

# PEKING REVIEW

13

March 30, 1973

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**Chairman Mao Meets President  
Ahidjo of Cameroon**

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**The Cambodian People  
Will Win**

*"Renmin Ribao" editorial*

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**A Visit to the Tungting People's  
Commune**

— The first of a series of articles introducing  
a people's commune in Kiangsu

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北京周报

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## Chairman Mao Meets President Ahidjo

**T**HE Chinese people's great leader Chairman Mao Tsetung met with El Hadj Ahmadou Ahidjo, President of the United Republic of Cameroon, in his study at Chungnanhai in Peking on the afternoon of March 26. They had a sincere and friendly conversation.

Greeting President Ahidjo, Chairman Mao extended a warm welcome to him on his official visit to China. President Ahidjo said: I am glad to have the privilege of meeting Your Excellency Chairman Mao Tsetung and I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to convey to you the respect and friendship of the Cameroon people.

Present on the occasion were Premier Chou En-lai and staff members Chi Tsung-hua, Lo Hsu and Tang Wen-sheng.



## Cameroonian President Visits China

The March 25 *Renmin Ribao* ran a front-page editorial welcoming El Hadj Ahmadou Ahidjo, President of the United Republic of Cameroon, who had come on an official visit to China. One of the paragraphs greeting the arrival of the distinguished guest from the Gulf of Guinea reads: "President Ahidjo has come from afar to visit our country, bringing to us again the profound feelings of the people of Cameroon. We are convinced that the current visit of the distinguished Cameroonian guest will not only further strengthen the friendly relations and co-operation between China and Cameroon on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, but will be conducive to the development of the Afro-Asian peoples' cause of unity against imperialism. We wish President Ahidjo complete success on his visit."

The Cameroonian President is the second African head of state to make an official visit to China this year. He has come at a time when the African countries are winning continuous victories in their struggle to consolidate national independence and safeguard state sovereignty and oppose foreign aggression, control, subversion and intervention.

A Sunday, March 25 was bright and clear. The national flags of the two countries flew at Peking Airport and on the main thoroughfares in the city. Huge streamers draping tall buildings read: "Firm support for the Cameroonian people in their just struggle to safeguard national independence and state sovereignty!" "Long live the great unity of the Afro-Asian peoples!" "Long live the great unity of the people of the world!" Five thousand well-wishers in the capital waited at the airport for the arrival of the President and his party.

The special plane carrying President and Mrs. Ahidjo and other distinguished Cameroonian guests touched down at 4 p.m. They received a warm welcome from Premier Chou En-lai, Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien, Vice-Chairman Hsu Hsiang-chien of the Standing Committee of the National People's Con-

gress, Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei, Minister of Economic Relations With Foreign Countries Fang Yi, Chairman of the Peking Municipal Revolutionary Committee Wu Teh and others.

Comrade Teng Ying-chao was at the Guest House in the western suburbs of the capital to greet the President and his wife when they arrived there.

The following evening, Premier Chou gave a banquet in the Great Hall of the People in honour of the distinguished guests. Both the Chinese Premier and the Cameroonian President spoke at the banquet which was filled with a warm and friendly atmosphere. (For their speeches see p. 6.)

Hosts and guests proposed toasts to the continuous consolidation and development of friendship between the people of the two countries. The band played Cameroonian and Chinese music, including *Independence and Unity of Cameroon* and *Friendship Spreads Everywhere*.

Premier Chou and President Ahidjo held talks for two days in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship.

## Cambodian People's Anniversary

"Under the wise leadership of the National United Front of Cambodia with Head of State of Cambodia Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as its Chairman, the heroic Cambodian people and their armed forces of national liberation have waged extremely arduous struggles, dealt crushing blows to the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys and won brilliant victories, thus making valuable contributions to the anti-imperialist struggle of the people of Asia and the whole world.

"The revolutionary struggle of Cambodia is continuing to make victorious advance. The day is not far off when the traitorous Lon Nol clique finally collapses and is buried by the people."

These are excerpts from the message sent by Acting Chairman of the People's Republic of China Tung Piuwu and Premier of the State Council Chou En-lai on behalf of Chairman Mao Tsetung and the Chinese Gov-

ernment and people to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and Samdech Penn Nouth on the occasion of the 3rd anniversary of the founding of the National United Front and the People's Armed Forces of National Liberation of Cambodia.

To celebrate this historic day, Sarin Chhak, Foreign Minister of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, and his wife gave a reception in Peking on the evening of March 23 in the name of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and Prime Minister Penn Nouth.

In his speech at the reception, Foreign Minister Sarin Chhak said that in the past three years, the Cambodian people's struggle for national and popular liberation, under the leadership of the National United Front of Cambodia, had won victory after victory and is proceeding towards final victory by following a correct line. Today, 90 per cent of the territory of the whole country and 5.5 million of the population of 7 million have been completely liberated.

Referring to international matters, the Cambodian Foreign Minister pointed out that the prestige of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia has risen rapidly and it has diplomatic relations with nearly 40 countries. The last foreign ministers' conference attended by more than 60 non-aligned countries in Georgetown recognized the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia as the sole and legal Government of Cambodia, he said.

He denounced the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys for sending their air forces, including B-52s, to bomb Cambodia on a massive scale, installing new military bases and supplying the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh clique of traitors with new arms and military equipment. "Therefore, the Cambodian people are obliged to carry on their struggle," he said.

Foreign Minister Sarin Chhak said that the U.S. Government must end its aggression and intervention against Cambodia, stop all bombing and shelling of Cambodian territory by its air, naval and ground forces, stop supplying the Lon Nol-Sirik

Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh clique with arms and military equipment and all aid and support, withdraw all military personnel and advisers and those of its satellite countries from Cambodia, dismantle all its bases and those of its satellites, stop interfering in the internal affairs of Cambodia, and let the Cambodian people settle their own affairs themselves without outside interference.

In his speech, Chinese Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei emphatically pointed out that the Cambodian people are still confronted with hard fighting tasks. Since the ceasefire in Viet Nam and Laos, the U.S. Government, failing to honour its undertakings under the Paris agreement, has continued its aggression and intervention against Cambodia, sending large numbers of aircraft, including B-52 strategic bombers, on bombing missions against the Cambodian liberated areas and supplying the Lon Nol clique with large quantities of materiel. This is what the Cambodian people and the people of the world cannot accept. The U.S. Government must stop all acts of intervention and aggression against Cambodia and let the Cambodian people solve their own problems free from outside interference.

The Chinese Foreign Minister said the Chinese people resolutely support the just struggle of the Cambodian people and resolutely support the solemn and just stand of the March 23, 1970, five-point declaration of Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. He said he was deeply convinced that the Cambodian people, in their cause of resisting U.S. aggression and saving the nation, will surely win great victory and that their national aspirations for the independence, peace, neutrality, democracy and territorial integrity of their motherland will surely be realized.

### **New Zealand C.P. Leaders In Peking**

Comrade Chang Chun-chiao, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and Comrade Keng Piao, Member of the C.P.C. Central Committee and Head of the International

Liaison Department of the C.P.C. Central Committee, gave a banquet on the evening of March 25 to warmly welcome Comrade V.G. Wilcox, General Secretary of the Communist Party of New Zealand, and Comrade Richard Wolf, Member of the Secretariat of the National Committee of the Communist Party of New Zealand.

The banquet proceeded in a very cordial atmosphere.

The New Zealand Communist Party leaders arrived in Peking on March 24 for a friendship visit at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

### **Chinese Table Tennis Delegation Off for Sarajevo**

The Chinese Table Tennis Delegation left Peking on March 25 and arrived in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, the following afternoon to take part in the 32nd World Table Tennis Championships. After its conclusion, the Chinese players will make friendly visits to a number of European countries.

The world championships are to be held from April 5 to 15. Made up of 21 players and coaches, the Chinese team will compete in seven events — men's and women's team events, men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles, and mixed doubles.

### **British Industrial Technology Exhibition Opens**

The British Industrial Technology Exhibition opened in Peking on March 26.

Sponsored by the British Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Sino-British Trade Council, the exhibition is displaying such main products as those in aviation, and machine tools, electronics, scientific instruments, equipment for the chemical, mining and power industries, the motor industry and many other fields. It covers a wide range of Britain's industrial development and achievements and will serve to further mutual understanding and friendship between the people of the two coun-

tries and help promote economic and trade relations between them.

Foreign Trade Minister Pai Hsiang-kuo and other Chinese officials attended the opening ceremony with Pai Hsiang-kuo cutting the ribbon.

Attending the ceremony were British Secretary of State for Trade and Industry Peter Walker and Mrs. Walker, Minister for Aerospace and Shipping Michael Heseltine and Mrs. Heseltine, who made a special trip to China, as well as J.M. Addis, British Ambassador to China, and other embassy officials.

The ceremony was presided over by John Keswick, President of the Sino-British Trade Council and President of the exhibition. Secretary of State Peter Walker spoke at the ceremony. He said that the opening of the exhibition in Peking was an exciting moment and he thanked the Chinese friends for their remarkable co-operation in the preparations for the exhibit. He hoped for closer co-operation with China and greater achievements in developing industrial technology. He also expressed optimism about further development of Sino-British trade.

Foreign Trade Minister Pai Hsiang-kuo extended warm congratulations on the opening of the exhibition on behalf of the Chinese Government. He noted that friendly contacts between the two governments and peoples were on the increase while trade, scientific-technological and cultural exchanges were being strengthened. The exhibition, he added, would give Chinese visitors an opportunity to see for themselves the fruits of the labour and wisdom of the British people. Britain, he said, was quite developed industrially, with advanced technology in many fields worth learning from. He expressed the belief that the exhibition would be welcomed by Chinese industrial and trade circles as well as the general public.

On the previous evening, the Chinese Foreign Trade Minister gave a dinner party in honour of Secretary of State for Trade and Industry Peter Walker and his wife and Minister for Aerospace and Shipping Michael Heseltine and his wife.

## **Premier Chou En-lai's Speech (Excerpts)**

**T**HE United Republic of Cameroon is a country in central Africa with a long history. In the past few centuries, the Cameroonian people waged determined struggles against colonialist aggression and oppression. In 1960 and 1961 the two parts of Cameroon successively shook off colonial rule, won national independence and formed one state. In recent years, under the leadership of His Excellency President Ahidjo, the Government and people of Cameroon have further united their country and continued to advance along the road of safeguarding national independence and state sovereignty. In fulfilling the new five-year plan for the development of national economy, you lay stress on the necessity of first relying on your own efforts, attach importance to the development of agriculture and the building of small and medium-sized enterprises, promote national dignity, carry forward your heritage of national culture and implement the Cameroonization of cadres, thus winning for Cameroon gratifying achievements in her steadily progressing cause of national construction.

Externally, the Government of Cameroon pursues a policy of non-alignment, stands for the strengthening of the unity and co-operation of the third world countries and the democratization of international relations, with all peoples taking active parts in international affairs on the principles of equality, independence and sovereignty, and opposes the attempts of the super-powers to decide the destiny of other countries. You support your south African brothers in their just struggles against colonialist oppression and white racism. You have made valuable contributions to promoting the peaceful solution of disputes between African states and the cause of safeguarding and strengthening African unity.

The Chinese Government and people admire the achievements gained by the Cameroonian Government under its foreign and domestic policies and wish you continuous new successes in your advance along the road of national independence.

The great Africa is an important force in the third world. The African countries are enjoying an increasing say and playing an ever greater role in international affairs. They stand for the equality of all countries, big and small, and the settlement of world affairs by all states through consultations and oppose big-power hegemonism and power politics. The African countries are unfolding a struggle to develop their national economies and to oppose the intensified plunder Africa by imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism for shifting off economic crises. In southern Africa, the armed struggles and mass movements against white colonialist rules and racial discrimination and for national independence are advancing. These new developments on the African continent are most inspiring. The uniting of the great African people against their common enemies has become an irresistible historical trend.

Imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism and all expansionist forces will never be reconciled to their defeats. They are still engaged in conspiracies, sabotage and trouble-making of all kinds. But we are confident that the African people, who are awakening daily and persisting in their unity and struggle, will certainly be able to see through and smash the disruptive schemes, including those of the very deceptive and cunning enemy, and overcome all the difficulties and obstacles on their road of advance and win still greater victories. The Chinese people will, as always, firmly stand on the side of the African people and resolutely support the just struggles of our African brothers.

## **President Ahidjo's Speech (Excerpts)**

**W**E are happy to set feet, for the first time, on the soil of this country with its age-old civilization, this historical country, this great country which is great not only by reason of its geographical and human dimensions and its justifiably growing influence in international society but also by reason of the remarkable contribution it has made to the heritage of world civilization through the qualities of its valiant people.

This contribution has grown daily since the great revolution which confirmed the total mastery of the Chinese people over their own destiny and gave them, more than ever before, the means to build the latter in full freedom in accordance with their aspirations, under your effective direction, Mr. Prime Minister, and under the enlightened leadership of Chairman Mao Tsetung on whom, here and now, his distinguished role

in the building of the New China and in the world confers a towering stature in mankind's history.

We said that we are happy to be here in the People's Republic of China. Our great pleasure on the occasion of this visit stems undoubtedly from the admiration we feel for the great Chinese people whose brilliant successes on the long march they are pursuing with determination on the path of progress contain numerous lessons for the countries of the third world.

And so, Mr. Prime Minister, a vast field for collaboration offers itself to our two countries within the new context of their bilateral relations, that is to say, on the basis of equality and mutual respect for differences.

It is, in fact, the opinion of the United Republic of Cameroon that differences between the social systems of states should not be an obstacle to their rapprochement and co-operation. That is why, in independence and non-alignment, it maintains relations without discrimination with all nations of goodwill which desire to co-operate with it in a spirit of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and of non-interference in their respective internal affairs.

In this world of ours where the imperialism of interests, ideologies and power continues to hold sway, it is only the peaceful coexistence of peoples, notwithstanding their differences which, moreover, are sources of enrichment for mankind, which can provide a solid foundation for peace—this peace which is, without any doubt, the fundamental problem of our age.

Considerable progress has been made of late towards the acceptances and application of the principle of peaceful coexistence in intercourse between nations, which plays a decisive role in international relations. This has resulted in greater detente and better prospects of harmony and co-operation in the world. We know how great a part the People's Republic of China has played in this happy trend, and this is a source of deep satisfaction to us.

It is a source of satisfaction because this trend towards new international relations, substituting as it does a multipolar world for a bipolar world, offers peoples, particularly those of the third world, better chances of preserving their independence, of expressing their aspirations and of playing a larger part, on the basis of equal rights and mutual respect, in defining international relations in a world where their respective destinies are becoming increasingly interdependent.

Despite the progress we have mentioned, much remains to be done to secure a genuine and lasting peace in the world.

The peaceful trend in the situation in the Indochina Peninsula is essential to peace in Asia and in the world. But it cannot be complete without a just implementation of the agreements in question by all the parties and as long as the present illegal situation in Cambodia continues. We are confident that vigorous solidarity on the part of all countries dedicated to the principles of peace and justice can ensure the swift restoration of lawful authority in Cambodia.

In the Middle East, no notable progress has been made towards a peaceful solution. On the contrary, the persistence of the present state of affairs favours the perpetration of blind and inhuman acts of violence, akin for some people to acts of defiance and for others to acts of despair. We continue to believe that all parties concerned should manifest their goodwill and do all in their power to bring about a just and equitable solution on the basis of the relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations. Moreover, we believe that the United Nations resolutions concerning the Indian subcontinent should also be implemented by the parties concerned.

Undoubtedly, a genuine and lasting peace demands more than just peaceful coexistence; it presupposes respect for the rights of peoples to freedom, equality and material and cultural progress. Now, many peoples continue to fight to ensure their free development. This is true of the peoples of the third world whose efforts to progress are hampered by one-sided and unfair international economic relations. It is also true of the peoples of Africa fighting for the total liberation of the African continent from colonialism and racial discrimination which persist with the backing of solid international interests, in spite of United Nations decisions.

We actively support this all-important struggle for the transformation of international economic relations and for the total liberation of Africa in close solidarity with the Organization of African Unity within whose framework the African peoples are concerting their thought and action. It is our profound conviction that defending the rights of peoples to freedom, equality and untrammelled development is today the chief task of all peoples dedicated to the principles of peace, justice and progress. We know that the People's Republic of China shares this conviction and that it has always given its unreserved support to the fight for the emancipation of peoples.

This means that our two countries which thus have many points in common can not only promote together, in the interests of their peoples, the successful development of their bilateral co-operation but also make their joint contribution to the triumph of the ideal of peaceful and brotherly collaboration between all mankind.

*"Renmin Ribao" Editorial*

## The Cambodian People Will Win

Today is the 3rd anniversary of the founding of the National United Front of Cambodia and the Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces. On this memorable occasion, the Chinese people, with profound friendship for the fraternal Cambodian people, extend their warmest congratulations to the National United Front of Cambodia with Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as its Chairman and to the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia with Samdech Penn Nouth as its Prime Minister and Khieu Samphan its Deputy Prime Minister, and a fighting salute to the heroic Cambodian people and their armed forces.

The founding of the National United Front of Cambodia and the Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces and the beginning of the Cambodian people's war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation marked a new phase in Cambodia's history.

Three years ago, the traitorous Lon Nol clique staged a reactionary coup d'etat in a vain attempt to subvert the legal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia led by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia. But contrary to its wishes, this clique has found itself besieged by the broad masses of patriotic people. Responding to the fighting call of Samdech Sihanouk and led by the National United Front of Cambodia, the Cambodian people have taken up arms, fought heroically and won splendid victories in the last three years. Now 90 per cent of the country's territory and 80 per cent of the total population have been liberated. The Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces have expanded in the flames of war and become indomitable people's armed forces. The Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia enjoys the warm support of the broad masses of the people at home and more and more extensive backing abroad, and its prestige is growing daily.

Under the heavy blows of the patriotic Cambodian armed forces and people, the traitorous Lon Nol clique

is beset with difficulties at home and abroad and is ridden with crises. It has suffered repeated and disastrous defeats militarily. In areas where it is entrenched, the economy is deteriorating and the people find it difficult to keep body and soul together. The clique's fascist rule has aroused growing opposition from people of all strata. Torn by sharpening internal strife, it has become more and more isolated among the people of the whole country. No matter how the clique may step up repression and whatever desperate struggles it puts up, it cannot escape total defeat and final destruction.

The Cambodian question stems from the U.S. intervention and aggression. The key to its settlement is that the United States must respect the fundamental national rights of the Cambodian people and the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Cambodia, withdraw all its military personnel from Cambodia, stop giving military aid to the Lon Nol clique, stop the bombing of Cambodia and let the Cambodian people settle their own problem themselves without any foreign interference. The development of the situation today is becoming more and more favourable to the Cambodian people. We are deeply convinced that so long as they strengthen unity and persist in struggle, the Cambodian people are surely able to attain the sacred goal embodied in the five-point declaration issued by Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk on March 23, 1970, to realize their national aspiration, and to build an independent, neutral, peaceful, sovereign, democratic and prosperous Cambodia.

The peoples of China and Cambodia are close comrades-in-arms and brothers. Our two peoples have always supported and encouraged each other in their common struggles. The Chinese people will, as always, stand firmly on the side of the Cambodian people and resolutely support them in their struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation till complete victory.

*(March 23)*



# The Struggle in Defence of Maritime Rights

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*The U.N. Sea-Bed Committee opened its first session of this year in New York on March 5. The Subcommittee II began its substantive debate on March 9. Representatives from many developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America spoke at the meetings expressing the determination to safeguard their national sovereignty and interests and oppose the superpowers' plunder.*

*On March 20, Chuang Yen, chief representative of the Chinese delegation to the meeting of the U.N. Sea-Bed Committee, made a speech at its Subcommittee II on the question of territorial sea and exclusive economic zone. He expressed support for the just stand of the Asian, African and Latin American countries and opposed the impudent and preposterous act of the one or two superpowers in imposing their one-sided opinions on others in disregard of the sovereignty and national economic interests of other countries. Following are excerpts of his speech. Subheads are ours. — Ed.*

**A** MAJOR question of principle is involved in the present international struggle over territorial sea rights. It is: Who shall determine the limits of the territorial sea and the limits of national jurisdiction of a state? Shall it be dictated by the one or two superpowers, or shall it be determined reasonably by each state according to its own specific conditions?

In order to contend for maritime hegemony and plunder the coastal resources of other countries, the superpowers are striving to narrow down as much as possible the limits of territorial seas and national jurisdiction of other countries, particularly the numerous countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Disregarding the sovereignty and national economic interests of other countries, they keep on imposing their one-sided opinions on others. Having fixed for itself a three-nautical-mile territorial sea, one of the superpowers won't allow others to exceed three nautical miles. The other superpower, because it has set a territorial sea of 12 nautical miles, won't allow others to exceed that limit. Naturally, such arbitrary bullying is strongly opposed by the numerous small and medium-sized countries. At the 1958 and 1960 Geneva Conferences on the Law of the Sea, the superpowers tried but failed to dictate the breadth of territorial seas on other countries. Now that a new international conference on the law of the sea is about to be convened, the superpowers attempt to confine the territorial seas and national juris-

diction of other countries to a limit of 12 nautical miles. We should keep high vigilance over such a conspiracy.

## Each Country Has the Right to Determine Its Territorial Sea Limits

We hold that it is the sovereign right of each country to determine the limits of its territorial sea and national jurisdiction, and that the one or two superpowers should certainly not have the decisive say. The Chinese delegation will never accept such dictation in utter disregard of the sovereignty of other countries. Nor will the numerous bullied and oppressed countries and countries which uphold justice ever accept the will of the superpowers.

Natural conditions differ in various parts of the world. The length and curvature of the coastlines of coastal countries, the depth and inclination of the seabed along their coasts, the specific conditions of their coastal resources and the joining of neighbouring countries in the same sea area are diversified. Moreover, the needs of economic development and national security differ for the people of each country. It is, therefore, entirely proper, legitimate and irreproachable for coastal countries to delimit in a reasonable way their own territorial seas according to their specific natural conditions, taking into account the needs for the development of their national economy and for their national security. To require uniformity and deny particularity on this matter will lead to a dead end. Of course, this does not preclude the possibility of neighbouring countries in a given area, which have common natural conditions and state interests, agreeing through consultations on a unified breadth of territorial seas for the area.

The policy of aggression and expansion of the one or two superpowers and their frantic competition in plundering the resources of other countries have long been seriously impairing and endangering the economic interests and state sovereignty of the numerous developing countries. To safeguard their national security and resources, many Latin American countries have declared 200 nautical miles to be the extent of their territorial seas and national jurisdiction in accordance with their geographical, geological and marine biological features and the need for the rational use of their resources. Countries of Asia and Africa have also defined the breadth of their respective territorial seas, of which quite a few exceed 12 nautical miles, extending from 18 to 25, 30, 130 or 200 nautical miles. We hold that this is a matter of their proper and legitimate rights and interests, which should be respected by other coun-

tries. As a developing country, China extends her profound sympathy for the measures taken by Asian, African and Latin American countries to protect their resources, and resolutely supports their struggle in safeguarding state sovereignty and opposing the superpowers' plunder. But since their position stands in the way of the superpowers' ambitions for hegemony on the seas and oceans, it has been stubbornly opposed by the superpowers. Recently, a superpower, which styles itself a "friend" of the developing countries, openly attacked the Latin American countries for this act of sovereignty, charging them with what it called "a unilateral action," "expansion of their own frontiers," "infringement of the legitimate rights and interests of other countries," and even a "violation of international law." The following questions naturally arise: Whose permission did you ask when you laid down the extent of your territorial seas? When you send your warships and fishing vessels to barge at will into the offshore areas of other countries and to wantonly plunder their resources, how far have you extended your frontiers? Who is it, really, that has been infringing on the legitimate rights and interests of other countries? Who has brutally trampled on the principle of sovereignty in international law? Is it not you yourselves?

### **Soviet Stand Does Not Hold Water**

In his March 13 statement, the Soviet representative did his utmost to make the breadth of the territorial sea of the Soviet Union the only standard for the limits of territorial seas of various countries throughout the world. This is quite ridiculous and absolutely untenable. As is well known, the Soviet Government at the time of Lenin consistently stood for the respect and defence of the sovereignty of all states and opposed the tsarist great-power chauvinism and hegemonism of imposing its views on others. At that time, the Soviet Union, proceeding from her own specific conditions, delimited the breadth of her territorial sea at 12 nautical miles. This is her sovereign right. However, this does not mean in any way that the limits of the territorial seas of all other countries of the world must not exceed 12 nautical miles. Lenin stated explicitly: "**We must decree nothing from Moscow**" to other countries. Yet the present leaders of the Soviet Government have fundamentally betrayed Lenin's teachings. Assuming the air of an overlord of the world, they try to subject all other countries of the world to their orders. What they have inherited are not the great teachings of Lenin, but the hegemonism of the tsars.

Harbouring ulterior motives, the Soviet representative further asserted in his statement that "the wider the territorial seas of the coastal states is, the less possibility there is for the land-locked countries to take advantage of the seas"; and that "any wilful claim by the coastal states to extend limit to wider territorial seas or wider sea areas will be particularly unfavourable to the countries with no access to seas" and so on and so forth, as if he were especially concerned for the interests of the land-locked states. However, the actual state of affairs at present is that the superpowers have

been lording it over others in the seas and oceans, while large numbers of the developing countries, both coastal and land-locked, have no rights. The sole purpose of the superpowers in their attempt to confine the territorial seas of other countries within 12 nautical miles is nothing but to enable their own warships to prowl recklessly everywhere and do whatever they please in the seas and oceans and their fishing fleets to carry out unbridled plunder of the offshore marine resources of other countries. Is this for the interests of the land-locked states? By putting up the signboard of "safeguarding the interests of the land-locked states," they aim at realizing their ambition to dominate the seas and oceans. They have been manufacturing contradictions, fermenting disunity and dissension among the developing countries in an attempt to cover up their schemes for aggression, intimidation and plunder. This evil tactics calls for our serious vigilance.

### **The Question of Exclusive Economic Zone**

Another matter of principle in dispute is whether a coastal state has the right to delimit an exclusive economic zone beyond its territorial sea.

Geographically, the shallow sea area off the coast of a country is the natural extension of its land territory. There are abundant mineral and fishery resources in this sea area and its sea-bed, which are an integral part of its natural resources and have a close bearing on the development of its national economy. At present the one or two superpowers are dispatching many so-called survey ships, fishing fleets, etc., all over the world to barge into the coastal seas of other countries at will, freely gather intelligence about and plunder their marine resources. This is out-and-out piracy, of which numerous Asian, African and Latin American countries have become direct victims. Take the case of fishery. According to relevant sources, most of the catches in the near seas off the west African coast have been made by distant fishing-powers, predominantly the superpowers. While fishery production of the coastal states remains very unstable, the total catch of the superpowers has shot upwards. The 1968 catch made by the Soviet Union in this sea area more than doubled that of 1967 and amounted to 45 per cent of the aggregate catch of 11 coastal states in this area. Owing to the wanton plunder by the superpowers, fishing resources in certain near-coast sea areas are seriously dwindling, or have even become exhausted. Therefore, many developing countries strongly demand the delimiting of exclusive fishing zones in order to prevent and resist plunder from outside. Yet, this reasonable and just demand is doggedly opposed by the superpowers. As a matter of fact, the superpowers have also delimited "forbidden fishing zones" and "controlled zones" to preserve their fishery resources in near-coast sea areas. For example, in its decision of March 21, 1956, "on protecting salmon and trout resources in the Far East and regulating their catch," the Government of the Soviet Union unilaterally put a large area under its control, extending as far as more than 400 nautical miles from its coast. While refusing fishing boats of other coun-

tries access to its own coastal areas for fishing, the Soviet Government has been sending many fishing fleets far away from their own country to fish indiscriminately in the coastal areas of some developing countries by taking advantage of their lag in technology. It has even sold the fish caught there to the local countries at high prices so as to extort foreign currency, and does not allow the coastal states to take measures to protect their own resources. Is this not out-and-out hegemonism!

Here we would like to mention in passing the "suggestion" on fishing distributed recently by the Soviet delegation. In that suggestion, a few lines on so-called forms of "compensation" for coastal states are included in addition to the reiteration of the "draft article on fishing" submitted by the Soviet Union last year. Ostensibly, this seems to show consideration for the interests of coastal states, but in fact, this is designed simply to cover up its acts of unbridled plunder and destruction of the fishery resources of coastal states and unreasonably to reject the latter's proposition for delimitation of exclusive economic zones or fishing zones. Such tactics can deceive nobody; nor will it in any way shake the strong determination of the developing countries to preserve their coastal fishery resources and safeguard their state sovereignty.

#### Principle of Consultations on Equal Footing

Owing to the fact that the breadth of the territorial sea varies with different countries, we consider that it

is in the exercise of the sovereignty of a state to reasonably define, in accordance with their specific conditions and the need for the development of their national economies, the scope of their jurisdiction over economic resources beyond their territorial seas, using the names of exclusive economic zone, continental shelf, patrimonial sea or fishing zone, etc. Neighbouring countries situated in a common sea area should equitably allot their limits of jurisdiction through consultations on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

Other countries can engage in activities in the exclusive economic zone of a given country only when they have secured its consent by concluding necessary agreements with it through consultations on an equal footing and on the basis of respect for its sovereignty. Moreover, they should strictly observe its relevant regulations and measures. They enjoy the convenience of normal navigation and overflight through its exclusive economic zone provided they do not prejudice its security, or affect its fishing activities and its exploration and exploitation of sea-bed resources therein.

Some developing countries have proposed that the coastal state should grant to a developing land-locked country adjacent to its territory certain rights and facilities in its exclusive economic zone with respect to exploitation of resources and transit. This opinion merits

(Continued on p. 12.)

## The Two Superpowers — Fishing Overlords of the Seas

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**F**ISHING in outer seas and distant waters, the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, are out to preserve their position as fishing overlords who can fish on the seas in various parts of the world at will. For this purpose they obdurately oppose the just stand of most countries in safeguarding their fishery resources.

Data published in the 1971 No. 3 issue of the Soviet magazine *Rybnoe* show that 86.8 per cent of the Soviet hauls (including whales) in 1970 was from outer seas and distant waters. U.S. fishing vessels also sail to the distant South Pacific and South Atlantic for fish and shrimp. According to statistics, the waters over the continental shelves of various countries make up 7.6 per cent of the world's seas and oceans. They have the most suitable natural conditions for fish to exist and breed

and constitute the main fish haunts. More than 80 per cent of the world's total catches on seas and oceans is made in waters over the continental shelves of different countries. Therefore, the two superpowers' outer-sea and distant-water fishing is, in the main, actually plunder of the fishery resources in waters over the continental shelves of other countries.

The Soviet Union is a greedy pillager of the world's fishery resources. Its fishing fleets plough the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans, the Arabian Sea and other waters, plundering the fishery resources of various countries of the world. During the past few years, Soviet fishing vessels incessantly intruded into the territorial waters of Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, Uruguay, Ecuador and Canada to fish, and were sometimes detained or fined. They also have appeared frequently

off the coast of Pakistan to plunder the fishery resources there. The Soviet Union also sends large numbers of vessels to go after whales in the various oceans.

In the fishing seasons, vessels of the other superpower, the United States, also often intrude and poach in the territorial waters of the South and North American countries which are rich in fish and shrimp. The British paper *Financial Times* reported in early 1971 that U.S. tuna fleets based in California in 1970 caught nearly 250,000 tons of tuna amounting to 250 million dollars. The paper said that virtually the entire haul was made in an area 200 nautical miles wide and stretching from near the Mexican borders to south Chile. Littoral states in South America have often detained U.S. fishing vessels in defence of their right over their 200-nautical-mile territorial waters and fishery resources. In 1971, Ecuador alone detained 52 U.S. tuna vessels which illegally operated within its 200-mile territorial sea limit.

The two superpowers try to outdo each other in advanced techniques and high-tonnage vessels for excessive fishing, seriously undermining the world's fishery resources. In recent years, the Soviet Union has emphasized building large fishing vessels of over 2,000 tons and using advanced techniques for large-scale fishing. The British paper *Daily Mail* said in an article on November 3, 1971, that the new 43,000-ton Soviet ship, *Vostok*, "is ready to rob the world's richest fishing grounds of the dwindling stock of maritime life." The article pointed out that the ship was equipped with helicopters, infra-red photographic equipment, cold-storage and processing facilities and 14 trawlers. It said that "the declining deep-sea catches will be affected even more by the new Russian techniques." The United States, on its part, is also steadily replacing its outdated fishing vessels and using new technical equipment for large-scale tuna and shrimp operations. The vacuum-cleaner-type equipment of some U.S. fishing vessels seriously undermines the world's fishery resources.

There is also rivalry between the two superpowers in fishing. For instance, there is their rivalry in herring catches in the Atlantic. It is to restrict operations by

Soviet and other fishing vessels in waters off the U.S. Atlantic coast that Massachusetts and other eastern states of the United States have stood for a 200-mile limit. Under an agreement signed in 1968, the United States forbids Soviet vessels to operate on the high seas off the U.S. Atlantic coast in the period from January 1 to April 1 every year. In early 1972, the United States detained and fined two Soviet fishing vessels operating inside Alaska's 12-mile limit.

But the two fishing overlords are equally opposed to the sovereign rights of other countries over their territorial waters and are plundering their fishery resources. At the United Nations Sea-Bed Committee meetings they acted as maritime overlords. One shouted "opposition to extending the coastal states' sovereignty over territorial waters beyond the 12-mile limit" while the other insisted on establishing "12 miles as the maximum limit of territorial waters." One of the characteristics of the Soviet revisionist leading clique's stand on this question is insolence wrapped in a cloak of hypocrisy. At the Sea-Bed Committee meeting in March last year, the deputy leader of the Soviet delegation, while talking glibly about "making the food resources in the seas serve mankind," stressed the Soviet Union's opposition to "extending territorial waters and fishing zones or establishing economic zones beyond 12 miles as the means to solve the problems of fishery development," and demanded that "consideration be shown for the interests of the distant-water fishing countries." This is tantamount to demanding recognition of the hegemonic position of a fishing overlord of the seas such as the Soviet Union which plunders the world's fishery resources at will. To oppose the Latin American countries' just stand of safeguarding their fishery resources and state sovereignty, the Soviet paper *Red Star* on January 19, 1972, went so far as to openly attack "certain Latin American countries" for allegedly "expanding their territorial water limits without restraint." This position of the Soviet revisionist leading clique has completely revealed its social-imperialist feature of trying to satisfy its big-power chauvinist interests at the expense of other countries' sovereign rights.

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(Continued from p. 11.)

attention. We maintain that considerations should be given to the reasonable demands of the land-locked countries. The coastal state should, in principle, grant to its neighbouring land-locked state common enjoyment in certain proportion of the rights of ownership and jurisdiction in its economic zone, and as to concrete practice, a reasonable solution should be sought through consultations by countries concerned.

Developing countries should strengthen their solidarity, show mutual understanding and accommodation, uphold principle and carry on a joint struggle so as to effectively safeguard their national economic interests and make their due contributions in the work of creating a new law of the sea.

At present, the international struggle to defend maritime rights initiated by Latin American countries is developing vigorously, and times are advancing continuously. A new system of law of the sea must meet the requirements of our epoch. On the question of the territorial sea and the exclusive economic zone, the superpowers must not be allowed to continue to truculently disregard the sovereignty and interests of the great majority of countries. The Chinese Government and people will firmly stand together with those countries and peoples suffering from aggression, bullying and plunder and with all those who uphold justice, and work together with them for a reasonable solution to the problem of maritime rights.

## Panama Meeting

THE United Nations Security Council met in Panama City from March 15 to 21. Taking part were the representatives of the 15 Security Council member states and 23 other Latin American, African and North American countries. One major question under deliberation at the meeting was Panama's sovereignty and jurisdiction over the Panama Canal and the Canal Zone.

### Vote on Two Draft Resolutions

Two draft resolutions submitted by Panama, Peru, Guinea and other countries, concerning the Panama Canal and sovereignty over natural resources respectively, were voted on at the March 21 meeting.

Thirteen of the 15 member states of the Security Council, including China, voted in favour of the first draft resolution which calls for the "abrogation of the 1903 convention on the Isthmian Canal and its amendments" and for the conclusion of "a new, just and fair treaty concerning the present Panama Canal which would fulfil Panama's legitimate aspirations and guarantee full respect for Panama's effective sovereignty over all of its territory," and requests the Security Council "to keep the question under consideration."

The United States voted against it while Britain abstained. Because of the unjustifiable use of the veto by the U.S. representative, this positive draft resolution was not adopted.

The draft resolution concerning sovereignty over natural resources was adopted with 12 votes in favour and 3 abstentions (the United States, Britain and France). The resolution demands that proper measures be taken by various countries to impede the use of coercive measures against Latin American countries exercising sovereignty over their national resources. During the past few years, some Latin American countries have been subjected to "retaliative" measures because they had taken nationalization measures against foreign monopoly enterprises or actions to safeguard sovereignty over their territorial waters.

Chinese Representative Huang Hua spoke at the meeting after the two draft resolutions were put to a vote. (Huang Hua also made a speech on March 19, see *Peking Review*, No. 12.) He said: "The Chinese representative has voted in favour of the two draft resolutions co-sponsored by Panama, Peru, Guinea and other countries, because in our view this is what the Security Council should do on the related questions. However, the U.S. delegation has vetoed the draft resolution on the question of the Panama Canal, thus making it impossible for the Security Council to perform its duties with regard to the Canal question. We cannot but express deep regret at this."

"Facts show," he added, "that it is necessary and useful for the Security Council meetings in Panama to concentrate on the discussions of a number of important questions currently facing Latin America and that they have played, and will continue to play, a positive role in the just struggle of the peoples of Panama and the rest of Latin America."

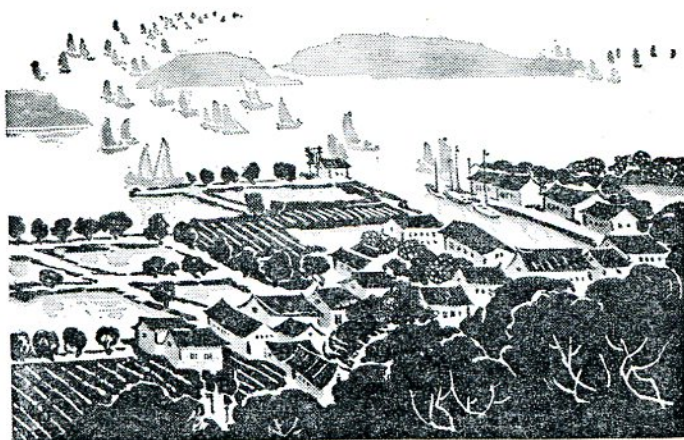
The Chinese representative noted: "The Chinese people and the people of Latin America are good friends. We have always trusted and supported each other in the struggles against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism and against the power politics and hegemony practised by the superpowers."

### Superpowers Have No Right to Impose Their Will on Others

As President of the U.N. Security Council in March, Panamanian Representative Aquilino Boyd made a summing-up statement. He pointed out that many representatives to the meeting demanded that the decolonization process in Latin America and elsewhere in the world be accelerated and that all nations have the sovereign right to explore, develop and conserve their own natural resources; and that many representatives strongly criticized the use of coercive measures by some states against others. With regard to the question of the Panama Canal, he recalled, most speakers stressed that every state has an inalienable right to full jurisdiction over all its territory. Aquilino Boyd also pointed out that during the meeting some delegations maintained that all coastal countries are entitled to determine reasonably the limits of their territorial seas and jurisdiction and that the superpowers have no right to impose their will on others.

After hearing Boyd's summing-up statement which contained the remark that the superpowers have no right to impose their will on others, Soviet Representative Yakov Malik hurriedly raised objections to the term "superpowers," alleging that it would open the way for medium-sized and small powers to impose their will upon others. Chinese Representative Huang Hua then spoke again and sternly refuted Malik's sophistry and nonsense.

Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Antonio Tack made the final address at the closing meeting. He said: Panama cannot forget the expressions of support it has received during the meeting. Panama will continue its struggle until its aspirations for the exercise of full jurisdiction over all its territory and resources are satisfied.



# A Visit to the Tungting People's Commune (I)

— Its formation and growth

by Our Correspondents

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To help our readers obtain some idea of China's people's communes, we publish here the first instalment of a report on this people's commune south of the Yangtze River. Five more instalments will follow in subsequent issues. They will cover a series of topics — the commune's functions and powers, its collective ownership of the means of production, and facts about its production brigades and teams, members' incomes and life.

WE visited the Tungting People's Commune in Wuh sien County, Kiangsu Province, early this year. A merger of 20 advanced agricultural producers' co-operatives in the Tungshan area, this peninsular commune lapped by the waters of Lake Taihu was set up in September 1958. It covers an area of 35 square kilometres and has 11,000 families with 45,000 people. Under the commune are 30 production brigades and 237 production teams engaged in farming and other occupations — some producing mainly food grains, others mainly growing fruit and tea and still others in which fisheries are the main line.

## Miserable Bygone Days

During our visit, we put up in a hostel at Tungshan town, where the commune headquarters is situated. An old compound, it was taken over by the people after liberation. Illustrations of historical stories eulogizing feudal rules of etiquette are engraved on the brick or wooden gate tower, doors, window frames and eaves of the main building. Behind it is a rock garden complete with ponds, zigzagging bridges and other natural or artificial scenes.

This "carved mansion," the local people told us, was built in three years' time by landlord-capitalist

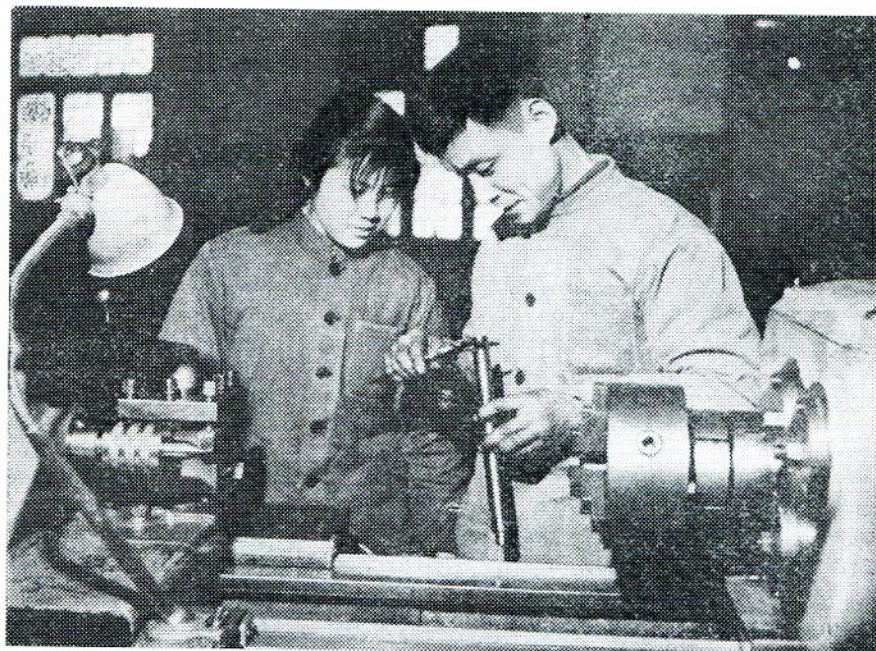
Chin Hsueh-chih some 50 years ago with 3,700 taels of gold robbed from the labouring people. Wealthy as he was, he did not top the list of the rich in the locality. Before liberation, the most notorious and richest landlords and gentry there came from four families whose surnames were Weng, Hsi, Liu and Yen. Chin ranked sixth. These insatiable vampires owned over 75 per cent of Tungshan's cultivated land and built many luxurious villas. Riding roughshod over the people during their lifetimes, they were not reconciled to relinquishing their hold on the land even after they were dead. Their tombs took up as much as 1,800 *mu* of good farmland!

But what about the peasants in those days of darkness? Apart from paying exorbitant rents to the landlords, they were also subjected to all kinds of exploitation by profit-seeking merchants. No matter how hard they worked all year, they could scarcely keep their heads above water. "When the tangerines turned red, we still had nothing." "After the rice harvest, we went to bed with empty stomachs." This is the way the peasants recall those days. Of the 427 peasant families in Tuchiao Village, for example, 81 had been reduced to begging, 18 were forced to sell their children and 92 became farm labourers.

## People's Communes Are Fine

Liberation brought tremendous changes to the Tungshan area after land reform was carried out and mutual-aid teams and agricultural producers' co-operatives formed. We learnt from a responsible commune cadre that in the three years following the establishment of advanced agricultural producers' co-operatives, total output of fruit, tea, fish, silkworm cocoons and grain rose 47-90 per cent as compared with the time of

agricultural producers' co-operatives of the elementary type.\* These initial achievements gave the cadres and peasants greater enthusiasm to take the socialist road of collectivization and develop farm production faster. Handicapped, however, by the small scale of the advanced co-ops and their limited manpower and financial resources, the peasants were eager to organize bigger ones.



Commune-run farm machinery plant.

Prior to the birth of the people's communes, many advanced co-ops were already overcoming difficulties they could not cope with alone through mutual help. For example, the Hungkuang No. 2 Co-operative which lacked manpower reclaimed 1,500 *mu* of barren hillsides with the help of 800 members from five neighbouring co-ops. Short of funds, the Hsinmin Co-op borrowed 300 yuan from two other co-ops to buy a much-needed 30 h.p. diesel engine. These and other instances opened the eyes of the cadres and peasants. They came to realize that more people meant greater strength and bigger co-ops could do more than smaller ones.

From the winter of 1957 to the summer of 1958, farm capital construction centring around water conservancy projects reached a new high throughout the countryside. Through their own experience the peasants became more and more aware that co-ops such as theirs could no longer meet the needs of increased production on a large scale. So in many places they merged their small co-ops into bigger ones on their own initiative; some covered a whole *hsiang*\*\* and were integrated with the *hsiang* government administration.

Under the impact of the Great Leap Forward in socialist construction, four co-ops in the Tungshan area amalgamated into one big one in the spring of 1958 on the basis of their close mutual-help ties. Later, another 13 co-ops joined into one.

This being the case not only in Tungshan but in other parts of the country, Chairman Mao summed up in good time the experience and creativeness of the masses when he pointed out: "People's communes are fine."

\* These were co-operatives of a semi-socialist nature which came into being after 1951. The co-op members pooled their land and major means of production as shares. Besides remuneration from labour, they received a certain amount of payment for the land and other means of production they had pooled.

The advanced agricultural producers' co-operatives of a socialist nature began to emerge in 1956. Co-op members worked together and were paid on the principle of "from each according to his ability, to each according to his work." All land and major means of production were collectively owned and payment was no longer made to those who had pooled them.

\*\* An administrative unit below the county level before the people's communes were formed.

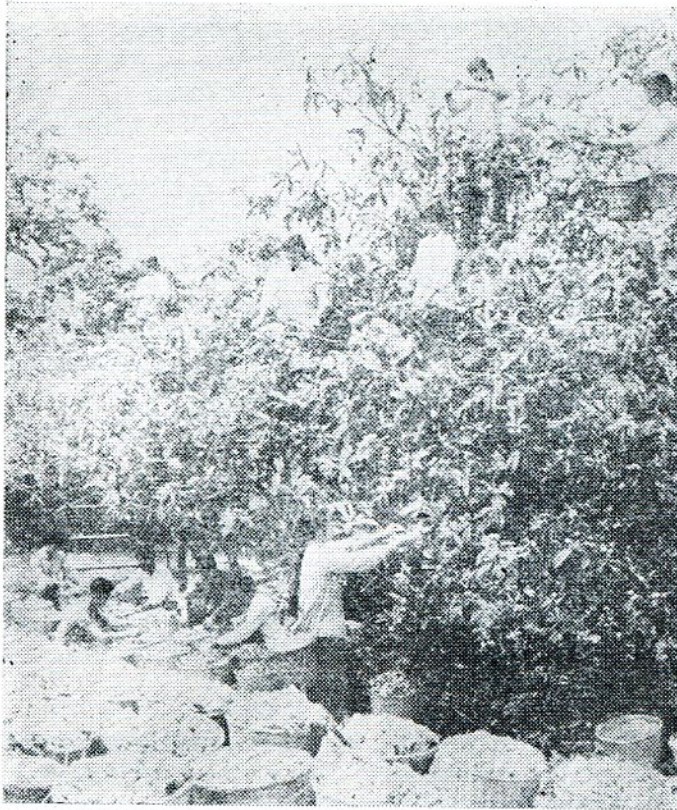
On August 29, 1958, the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party adopted the "Resolution on the Establishment of People's Communes in the Rural Areas." It pointed out: "The people's communes are the logical result of the march of events. Large, comprehensive people's communes have made their appearance, and in several places they are already widespread. They have developed very rapidly in some areas. It is highly probable that there will soon be an upsurge in setting up people's communes throughout the country and the development is irresistible."

Responding promptly to the call of the Party Central Committee and Chairman Mao, Tungshan's peasants made their pressing demand to set up a people's commune known.

When word came that the authorities had granted their request, over 8,000 families totalling some 30,000 people applied for membership in the commune in three days. Applications and pledges kept pouring into the preparatory office of the commune. Many co-op members lost no time in coming by boat and made their applications at night. Their long-cherished hope came true on September 21, 1958 when the inaugural meeting of the Tungting People's Commune was held. To their great joy and satisfaction, they spoke of this memorable occasion as resulting from the guidance of the Party's general line of going all out, aiming high and achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results in building socialism.

### After the Birth of the Commune

Just as Chairman Mao has pointed out, the people's commune is characterized by being "big and public." "Big" means it is much bigger in size than the advanced co-ops. With more land, more people and more funds, it can use manpower and the means of production more



Picking loquats.

rationally. "Public" means it has a higher degree of public ownership than the advanced co-ops.

Commune cadres took us around and showed us fields and factories. What we saw and heard spoke volumes for the many-sided changes since the commune came into being.

Terrace upon terrace of well-laid-out fields and groves of tangerine trees met the eye in the hilly areas. In fishing and rice-growing areas, commune members were casting their nets in the fish ponds or applying fertilizer to crops. They told us that their commune had had an all-round good harvest last year. Output of all their major items of production—rice, wheat and barley, rapeseed, fruit, tea, silkworm cocoons, pigs and sheep, and aquatic products—was up and, with the exception of aquatic products, all hit all-time highs.

Reclamation has put more land under use. Orchards, mulberry groves and fish ponds, each covering an area of 8,000 *mu* in 1958 when the commune was formed, have now each been expanded to 9,000 *mu*, while 12,000 *mu* of paddyfields have been added to the original 8,000 *mu*.

The commune's 980 *mu* of tangerine groves yielded one million kilogrammes of fruit in 1958. The area has doubled and yearly output is up 4.5-fold. Kwangchialin Ridge in the Hsinmin Production Brigade, which used to be an execution ground where the Japanese imperialists slaughtered Chinese, has been turned into

terraced fields with stone embankments thanks to the efforts of the commune members who put in 43,000 work-days since 1964. They are now covered with a profusion of tangerine trees.

Since the commune was set up, due adjustment has been made of the marginal land between production teams, according to fair and reasonable principles. A typical example was the Chienkuo Production Brigade, whose fish ponds were scattered alongside 16 streamlets. Some were five or six kilometres from each other, making them very difficult to look after. After consulting with the production brigades and teams concerned, the Chienkuo Brigade now has all its fish ponds located alongside one streamlet. At most two to three kilometres away from each other, they are within easy reach of management; this has boosted catches.

Practice over the past 14 years has given ample proof that the people's commune has greater strength than the advanced co-ops in combating the elements and ensuring production. The original 7,000 *mu* of fish ponds, nearly 3,000 *mu* of mulberry groves and 2,500 *mu* of cropland in the fishing areas all were on the fringe of Lake Taihu. Every water table rise was a threat to the fish ponds. Floodwaters in 1954 carried away all the fish and caused other damage. To do away with the flood menace, the commune pooled the efforts of the production brigades and teams concerned to enclose ponds and affected portions of mulberry groves and cropland with 5,800 metres of embankments containing five sluice-gates. They put in 350,000 work-days in the winter of 1964 and the spring of 1965 to do this.

A rarely seen heavy spring snowfall hit the Tungshan area in March 1970, damaging and breaking parts of some 30,000 citrus and other fruit trees. Under the commune's unified organization, manpower and material resources were concentrated to tie them up. Thanks to meticulous care, there was a bumper fruit harvest that year. Comparing this to the 1924 winter snowfall which, though much lighter, had destroyed all 200 *mu* of tangerine groves, the commune members said jubilantly: People's communes are really fine!

More people, funds and other resources have enabled the commune to expand production faster. From their own experience, the Tungting cadres and peasants are all the more aware of this. In recent years, the commune's total income has nearly doubled that of the advanced co-ops and the production brigades have been able to buy big and medium-sized farm implements and machinery. The whole commune now has 134 diesel engines for irrigation purposes, 8 grain and fodder processing factories, 139 power-driven threshers, 14 tractors and 1,200 sprayers of various types. All this accounts for the gradual mechanization and semi-mechanization of drainage and irrigation, threshing, food and fodder processing and plant protection. The degree of mechanized farming keeps going up and commune-run factories and other enterprises are rising in number.



Increased production is accompanied by a constant rise in commune members' living standards. Before liberation, the per-capita annual income of the peasants was the equivalent of 36 yuan today. It rose to 80 yuan at the time of the advanced co-ops. It has jumped to the current figure of 146 yuan (not including income from side-line occupations). There was only one middle school and a negligible number of primary schools in the old days. The poor and lower-middle peasants could not afford to send their children to school. Today the commune has 8 middle schools and 36 primary schools. Medical and public health work have also made much headway. The introduction of

a co-operative medical system has provided free treatment to the peasants for an annual fee of 3 yuan (1.5 yuan is paid by themselves, the rest comes from the public welfare funds of production teams). A fairly complete medical and public health network has been formed by the commune hospital, production brigades' clinics and production teams' health workers.

Considering the drawbacks of a small-peasant economy in the past, Tungting's commune members take great pride in their achievements. They say: "An eagle flies much faster than a sparrow."

## Training Women Cadres

— How the Tachai Party branch does it

AS it has in much of its other work, the Tachai Production Brigade in Shansi Province, national pace-setter in agricultural production, has done a fine job of training women cadres. The brigade's Party branch has always devoted much attention in this connection.

Two of the 7 members on the Tachai Party branch committee are women, as are 4 out of 7 Youth League branch committee members. Among the women cadres are veterans of many years as well as new hands. Some are concurrently members of Party committees at the provincial or regional level, some are in the leading bodies of the commune and brigade.

From the outset the Tachai Party branch realized that training women cadres involved an ideological revolution demanding a complete break with feudal tradition.

### Profound Ideological Revolution

Just after liberation Sung Li-ying, a young woman in the village, became active in political affairs. Ground down in slavery in a landlord's home at 14 before the liberation, she had bitter hatred for the landlords and a strong desire to overthrow them and gain emancipation. She fervently wanted to follow Chairman Mao in making revolution. The Party branch saw that she had the makings of a good cadre, and decided to give her some training.

Looking down on women, however, was still strong among some villagers. "A woman's place is at home, cooking, weaving, nursing children... Since when have they started to run village affairs?"

To overcome such backward ideas, the Party branch started a campaign to publicize equality between men and women, and organized a special discussion on whether women could take part in "running village affairs" or not. The consensus leaned to one side. "Why not?" people demanded. "Didn't women do sentry duty during the war? Didn't they carry on production in the rear



Sung Li-ying (third from left), deputy secretary of the Tachai Brigade Party branch committee.

areas to support the front? . . . Remember those women cadres from above? How well they spoke and how bravely they fought at the front. Nothing can be accomplished without women."

This was the first time in Tachai's history that feudal ideas of contempt for women came under serious criticism.

Sung Li-ying was admitted into the Chinese Communist Party in October 1947.

As a cadre, Sung Li-ying's inexperience was a great handicap. At first, she just could not get the women to come to her meetings. Chairing a meeting, she would blush and stammer and stop short, so that Party branch committee secretary Chen Yung-kuei had to take over. Tongues started wagging again with "I told you so." And when her first-born fell ill and died, a handful of landlords, rich peasants and other class enemies went around whispering: "It serves her right, running around like that. . . . No wonder the child died!"

The Party organization analysed all this talk and concluded that some simply showed feudal ideas whereas some came from class enemies who wanted to make trouble and sabotage women's liberation. The Party branch gave the class enemies a sound rebuff. It then called a meeting to educate the masses. One woman speaker after another took the floor to recall the bitter oppression they had suffered in the old society where women were at the rock-bottom and to thank Chairman Mao and the Communist Party for helping them to stand up in the new society. The meeting aroused the deep proletarian class sentiments of all present and encouraged the women to strive for equality between men and women with heightened consciousness.

### Learn Through Practice

The way the Tachai Party branch trains its women cadres is mainly for them to learn to work and struggle in the course of work and struggle.

Though it was difficult at first for Sung Li-ying to mobilize the women to take part in production and political study because of her unfamiliarity with policy, the Party branch insisted on giving her different tasks so that she would learn. She soon got some experience.

From this example, the Party branch concluded that women cadres can be brought up only by fighting against difficulties. At the time the agricultural producers' co-operative was formed (before the commune was established in 1958), the Party branch recommended that the peasants choose 19-year-old Kuo Ai-lien as co-op vice-chairman. It also gave another young woman Kuo Feng-lien the important job of heading the "iron girls' shock team" and made her political instructor of a local militia company.

When the co-op was first set up, a young bachelor sneered at the women: "I'm all for equality and all that. What about lifting this big rock together?"



The "iron girls' team" reclaiming hilly land.

This hurt the women's feelings. Not long afterwards, all the members were weeding in the fields and the same scoffer suddenly found himself far behind the women, whose skilful fingers twinkled among the millet plants. He wasn't let off easily this time. Led by Sung Li-ying and Kuo Ai-lien, the women criticized him for his former attitude. The man promptly went to the Party branch to complain of bad treatment. He did not get the sympathy he expected. Instead, Comrade Chen Yung-kuei told him: "The women were perfectly right. The Party branch supports them. They had to take a lot in the old society, but not any more now. They, too, are masters of the new society. And here you are still sneering at them and picking on them. . . . I don't blame them for giving you a piece of their mind."

The Party branch helps women cadres in every way it can. When a women's meeting is called, women cadres are always asked to speak first and the other members of the Party branch committee will only make supplementary remarks to drive home the important points.

The Party branch considers that the women cadres must study Marxism-Leninism seriously and raise their theoretical level in the course of doing practical work, so that they can constantly make progress politically. Though Sung Li-ying is now 43 and always busy doing political work, or working in the fields or at home, she

(Continued on p. 21.)

## NOTEBOOK

**London Philharmonic.** March 20 was a typical day for the London Philharmonic during its brief three-day Peking visit. The musicians began their day with a three-hour rehearsal for the evening performance of works by Brahms, Vaughan Williams, Haydn and Dvorak. Even with their tight schedule they found the time for a get-together with Chinese colleagues, the Central Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, to exchange experience.

This was how the London Philharmonic, an envoy of friendship of the British people, spent its short stay in the capital alternating hard work in making music with making friends.

Many members of the London Philharmonic were obviously overjoyed at having the opportunity of visiting China. Speaking at a banquet given in their honour on the evening of March 18 by the Cultural Group Under the State Council and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries, Eric Bravington, Managing Director of the Orchestra, said: "The members of the London Philharmonic Orchestra have been awaiting this visit very eagerly. The excitement that the visit has produced in London and in fact throughout the country has been immense."

The orchestra gave two performances in Peking at the Tienchiao Theatre which was packed. The musicians won enthusiastic applause for their artistic performance and fine execution.

*Renmin Ribao* on March 22 carried an appreciation entitled "Excellent Musical Performance, Fresh Artistic Style." During the performance, wrote Chen Hsing of the Central Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, the London Philharmonic had a perfect understanding of its conductor and was in complete harmony. In presenting Beethoven, Brahms and

Dvorak, the orchestra avoided contrived brilliance and superficial fireworks, and was not merely satisfied with musical effect. Instead, they interpreted the music with deliberation and subtlety, devoting attention to every fine detail. Dvorak's Symphony No. 8 in G was played especially well. Each section of the orchestra had a timbre of its own, the woodwinds were clear and distinct, the brass rich and the melodious strings the most impressive of all.

Speaking highly of the orchestra as a whole, Chen Hsing also had warm words for both conductor and soloists. Conductor John Pritchard, he said, is an artist with profound musical sensitivity, his gestures are economical and clear-cut. Under his baton, the scores came out in well-defined contours and refreshing colours. Violinist Ida Haendel, in the reviewer's opinion of her rendition of Brahms' Concerto in D, was technically superb and showed a warm and unrestrained personality. Some of the lyrical passages she brought out in a most unaffected way. The reviewer also praised the trumpet soloist Gordon Webb who played Haydn's Concerto in E flat.

The London Philharmonic, which was formed in 1932, presented programmes containing the works of such 20th-century composers as Edward Elgar and Vaughan Williams, representatives of Britain's fine national culture in the realm of music, as well as masterpieces of European classical composers. These performances are of benefit to Chinese music lovers in getting a better understanding of the accomplishments of the people of Britain and other European countries in music and of their life, customs and history.

The London Philharmonic warmed the hearts of Chinese listeners by a special rehearsal and performance of the "Happy Women Fighters," an interlude from the Chinese modern revolutionary ballet *The Red Detachment of Women*. It was a gesture of friendship for the Chinese people.

The London Philharmonic has made a fresh contribution to friendship and cultural exchanges between the people of China and Britain.

This is my first visit to China. The people of our two countries did not have many contacts in the past but this sort of contact will increase from now on and the Great Wall has borne witness to this friendship. This was what septuagenarian Marie Wilson, one of the first violins in the orchestra, said when the musicians took time off visiting the Great Wall they had long wanted to see with their own eyes.

\* \* \*

**Agreements.** The Chinese and Czechoslovak Governments signed the 1973 goods exchange and payments agreement in Prague on March 20.

\* A similar agreement was signed by the Chinese and Polish Governments in Warsaw on March 23.

\* China and Cuba signed a trade protocol for 1973 in Peking on March 23.

**Ocean-Going Freighter.** The Chinese ocean-going freighter *Kang Ding* has recently anchored in a Chilean port. The vessel is the first of its kind to arrive in that country since the signing of the maritime transport agreement between the Chinese and Chilean Governments last January.

**Ring-Road in Kathmandu.** A summary of talks between Nepal and China on construction of a ring-road in Kathmandu was signed on March 20 in the Nepalese capital. The road is to be constructed with Chinese aid.

**Acrobatics.** The Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe with its 60-odd members left Peking on March 25 for a performance tour of Albania and arrived in Tirana on the same day. It will also visit a number of other European countries. This is the fourth such Chinese troupe to go abroad lately. The Wuhan Acrobatic Troupe, which has an Asian itinerary, is now visiting Burma. The other two, the Shenyang and the Peking troupes, have returned home after respective Latin American and West Asian-African tours.

## ROMANIA

### "Era Socialista" On Principle Of National Defence

From any viewpoint, Romania's national defence "is both indivisible and intransferable," said an article entitled "The Concept and Principle of National Defence" carried in issue No. 4 (1973) of *Era Socialista*, the theoretical journal of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party.

The article said: Romania's national defence "cannot be restrained or terminated by the action of a certain foreign country or by the occurrence of any other situation."

The aim of national defence, the article said, "lies in ensuring an atmosphere of tranquillity and security needed by the development of a society and in countering certain outside factors which attempt to encroach on the freedom and independence of our socialist nation. In the event of aggression, no matter what form it takes, it is within our power to repulse it."

The article pointed out that Romania's "national defence is of an absolutely defensive character," which "is a factor in strengthening the might of socialism and a contribution to the defence of peace." "Its aim is the protection of Romania's independence and sovereignty."

The article stressed: "Romania resolutely stands for respect for national independence and sovereignty, equality, non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries, mutual benefit and the renunciation of force and threat of force in the relations among nations."

"Another salient feature of Romania's national defence is its indisputable legality," the article continued. "Just as Comrade N. Ceausescu pointed out emphatically at the National Congress of the Romanian Communist Party in July 1972, in the political life of the world, it is necessary to recognize every country's sacred right to freedom and sover-

eignty, the right of self-defence by all ways and means including military means, as well as their legal right to oppose any encroachment upon this right."

The Romanian Communist Party "has paid great attention to national defence; our Party's constant and effective attention to it is an inseparable part of the role of the Party as the highest defender of the Romanian people's vital interests, at the same time it is also an expression of the Party's fulfilment of its lofty internationalist obligations to the universal interests of socialism," the article concluded.

## PAKISTAN

### Exclusive Fishery Zone Extended

The Government of Pakistan, through a presidential proclamation on March 21, extended its exclusive fishery zone in areas of the high seas up to 50 nautical miles from its coast line.

The proclamation says that whereas the coastal communities of Pakistan have from time immemorial been engaged in fishing activities on the high seas adjacent to its territorial waters; and whereas certain areas of these high seas provide fisheries which contribute to the food and means of livelihood of large sections of the Pakistani population; and whereas Pakistan has special interests and rights in exploitation of fisheries adjacent to its coast; now, therefore, in partial modification of the earlier proclamation of February 19, 1966, President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto hereby proclaims and declares that Pakistan shall have an exclusive fishery zone in areas of the high seas adjacent to the territorial waters of Pakistan up to a distance of 50 nautical miles from the coast line.

This modifies an earlier Pakistani Government proclamation of February 19, 1966, in which the exclusive fishery zone on the high seas was up to a distance of 12 nautical miles.

A press note issued by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture said: "There is growing evidence that extensive fishing has been done in the Arabian Sea adjacent to Pakistan's coast. This has caused damage to the normal movement of fish from the deep sea to the coastal waters. Catches have drastically dwindled causing widespread hardship to the Pakistani community. To protect the stock of fish and shrimps found in the Pakistan waters and to save from total ruination of the fishermen, who have been fishing in these areas for ages, the Government of Pakistan have decided to declare 50 miles as an exclusive fishery zone for Pakistan."

## ZIMBABWE

### Two Nationalist Organizations Unified

An agreement to unify the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) was signed on March 17 by ZANU representative H.W. Chitepo and ZAPU representative J.Z. Moyo in Lusaka, capital of Zambia.

The agreement stressed that the unification first of all was aimed at carrying out the struggle against the Smith colonialist regime more effectively. It said: "The people of Zimbabwe are one, and the two organizations have the same objective. Hence, the two organizations should wage more effective revolutionary armed struggle through combined action for the attainment of that objective."

A political council of Zimbabwe and a joint military command will be formed under the agreement.

The agreement announced: "This document will come into force in two months."

## NAMIBIA

### Violent Action by the Ovambos

The Ovambo people of South West Africa (Namibia) took violent action on March 7 against the plot of setting up an "advisory council," a tool

of the South African white racist authorities in Namibia.

On the evening of March 7, a man in the pay of the South African white racist authorities was explaining the virtues of the "advisory council" to a crowd that had gathered in Katura outside Windhoek, capital of South West Africa. The infuriated Ovambos broke up the meeting, stormed and burnt down a municipal building of the white racist regime and short-circuited the electricity supply. The South African reactionary authorities immediately took repressive measures and police rein-

forcements were rushed to the scene. The area was sealed off and more than 100 Africans were arrested. The violent action of the Ovambos lasted 6 hours.

In December 1971, Ovambo workers in the area, together with other black brothers, carried out a big strike against the racist oppression and ruthless exploitation of the South West African workers by the South African reactionary authorities. The strike which spread from Windhoek to other areas was the biggest in the history of the people's movement in Namibia. The strike ended in victory. On January 20, 1972, the white

racist authorities were forced to promise to raise African workers' wages and granted them freedom to choose jobs and employers. Thus, the "contract labour system" of 42 years' standing went bankrupt in South West Africa.

The proposed "advisory council" of the South African white racist authorities is nothing but a tool composed of appointed white racists and hired non-whites, and is designed to hoodwink the African people and public opinion. It has, therefore, met with universal opposition from the Namibian people.

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has never let up in her study of theory. Since last year, together with two other women cadres, she has studied *On Contradiction*, *On Practice* and *Manifesto of the Communist Party*, discussing the works paragraph by paragraph and seeking explanations whenever she needed. They have thus gradually raised their theoretical level and ability to understand and analyse things.

### Concern and Care

The Party branch realizes that women have more difficulties than men in doing some work. It shows its concern for women cadres in two ways.

It helps solve their problems regarding children and housework by setting up creches and kindergartens, thus relieving them of part of these burdens. In giving them work, the Party branch takes into consideration the concrete conditions of each woman cadre and leaves them plenty of time to take care of their homes. Though they are encouraged to do exemplary work in production, their physical characteristics are taken into account and they are dissuaded from doing over-heavy work or work otherwise unsuited to them.

The women cadres are helped to correctly solve the problems of marriage, care for their children and housework. Towards those already married, the Party branch often talks with their husbands and parents-in-law to enlist the latter's support.

One night in the winter of 1967 when Kuo Ai-lien was at a meeting in the commune, her baby cried for a long time at home and her husband was in a dither. The mother-in-law also was displeased. Ai-lien came home late to a fuming husband, and a row ensued. When the Party branch heard of this, it immediately sent Chen Yung-kuei to talk with the husband. "If we men are away at work, the women hold the fort and never complain when we come home late," he said. "So

why can't we look after the children for a change when they go to meetings? Women are the 'other half' of the brigade, you know. Just imagine half the brigade chained to the home—how can production and revolution go ahead then?" In the meantime, Sung Li-ying was chatting with the mother-in-law. "In the old society, we women were less than human beings. We had no say in anything. Now that Chairman Mao and the Communist Party have liberated us, we should support women running public affairs."

### Enormous Role

The women cadres play an increasingly important role in revolution and production. Representing the interests of the women of the whole brigade, they have become the links between the Party organization and the masses of the women.

Busy as Sung Li-ying is, she seldom misses doing productive labour in the fields. Kuo Feng-lien also works at the head of her team in all weather. Even with three children at home Kuo Ai-lien averages some 300 out of 356 days of field work a year. Learning from their example, Tachai's women work shoulder to shoulder with their men throughout the year sowing, reaping or building up their farmland. Their enthusiasm to farm for the sake of the revolution has mounted steadily.

The women cadres are models in teaching their children. They realize that their children, born and bred in the new society, know little or nothing about the past misery and may easily have a feeling of superiority because they are from cadres' families and belong to a nationally known advanced unit. The women cadres, therefore, pay particular attention to bringing up their children. Through their efforts, the children of the formerly poor and lower-middle peasants of Tachai study diligently, shun idleness and love labour, and always keep the collective interests at heart.

## Ordinary But Outstanding Women

AROUND the time of "March 8" International Working Women's Day, newspapers in China carried quite a number of reports on women in various circles who have distinguished themselves by their outstanding deeds. Some are cadres at various levels, leading the masses in both revolution and production. Greater in number, the others who do ordinary work have also made outstanding contributions. This is eloquent proof of what Chairman Mao has said: "Times have changed, and today men and women are equal. Whatever men comrades can accomplish, women comrades can too."

Following are a few stories.

### A Fishing Team

Riding the waves of the Gulf of Bac Bo are two motorized fishing boats forming a fishing team with a 28-woman crew belonging to the Waisha Production Brigade in Peihai city, Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region.

Since the team was set up in 1958, it has been among the city's high-yielding fishing units. In 1959, it was cited as an advanced collective in the aquatic products industry and its leader Communist Party member Wang Hsiu-ying attended the National Conference of Labour Heroes in Peking.

In the past, women were not allowed to go fishing on the sea. In 1958, 23-year-old Wang Hsiu-ying proposed to the brigade's Party branch that a women's fishing team be set up. Before long, her suggestion was accepted and she was elected captain.

With Wang Hsiu-ying taking the lead, the crew went out of its way to learn to swim and dive, steer the ship, cast nets, operate the engines and other techniques. In the past 15 years, they have caught a total of 8.3 million *jin* of fish.

Tempered in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, these fisherwomen now work with greater enthusiasm. A member of the Peihai city Party committee, Captain Wang Hsiu-ying continues to go to sea. One evening when they were fishing in a high wind, their nets got entangled with the propeller. Without the slightest hesitation, she dived underwater several times and managed to get the net disentangled after more than an hour.

Early last September, when the women were lowering the nets, they received a warning of an imminent typhoon. The production brigade leaders on shore urged them to come back immediately. However, taking into account the wind velocity and other data provided by weather forecasts, the women figured out that since the typhoon was somewhere around Hainan Island to the south, it would take at least 24 hours to reach the Gulf of Bac Bo. They decided to continue casting their nets on their way home to get as big a catch as possible.

Hauls by these two fishing boats have kept rising every year. Their 1972 catch was 1.1346 million *jin*, 26 per cent higher than in 1971.

### A Drilling Group

The "March 8" drilling group composed of 20 young women whose average age is 20 is active among the geological prospecting teams in the mountainous areas of Hupeh Province in central China. It fulfilled its assigned tasks 54 days ahead of schedule in 1972 and was cited as an advanced unit in the province's geological department.

The group was formed on March 8, 1971 at the request of its present members and was approved by the Party branch.

Anxious to find mineral resources for the state, all these young women who graduated from school during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution travelled the year round in the

wilderness and lived in tents. Divided into several shifts, they operated the drilling rig 24 hours a day. Though they all came from big cities, they did not fear hardship and were always eager to do the more difficult jobs in any weather.

At first, when 22-year-old group leader Hou Lan-yu, a Communist Party member, had to climb up the shaft to do some repairs, she was a bit nervous. But after hard training, she soon became good at climbing up the shaft and doing whatever had to be done on it.

While raising their technical level, they have diligently studied works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Chairman Mao's works to enhance their political consciousness. Last year, two of them were admitted into the Communist Youth League and nine were cited as advanced workers.

Despite their work in out-of-the-way mountains, they enjoy life. They often play ball games, dance and sing and sometimes performed skits of their own creation.

### Hoche Girl Joins Army

Eighteen-year-old Ho Shu-jung of the Hoche nationality, one of the smallest nationalities in China, last year became the first Hoche woman to enlist in the Chinese People's Liberation Army. She is now a member of the signal corps of a P.L.A. Shenyang unit.

In the old days, the Hoche people living in the border area of Heilungkiang Province in northeast China were poverty-stricken. Driven into the woods, they died in large numbers. Only several hundred Hoches were left on the eve of liberation.

These people got a new lease of life after liberation. Ho Shu-jung's family is typical. Her parents and elder brother are now people's commune members. Her eldest sister went to college and became the first college student of the Hoche people. Another elder sister is a member of the county revolutionary committee, a third is a railway worker. Her two younger brothers and three younger sisters are studying in middle or primary schools.



The platoon leader giving Ho Shu-jung (right) tips on marksmanship.

To defend their hard-won happy life, the Hoche people are eager to have their sons and daughters join the People's Liberation Army. Their long-cherished hope came true in the winter of last year when P.L.A. units were recruiting soldiers. Ho Shu-jung sent in three applications in succession and after full discussion all the villagers recommended her.

The whole village, men and women, old and young, turned out to give her a big send-off on New Year's Eve. Young people danced their national dances, while women sang *The East Is Red* in the Hoche language. Many old men and women gave Ho Shu-jung much good advice encouraging her to be a good defender of the socialist motherland.

### Lung-mei Goes to College

Lung-mei and Yu-jung, two Mongolian girls known across the land as "Heroic Little Sisters on the Grasslands," have become college and middle school students.

Eleven and nine years old in 1964, they were caught in a spring blizzard while grazing sheep on the Inner Mongolian grasslands. Having lost their way, they walked 35 kilometres in weather that was over 30°C. below

zero, looking after the commune-owned flock. When the herdsmen found them, they had fought the snowstorm for 24 hours. Their heroic deed soon spread throughout the country and was widely told in stories and picture story books.

Lung-mei is now a student at the Paotow Medical College in Inner Mongolia. Before she was enrolled, she had enlisted in the People's Liberation Army and worked in an army hospital where she diligently studied Chairman Mao's works and medical knowledge and distinguished herself for her tenaciousness during camping exercises and while travelling with mobile medical teams. She was admitted into the Chinese Communist Party.

The army unit's Party organization sent her to the college in March last year. With the encouragement of the school's leadership and help from her schoolmates, she has made much progress. Her parents often write to her, urging her to study hard for the revolution.



Installers of the Wuhan Power Supply Bureau.

Though she is now receiving a higher education, Lung-mei retains the fine qualities of the labouring people. Back home for the holidays not long ago, she spent two days grazing the production brigade's sheep.

### Saving a Train

The story of how four women in Szechuan Province risked their lives to prevent a railway accident has been making the rounds.

It was noon and raining hard when three women working in a fertilizer plant were on their way home along a narrow path alongside a railway line. Suddenly they heard the sound of rocks rumbling down the hillside ahead of them. When they got a little further on the path they saw two boulders lying on the rails.

The No. 10 Chungking-Peking express was due soon, and they lost no time trying to get the boulders off the tracks. After some strenuous efforts they managed to remove one. But they could scarcely budge the other.

Calling in the maintenance crew half a kilometre away was out of the question. With time running out, a woman carrying a load on a shoulder-pole came by. Seeing what had happened, she joined in by prising the boulder with her pole.

The distant whistle of the onrushing train could be heard. The last comer started to run towards the approaching train, waving her arms and shouting: "Stop! Stop!"

The driver quickly applied the brakes when he saw her. A split second before the train ground to a stop, the three other women had been able to get the boulder loose and they had jumped off the tracks. The driver and all on the train thanked the women and asked for their names and addresses. But all they replied was: "Comrade driver, please start the train! Don't be delayed!"

Spring 1973

# CHINESE EXPORT COMMODITIES FAIR

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