Precious Stream*. Wang Pao-chuan, a prime minister's daughter, chooses love rather than riches.

▲ **CHIHSHANG TOWN** Pao Cheng, a Sung magistrate whose righteousness and integrity is a byword, brings his own criminal nephew to justice. He has a harder task pacifying an irate sister-in-law. On the same programme: **YEN YANG LOU**. Brave children of the outlaw heroes of *Water Margin* carry on their fathers' exploits. In this episode they rescue a lady in distress and defy the evil prime minister's son.

▲ **SHE SAI-HUA** Tsui Lung and Yang Chi-yeh fight for the hand of beautiful She Sai-hua. The lady, however, has already given her heart to the latter, but it is only after many exciting adventures that the two are wed.

(China Peking Opera Theatre productions.)

PINGJU OPERA

▲ **WU HSUANG** Beautiful Wu Hsuang pledges herself to a playmate of her school-days. The emperor wants her and abducts her. She is taken to the palace, but escapes with the help of a potion which gives her the appearance of death for a short period. The scheme works; unlike Juliet, she marries her true love.

▲ **CHANG YU BOILS THE SEA** A colourful fantasy. The daughter of the Dragon King of the Sea loves a young and handsome mortal, Chang Yu, a woodcutter. Her father forbids the union. With the aid of a magic pot, a gold coin and a fan, three treasures stolen from the underwater tyrant, Chang Yu boils the sea and makes it so hot for the king that he hastily gives his consent.

(China Pingju Opera Theatre productions.)

MODERN DRAMA

▲ **PRINCESS WEN CHENG** Historical play by noted contemporary playwright Tien Han. Emperor Tai Tsung of the Tang Dynasty consents to the marriage between Princess Wen Cheng and Tibetan king Sron-Tsan Gampo. Despite the plots of traitors, the Tibetan-Han union is consummated and fraternal ties strengthened between the two nationalities. China Youth Art Theatre.

CONCERT

RECITAL

by

CHU CHUNG-MO - TENOR

Accompanied by the Central Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra. Programme includes:

The Immortals — Chairman Mao Tse-tung's poem set to the tune of Tieh Lien Hua.

Arias by Mozart, Schumann, Tchaikovsky and others.

BALLET

▲ **GISELLE** The classical ballet by the French composer Adam. Experimental Ballet Troupe of the Peking School of Dancing.

FILMS

— Mei Lan-fang Film Week —
Till Nov. 4

THE STAGE ART OF MEI LAN-FANG
THE NYMPH OF THE RIVER LO
THE PEONY PAVILION

▲ **LIBERATING SHANGHAI** Colour feature film. How the People's Liberation Army utilizes inner conflicts within the KMT to enable its main force to liberate Shanghai, where Chiang Kai-shek has concentrated 300,000 troops. "August 1" Film Studio.

▲ **ETERNAL FRIENDSHIP** Sian Film Studio. A Soviet geologist shares the adventures of geological prospecting with a Chinese team. They discover rich ore deposits. When his Soviet colleague is taken ill, young Li Ching risks his life to save her.

▲ **A PEASANT WOMAN** Film from Mexico. The love of a peasant couple and their struggle against their landlord. Dubbed in Chinese.

TRICK - RIDING

It'll keep you on the edge
of your seat!

BRING THE KIDS TO SEE

MASTER TRICK-RIDER PI TEH-FU
and his troupe spiral up
the "Wall of Death" by
cycle * motorcycle * automobile
Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays at the
Working People's Palace of Culture.

EXHIBITIONS

At the Artists' Union Gallery:

Sketches of Inner Mongolia by Yen Han,
Li Hu, Huang Chun, Yao Yu-to (2nd
floor).

Sketches of the northeast by Wu Tso-jen,
Hsiao Shu-fang and Yu Feng (3rd
floor).

▲ **MUSEUM OF THE CHINESE REVOLUTION** 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. In the same building
EXHIBITION OF HISTORICAL RELICS OF THE 1911 REVOLUTION Till Nov. 9. Closed on Mondays.

▲ **MUSEUM OF CHINESE HISTORY** 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Closed on Mondays.

SIGHT - SEEING

RED * MAPLE * LEAVES

See Hsiangshan (Fragrance Hill) in its lovely mantle of red autumn leaves. This sight the poets write about lasts only till mid-November. See Shuang-ching Villa, Hsiangshan Temple, Spectacles Lake, Halfway Pavilion. Hotel accommodations for weekend visits; phone for reservations: 819-244

PLANETARIUM

Follow Gagarin and Titov into space — see the new programme at the Planetarium: "Triumphal Song of the Conquest of Space" Also: "Flying to the Moon" "Surveying the Stars" and other programmes.

FLOWER SHOW

Don't Miss the
ANNUAL CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW

* More than 1,000 varieties including rare "Green Weeping Willows" and "Evergreen Waters in Spring" at Peihai Park.

* Over 300 varieties at Chungshan Park including the "Golden Wheat," "The Drunken Beauty" and 40 new species as yet unnamed. Your suggestions invited.

* Also at Tiantan Park and other places.

Till the end of the month.

SPORTS

— 1961 NATIONAL FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT —

China's best teams compete:
Shanghai Youth vs. "August 1"
Peking Youth vs. Kirin
Shanghai First vs. Liaoning





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