

January 27, 1959

4

PEKING REVIEW

650 MILLION CHINESE SUPPORT ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLES OF CUBA AND THE CONGO

1. Peking Rally and Resolution (p. 9)
2. Speech by Peng Chen (p. 11)
3. New Battles for Freedom (p. 3)

Welcome to Envoys from the German Democratic Republic

Prime Minister Grotewohl's visit to China (p. 6)

Spotlight on a People's Commune

A glimpse at how the people's commune has improved the livelihood of the peasants of Changshih County (p. 14)

"The Battle of Chibi"

A Peking opera hit (p. 16)

*China and the World, The Passing Show
and Other Features*

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE NEWS AND VIEWS

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PEKING REVIEW

北京周報

(BEIJING ZHOUBAO)

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE
NEWS AND VIEWS

January 27, 1959 Vol. II No. 4

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	3
New Battles for Freedom	
ROUND THE WEEK	4
NPC Will Meet in April; Conference on Agriculture; State Contracts with the Communes; Pursuit of Health; "Three-Good Cadres"; New Blood; Paotow—Ahead of Schedule; Railway Development; Remembering Lenin	
ARTICLES	
Envoys from the German Democratic Republic — Our Correspondent	6
China Supports Soviet Proposal for Peace Treaty with Germany	7
Imperialists—Get Out of Asia, Africa and Latin America! — Our Correspondent	9
Resolution of the Peking Rally	10
Chinese People Support Anti-imperialist Struggles in Cuba and Congo (Speech by Peng Chen)	11
The Big Leap in Cement — Su Chi-kuang	13
Spotlight on a People's Commune — Chao Yu-li	14
THEATRE	16
<i>The Battle of Chibi</i> — Wu Pin	
SIDELIGHTS	18
CHINESE PRESS OPINION	19
Peace Treaty with Germany; Murder in South Viet-nam; Viet-nam-Laos Border Issue; Stop This Slave Trade!; The Passing Show	
CHINA AND THE WORLD	21
For a Joint Scientific Advance; Rich Cultural Exchange Programme; Welcome to General Cardenas; India-China Friendship	
WHAT'S ON IN PEKING	22

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New Battles for Freedom

THE Chinese people are following the stirring developments in Latin America and Africa with profound sympathy and admiration. As reported elsewhere in this issue, mass meetings have been held to express the full support of the Chinese people for the heroic peoples of Cuba and the Congo in their fight for independence and freedom.

After overthrowing the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship, the Cuban people are now concentrating on consolidating their new government and combating U.S. interference in Cuba's domestic affairs. At a huge mass demonstration in Havana, Senor Fidel Castro demanded that the United States extradite the Cuban war criminals. He declared that Cuba wanted to be free not only politically but economically as well. This clearcut statement shows how determined the Cuban people are to safeguard the fruits of their victory.

The Cuban people's battle against the corrupt, despotic Batista gang was at the same time a long-drawn-out struggle against U.S. domination. It was known to all that Batista was able to keep in power largely because of U.S. backing. UPI, the U.S. news agency, openly admitted in a January 17 dispatch from Havana: "Castro focussed his attack on the U.S. apparently because that country furnished arms to the Batista regime while it was fighting Castro's rebels in the mountains of eastern Cuba."

The latest developments in Cuba spotlight the trend in the "backyard" of the United States. The past few years have witnessed the collapse of many U.S.-supported dictatorial regimes in Latin American countries. The downfall of the U.S.-backed caudillos in rapid succession hits Yankee imperialism where it hurts.

Across the Atlantic, the torch of liberty is burning brightly all over the "Dark Continent." The popular revolts in the Belgian Congo sparked the agitation for national independence far and wide in Africa. Uprisings have flared up in French Togo and Portuguese Angola. Large-scale demonstrations have taken place in British Nyasaland. The people in Southern Rhodesia have held anti-colonial meetings to protest British repression and demand the dissolution of the Central African Union. In Northern Rhodesia, nationalist African leaders have called upon the people to throw the British colonialists out. In Uganda, the people are demanding the abolition of the British protectorate. In Mauritania and the Cameroons, the Africans are waging armed struggle against colonialism.

The upsurge of the national independence movements and the quickened disintegration of colonialism highlight the direction of international development. Even Mr. Dulles felt compelled to admit before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the movement towards independence and freedom is "one of the strongest forces working in the world today."

The peoples of Latin America and Africa do not stand alone. Their resolute struggle for independence and freedom forms part of the worldwide battle for peace, democracy and progress and has the full support of peace-loving and progressive humanity. Imperialism and colonialism are on the way out. We firmly believe that final victory belongs to the people of Cuba and the Congo.

ROUND THE WEEK

NPC Will Meet in April

At its meeting on January 23 the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress decided to hold the First Session of the Second National People's Congress in April, instead of in January as originally proposed. The Second NPC was elected last year. It has a 4-year term of office according to the Chinese Constitution.

Conference on Agriculture

There will be another bumper harvest in 1959, bigger than last year's, if the 8-point "Charter of Agriculture" (*Peking Review*, No. 1, 1959, p. 18) is carried out to the full and the people's communes perfect a still higher level of manage-

ment. This is the keynote of the speech of Tan Chen-lin, member of the Central Committee Secretariat of the Chinese Communist Party, at the concluding session of the national conference on agricultural work which has just ended in Peking.

For 12 days the conference devoted its main attention to the course of action required to realize the goals of agricultural production set by the Central Committee of the Communist Party at its 6th Plenary Session in December 1958. Stress was laid on grain and cotton production, the cultivation of hemp and oil-bearing crops, and more livestock. There was emphasis on developing a diversified economy, so as to meet growing market demands, increase the supply of industrial raw materials and raise the incomes of the communes.

The conference was of the opinion that there must be some preparation before carrying forward the revolutionary policy in agriculture of putting less land under cultivation and gathering richer crops. It decided that an effort must first be made to get high yields, and as per unit yields increase, the size of farmlands and sown areas can then be reduced accordingly. Part of the alkaline, sandy and poor hilly land with low output will not be tilled. In some of the southern provinces the peasants will concentrate on achieving high yields in one season and reduce multiple cropping.

The conference called for a rational distribution and use of labour power, improvement of working methods, and more technical innovations and further mechanization of farm work.

State Contracts with the Communes

On January 16 agreements were signed between the representatives of the agricultural and trade departments of the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions relating to the production and marketing of farm produce for 1959. Within the framework of these agreements, the people's communes and trade departments at the lower levels will in turn sign detailed contracts linking the production schedules of the people's communes with the overall state plan.

With these contracts the communes can now plan their annual production in a better way and develop commodity production to meet growing market demands and especially the needs of the cities. The state, on its part, guarantees a regular supply of agricultural ma-

chinery, chemical fertilizer, insecticides, etc. to the communes.

The conclusion of these agreements and contracts is an expression of further socialist economic planning in China's countryside. It shows that with the emergence of the communes a far greater measure of care and thought is required in economic work in the villages than was necessary in the days of farm co-ops.

Pursuit of Health

Hsinlitsun is a pretty good example of the pursuit of health that has been accelerated by the people's communes. It has acquitted itself so well in providing good medical and health services for its members that on January 17 the Hsinlitsun People's Commune became front-page news in the national press.

With 115,000 people inhabiting some 90 villages in the environs of the north China port city of Tientsin, the Hsinlitsun People's Commune carries a heavy burden of medical care problems on its shoulders.

When the commune was formed five months ago, by amalgamating the former farm co-ops on its territory, it took over 26 rural medical and health centres and a staff of 120. With this as the basis it began to expand. Today, it runs a health centre for the entire commune and under it there are general hospitals, health stations, maternity hospitals, with some attached directly to the production teams. At Hsinlitsun, the doctors do not confine themselves to the consulting rooms or the surgery. They spend half of their working days visiting the homes and going out to the fields, just in case their services are needed on the spot, while the nurses, first-aid kits in hand, often go out with the members to work in the fields.

Another distinct feature is the fact that the medical and public health units work closely with the production units of the same level. This has the advantage of providing direct and quicker service to the members. Coupled with this, the Hsinlitsun health centre concentrates on combining medical treatment with the prevention of disease, making the most of the professionals and drawing the masses into health schemes. All in all, it adds up to better health care than the region has ever known — another reason why the peasants appreciate their communes.

"Three-Good Cadres"

"Three-good cadres" is a title of distinction in Wuhsien County, Kiangsu Province. It is an honour bestowed upon the best cadres of the Wangting People's Commune who have proved their merits in three things: first, good in physical



Commune scene

Painting by Li Jui-ping, a peasant art student of Hopei Province

labour; second, close touch with the people; third, faithfully carrying out the policies of the Communist Party.

When the commune announced the "three-good cadres" idea, different units of the commune began to put forward lists of candidates for the honours. These were discussed from top to bottom, from the management down to the production teams, and everyone's performance in the big leap was weighed and assessed. After a full exchange of views a final list was drawn up for the approval of the general membership meeting which has the last word on the selection.

This method of selecting exemplary cadres for commendation has great educational value. Since the masses in their daily contact with the cadres know their work, strong points and weaknesses, they can give concrete and candid views as to who should, or should not, be selected. In the course of the selection meetings at the Wangting People's Commune some of the cadres were proposed as "three-good" in the first rounds but were later eliminated from the list because the masses thought them only "one-good" or "two-good." Those who were up to the "three-good cadres" standards had passed the test of mass approval. Conversely, those who were mentioned at the beginning but failed to get selected at the end, also knew where their work needed improvement.

The Wangting People's Commune has decided to select "three-good cadres" at the end of every year. In all parts of the country people's communes have been searching ways to broaden the scope of democracy so that the cadres, those who carry administrative duties, and the members in general, can work together closely.

New Blood

The promotion of outstanding industrial workers to the ranks of engineers or technicians is nothing new in post-liberation China. Such things often happen and in many parts of the country, too. But to have 87 workers promoted at one fell blow, and all from one trade and one city, as it happened in the electrical engineering department of the Tientsin People's Council the other day, is something out of the ordinary.

From isolated cases of promotion to promotion en bloc represents a change in both quantity and quality. It gives some idea of the increasing tempo with which the Chinese worker is improving himself, ideologically and culturally as well as technically.

All of these 87 new engineers have long years of practical experience behind them. By virtue of persistent study some

have acquired a good deal of theoretical knowledge about their jobs. But it was in the technical revolution, now in full swing in factories throughout the country, that they proved their particular worth by the many proposals they made to raise efficiency.

Quite a few of them came to acquire book knowledge only after liberation, but diligence and determination in their part-time studies have borne rich fruits. The promotion of outstanding industrial workers to be engineers in no way belittles the part played by university-trained engineers and technicians, for today the latter still form the core of China's technical force. But the new blood is making contributions in a new way.

Paotow—Ahead of Schedule

China's metallurgical industry will have a powerful recruit in the new iron and steel centre which is rising fast outside the city of Paotow in Inner Mongolia. After Anshan in the northeast and Wuhan on the Yangtse River, the Paotow Iron and Steel Works will be the third largest in the country. Construction began in the summer of 1957 and production was not due for some time yet. But eager to make their contribution to the national goal of 18 million tons of steel in 1959, the Paotow steel workers have decided to turn out their first heat of iron and steel and make their first steel products during this year, while construction work will still continue.

From afar one can see Paotow's new, automatic No. 1 blast furnace, one of the biggest in China, already taking shape. In the closing days of 1958 the workers installed the shell of this 40-metre-high furnace and the three air-blast heating stoves. The foundations for the first big open-hearth furnace and the first mixer have been laid. The first coke oven battery in the coking plant has been completed and is now in the drying-out stage. It will begin turning out coke in February instead of next August as originally scheduled.

In its bid to turn the wheels of production three years ahead of schedule, the Paotow Steel Works is getting assistance from all over the country, and especially from the steel centre of Anshan in northeast China. Anshan has sent large quantities of steel sheets, plates and seamless tubes to Paotow. It is transferring a large number of trained workers, managers, directors, and engineers to its counterpart in the grasslands.

Railway Development

Reconstruction or the double-tracking of the trunk lines rather than the laying

of new ones—this is the new stress in China's railway development schemes for the coming year. Although the importance of building new railway lines is recognized, and in fact continues to some extent, the national effort of 1959 nevertheless will be concentrated on renovating, improving and streamlining the existing ones. For it is the "old regulars" that can help increase the volume of transport the most and the quickest. And it is quick railway service that is wanted badly in these days when the big leap puts a heavy strain on the country's entire transport system.

Thus, the double-tracking of the two north-south trunk lines—the Peking-Canton and Tientsin-Shanghai Railways—is going ahead full steam. Over a million road builders from eight provinces are working on these railways at a speed quite unknown before. Construction estimated to take at least a couple of years has been completed in a matter of a few months. For example, the Peking-Canton line on which the double-tracking job started earlier will soon be ready to operate on double-tracks, except for a section on the southern half of this 2,300-kilometre cross-country line. When one recalls the fact that this railway line had been completely out of commission for as long as 13 years during the Kuomintang days, the achievement of laying a double-track from Peking all the way to the south China metropolis appears all the more remarkable.

Meanwhile, in Kweichow Province in the southwest, which has had no railway connection with the rest of the country, the first passenger train between Kweichow, the province's capital, and other parts of China went into operation on January 15. From now on the people of this southwest China province will be able to travel by rail to other parts of the country.

Remembering Lenin

Last Wednesday, January 21, was the 35th anniversary of the death of V. I. Lenin. Thirty-five years ago, when the news of the death of this great revolutionary teacher reached Peking the people braved the wrath of the then warlord government to hold a memorial meeting in what is today Chungshan Park, a stone's throw from the Tien An Men Square. A commemoration pamphlet was then published, written by one of the early leaders of the Chinese Communist Party, Li Ta-chao, later murdered by the warlord Chang Tso-lin. On this anniversary day *Renmin Ribao* reproduced the cover of this booklet as a tribute to the historic bonds between Lenin and China's revolutionaries.

Envoys from the German Democratic Republic

by OUR CORRESPONDENT

PEKING gave a rousing welcome last week to the Government Delegation of the German Democratic Republic led by Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl. The visit of the German envoys forges new links of unity between People's China and Democratic Germany. Viewed in the wider context of world events, it is another expression of the growing solidarity and strength of the countries of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union.

Thousands of cheering and flag-waving Peking citizens greeted the German Prime Minister and other members of the delegation when they arrived in the capital on January 22. Enthusiastic warmth also permeated the reception hall of the Peking Hotel when Premier Chou En-lai tendered a banquet in honour of the German guests the following evening. On January 24, more than 8,000 Peking citizens gathered at a mass rally to welcome the German envoys. Huge streamers spelled out the keynote of the rally: "Long Live the Solidarity of the Countries of the Socialist Camp Headed by the Soviet Union!" "Long Live the Everlasting, Unbreakable Friendship Between the Chinese and German Peoples!" and "Long Live the Great Unity of the Peoples of the Whole World and World Peace!"

The continual growth of friendly relations between this country and the German Democratic Republic shows how peoples widely separated geographically who had been set against each other by reactionary rulers, have readily become close friends under socialism. An episode from Prime Minister Grotewohl's last visit to China, in December 1955, dramatized this basic change. At a welcome rally, he presented the Chinese people, among other things, with ten banners used in the I Ho Tuan ("Boxer") anti-imperialist rising of 1900 which had been looted by German troops during the eight-power invasion of China. The Prime Minister's speech on that occasion moved many Chinese hearts. "German militarists," he said, "blood-sucking and profit-greedy enemies of the Chinese people, stole these banners. Now German socialists, descendants of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, true friends and comrades-in-arms of the Chinese people, bring them back and place them in your hands."

Mutual Support

The socialist unity, the new type of international relationship, between China and the German Democratic Republic has manifested itself in concerted efforts to safeguard peace and struggle against imperialism. In April 1955 China terminated the state of war with Germany. At the end of the year, a treaty of friendship and co-operation

between the two countries was signed during Prime Minister Grotewohl's last visit to China. The treaty explicitly provides that the two states will take part in any international actions designed to safeguard the peace and security of the world and will consult each other on all important international issues affecting their interests and particularly on questions that concern the inviolability of their territories and their national security.

The German Democratic Republic has consistently supported China in her struggle against the U.S. occupation of Taiwan. Last year, when the U.S. imperialists stepped up their war provocations against China in the Taiwan Straits area, both the government and people of the German Democratic Republic voiced warm sympathy and vigorous support for the Chinese people's cause.

At the Peking mass meeting on January 24, Prime Minister Grotewohl again expressed this fraternal support when he said that the people of the G.D.R. protested angrily against U.S. provocations in the Taiwan area. "All the U.S. plots to create 'two Chinas' and to install its rule over Taiwan under the guise of U.N. trusteeship," he declared, "are doomed to failure."

China, on her part, stands firmly with the German Democratic Republic in the struggle for the peaceful settlement of the German question. On January 21, the Chinese Government issued a statement supporting the Soviet Government's proposal for calling a peace conference and concluding a peace treaty with Germany (full text of the statement appears on p. 7). Earlier, in a statement issued last December, the Chinese Government voiced its full support for the Soviet proposal to turn West Berlin into a demilitarized free city.

In his speech at the banquet in honour of the German delegation, Premier Chou En-lai reiterated China's firm support for these Soviet proposals and expressed confidence in the final victory of the German people's efforts for the unification of their fatherland. At the mass meeting in Peking, Mayor Peng Chen also voiced support for the G.D.R. stand in striving for the unification of the German nation. He declared: "The Chinese people are interested in peace not only in Asia but also in Europe. Should the imperialist war maniacs dare to infringe on the German Democratic Republic, not only will all the countries in our socialist camp give full support to the German Democratic Republic, but all those who love peace and uphold justice in the world will stand by it and the aggressors will assuredly reap the bitter fruit of their actions."

The socialist unity between China and Democratic Germany has equally manifested itself in sincere mutual aid for the building of socialism and all-round development of economic, scientific-technical and cultural relations specifically provided for in the 1955 treaty. The industrial equipment and technical aid given by Democratic Germany is one of the important factors contributing to the accelerated socialist construction in China. Specialists have come from Democratic Germany and helped in the building of Chinese factories. Machines made by German workers are running in many Chinese workshops and German instruments are in use in many Chinese laboratories. While in Peking, Prime Minister Grotewohl visited the North China Radio Appliances Factory which was designed and built with help from the G.D.R. and a glass works also designed with German help. The workers expressed their appreciation for this fraternal aid and greeted the guests with heartfelt warmth. Fire-crackers, drum-beats, the clashing of cymbals and the traditional lion dance turned the get-together into a festival.

During the past few years, exchanges of delegations and many other forms of cultural co-operation and friendly contacts have turned the fraternal relations between the two countries into a living reality in the lives of the two peoples. The Erich-Weinert Art Troupe of the G.D.R. National People's Army, for instance, has been touring many Chinese cities and its art has been appreciated by tens of thousands of Chinese.

A Jubilant Occasion

As the Chinese people greet the German guests, they also find on this occasion gratifying proof of the robust growth of socialism. It is often recalled that ten years ago, in October 1949, the People's Republic of China and the German Democratic Republic came into existence

within a few days of each other. Imperialism, and U.S. imperialism in particular, has refused to accept this new historic reality and has tried hard in the past ten years to strangle these two young republics. But today, People's China in the east and Democratic Germany in the west will soon celebrate their tenth anniversaries. Both have grown in stature enormously during this past decade.

Socialist construction has been progressing rapidly in the German Democratic Republic. Its 1958 industrial output, for instance, increased by 10.9 per cent over 1957. And a further increase of 11.1 per cent is planned for this year. Last summer, the German Socialist Unity Party called on the people to catch up with and surpass West Germany in 1,200 days, that is, by 1961, in the per capita level of consumption of all major items of consumer goods. The people of Democratic Germany are now working confidently to attain this goal.

Internationally, too, the prestige of the German Democratic Republic has been growing steadily. The fruitful visits of Prime Minister Grotewohl to the United Arab Republic, Iraq, India and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam prior to his arrival in China, are a good measure of the growing influence of Democratic Germany in the international arena. The German Democratic Republic is today an important factor in the safeguarding of security in Europe and the peace of the world.

The visit of Prime Minister Grotewohl is a landmark in the steadily expanding friendly relations between the Chinese and German peoples, a demonstration of the growing unity and irresistible advance of the forces of peace and socialism. As Prime Minister Grotewohl put it at the Peking rally: "The giant wheel of history is turning unceasingly towards the victory of peace and socialism. The imperialist 'paper tigers' who try to hold it back are hopelessly doomed."

CHINA SUPPORTS SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR PEACE TREATY WITH GERMANY

The following statement of the Government of the People's Republic of China, supporting the Soviet Government's proposal for the holding of a peace conference to discuss and conclude a peace treaty with Germany, was issued in Peking on January 21, 1959. — Ed.

ON January 10 this year the Government of the Soviet Union handed notes to the governments of our country and other countries which participated in the war against Germany proposing the holding, within two months, of a peace conference between the governments of the countries which took part with their armed forces in the war against Germany, on the one side, and the Governments of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic, on the other, to discuss and conclude a

peace treaty with Germany. The Soviet Government, moreover, put forward a draft for the treaty. This new positive proposal of the Soviet Government has won the warm welcome and support of the peace-loving countries and people. The Government of the People's Republic of China expresses full support for it.

Nearly 14 years have passed since the end of the war against fascist Germany, yet a peace treaty with Germany has still not been signed, foreign troops continue to be stationed on German territory and the Western powers still maintain their occupation regime in West Berlin. All this makes it impossible for the German people to exercise their state sovereignty in full, to maintain relations on an equal basis and enter into effective co-

operation with other countries. Obviously, such a state of affairs is extremely abnormal and unreasonable.

With a view to eliminating this abnormal situation, the Soviet Government in the post-war years has time and again made proposals to the Governments of the United States, Britain and France for the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany and a peaceful settlement of the German question. But the Western powers, the United States in particular, which are not sincere in the least about a peaceful settlement of the German question, have rejected the reasonable proposals of the Soviet Union every time on various untenable pretexts. Ignoring the present objective reality of the existence of two Germanys, they have been obstructing the German people by all sorts of means from exercising their sacred right to unify their motherland and have continuously repeated the subterfuge about "free elections," in an attempt to achieve the annexation of the German Democratic Republic by West Germany. The Western powers, particularly the United States, have all along fostered militarism in West Germany actively after the war. Today, West Germany has become a centre for NATO to conduct cold war and a hotbed for it to engineer aggressive war. All this not only seriously obstructs a peaceful settlement of the German question, but also greatly endangers peace in Europe and the world. Seeing that a settlement of the German question had been unreasonably put off again and again by the Western powers, the Soviet Government, in November last year, made the proposal to convert West Berlin into a demilitarized free city so as to ease the tension in the Berlin area first of all, and thereby create conditions for a peaceful settlement of the German question. However, this practicable proposal of the Soviet Union was again rejected by the Western powers.

In line with its consistent stand of upholding peace and its loyalty to the obligations it assumed in relation to Germany, the Soviet Government, on January 10 this year, again made its proposal for a peace treaty with Germany. This proposal of the Soviet Government is fully reasonable and opportune. Its realization will not only help check the revival of German militarism and save mankind from the threat of another war, but will also be an important guarantee that the German people will devote themselves to peaceful and creative labour as a member of the family of nations.

The Government and people of the German Democratic Republic have been working untiringly and have already made great contributions for the peaceful unification of Germany and the preservation of the security of Europe and the peace of the world. The current proposal of the Soviet Government to hold a peace conference to discuss and conclude a peace treaty with Germany has received the approval and support of the Government of the German Democratic Republic. Furthermore, the Government of the German Democratic Republic has declared its readiness to open preparatory talks with the West German authorities on the draft peace treaty. All this is further convincing proof of the sincere desire of the Government of the German Democratic Republic to unify the motherland in a peaceful way and safeguard world peace.

The Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese people have always supported the German people in their efforts for a peaceful settlement of the

German question. In the interests of the Chinese and German peoples and out of a desire to safeguard world peace, the Chairman of the People's Republic of China announced as early as April 7, 1955 the termination of the state of war between the People's Republic of China and Germany. In line with its consistent stand on the German question, the Government of China, which was one of the nations that took part in the war against German fascism, deems it its responsibility to promote the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany in the interest of an early realization of the peaceful settlement of the German question. The Government of the People's Republic of China therefore welcomes and supports the Soviet Government's proposal to hold a peace conference to discuss and conclude a peace treaty with Germany and endorses the draft treaty put forward by the Soviet Government.

It is very clear that a settlement of the German question should not be delayed any longer. The Western powers and the West German authorities must take a serious attitude toward this proposal of the Soviet Government. A peace treaty with Germany must be signed and the German question must be settled peacefully. Should the Western powers and the West German authorities unreasonably reject once again the proposal of the Soviet Government, they will only expose fully their true face in protracting and obstructing a peaceful settlement of the German question; it is certain that they will be further condemned sternly by all peace-loving people of the world and they must bear full responsibility for sabotaging a solution of the German question.

An Outline History of China

This brief, popular history of China covers the period from prehistoric times to the founding of the People's Republic of China. It deals, concisely but with due emphasis, with the key historical facts and incidents, through the successive dynasties and the revolutionary wars to the final victory of the people's revolution marked by the proclamation of the new Republic in October 1949.

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Imperialists—Get Out of Asia, Africa and Latin America!

by OUR CORRESPONDENT

HAVANA and Leopoldville, half a world away from China, are very near to the Chinese people today. News from the Caribbean island and the heartland of Africa is being followed with intense interest and concern. Pictures as well as numerous articles and news stories covering the developments in Cuba and the Congo have been given prominent display in the Chinese press.

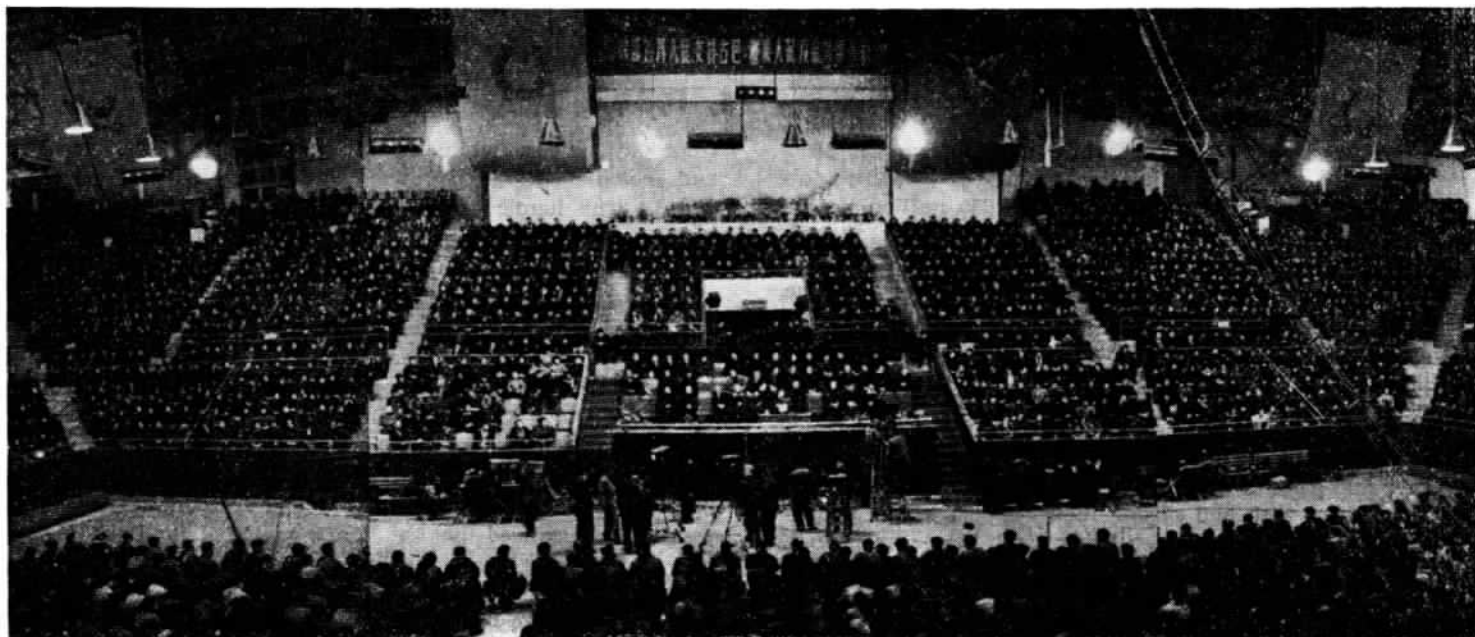
The heartfelt solidarity of China's population with the heroic struggle of the Cuban people and the fight for national freedom of the people of the Congo came to dramatic expression on January 25 at the rallies in Peking in which over 100,000 citizens took part. The meeting of the people of all circles held at the indoor gymnasium in the southern suburbs is typical of the general sentiment. It was a sunny but windswept Sunday morning and, at 9 a.m. the hall was jammed to the rafters with 10,000 people representing every walk of life and the political parties and people's organizations in China. Peasants from people's communes in the environs of the city and workers, students, government workers and intellectuals from all parts of the city thundered unanimous greetings to the peoples of Cuba and the Congo, and throughout Asia, Africa and Latin America fighting for their national independence. A resolution was adopted supporting the anti-imperialist struggles in Cuba and the Congo. (See next page.)

The first speaker was Peng Chen, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese

Communist Party. "We Chinese people," he said, "give our firm support to the national and democratic revolutionary movement of the people of Cuba and to the people of the Congo who are striving for freedom and independence. We firmly oppose interference by the U.S. imperialists in Cuba's internal affairs and the slaughter of the people of the Congo by the Belgian colonialists. . . . The 650 million people of the Chinese People's Republic stand on the same front with all the peoples fighting for independence and freedom in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Their enemy is our enemy, and their struggle is our struggle. In our common struggle against imperialism we shall always stand united. Victory will finally be ours." (The full text of his speech appears on p. 11 of this issue.)

Leaders of the various democratic parties followed one after another in pledging full support for the peoples of Cuba and the Congo.

Liu Chang-sheng, Vice-Chairman of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, greeted the people and working class of Cuba and declared: "U.S. intervention in Cuba has exposed the U.S. imperialists as the sworn enemy of the peoples of Latin America and peoples throughout the world. The Chinese workers are very happy to see that the Cuban people have given the U.S. imperialists a slap in the face with their million-strong demonstration in Havana." He said that the Chinese working class in the past had suffered



The Peking rally

Photo by An Kang

the same tragic fate as the people of Cuba and therefore felt intimately with the Cuban people.

Liu Hsi-yuan, Chairman of the All-China Youth Federation, speaking on behalf of the 120 million young people of China, said that Cuba, the land of sugar, is no longer sweet for the U.S. imperialists and has now become bitter for them. The anti-colonial struggle, he went on, has lit up the entire "Dark Continent" and now it is the future of the imperialists that is dark.

Tung Teh-lu from the Chaoyang People's Commune spoke on behalf of the peasants. He said that the peasants in his commune were most pleased when they read in the papers that the new Cuban Government was meting out punishment to the Batista murderers. "We remember the joy we felt when our government, at the time of liberation of our city, gave the counter-revolutionaries their due. Everyone was saying the Batista murderers are getting their just deserts. But U.S. imperialists are now making a big hullabaloo about this. They say this is not humanitarian. We know what they are after. They want to poke their noses in the affairs of the Cubans so that their henchman Batista can ride roughshod over the Cuban people again. Well, this is a vain dream."

Novelist and playwright Lao Sheh, speaking on behalf of the literary and art circles, was warmly applauded when he exposed the hypocrisy of the U.S. and other imperialists. These imperialists, he said, use the cruellest means to oppress other people, yet the words freedom and liberty are always on their lips as if they personified the Goddess of Liberty. "But take a look at what they are doing!" he exclaimed. "Stealing and robbing other people's property, intervening in other people's affairs. Isn't this exactly what they are doing in Cuba? What they mean by freedom is nothing more than the privilege of lording it over others and not giving others the right to fill their bellies and cover themselves with a pair of pants. When others refuse to submit to them, they resort to guns and

arms. This is the way they 'defend' freedom. Isn't this what the Belgian colonialists are doing in the Congo?"

"What then is freedom, in the real sense of the word?" Lao Sheh asked. He answered: "It is national independence, the right of nations to run their own affairs without intervention by others. The imperialist hue and cry about freedom is the greatest abuse of this word. We should slap their faces and slap them hard!"

Hang Pao-hua, an old worker with a 43-year record of labour under his belt, was one of the many other speakers to address the meeting. He said he had witnessed the suppression and massacre of the Chinese railway workers in February 7, 1923 by the warlord government and had lived through the oppression and exploitation of the warlords and the reactionary Kuomintang government and the Japanese and United States imperialists. "To us," he declared, "those days were just as dark and intolerable as the life of the Cuban people under Batista and of the Congo people under the Belgian colonialists. That is why we are filled with inexpressible joy by the victory of the Cuban people."

Before the rally began your correspondent talked with many workers and students. Wang Shou-wen, a worker from the Shihchingshan Power Plant, recalled the Japanese imperialist rule. "Those were unspeakable days," he said. "Now we read in the papers of the life of the people of the Congo under the colonialists. We know their feelings and we stand with them." A group of students were singing songs with impromptu words about Cuba and the Congo.

The deep-felt sentiments of the rally resounded throughout the nation. The speeches were broadcast by radio throughout the country and by television in Peking. In the major cities, in Shanghai, Tientsin, Canton and Wuhan, similar meetings and rallies were held to voice the ardent demand of China's millions:

Imperialists — Get Out of Asia, Africa and Latin America!

RESOLUTION OF THE PEKING RALLY

January 25, 1959

Assembled at a great rally on January 25, 1959, people of all circles in the capital of the People's Republic of China, on behalf of the 650 million people of China, warmly greet and hail the great victory of the revolutionary struggle of the people of Cuba and extend hearty brotherly greetings to the people of the Congo in their heroic struggle.

Imperialism is our common enemy. Having suffered from imperialist enslavement for more than a hundred years, the Chinese people fully sympathize with, and pledge their support to, the people of Cuba in their just struggle in defence of national independence and against U.S. imperialist intervention; they fully sympathize with and pledge their support to the people of the Congo in their stubborn and heroic resistance against bloody suppression by the Belgian imperialists.

The rally is unanimous in pointing out that all the imperialists and colonialists of the world are rotting

from day to day, while the forces against imperialism and colonialism are growing daily throughout the world. The heroic struggles waged by the peoples of Cuba and the Congo are a component part of the cause of the peoples of Latin America and Africa who are striving for independence and freedom; they are a component part of the cause of the people of the whole world for the defence of peace; they have the profound sympathy and enjoy the support of the people of the whole world. The Chinese people are deeply convinced that the people of Cuba, under Fidel Castro's leadership, will surely win more brilliant victories in their glorious cause of striving for independence and freedom. They are deeply convinced that the heroic people of the Congo will surely strengthen their unity, overcome all difficulties and succeed ultimately in driving out all colonialists from their territory.

CHINESE PEOPLE SUPPORT ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLES IN CUBA AND CONGO

The following is the text of the speech made by Peng Chen, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and First Secretary of the Communist Party Committee of Peking, on January 25, 1959 at the rally of people of all circles of Peking supporting the anti-imperialist struggles waged by the peoples of Cuba and the Congo. — Ed.

WE people of all circles in the capital meet here today to express our support for the people of Cuba in their just struggle against U.S. imperialist intervention and for the people of the Congo in their just struggle against colonial oppression. The Cuban people have already won a significant victory for their national and democratic revolutionary movement and they are now carrying on a heroic struggle against intervention by the U.S. imperialists. Recently, the people of the Congo also initiated a national liberation struggle against Belgian colonial rule and the Belgian colonialists' policy of slaughtering the people. The vigorous development of these anti-imperialist struggles in Cuba and the Congo shows that a new high tide is rising in the great national revolutionary movement. The struggles waged by the peoples of Cuba and the Congo are struggles common to the peoples of Latin America and Africa, as well as to all people of the world who love peace and freedom and oppose colonialism and aggression. We Chinese people give our firm support to the national and democratic revolutionary movement of the people of Cuba and to the people of the Congo who are striving for freedom and independence. We firmly oppose interference by the U.S. imperialists in Cuba's internal affairs and the slaughter of the people of the Congo by the Belgian colonialists. The colonialists and imperialists are on their last legs. No matter how hard they may try to hold out, the people of Cuba will surely triumph, so will the people of the Congo, and so will the peoples of Latin America and Africa.

All the people of China warmly hail the great victory of the people of Cuba. For many years the people of Cuba have been waging a heroic and determined struggle against oppression and plunder by the U.S. imperialists and the traitorous and dictatorial Batista regime. Two years ago, the people of Cuba resolutely started an armed uprising under the leadership of Fidel Castro. Despite frantic suppression and all sorts of scheming and disruptive activities by the Batista regime, which had the support of the U.S. imperialists, the people of Cuba, steadfast in their struggle, finally won through and achieved victory on New Year's Day. The Batista regime, lackey of U.S. imperialism, collapsed. This is a great victory for the people of Cuba in their struggle against aggression and dictatorship; this is a serious defeat for U.S. imperialism in Latin America. The victory of the people of Cuba is a very great inspiration to the national revolutionary movements not only of Latin America, but also of Asia

and Africa. Here we wish to extend our warm congratulations to the victorious people of Cuba!

But the U.S. imperialists, aggressive by nature, will never be reconciled to their defeat. In an attempt to stage a comeback in Cuba, they are threatening the people of Cuba and resorting to every trick to interfere in Cuba's internal affairs; they are shielding the Cuban counter-revolutionaries and trying to prevent the Cuban people from punishing the counter-revolutionary criminals. Such brazen intervention on the part of the U.S. imperialists has roused the boundless indignation of the people of Cuba. A mammoth demonstration of a million strong against the United States took place in Havana, capital of Cuba, on the 21st of this month. It gave a strong rebuff to the provocations of the U.S. imperialists. The people of Cuba have stood up. We are convinced that the people of Cuba, by relying on their own solidarity and struggle and with the support of the peoples of the Americas and the world over, will surely be able to defeat the intervention and aggressive designs of the U.S. imperialists.

Latin America is no longer the "backyard" in which the U.S. imperialists can do as they like. The 200 million people of Latin America have awakened. Their indignation against the United States aggressors has grown to such an extent that it has become irrepressible. In the past few years, traitorous and dictatorial regimes in many of the Latin American countries, groomed and supported by the U.S. imperialists, collapsed one after the other. The U.S. imperialists are still resorting to all sorts of underhand ways in an attempt to change this situation which is unfavourable to them and to keep and tighten their control over the Latin American countries. This, however, cannot save them from their inevitable shameful defeat. The victory won by the people of Cuba is another proof that the national and democratic revolutionary movements in Latin America are irresistible. The days when the U.S. imperialists can lord it over in Latin America are numbered.

ALL the people of China resolutely support the people of the Congo in their heroic struggle against colonialism and for national independence. For 80 years the Congo has been the victim of extremely cruel plunder and oppression by the Belgian colonialists. These Belgian colonialists and other imperialist countries use the blood and sweat of the people of the Congo and the rest of Africa as an important source from which to make their fortunes. Meanwhile, the people of the Congo and other

parts of Africa have long been groaning under the heavy shackles of the imperialist and colonial system and leading a most miserable life. But the slumbering African Continent has awakened at last. In the Congo, regarded as a "quiet oasis" by the Belgian colonialists, a heroic mass struggle for freedom and independence broke out not long ago. With the support of the U.S. imperialists, the Belgian colonial rulers have taken to bloody suppression and hypocritical fooling of the people of the Congo. But the will of the Congo people to win freedom and independence is unshakable. We firmly support the people of the Congo in their struggle for freedom and independence. We are resolutely opposed to the massacre of the people of the Congo by the Belgian colonial rulers. The people of the Congo do not stand unaided in their struggle. We are deeply convinced that the people of the Congo who persist in their struggle will win final victory.

Today, the whole of Africa is astir. For the imperialist and colonial rulers, from Cairo to Accra, from Tangier to the Cape of Good Hope, there are volcanoes everywhere. Some have already erupted. Others are threatening to erupt. The Algerian people are conducting a heroic and victorious armed struggle. Guinea has already declared its independence. Of the 220 million people of Africa, nearly half have attained their status of independence. The people in the colonies and dependencies which have not yet achieved independence, such as the Cameroons, Togo, Kenya, Mozambique, Uganda, Nigeria and Madagascar, are also engaged in struggle in various ways against imperialism. There is no doubt that the heroic struggle of the people of the Congo will greatly inspire all African people in their struggle and propel the further development of the national independence movement in Africa.

COMRADES, friends! The struggles of the peoples of Cuba and the Congo mark a major development in the present-day national revolutionary movement. The tide of the national revolutionary movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America is mounting higher and higher. Of course, the imperialists and colonialists will never of their own accord withdraw from the arena of history. At the moment they are still trying to put down the national revolutionary movements, employing deceit and sabotage against them, and they will certainly continue to do so. They are especially afraid of the support given by the mighty socialist camp to the national independence movements and of the solidarity of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples. They are therefore trying by every means to sow discord between the socialist countries and the countries striving to win or safeguard their national independence; they are also trying to undermine the solidarity among the countries striving to attain or preserve their national independence and to undermine the unity inside these countries. In striving for the complete victory of their national revolutions, the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America may run into many difficulties and twists and turns in their way forward. We are nevertheless deeply convinced that, with the support of the mighty socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union and of the countries and working people in the world that stand for justice, the awakened Asian, African and Latin American peoples will unite and persist in their struggles, overcome all obstacles in their way, smash

once and for all the oppression and conspiracies of the imperialists and achieve ultimate victory.

THE national revolutionary movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America have become an irresistible historical trend. The imperialist-colonial system is already disintegrating. For a hundred years or so, the imperialists used to boast that they are "advanced," "civilized," and that they represent "the direction of human progress." These are nothing but hoaxes, designed to pull the wool over people's eyes. Imperialism has existed and developed mainly by exploiting and plundering the people of its own country and the colonial peoples. But with the socialist camp growing from strength to strength and the rise of the national liberation movements, the imperialist system is shaken to its foundation. The myth about "Western civilization" has gone bankrupt. The broad mass of the people have come to understand that although the imperialists may have at one time bluffed and blustered, and are still doing so in not a few places, the piping good days of imperialism are over. The national liberation movement which is ranged against imperialism has the support of the mighty socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union and of the working class and all labouring people in the capitalist countries. All the obstruction and struggle put up by the imperialists can in no way save them from their final defeat. Imperialism is moribund and doomed. Socialism and the national revolutionary movements are new-born and progressive forces. The day to put an end to imperialist and colonial rule is not far off. The national revolutionary movements of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples will certainly win complete victory. The just struggle of the peoples of the world against imperialism will certainly triumph in the end.

Today, the U.S. imperialists are still occupying our territory Taiwan. The 650 million people of the Chinese People's Republic stand on the same front with all the peoples fighting for independence and freedom in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Their enemy is our enemy, and their struggle is our struggle. In our common struggle against imperialism, we shall always stand united. Victory will finally be ours.

Let us hail the new victories won in the struggle against colonialism!

Support the national and democratic revolutionary movement in Cuba!

Support the people of the Congo in their struggle for national independence!

Down with the imperialist-colonial system!

Oppose the U.S. imperialists' interference in Cuba's internal affairs!

Oppose the slaughter of the people of the Congo by the Belgian colonial authorities!

Belgian colonialists, get out of the Congo!

Imperialists, quit Latin America!

Imperialists, quit Africa!

Imperialists, quit Asia!

Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, unite!

Long live the victory of the national liberation movement!

Long live the great solidarity of the peoples of the world!

The Big Leap in Cement

by SU CHI-KUANG

Director of the Bureau of Cement Industry, Ministry of Building Industry

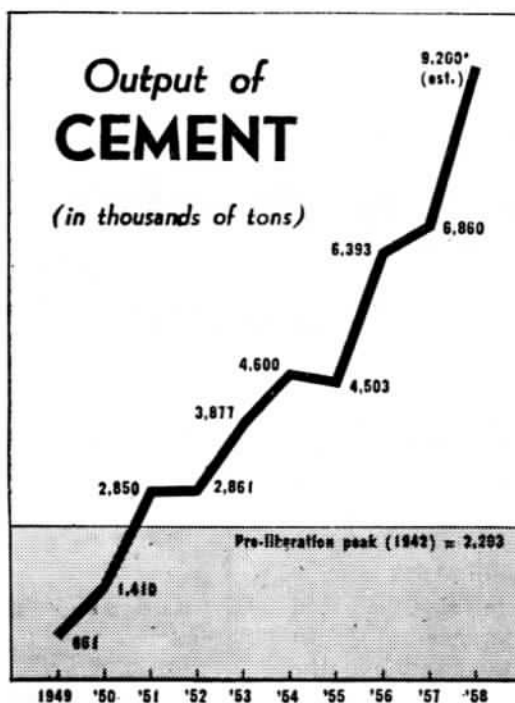
THE output of China's modern cement plants in 1958 is estimated to reach 9.2 million tons. This represents an increase of 34 per cent compared with 1957. In addition to the products included in the state plan of 1958, the output of the small and native-style kilns and factories is estimated at more than 2 million tons.

The national leap forward in 1958 boosted capital construction greatly. This, in turn, called for huge amounts of cement and other building materials. The cement industry met the demand by increasing both output and varieties. It now produces cements with a wide range of compression strength. Its high-grade products can endure more than 700 kilogrammes per square centimetre. The compression strength of cement manufactured by modern plants averaged over 400 kilogrammes per square centimetre. The industry is now able to produce 26 varieties to cater to the needs of general building projects, big hydro-electric power stations, the petroleum and chemical industries, etc. The list includes such products as oil-well cement, high-aluminium cement, acid resistant cement, sorrel cement and low-heat cement.

This is in marked contrast with the state of the industry in pre-liberation days. Though China started to manufacture cement as early as 1876, up to the time of liberation annual output never exceeded 2.3 million tons and only ordinary cement was made. The plants were mostly controlled by foreign imperialists and bureaucrat-capitalists. When the country was liberated in 1949, the output stood only at 661,000 tons. But this situation was soon changed. People's China scored a 4.3-fold increase in output by 1952 and on this basis increased production by another 139 per cent during the First Five-Year Plan (1953-1957).

Modern Plants

In 1958 and 1959, 14 modern cement plants with a combined annual production capacity of nearly 3 million tons have been or will be commissioned. More than 20



* The figure does not include more than 2 million tons of cement produced locally by indigenous methods

By Su Li

other plants are now under construction.

A mass technical movement to tap latent productivity has been unfolding in the modern cement plants and on the basis of rationalization proposals and experiments, an advanced production method has been worked out. It is known as the "three-big and one-quick" method — big wind, big fire, big amount of raw materials and quick revolution of the rotary kilns. By applying this method and other technical improvements, ten rotary kilns in the country doubled their output and three stabilized their output at the new level ever since. As this was done with few additions to existing equipment the significance of the increase goes far beyond the actual output.

Mass participation in technical innovation and discussion of the production target in the Harbin Cement Works made it possible to

raise the output target considerably. After several revisions, the target was raised 60 per cent higher than originally set early last year. Some people in the works seriously doubted whether the revised target could be reached without additional equipment. But their worries were soon proved groundless. Thanks to the "three-big and one-quick" method and other improved technical steps initiated by the workers, the plant's No. 1 Kiln had the honour of being the first in the country to double its output.

Native-Style Kilns

The simultaneous development of big and medium-sized modern plants and small, native-style factories is necessary to provide a firm foundation and open broad perspectives for the cement industry. Preliminary returns show that more than 41,000 native-style kilns were put into production in 13 provinces and municipalities.

The people are eager to set up cement kilns and out of their collective wisdom have created a number of native machines to replace physical labour or raise efficiency. When steel ball mills were not available they managed to use mills made of iron or other local crushing devices. More than 80,000 people have acquired skill in manufacturing cement and the production technique has ceased

to be a mystery mastered only by a few. In the old days cement was given the name of "foreign ash" in Chinese. Now the term has become meaningless when cement is being produced in nearly every part of the country.

The movement to manufacture cement by native methods has made rapid progress in some provinces. In Honan Province, most counties and even many townships have built cement kilns. Most of the counties in Hupeh Province have started to make cement of better compression strength. A growing number of building

organizations have also joined the ranks of cement producers. The No. 2 Building Company of Hopei Province, for example, plans to become self-sufficient in its cement supply.

An estimated increase of 2.3 million tons in 1958 is an unprecedented leap for the modern cement plants and the native-style kilns have also been built in great numbers. But the nation is demanding more. Since there will be ever greater demands in 1959, the modern plants will continue to raise their output and the native-style factories will also develop further.

Report from Changshih

Spotlight on a People's Commune

by CHAO YU-LI

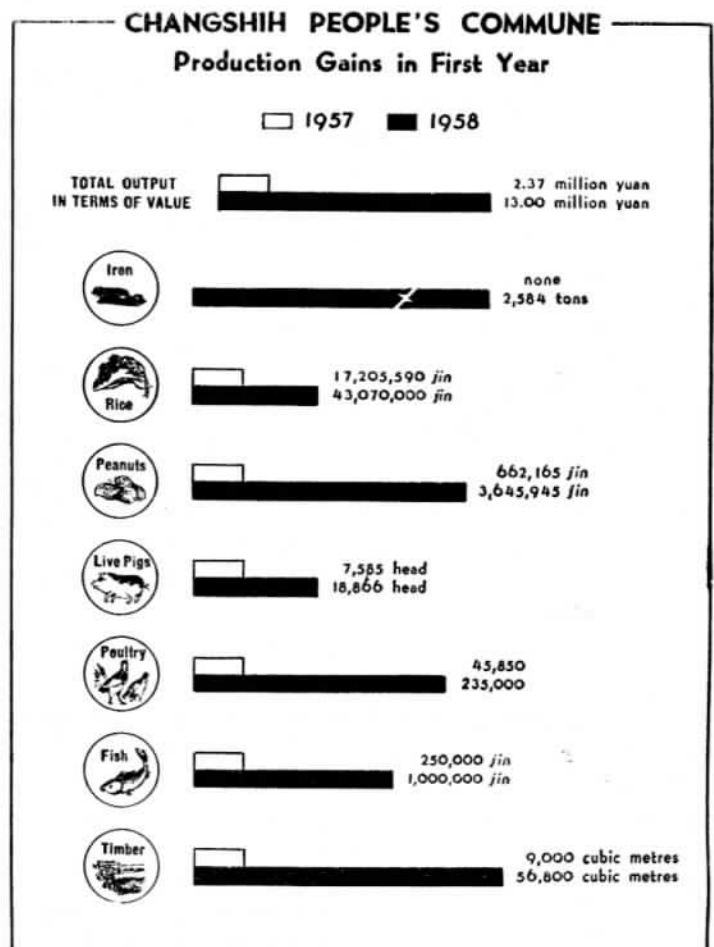
WHAT are the people's communes bringing to China's 500 million peasants in terms of production and welfare? The story of the Changshih People's Commune on the outskirts of Shaokuan in the northern part of Kwangtung Province in south China sheds some light on this question. With 4,625 households and 24,518 people, Changshih is an average commune in size. Formed in April last year following the merger of eight farm co-ops and a handicraft co-op, it was among the first communes to come into being. During its nine months of existence it has shown the changes that the people's communes are effecting.

In 1958, the year of its debut, Changshih People's Commune more than quadrupled its agricultural and industrial production which came to 13 million yuan in terms of value. Deducting the costs of production from this sum, it leaves a per capita net income of some 400 yuan. The members have decided to set aside a considerable portion of this increased income for investments to expand production rapidly in a short period of time. But already today the peasants of Changshih are living a better life than the former well-to-do middle peasants in the locality.

A Revolutionary Advance

On the basis of the tremendous increase in production, a distribution system that combines wages system and free supply of food has been introduced—a remarkable advance for the peasants. Both the department store and the tailors are doing more than brisk business. The members bought six times more consumer goods in 1958 than they did in 1957. Personal savings deposits in the commune's credit department have risen more than five times.

So far, 251 community dining-rooms and a score of nurseries and kindergartens have been set up freeing women from household drudgery. Old people who have no family to take care of them are now living comfortably



in the "homes of respect for the aged." Other new welfare features in the locality include free medical care for all the members. A hospital and other public buildings are now under construction.

Changshih, you may think, is especially well endowed by nature. But the contrary is true. The people here

say: "The mountains are high, the forests are dense; the water is cold and the land is poor." Although nearby Shaokuan has long been an important stop on the Peking-Canton Railway, the conditions of local communications were poor. "No one wishes to stay; the womenfolk try to marry outsiders and move away" the saying here went.

Intensive Farming

When the co-ops merged to form the people's commune, however, the pooled resources and manpower made it possible to initiate far more intensive farming. Per mu yield of late rice jumped from 219 jin in 1957 to 1,717 jin in 1958 and grain output for the entire year rose more than threefold.

With greater resources at its disposal, the commune branched out beyond grain production and developed forestry, animal husbandry, subsidiary occupations and fish breeding as well. Thanks to the simultaneous development of industry and agriculture, the commune has set up 122 factories and workshops which manufacture fertilizers, farm implements and building materials, process farm produce, engage in mining, iron smelting and boat making. The commune has also built a hydro-electric power plant and a lumber mill. Last year, the value of industrial production reached 2.1 million yuan—a 13-fold increase over 1957.

As a result of the development of its diversified economy, commodity production increased greatly and one-third of the total value output was marketed. The proceeds from the sales were far more than enough to cover the annual wage bill.

To meet the growing requirements of production, the commune built seven motor highways totalling 40 kilometres. Most of the administrative districts of the commune are now served by motor transport.

Flourishing Lumber Industry

How the people's commune utilizes manpower and other resources more effectively is best illustrated by the commune's flourishing lumber industry. On the territory of the commune, forests, limestone and other natural resources abound. The timber reserve is estimated at more than one million cubic metres. But the small farm co-ops in the mountain area in the past did not have the manpower to exploit the riches while the co-ops on the plain had more manpower than they could profitably employ. This contradiction was solved as soon as the co-ops merged to form the people's commune. With a labour force of 8,500 at its disposal, the commune organized a 700-man lumber camp. As the rivers were dredged and motor roads built, lumber could be shipped out in a continuous flow.

In the past, the ponds that extended over 10,000 mu, together with the rivers, belonged to different farm co-ops and could not be utilized in a planned and comprehensive way. With the formation of the people's commune, these became common property and were turned into fish-breeding ponds. Special teams were formed by the commune to take charge of agriculture, industry and the sidelines that ensured an overall advance of the diversified economy.

The various branches of undertaking in the commune are closely linked together and promote each other's rapid development. In the past, when funds were needed



Harvest home

Painting in Chinese ink and colour
by Chou Chang-ku

to develop agricultural production, the farm co-ops had to turn to the state for help in the form of loans. The formation of the people's commune reversed this situation. When agriculture needed funds last year, the lumber camp in one month's intensive labour raised 45,000 yuan. Later when the lumber camp lacked manpower to transport and sell the timber in order to buy equipment, the commune transferred 5,000 men from other fields of work and in a short time 30,000 yuan worth was transported and sold.

These are only the initial achievements, made when experience to run a commune at top efficiency were still lacking, when problems in management and work had to be coped with. But the vitality of the people's commune has proved itself brilliantly. With improvements in management and consolidation in general, the people's communes will, beyond a shadow of doubt, demonstrate even greater superiority in raising the income of its members and promoting their welfare.

THEATRE

The Battle of Chibi

The Battle of Chibi, a new and elaborate production of the traditional Peking opera, *Meeting of the Heroes*, has been the talk of the town since its January 12 premiere. Jointly produced by two of China's leading Peking opera companies, it has brought together a pride of Peking opera's finest actors in some of their favourite roles.

The magnificent costuming and excellent acting alone merit comment. There is added interest in the staging—the use of elaborate stage constructions, backdrops and lighting effects unusual in Peking opera—and of course in the revised script that introduces new scenes and recasts some traditional characters. The pro and con of all this has led to some lively discussions not yet ended. The basic structure of the famous play remains unchanged. That is a matter of historical fact. There were three main contenders for power in China, Tsao Tsao, who held the north, Sun Chuan who held the south and Liu Pei who claimed the legitimate succession of the Han dynasty. The battle of Chibi in the winter of 208 A.D. was a defeat for Tsao Tsao by his two rivals who formed an alliance against him. This led to the division of the country into the three kingdoms of Wei (Tsao Tsao), Shu (Liu Pei) and Wu (Sun Chuan). It took seventy-two years before the country was reunited under the Western Tsin dynasty. The battle has been widely celebrated in balladry, and the novelist Lo Kuan-chung of the Ming dynasty devoted to it eight of the hundred and twenty chapters of his epic novel *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*. His version of the battle, turned into the Peking opera *Meeting of the Heroes*, has for decades been one of the most popular plays on the Chinese stage.

In this latest production, the curtain rises on a great concourse of Tsao Tsao and his victorious generals and ministers on the north bank of the Yangtse River. Soldiers and generals in full panoply of war make a magnificent spectacle. Tsao Tsao has forced Liu Pei to retreat to Chianghsia, and now with his overwhelmingly superior force of eighty-three legions and flushed with victory he ignores the advice of his ministers, and determines to subdue Sun Chuan, entrenched south of the river. Sun Chuan, whose court we see next, is on tenterhooks, hesitating between resistance and surrender. His ministers, headed by Chang Chao, "thinking of themselves and their families," urge him to surrender; Lu Su, his adviser, and his commanders led by Admiral Chou Yu and General Huang Kai, "thinking of the country and the people," urge him to resist.

Lu Su goes to Chianghsia to arrange an alliance between Sun Chuan and Liu Pei. Liu Pei and his adviser, the wily Chuko Liang, eagerly agree and Lu Su invites Chuko Liang to visit Sun Chuan to concert measures against Tsao Tsao.

Meanwhile Tsao Tsao is busy training his forces for amphibious warfare. But his men, mostly northerners, are suffering from the climate; and many of them have fallen ill and got seasick to boot. Tsao Tsao, a landlubber, is tricked into executing his best admirals and ordering that his ships be fastened together by iron chains so that they will ride more steadily at anchor on the turbulent river.

This news is gleefully received by Sun Chuan's commander-in-chief Chou Yu and Chuko Liang. The decisive attack is prepared. To make victory doubly certain, Chou Yu's old general Huang Kai offers to go as a "deserter" to the other side, and set fire to Tsao Tsao's ships. But some means has to be found to make Tsao Tsao into believing that the desertion is real. Chou Yu pretends

to fly into a rage and has the old general Huang Kai cruelly beaten in front of Tsao Tsao's spies.

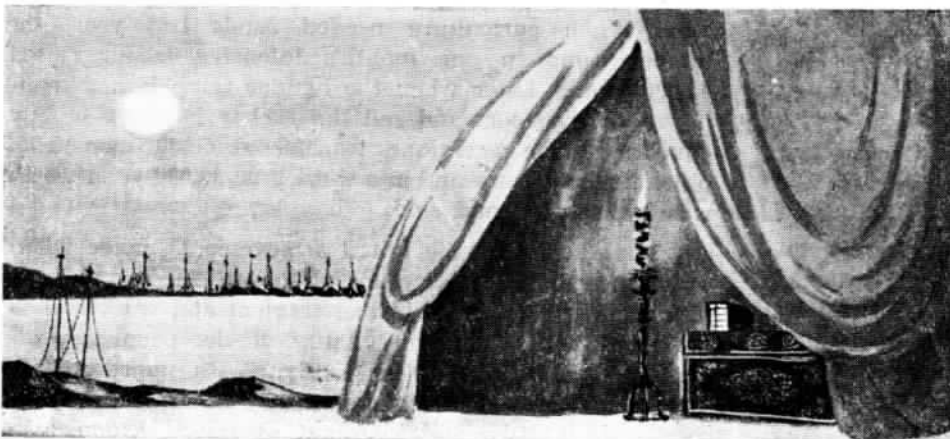
On the eve of battle, Chou Yu sees Huang Kai off in an extremely moving scene. Chuko Liang "borrows the east wind"; Huang Kai's mission is a complete success. Tsao Tsao's shackled ships are set aflame. Chou Yu throws in his forces and Tsao Tsao's eighty-three legions are routed.

The play, adapted by a group of five playwrights—Jen Kuei-lin, Li Lun, Ma Shao-po, Ah Chia and Weng Ou-hung on the basis of the original play and novel, has been cited as an example of successful application of the policy of "letting a hundred flowers blossom and weeding through the old to let the new emerge." The best elements of the old play have been preserved or improved upon in the new play, and two excellent scenes have been added. The first is the opening scene, "Contempt for Chiangnan," which sets the stage for the ensuing action. Tsao Tsao's mighty host in all their gorgeous array fills the stage. Tsao Tsao himself is the very embodiment of the pride, self-confidence and ambition that will lead him to disaster. In his overweening conceit he makes mistake after mistake; his own wiles are used by his enemies to trip him up. In the tremendous battle scene the whole stage is aflame with action and colour, as scores of actors wheel and somersault, thrust and dodge, leap and fall in a climax of noise and motion punctuated by the confrontation of the protagonists—the triumphant Chou Yu and the distraught, baffled Tsao Tsao.

The new twelfth scene, "Parting of the Heroes," is a compact, close-knit drama, charged with human interest, a little play by itself in which Chiu Sheng-jung as Huang Kai and Yeh Sheng-lan as Admiral Chou Yu give a perfectly modulated and exactly timed performance.

Two Problems

Modern Peking opera has been tackling two problems. One of them is how to use the traditional techniques of this ancient theatrical form to best advantage in portraying contemporary life. The Peking opera versions of *The White-Haired Girl* and *In a Snowy Forest* show some initial successes along these lines. (See *Peking Review*, Vol. I, No. 15, June 10, 1958.) The other is to preserve and carry forward this priceless heritage, to revise and improve the traditional plays. This is a time for bold innovations on the basis of our rich heritage to sustain the vitality of the art of Peking opera,



Decor for "The Parting of the Heroes,"
Scene XII of *The Battle of Chibi*

Design by Chung Ling
and Chao Ching-sheng

and maintain its freshness and popularity among the people.

Quite a few good traditional Peking operas have been adapted and improved upon in the past few years, but there was perhaps a natural hesitation to attempt to revise such popular operas as the *Meeting of the Heroes*, whose form and content are more or less well established and which, some suggested, are too good to need any improvement. This, as the present production shows, is simply not true. Unless the plays, no matter how good they are, are constantly improved upon both as regards content and artistic presentation, they are liable to lag behind the times and lose their former lustre. But that doesn't mean to say that new stage adaptations of such well established plays are not a demanding job requiring both boldness and the utmost care.

The new stage adaptation of the battle of Chibi has a more closely argued dramatic statement than the old version. It analyses why Tsao Tsao, despite his superior forces, suffers defeat. Tsao Tsao, usually so cunning, could have been expected to neutralize Sun Chuan, until he had utterly annihilated Liu Pei's forces. But, dizzy with repeated success, he grew too conceited to bother about

tactics and blindly trusted in his big battalions. Committing a strategic error, he threatened Sun Chuan and forced him into alliance with Liu Pei. The new libretto draws an accurate picture of the historical situation with a gain in dramatic tension. It was not unusual for various episodes of the *Meeting of the Heroes* to be performed separately. This undoubtedly contributed to the fact that in their stage forms some of the historical figures represented—Lu Su, Tsao Tsao, Chou Yu and others—have appeared in a somewhat distorted light. The new production makes an attempt to give more faithful portrayals. Tsao Tsao, for instance, used to appear as a man who could easily be fooled; nothing was further from the truth. Now we see him as he was, an outstanding statesman, military expert and poet led astray at the time of his greatest strength by his own weakness and the force of circumstances which others, no less astute than he, knew how to turn to their own advantage. Lu Su, too, used to be made to appear as a mere simpleton; this was not true. Here he is shown as a sincere man, with an engaging naivete but a far-sighted statesman who was the chief architect of the alliance between Sun Chuan and Liu Pei. We are also in-

troduced to a new character: Chang Chao, an elderly minister of high prestige under Sun Chuan. When Tsao Tsao threatens to invade Wu, Chang Chao leads the party of appeasement; resistance, he argues, not only courts disaster but will bring needless suffering to the people. Chang Chao becomes a highly effective foil to the old general Huang Kai who heads the party of resistance.

These innovations in characterization and structure and in stage settings have resulted in a vital new production.

Ma Lien-liang acts Chuko Liang, Li Shao-chun is Lu Su, Tan Fu-ying is Liu Pei, and Yuan Shih-hai is Tsao Tsao, Li Ho-tseng is Chang Chao, Sun Sheng-wu is Chiang Kan and Ching Jung-ching is Sun Chuan—the cast leaves little to be desired by even the most demanding Peking opera fan.

But in its present form, *The Battle of Chibi* takes four and a half hours. This seems overly long, even for a good play. It should be amenable to some judicious cutting. But the present performances are more or less experimental. Discussions will be held, and further improvements will be made to bring this Peking opera to final perfection.

—WU PIN



The Parting of the Heroes

(Scene XII of *The Battle of Chibi*)

(Huang Kai, pretending to be a deserter, is to lead a squadron of fireships right into the midst of Tsao Tsao's fleet. Admiral Chou Yu comes to see him off on this hazardous expedition.—Ed.)

(In front of Huang Kai's tent by the Yangtse River. A boat is moored by the shore; there is a dim light in the tent. A bright moon is shining; all is quiet; the drums and bugles are stilled. Carrying a lantern and a tray with a flagon of wine and cups, an orderly enters, followed by Admiral Chou Yu in plain clothes.)

CHOU YU (sings): The tumbling waves of the great river roll to the east. I can find no words to describe what I feel in my heart. (To orderly.) Tell the Old General quietly that I've come.

ORDERLY: Yes. (In a low voice.) Old General, Old General, the Admiral has come!

HUANG KAI (from inside the tent): Ah! (Appears.) The bright moon shines on our land; I wait for the wind to ride the waves. It was more than I could expect, Admiral, to see you now. (He looks round and, seeing no one, approaches Chou Yu, who takes his hand.) Your heroic spirit soars up to rival the rainbow.

CHOU YU: Take good care of yourself, you who have gone through a hundred battles. (Supports Huang Kai who is suffering from the beating he received.)

With this cup of wine, I give you a farewell toast. (Holds up a cup of wine.) Attack with fire as you ride with the wind, like a star darting across the firmament!

HUANG KAI: Torrential floods must be held in check. (Drinks the wine.) I undertake this dangerous mission with a calm heart. I'll cut through the thousand intervening waves, and capture the dragon single-handed!

CHOU YU: Bravo! Capture the dragon with your single hand! (Whispers.) Old General, are all the fireships ready?

HUANG KAI: Yes, they are all ready.

CHOU YU: Has every daredevil been assigned his duties?

HUANG KAI: Yes.

CHOU YU: Has your letter of surrender aroused any suspicion?

HUANG KAI: None at all.

CHOU YU: Have no worries about your family; I'll take special care of them.

HUANG KAI: Thank you, Admiral.

CHOU YU: But you, General. . .

HUANG KAI: No matter! With an easy heart I bid my country farewell; with a smiling face I'll plunge into a thicket of swords. The tumbling waves of the Long River will be tinted red with a hero's blood.

CHOU YU: Tinted with a hero's blood!

HUANG KAI (in a low voice): Admiral! Can I count on the east wind?

CHOU YU: I think so.

HUANG KAI: Are all our men ready for action?

CHOU YU: They are all waiting for my orders. Victory is in my hand! We are only waiting for you to put the finishing touch with fire!

HUANG KAI: Put the finishing touch with fire!

CHOU YU: Put the finishing touch with fire!

HUANG KAI: Ah?



Admiral Chou Yu says farewell to the old general, Huang Kai

Sketch by Fang Cheng

CHOU YU: Ah!

CHOU YU
HUANG KAI } (together): Ha, ha, ha!

CHOU YU: Old General!

HUANG KAI: I'm not old!

CHOU YU: Not old?

HUANG KAI: No, not old!

CHOU YU (holding up Huang Kai's long white beard): Nay, General, you are old! (Tears well up in his eyes.)

HUANG KAI (holding up his own beard): Look, Admiral! Though I am old, my will is strong; I'll prove myself worthy of this important mission! (Kneels.)

CHOU YU (kneels): Old General! (Sings.) Your lofty, upright spirit soars to the heavens, and frightens awake the cold, twinkling stars! Your lofty spirit adds sparkle to the roaring billows and surging waves, lends colour to the howling winds and rolling clouds. (They raise each other up.) Take good care, you who have gone through a hundred battles. Take good care, when our first boat scuds before the east wind. The great river is waiting for you to bring it burning charcoal; the Red Cliff (Chibi) is waiting for you to tinge it flaming red. Don't tell me that the Great Wall is somewhere north of the river; the Great Wall is on your shoulders, Old General! Firm as the pine and the cypress, you'll withstand the assault of the cold wind. May you go happily and return happily.

HUANG KAI: Admiral! (Sings.) My determination mounts to the clouds to match the rainbow; your parting words give me fresh strength. For sixty years I've braved the dust and wind, but only now do I have a chance to prove my worth. No need to recall the hundred battles I've fought for our cause, or the fights I've had on horseback in the midst of the enemy troops. How can a hero die in bed and be buried in a shroud? I'll be loyal to my country to the last; let my dead body be brought back, wrapped in the hide of a horse! For me the Long River is but a length of silk to be folded or unfolded at will; I cross it as I would a plain. When the east wind rises, I'll lead my fleet against the enemy ships. What a strange fate that I, a grey-beard, should be in the van? The flaming fires will rouse the hero's courage; I vow I'll reduce those eighty-three legions to ashes! With wind and thunder at my command, a hundred legions is a trifle.

CHOU YU: Bravo! (Sings.) You are a hero who can transform heaven and earth; why should I have misgivings when it is you who undertake this hazardous mission! Drink this cup of wine to reinforce your courage. (Gives the cup of wine to Huang Kai.)

HUANG KAI (takes the cup, and sings): I make this cup of wine a libation to the east wind. . . .

CHOU YU } (sing together): Which
HUANG KAI } will sweep the clouds from
the sky!

CHOU YU: Keep well!

HUANG KAI: Thank you, Admiral.

(CURTAIN)

SIDELIGHTS

Odyssey of Five Apples. Five apples, neatly wrapped, stand in the display room of a people's commune in coastal Fukien Province. In appearance there is nothing out of the ordinary about these apples, but there is a story behind them.

When Korean Premier Kim Il Sung visited China recently, there were carloads of apples among the many gifts he presented. These were later distributed among the various government departments. When the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications received a case, various suggestions were made. Finally it was decided that the apples should be sent to their colleagues doing voluntary labour at the Shihchingshan Iron and Steel Works near Peking. There the recipients thought it should be presented to the workers of the plant instead. The workers in turn sent it to the Fukien front. They thought the soldiers there deserved this honour. After careful consideration, G.H.Q. on the Fukien front decided to award the apples to servicemen who distinguished themselves in action. Thus on New Year's Eve five apples arrived at an air force unit. The airmen, after discussion, decided that the honour should be reserved for the Communist Party and the people, and sent these apples to the workers and peasants in the locality. The workers and peasants sent them back to the airmen. Finally, the airmen sent them to the people's commune which had got the best yields in Fukien in 1958. And this is why five apples, looking a bit dried up



Apples

Painting in Chinese ink and colour by Chi Pai-shih

but shining nevertheless—were put on display as a symbol of friendship and comradeship between Korea and China.

Return of the Hopu Pearls. Pearl divers in Hopu, Kwangtung Province, recently landed an oyster which yielded 1,716 pearls. No bigger than the palm of one's hand, the oyster was estimated to be three years old. Pearl-fishing on this famous south China waterfront goes back 1,700 years. *The History of the Western Han Dynasty* (206 B.C.—24 A.D.) records that a corrupt Hopu magistrate made life so unbearable for the population that even the pearl-oysters got indignant. They upped and left Hopu in a body. Later an upright man occupied the magistracy and the oysters came back. Since then, the "return of the Hopu pearls" has become an idiom in Chinese literature, synonymous with "the return of valuable things to their rightful owners." Hopu used to hold a proud place in the world's pearl market, but Kuomintang misrule and Japanese occupation all but killed its pearl production. After liberation, the government re-equipped the fisheries, set up experiments in pearl culture, and put the industry back on its feet. A new era of the "return of the Hopu pearls" has opened.

New Reservoir in Inner Mongolia. A reservoir is being built near Ulanhot in the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, which is 13 times bigger than the famous Ming Tombs Reservoir on the outskirts of Peking. It is one of the major projects to harness the wild Taoerh River, which originates in the Greater Khingan Mountains and flows through Inner Mongolia and Kirin Province. When completed in about two years, it will protect 80,000 hectares of rich land and 120,000 hectares of grasslands from inundation and bring water to another 24,000 hectares of farmland.

"My Family." Peking Film Studios has decided to make a film of the best-seller, *My Family*. In this slim book of only a hundred pages or so the author, Tao Cheng, tells a moving story of the underground activities of the Chinese revolution before liberation and the part her family played in those difficult days. (See *Peking Review*, No. 42, Dec. 16, 1958, p. 18.) The book was acclaimed as soon as it appeared. In recent weeks lectures, reports and discussions have been held in schools and public organizations about Tao Cheng's story of the revolution. Radio has adapted it into a play and a stage production is also being prepared. The Foreign Languages Press is bringing out an English translation, and a Russian translation will appear in *Druzhsba*, the Russian-language weekly published in Peking.

CHINESE PRESS OPINION

Peace Treaty with Germany

"The Peace Treaty with Germany Must Be Signed" is the title of an editorial in *Renmin Ribao* (Jan. 23). Citing the statement (see p. 7) issued by the Chinese Government on January 21 in support of the Soviet proposal on the German question and the Soviet draft peace treaty with Germany, the paper points out that the sincerity of the Soviet Union in seeking a peaceful settlement of the German question and the unification of that country is fully demonstrated by the consistency of its acts.

The German Democratic Republic too has made great contributions towards a peaceful settlement of the German question, the editorial states. In this regard, the G.D.R. proposal of July 27, 1957, for a confederation of the two Germanys is of special significance, a confederation being the only realistic step towards unification in the present situation in which two Germanys exist side by side.

But the U.S. Government has insisted on a so-called "all-German free election" before the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany, before the withdrawal of foreign troops, and before the unification of Germany on peaceful and democratic lines. This is a clear indication that the United States has not the least intention of solving the German question peacefully. Its only purpose is to annex the G.D.R. to West Germany, which is, of course, a vain hope.

One of the major obstacles that stands in the way of German unification is the participation of West Germany in the NATO bloc, directed against the socialist camp including the G.D.R., *Renmin Ribao* continues. Therefore, to reunite Germany it is necessary to cancel West Germany's commitments to the NATO bloc. The U.S., however, goes so far as to contend that Germany even after unification must be a member of NATO, which is, of course, unacceptable to the socialist countries headed by the Soviet Union.

The reason why the U.S. persists in confusing the two separate and distinct questions of European security and of the peaceful unification of Germany, the paper notes, is that it aims to complicate and prevent the peaceful settlement of the German question. This is proved by the many facts that show that the U.S. has never been really concerned with European security, with regard to which it has never made any feasible proposals of its own but instead rejected all the

Soviet proposals — such as the conclusion of a non-aggression pact between the NATO bloc and the member states of the Warsaw Treaty organization and the withdrawal of foreign troops from European soil. It has also rejected the Polish proposal for an atom-free zone in central Europe, the "Rapacki plan," which has the support of the Soviet Union.

The stubborn and inflexible policy of the United States and its lackeys on the German question has aroused worldwide opposition. Anxious voices have been raised against it even inside the imperialist camp. The demand for a change in U.S. policy is becoming louder and more insistent. But the U.S. Government has once again resorted to its usual tricks, *Renmin Ribao* points out. This proves that it has no intention of abandoning its reactionary policy on this question. It also shows that it is now finding difficulty in inventing new excuses.

Tailing closely behind the Western powers on the German question, the West German Government under Adenauer has shown itself to be the keenest advocate of the continued occupation of Germany by foreign troops, the editorial declares. The part it is playing is so scandalous that it has aroused the strong discontent of people of all strata inside West Germany itself.

Murder in South Viet-nam

"The Chinese people strongly protest against this inhuman and monstrous crime perpetrated by the south Viet-nam authorities," states *Renmin Ribao* editorially on January 21 regarding the poisoning of more than a thousand political prisoners in the Phu Loi concentration camp in south Viet-nam.

This massacre of political prisoners by the south Viet-nam authorities is yet another grave violation of article 14 (c) of the Geneva agreement on the cessation of hostilities in Viet-nam and paragraph 9 of the final declaration of the Geneva conference on Indo-China in 1954, which bar reprisal and discrimination against former members of the resistance movement, their relatives and organizations. This barbarous act will be strongly condemned by all peace-loving and just-minded people the world over, it declares.

The paper points out that the massacre is one of the evil results of the brutal interference by the United States in south Viet-nam. In the last few years, the U.S. has put south Viet-nam under

the "protection" of the SEATO bloc, built military bases there, shipped military supplies into that area and illegally sent in the "U.S. military advisory group." These activities not only violated the obligations the U.S. undertook as a participant of the Geneva conference, but have also emboldened the south Viet-nam authorities to trample on the Geneva agreement to the extent that they have committed this monstrous crime. A number of south Viet-nam agents operating the Phu Loi concentration camp were specially trained in the U.S. This further shows the shameful part played by the U.S. in this massacre.

The paper notes that General Vo Nguyen Giap, Commander-in-Chief of the Viet-nam People's Army, has sent a message to the International Commission demanding prompt investigation into this crime and relief for the remaining prisoners in the concentration camp. This is the just demand of the Viet-namese people and all peace-loving people of the world. And the Chinese people fully support this demand, the editorial concludes.

Viet-nam-Laos Border Issue

Unfounded border claims raised by the Laotian Government are the cause of the current tension between the Viet-nam Democratic Republic and Laos, declares *Renmin Ribao's* commentator (Jan. 21).

He writes: "China is neighbour to both Viet-nam and Laos. We are naturally concerned at the current state of affairs. We sincerely hope that the Government of the Kingdom of Laos will put friendly relations among the Indo-China peoples and peace in Indo-China first and settle this border dispute by peaceful negotiations with the Government of the Viet-nam Democratic Republic according to the principles of peaceful coexistence adopted by the Asian-African Conference."

The commentator recalls recent intrusions into the territory and air space of the Viet-nam Democratic Republic by Laotian ground and air forces. The Government of the Viet-nam Democratic Republic has repeatedly notified the Laotian Government of these incidents and asked it to take action to prevent their recurrence. But so far there has been no improvement in the situation.

He points out that "the border issue between Viet-nam and Laos is not too complicated in itself. It is quite possible for this issue to be settled by peaceful negotiation on the basis of respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

"What is more," he continues, "there exists a factor of special importance

favouring a peaceful solution of the border dispute. That is, in the course of these events, the Viet-nam Democratic Republic has all along showed a spirit of friendly negotiation and striven for a peaceful solution to the questions at issue on the basis of equality and mutual respect."

The commentator notes that the Royal Laotian Government has been cold to or even unreasonably rejected the fair proposals made by the Viet-nam Democratic Republic while some extreme pro-American elements in Laos have distorted the truth of the incidents in an attempt to create tension between the two countries. Despite all this, the Viet-nam Democratic Republic has patiently continued to put forward its own proposals in the hope of preserving good-neighbour relations between the two countries and solving this dispute in a peaceful way. The Viet-nam Democratic Republic's stand is conducive to the easing of tension in this area. The Chinese people express their full support for it.

The commentator regrets that "the Government of the Kingdom of Laos has so far taken no responsive action, though it has verbally expressed the wish that the current issue should not endanger good-neighbour relations between the two states. One is particularly disturbed to note that the extreme pro-American elements in Laos have been disregarding the obligations which the Kingdom of Laos accepted under the Geneva agreement and publicly declared that their country was within the SEATO 'defence' area and might solicit, 'whenever necessary,' intervention by this aggressive organization."

"The connection between this issue and the machinations of U.S. imperialism is obvious," the commentator declares. "The U.S. propaganda machine is making a hullabaloo about the 'menace' posed by this issue to stability in Southeast Asia and is calling vociferously for action to be taken by the aggressive SEATO bloc." The commentator emphasizes that the colonialists, and the U.S. imperialists in particular, are still attempting to engineer conflicts among the countries of the Asian-African region so as to create pretexts for intervention.

Stop This Slave Trade!

On January 8 this year the Syngman Rhee clique adopted what it calls an "Outline Programme for Overseas Emigration" and followed this up with a plan of measures which simply amount to slave trading south Koreans to foreign countries mainly in Central and South America. Over 1,200 Korean orphans are going to be shipped to U.S. farm-owners.

New U.S. Auto Models



The Tiger Super-duper

It's looks that count!
This is a prestige car especially designed for road hogs.
Guaranteed to frighten any chicken off the road.



The Prosperity Convertible

No built-in controls.
Automatic boom-bust desynchronized action.
Large alarm bell makes it instantly convertible into an ambulance.



The Dulles Special

Gas driven. Unique black headlights and opaque wind screen!
Just the thing if you don't want to know where you're going on the brink. Unrepeatable!



The Nixon De Luxe

Armoured. Roomy boot for gifts.
Ideal for foreign travel.
Security guaranteed.



The SRRRD Trailer

(Short Range Rapid Recovery Device)
Suitable for rocket launching sites.
End your worries about where your rockets fall!

Renmin Ribao's Commentator (January 23) notes that on January 22, the Government of the Korean Democratic People's Republic issued a statement condemning Syngman Rhee for this monstrous crime and calling on him to send those he proposed to sell to be cared for in the northern part of Korea. The statement also demanded that those people taken from north Korea during the Korean war should be sent back to the Korean Democratic People's Republic. "We fully support this statement and this just demand," Commentator declares.

South Korea has been turned into a living hell under the rule of U.S. imperialism and Syngman Rhee, Commentator points out. Now this trade deal again shows the U.S. pirates and Syngman Rhee clique in their true colours.

The Government of the Korean Democratic People's Republic is always concerned with the pitiable situation of the people of south Korea and has more than

once extended its helping hand, Commentator notes. The Syngman Rhee clique, however, has not only rejected the help offered to the south Korean people but now wants to treat them as a commodity to be sold to foreigners. It has again revealed itself as the enemy of the whole Korean people and of human civilization. This challenge to human dignity must be condemned by all progressive mankind, declares Commentator.

"These evils are rooted in the occupation of south Korea by the U.S. imperialists, an occupation which has prevented an early realization of the unification of Korea and brought untold calamities to the people in south Korea," Commentator points out. "All peace-loving and fair-minded people the world over will echo the Korean people's cry: Stop the bloody hands of the slave traders! The American troops and troops of its satellite countries must withdraw from south Korea!"

CHINA AND THE WORLD

For a Joint Scientific Advance

The Sino-Soviet Committee for Scientific and Technical Co-operation held its 8th session in Peking (January 9-17). The extremely rich programme mapped out for this year reflects the rapid scientific and economic developments now going on in the two countries.

The communique issued after the session indicates that in the field of mutual supply of technical data, the range of co-operation is very broad. China has long benefited from Soviet help in this field. This year the Soviet Union will continue to supply free of charge a vast amount of blueprints and technical data to help Chinese construction. These include blueprints for the production of metallurgical, mining, ore dressing, drilling, geophysical, chemical and other machines, and metal working lathes; technical designs for plants to extract cobalt and nickel from converter slags, and workshops for the purification of hydrogen sulphide; designs for gas mains and coal-dressing plants, petroleum processing equipment, asbestos-dressing plants and spinning and weaving workshops for glass-fibre plants; technology for the production of a series of important chemical products, samples of biotic preparations and serums; and scientific reports and writings on various other questions.

As a result of its rapid advance in science and technology China on its part is now able to pass on some experience to the Soviet Union too. She will provide free of charge to the Soviet Union technical designs for river freight and passenger ships and ocean-going, dry cargo vessels; blueprints for overhead cable conveyers and irrigation pumps and coal tunnelling equipment; technical data on dressing machines for non-ferrous, precious or rare metal ores, heat resistant cement slabs for coke ovens; technological data on the extraction of certain rare metals; research reports on dressing ferrous and non-ferrous metal ores; designs and research reports on agricultural machinery; information on pharmaceutical production, etc.

Exchange of experts to study each others' advanced experience at first hand is another very important form of

co-operation that will be further developed. In the coming year, Soviet institutions will receive and acquaint Chinese experts with the production of galvanized iron sheets, chromium and alloys, acid resistant enamelled equipment, glass fibre, light-weight bricks; scientific research and experiments on electro-coal and air separation apparatus; technology for the production and design of boiler, turbine and nickel plants, design and construction of large-size reinforced concrete bridges, extraction and dressing of asbestos and mica; and the running of television and broadcasting stations.

China too will receive Soviet experts to study the production of calcium carbide and the design and manufacture of equipment for hydraulic mechanized coal mining; methods and experiments in producing tyres without canvas lining and making latex tyres; methods of using meat processing by-products to make medical drugs; techniques for tapping resin from coniferous trees; anti-corrosion measures for ships; and scientific research on water plants.

There will be more direct contacts and co-operation on a larger scale than in 1958 between the research and designing institutes of the two countries.

Rich Cultural Exchange Programme

China is also promoting closer co-operation with other fraternal countries. In January alone, new agreements for cultural exchange were concluded with three socialist countries.

With Viet-nam: A five-year cultural co-operation agreement and a 1959 executive plan arranges for the exchange of delegations in the cultural, educational, scientific, health, athletic, journalistic and broadcasting fields. Their activities will include lectures, performances and inspection tours. There will be exchanges of scientific data, plays, music and films and experience in cultural work in general.

With Czechoslovakia: A 1959 executive plan for cultural co-operation will give Chinese audiences this year the pleasure of hearing a Czechoslovak symphony orchestra and seeing an exhibition of the puppet theatre art for which Czechoslovakia is famous.

China will reciprocate this year by sending a Szechuan opera troupe to tour Czechoslovakia. Chinese musicians will participate in the Prague Musical Festival in May. Exhibitions of pictures by young Chinese artists and an exhibition of China's achievements in socialist construction will also be sent to Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovak writers and film workers will tour China while Chinese stage, radio and television workers will visit Czechoslovakia.

With Hungary: A 1959 executive plan arranges for a visit to China by a Hungarian cultural delegation and a ballet group. A Cantonese musical group and a journalists' delegation will visit Hungary.

The two countries will exchange exhibitions—a photo exhibition on China's achievements on the tenth anniversary of the Chinese People's Republic and an exhibition of Hungarian revolutionary art to mark the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the Hungarian Soviet Republic.

Exchanges and co-operation in education, the fine arts, music, journalism, films, broadcasting and sports is also provided for.

Welcome to General Cardenas

Peking has given a hearty welcome to General Lazaro Cardenas, former Mexican President and Vice-President of the World Peace Council who is now on a visit to China. On January 20, the day of his arrival, leading papers carried photos and a biographical sketch of this outstanding Mexican champion of the cause of peace. *Renmin Ribao* published an article devoted to the struggle of the Mexican people to win and preserve their national independence.

On January 21, General Cardenas was received by Chairman Mao Tse-tung, and dined with Premier Chou En-lai later. Many leading personalities of the capital attended a banquet in his honour given by Kuo Mo-jo, Chairman of the China Peace Committee.

At a Peking rally sponsored by the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference on January 22, its Vice-Chairman, Peng Chen, paid tribute to General Cardenas for his contribution to the cause of Mexico's national independence and world peace. Peng Chen recalled the long history of friendship and cultural and economic relations between China and Mexico and expressed the confidence that General Cardenas' visit would serve to increase mutual understanding and those friendly relations between the two countries.

General Cardenas, in reply, dwelt on the mutual sympathy which binds the peoples of the two countries together. "Our two peoples," he pointed out, "started their great struggles against the internal and external forces which retard national progress almost at the same time." He recalled that in 1911 Francisco Madero and Sun Yat-sen

simultaneously achieved victory on the first stage of the people's democratic revolution.

Expressing the conviction that all international disputes should be settled by peaceful means and not war, General Cardenas said: "The people of Latin America and the American people as a whole do not want war. The same is true of the European peoples. We can see clearly too that the Chinese people,

and the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries which we have visited, are opposed to war." In conclusion he declared that China today is carrying out its greatest historical mission.

The Mexican leader was given a standing ovation at the end of the meeting.

India-China Friendship

The National Executive Committee of the India-China Friendship Association

met recently in Vijayavada, Andhra State. It decided that a quarterly journal will start publication in June to mark the fifth anniversary of the declaration of Panch Shila—the five principles of peaceful coexistence—between China and India. Countrywide exhibitions and seminars on latest developments in China will also be arranged to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Chinese People's Republic in October.

WHAT'S ON IN PEKING

— Highlights of Current Entertainment, Exhibitions, etc. —

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

PEKING OPERA

▲ **FOUR SCHOLARS** Four scholars who pledge themselves to serve the people as they enter the civil service are involved in a murder case. Three of them fail to keep their promise, but one keeps his word and brings the murderers to justice.

Jan. 28, 7:00 p.m. *Guang He Theatre*

▲ **THE RIVERSIDE PAVILION** A play written by the famous Yuan dynasty playwright Kuan Han-ching, about a beautiful woman who outwits the schemes of the powerful Lord Yang to get rid of her husband and possess her.

Jan. 30, 7:00 p.m. *Guang He Theatre*

▲ **THE RETURN OF THE PHOENIX** A comedy of errors. A young man wins a bride despite the schemes of a wicked stepmother.

Jan. 31, 7:00 p.m. *Ji Xiang Theatre*

(The above three operas are produced by the Peking Opera Company of Peking.)

HUNAN OPERA

▲ **LADY WANG CHAO-CHUN** An imperial concubine of a weak-kneed Han emperor is presented to the king of the invading Huns in an attempt to appease him. A patriot, she prefers death to dishonour.

▲ **DRAWING LOTS OF LIFE AND DEATH** A general orders a magistrate to condemn a girl to death because his son is accidentally killed while pestering her with his attentions. A just magistrate, once saved by the girl's father, determines to save her. His daughter and god-daughter offer to die in her place. They draw lots to decide who will make the sacrifice. The timely arrival of an honest governor saves the situation.

(The above two operas are produced by the visiting Hunan Opera Troupe; watch for dates and place.)

PINGJU OPERA

▲ **BITTER FLOWERS** A play describing how the Shantung peasants rose against the bitter oppression they suffered under traitors and landlords at the start of the Anti-Japanese War. Produced by the China Pingju Opera Theatre.

Jan. 27-31, 7:00 p.m. *Da Zhong Theatre*

▲ **GREEN JADE GARDEN** Adapted from a Kunqu opera by a famous Ching dynasty playwright. Duke Ning of the Ming dynasty wishes to build a pleasure garden named Green Jade. He victimizes a poor scholar because he refuses to surrender his homestead to him. Fate overtakes the villain. Produced by the China Pingju Opera Theatre.

Feb. 1 & 2, 7:00 p.m. *Da Zhong Theatre*

MODERN OPERA

▲ **CHAO YANG KOU VILLAGE** A new opera about how the outlook of intellectuals changes as a result of their working together with the peasants in the countryside. Produced by the Central Experimental Opera Theatre.

Feb. 1 & 2, 7:00 p.m. *Tianqiao Theatre*

CONCERT

▲ Modern Chinese and Western music by the Central Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra.

Jan. 31, 7:00 p.m., Feb. 1, 10:00 a.m. *Peking Theatre*

THEATRE

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

Jan. 27 & 28, 7:00 p.m. *China Youth Art Theatre*

▲ **THE EGRET** Laid in Amoy on the eve of liberation, this play by Pal Jen tells the true story of a young girl named Liu Hsifen. Educated by the Communist Party, she became an underground revolutionary, faithful to the revolutionary cause to the end. She was killed by the enemy. After her death the people came to know her as "The Egret"—symbol of foresight. Produced by the China Youth Art Theatre.

Jan. 29 & 30, 7:00 p.m. *China Youth Art Theatre*

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

Feb. 1 & 2, 7:00 p.m. *China Youth Art Theatre*

▲ **MY FAMILY**—adapted from the autobiography of Tao Cheng, a mother of a revolutionary family. Her husband and sons laid down their lives for the people; she too has devoted her life to the revolution. Produced by the Experimental Theatre of Peking.

(Watch for date and place)

FILMS

▲ **THE NEW RECRUIT** How a raw peasant recruit of the People's Liberation Army becomes a brave and good soldier. Produced by the Changchun Film Studio.

Jan. 29-Feb. 2, *Zhongyang, Da Hua, Jiao Dao Kou, Guang An Men, Peking Workers' Club, Ertong*

▲ **TWO TIMES TWO SOMETIMES MAKES FIVE** A Hungarian film dubbed in Chinese. A proud aviator meets a woman professor of an aeronautical institute who helps him set up a speed record in a glider and...

Jan. 29-Feb. 2, *Peking Exhibition Centre Cinema, Xin Jie Kou*

▲ **LIZZY** A G.D.R. film dubbed in Chinese. When Lizzy, young wife of a

Nazi army officer, learns that her own brother and a friend have been killed by the fascists, she leaves her family to seek for freedom.

Jan. 31-Feb. 2, *Shoudu Theatre, Peking Theatre, Dong Dan Workers' Club*

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

Jan. 31-Feb. 2, *Xin Zhong Guo, Guang He Theatre*

▲ **1918** A film version of Part II of Alexei Tolstoy's trilogy *Ordeal*. A vivid picture of the staunchness of the proletariat in the face of hunger and cold, and enemies, both within and without, and the varied reactions of the intellectuals as the revolution unfolds. A Soviet widescreen production in colour with Chinese sub-titles.

Feb. 1 & 2, *Shoudu Cinema*

EXHIBITIONS

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

▲ **NATIONAL PHOTO EXHIBITION** A graphic display of the nation's big leap forward in 1958. Open daily 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

At the *Gallery of the Artists' Union*

▲ **NATIONAL HEALTH EXHIBITION** Open daily (except Mon.) 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

At the *Working People's Palace of Culture and Zhongshan Park*

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

SPORTS

▲ **ICE-HOCKEY** matches between Peking teams.

Jan. 27-Feb. 1, *Shi Cha Hai Stadium*

SKATING

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

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

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

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

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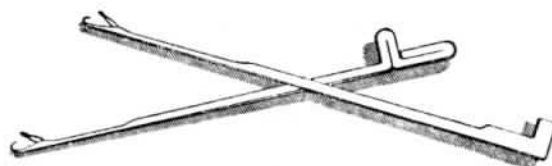


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