

People's 人民中国 China

February 16, 1951

The First Year of the Sino-Soviet Treaty

— Su Chung-yu

The People's New Literature

— Chou Yang

Rural-Urban Trade in New China

— Chen Chun

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Supplement: *Chou En-lai's
Statement on Illegal U.N. Resolution*

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SUPPLEMENT

Chou En-lai's Statement on Illegal U.N. Resolution

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Imperialist America Wants War, Not Peace!

It is war and not peace that the American ruling clique wants in Asia. The U.S. government has flatly rejected the just and reasonable 4-point proposal put forward by the Chinese Central People's Government as a basis for solving peacefully the Korean and other Far Eastern issues. It has bluffed, blackmailed and bludgeoned its satellites in the United Nations into passing an illegal resolution condemning as "aggression" the widely acclaimed, righteous and heroic action of the Chinese people's volunteers assisting the Korean people to defend their country. This illegal resolution, slandering China as an "aggressor," slams the door on peaceful negotiations.

By these sordid intrigues at the United Nations, the U.S. government proclaims to the world that it is irrevocably committed to a policy of war against the Asian peoples. The U.S. aggression in Korea and armed occupation of the Chinese island of Taiwan already alarmed every right-thinking person throughout the world. The U.S. refusal to settle Asian questions around the conference table is the final proof of American deceit and hypocrisy. The American aggressor now stands naked before the world.

The American bloc had little cause to congratulate itself on the passing of its illegal resolution, for the debate and voting merely showed the extent of the defeat suffered by America on the international arena. The American intrigue to prevent the 48-hour adjournment to study the Chinese Government's clarification was defeated by many of the votes supposedly controlled by the State Department. The American press described this defeat as the worst the U.S. had suffered in the five years of U.N. history.

The overwhelming majority of the Arab-Asian nations oppose the U.S. policy in Asia. Despite U.S. pressure no Asian country, apart from the bankrupt governments of the Philippines and Thailand, supported the "thief-cries-thief" resolution of the U.S. The peoples of Asia now rightly see American aggression against Korea as only the most unbridled aspect of an aggressive policy towards Asia as a whole that carries a direct threat to each one of them.

The crudest measures of pressure were used to coerce supposedly docile satellites into voting for the U.S. resolution. Those who finally "strung along" with the U.S. hardly had the look of reliable allies.

More and more are the peoples and governments seeing the true face of American imperialism, the criminal folly of its ambitions and the dangers of its course.

The Indian delegate rightly warned the U.N. that the adoption of the U.S. resolution would not only close the door to a peaceful regulation of the issues in question but would drag the world onto the road of disaster. The Soviet delegate, consistently leading the fight for peace at the U.N., solemnly condemned the U.S. government for blocking the path to a peaceful settlement of the Korean and other questions and warned those who voted for it of the serious responsibility they were assuming for its consequences.

This illegal resolution, however, will not chart the course of history. The countries that opposed the American resolution represent more than half the world's population; the countries that supported the Arab-Asian 12-Nation Resolution, which despite certain shortcomings shows a genuine desire for peace, represent 1,400,000,000 people. The overwhelming majority of the people of the world are for a peaceful solution of Asian questions. The American aggressors are becoming more and more isolated. This is the determining trend of history.

Therefore, as Foreign Minister Chou En-lai points out in his statement of February 2, "to strive for the burying of this resolution—this shameful, aggressive, reactionary and imperialist United States resolution which has been merely nominally and illegally adopted—to strive for rendering it an utter failure, will not only pave the way for the peaceful settlement of the Korean problem and other important Asian problems, but also establish the basis for opposition to aggressive war, for defence of world peace and for restoration of the dignity of the United Nations Charter."

The U.S. Gamble in Japan

John Foster Dulles' journey to Tokyo clearly portends a speed-up in American attempts to revive the reactionary aggressive forces in Japan. The American ruling clique has decided to concoct a separate peace treaty with Japan in order to re-arm their ex-enemy and prospective ally in aggression.

Like Adenauer's Western Germany in Europe, Japan under Yoshida is marked down to serve as the shock force of U.S. imperialism in Asia. Once again the Japanese people are being urged to tramp the dangerous path of aggression—this time as mercenaries of Wall Street.

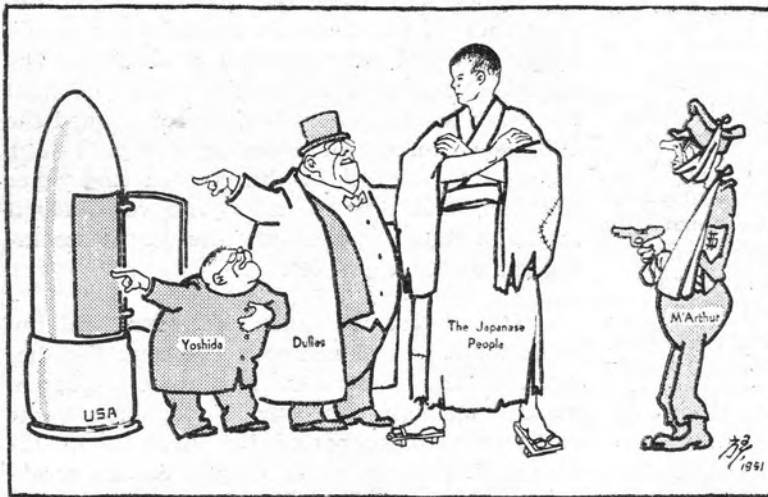
Since the Chiang Kai-shek's and Syngman Rhee's have failed them, the American imperialists now pin their hopes on the Yoshida regime. Japan under American occupation is already being used as the main forward base for the U.S. invasion of Korea, for its raids on China's Northeast and intervention on Taiwan. Now the U.S. warmongers plan to drive

the Japanese people into the firing line to replenish their dwindling stocks of cannon-fodder.

The Japanese people, however, are not tamely submitting to the *diktat*. Mass rallies and resolutions have demonstrated their refusal to become tools of U.S. imperialist policy. They demand an overall peace treaty that includes the great Powers, the Chinese People's Republic and the U.S.S.R. They know that the American plot for a separate peace treaty faces Japan with disaster. No repressions by the Yoshida government will deflect them from their demand for an overall peace treaty.

In this struggle for freedom and peace, the Japanese people are not alone. The Asian peoples and especially the peoples of China and the Soviet Union will never allow America to carry out its criminal plans.

The Chinese and Soviet peoples are now celebrating the first anniversary of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance. At this time, when the U.S. government, against the interests of peace, seeks to speed up the re-armament of a reactionary Japan and intensify its war operations in Korea and Asia, this treaty, as described in an accompanying article, stands as a major factor of peace in the East. The imperialists would do well to read it carefully again. It unites the might of 700,000,000 people to fight against any attempt to do just what the U.S. imperialists are plotting to do in Japan. And this great force is supported by the ever increasing strength of the peace camp of the world determined to prevent the resurgence of Japanese aggressive forces and the plunging of their lands into a new holocaust of war.



Dulles: "Here's a nice little billet for you!"

Cartoon by Fang Chen and Chung Ling

Pleven Jumps to It

By banning the activities in France of the three biggest international mass organisations—the W.F.T.U., the W.I.D.F. and the W.F.D.Y.—the Pleven government has again exposed itself as a betrayer of the great democratic tradition of the French people and as a faithful lackey of U.S. imperialism—the common enemy of the peace-loving people of the world.

By this unreasonable ban, the American warmongers and their French pensioners are attempting to undermine the growing movement for international friendship and peace. But by this very act they proclaim their own weakness and fear of the organised masses of the democratic peace-loving peoples. It comes at a time when the Wall Street imperialists are being crushingly defeated in Korea and are facing mounting difficulties in their plans to re-arm Western Germany and build up an aggressive army out of their European satellites. On his visit to Truman,

Pleven was required to give fresh proof of zeal in his master's cause and reliability as an anti-democratic force.

This act of fascist spite has raised a storm of protest from the 240,000,000 members of these three organisations. It is denounced by peace-loving people from every quarter of the globe and has aroused them to yet greater efforts in defence of their vital interests. Like their brothers and sisters of other nations, Chinese workers, women and youth have actively protested against the provocative action of the French government. They are confident that this shameless attack on the people's democratic rights will be fruitless. They renew their pledge to continue to strengthen their great efforts against American aggression in Asia and in defence of world peace.

This is the answer of the peace camp to this latest sally of the camp of war!



The First Year of the Sino-Soviet Treaty

Su Chung-yu

A year ago, on February 14, 1950, the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance was signed in Moscow. It was New China's first and most important treaty. It has been hailed with the greatest enthusiasm by the Chinese and Soviet peoples. It was acclaimed by the democratic elements in all countries as a major contribution to world peace and security.

The treaty strengthens the historic ties of the great friendship between these two peoples that constitute almost a third of the world's population. At a function on February 15, 1950 in Peking celebrating the signing of the treaty, Liu Shao-chi, Vice-Chairman of the Central People's Government, stated:

"The deep friendship between the peoples of China and the Soviet Union dates back a long time; nevertheless, it is only now, thanks to the historic victory of the Chinese people, that this friendship has been able to take real shape and be consolidated in a treaty, thus ushering in a completely new era in the cordial relations between the peoples of China and the Soviet Union. By the conclusion of this treaty, China has now acquired a great ally such as she has never had before. China will thus be able to consolidate the victory won by her people, and her seriously damaged economy will be rapidly restored and developed. At the same time, the forces of world peace, democracy and Socialism headed by the Soviet Union will be immeasurably strengthened, providing for safeguards for peace in the Far East and general security in the world. The conspiracy of the imperialists and warmongers to destroy Sino-Soviet friendship has gone bankrupt."

In an address on March 10, 1950, V. M. Molotov, Deputy-Chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, likewise stressed the significance of the Sino-Soviet Treaty, declaring that it had made Sino-Soviet friendship "a great and powerful force in the consolidation of world peace without any parallel in the past or at present."

Events in the past twelve months have completely borne out the correctness of these appraisals. The fraternal solidarity of the Chinese and Soviet peoples has enhanced the prosperity and power of the two nations. It has become a decisive factor making for world peace and justice. United in faithful pursuance of the treaty provisions, the Chinese People's Republic and the U.S.S.R. have made great progress in promoting their common cause of defending peace in Asia and universal peace and security.

In the sphere of diplomacy and international relations, the Soviet Union has consistently shown its unwavering friendship for the Chinese people.

The Soviet Union has fought consistently for China to take her rightful seat at the United Nations. The hostile imperialist bloc refused to accept the defeat of its attempt to enslave the Chinese people as final and used its voting machine to block the admission of the legitimate representatives of the Chinese people. Thereafter, the Soviet Union refrained from taking part in the Security Council and other organs of the United Nations as a solemn protest against American manipulation of the United Nations and, above all, against the injustice done to the Chinese people. It was not until August last year when it became his turn to preside over the Council meeting that the Soviet delegate returned to the Security Council. By then, the American imperialists had already run amok on their criminal aggression against Korea and China's Taiwan.

Although China has so far not succeeded in gaining her rightful place at the United Nations, imperialist America's conspiracy to deny China her seat on the Security Council and to use the Council to cloak its aggression in Korea as part of an encirclement plot against China, has been thoroughly exposed by the efforts of Soviet spokesmen at the United Nations meetings, especially during the present session of the General Assembly.

The tremendous significance of the Sino-Soviet Treaty is particularly evident when viewed in connection with the situation in Asia today. The Korean people and the Chinese people's volunteers have won and are winning glorious victories in their heroic struggle to free Korea from the American invaders and their satellites. The existence of the Sino-Soviet Treaty and the moral support of the Soviet Union and all other freedom-loving peoples has been of inestimable value in strengthening their confidence and determination to resist the invaders.

The existence of this treaty and its provisions (in Article 1) for joint action in the event of an attack on either contracting party "by Japan or any state allied with it"—action that would bring the mighty force of these two great peoples crashing on the heads of the aggressors—has made the warmongers and would-be aggressors pause and hesitate in the execution of their plans for a third world war against the democratic peoples of the world.

The Chinese People's Republic and the U.S.S.R. are firmly opposed to the remilitarisation of Japan

which the Wall Street imperialists are trying to carry out against the interests of and in opposition to the expressed will of the peoples of Asia. The preamble of the Sino-Soviet Treaty declares that the two countries are "fully determined to prevent jointly, by strengthening friendship and co-operation between the People's Republic of China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the revival of Japanese imperialism and the resumption of aggression on the part of Japan or any other state that may collaborate in any way with Japan in acts of aggression." The Sino-Soviet Treaty in this respect, too, coincides with the interests of all Asian peoples, for every country in Asia is today threatened by the resurgence of Japanese militarism under the aegis of the American ruling circles. The treaty is an earnest of the determination of the two great Powers to defend the peace in Asia. It is a standing warning to the Wall Street imperialists who are planning to use Japan as a spearhead of further U.S. aggression in Asia.

China and the U.S.S.R. both hold that any peace treaty with Japan must in the first place take into account the Potsdam Declaration of 1945, the Yalta Agreement of 1945, and the Far Eastern Commission decisions of June 19, 1947. Since the signing of the Sino-Soviet Treaty the two countries have striven, in accordance with Article 2 of that treaty, for the conclusion at the earliest possible date of a peace treaty with Japan in conjunction with the other Powers who were allies in World War II. In this effort to secure an early, overall and just peace, the two Powers are solidly supported by the Japanese people and all the peace-loving people in Asia whose memories are too bitter to permit Japanese imperialism to raise its evil head again under the protective wing of capitalist America.

The Sino-Soviet Treaty has thus been a powerful stabilising factor in international affairs, it has also been an important direct aid to New Democratic construction in China.

Aids New Democratic Construction

By virtue of the Credit Agreement signed on February 14, 1950, the Soviet Union extended to the Chinese People's Republic a credit valued at US\$300,000,000 extended over a period of five years, to be used for payment of deliveries from the U.S.S.R. of equipment and materials for the restoration and development of the national economy of China. This agreement took effect as from January 1, 1950 and was of particular importance in view of the devastation suffered by China's economy as a result of the Japanese invasion and the American-instigated civil war. During the past twelve months, a considerable amount of valuable industrial equipment has been received from the Soviet Union, including equipment for electrical power stations, metallurgical and engineering plants, mining equipment for the extraction of coal and ores, railway and other transport equipment, rails, and other materials. This loan at the extremely low interest rate of 1 per cent has been a very real expression of the friendly assistance given by the Soviet Union to the Chinese people in building their New Democratic economy and society.

The Trade and Barter Agreements signed in April last year between the two countries was a further expression of the spirit of this treaty. Of

friendship, alliance and mutual assistance. On the basis of these agreements, the U.S.S.R. has been sending China various industrial equipment, including materials to restore and improve China's transport system, in return for raw materials from China. The terms of these agreements have been carried out to the mutual satisfaction and benefit of the two countries during the past year. They have been of added importance to China because of the trade and economic blockade imposed by the American-British imperialist bloc.

Under a further agreement, the Soviet government has furnished China with several hundred experts and advisers to assist the Chinese people in the rehabilitation and development of their industry and agriculture. These men and women have come to People's China with Generalissimo Stalin's instructions to offer without reserve their knowledge so that the work of reconstruction in China may benefit to the utmost from Soviet experience. The Soviet experts have given invaluable aid in many spheres; in railway building and maintenance, in the training of



Stamp commemorating the signing of the Sino-Soviet Treaty

locomotive engineers, in municipal construction and in heavy industry and agriculture. Article 5 of the Sino-Soviet Treaty on economic assistance and co-operation has been supplemented by the agreements on the establishment of two Sino-Soviet joint stock companies for the prospecting, producing and refining of petroleum and coal gas in one case and of non-ferrous metals in the other in Sinkiang Province. Another agreement provided for the establishment of the jointly-operated passenger-freight transport air line linking up the two countries. These joint stock enterprises are formed on the basis of equal rights and partnership: China furnishes the sites, building materials and part of the personnel while the Soviet Union furnishes necessary industrial equipment and personnel. All the three agreements are now operating to the mutual advantage of the two countries.

Implementing the agreement concerning the Chinese Changchun Railway, Port Arthur and Dairen signed on February 14, last year, the Soviet Union undertook to transfer to China all the property in Dairen provisionally administered or leased by the Soviet Union, the property in Northeast China acquired from Japanese owners by Soviet economic organisations and the former military barracks in Peking. A joint Sino-Soviet commission which was set up to arrange these transfers completed its work last year.

These various forms of assistance greatly facilitated New China's tremendous economic victories during the past twelve months.

The total output of steel in 1950, for instance, has exceeded the level reached in 1936, before the Anti-

(Continued on page 27)

The People's New Literature

Chou Yang

The following is the abridged version of a critical essay, which, summarising the literary and artistic activities in the Old Liberated Areas of China, was originally delivered as a report to the First All-China Congress of Writers and Artists, Peking, 1949. The Congress showed that the artistic principles outlined in this report will guide the advance of China's new people's literature and art in the future. This has been confirmed during the course of the past year and half since then. This analysis, therefore, has both a historical and topical interest. Its full translation appears in A People's New Literature, a pamphlet published by the Cultural Press, Peking, 1950.

It is not easy to make a comprehensive yet brief report on the literature and art of the Liberated Areas, on all its stages of development and on all our experiences and various achievements in the past seven years since Chairman Mao Tse-tung's speech at the 1942 Literary Meeting in Yen-an. For though this literature and art is young, it is full of vitality; it has been so much enriched by the people that we have not yet had the time to make a thorough study of its new developments in order to raise our artistic standards to a yet higher level.

One thing is certain, however. Following the Yen-an Literary Meeting, literature and art and literary and artistic workers in the Liberated Areas were radically transformed and a truly new people's literature has emerged. A fundamental change was also brought about in the relationship between literature and the masses. Literature and art have now become effective instruments for educating the masses and leading cadres. They are now activities which are wholly inspired by a sense of responsibility to the people.

Under the leadership of Lu Hsun, ever since the May Fourth Movement in 1919, all progressive revolutionary artists sought to integrate literature with the demands of reality and the masses. But it was only in the Liberated Areas, because of the direct and correct guidance given by Comrade Mao Tse-tung, because of the support of the People's Army and the People's Government, and because of the New Democratic political, economic and cultural reforms, that revolutionary literature and the life of the masses of the workers, peasants and soldiers truly began to complement one another. It was here that we began to realise the ideals of our literary pioneers. Naturally we are still only in the early stages of this realisation, but we have made a great beginning.

Mao Tse-tung's speech at the Yen-an Literary Meeting defined the direction of the literature of New China. The writers in the Liberated Areas understood this. They have sought determinedly to bring this literature into being. Their own experi-

ences have confirmed the complete accuracy of their approach and they believe that any other direction would be wrong.

In the literature of the Liberated Areas, new themes and new characters, like a tide, swept into every form and manner of literary creation.

Themes of the national liberation struggle, the class struggle (particularly land reform) and production outweigh all others. It is the masses of workers, farmers and soldiers in literature, just as in society, who occupy the most important positions. This literature also describes the intellectuals, who are working as cadres in all kinds of occupations, mental as well as physical. Descriptions of intellectuals who did not participate in the people's struggle, but lived only within their own small circle and individualistic world, are obviously worthless, and have no place in the literary works of the Liberated Areas.

Describe the People's Struggle

Works dealing with the awakening of the intellectuals, written during the period from the May Fourth Movement in 1919 up to the Yen-an Literary Meeting in 1942, still did not closely associate the ideals of our progressive intellectuals with the activities of the masses. Thus, while they tell of intellectuals seeking enlightenment, they are essentially individualistic in outlook. They were useful as precursors. But now after more than 20 years of heroic struggles led by the Communist Party, the Chinese people have a high standard of political consciousness and sense of organisation. If, at a time when they are devoting themselves to this great task determining the fate of China, we intellectuals had remained within the narrow circle to which intellectuals were accustomed instead of describing these struggles fully in our literature, we should not only have made a serious deviation from the masses, but we should also have turned our backs on historical truth and the principles of realism.

The authors in the Liberated Areas strove by every means to unite with the masses of workers, peasants and soldiers. They went to the front lines, to the rural areas, to the factories. They participated actively in the fighting, in land reform and in the production movement. They suffered many hardships.

Besides participating in the various struggles of the masses, the authors in the Liberated Areas studied Marxism-Leninism and the teachings of Mao Tse-tung. Through practical work they became

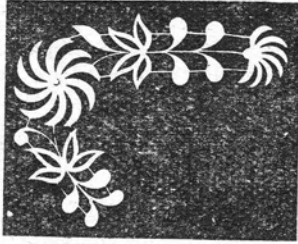


familiar with, and from actual experience they came to understand, the policies of the Chinese Communist Party, the People's Army and the People's Government. This is the basic reason for the healthy growth of literature in the Liberated Areas.

(The author then lists many outstanding productions of the literature of the Liberated Areas including Ma Feng and Hsi Jung's novel *Annals of*

Lu Liang Heroes, Chao Shu-li's Rhymes of Li Yu-tsai and The Changes in Li Chia Village, Yuan Ching and Kung Chueh's New Heroes and Heroines, Liu Pai-yu's Three Invincible Soldiers and Political Commissar, Ting Ling's The Sun Shines

on the San Kan River, Li Po's The Storm, Ho Ching-chih and others' musical drama The White-Haired Woman, Lu Mei and others' Song of the Red Flag, Li Chi's famous long poem Wang Kuei and Li Hsiang-hsiang.)



We live in a period full of struggle and action. With our own eyes we have seen all kinds of heroes and models arise from the midst of our people. They are great and yet commonplace. They are creating historic miracles. Besides singing their praises, what further tribute can we pay to them, the true masters of the history of the world? Even if we merely sketch them, we shall be less severely criticised by history than if we write nothing at all about them.

Men are not born heroes, but they become heroes in the forge of battle. In the process of changing history, people also change themselves. The worker, peasant and soldier masses are not without shortcomings. Often, they retain undesirable ideas and habits left over from the old society. But because of the teaching and leadership of the Communist Party, and with the help of the criticism of the masses, our people are overcoming their shortcomings and backward ideas to become new, heroic personalities. Much of our literature describes the difficult stages by which, through struggle, the masses improve themselves. Only through revolutionary struggle can the fine, painstaking character of the Chinese people reach its peak of development.

Reflect the New National Spirit

Lu Hsun, the greatest inspirer of China's new cultural movement, bitterly castigated that so-called "national spirit" of ours which was actually a backward spiritual state caused by the long sufferings of the people under feudalism and imperialism. He critically described the passive, sad and gloomy aspects of the Chinese people's character, and looked forward to the birth of a new national spirit.

That new national spirit is now in the making. Our literature reflects and expedites its growth. We should still criticise our people's shortcomings, but we must do so, as taught by Chairman Mao, in the warm spirit of "protecting the people." We must not

exaggerate the shortcomings of the people. Compared with their enormous contributions to the war of liberation and to production, their shortcomings amount to little. We must be able to see more of the new and bright aspects of the people. This is characteristic of our new era of the masses, which is different from all previous eras, and likewise this is characteristic of the people's new literature, which is different from all previous literature.

Because the Liberated Areas' literature is new in content, there are many correspondingly new inventions in form. This was first manifested in respect to language. Even since May the Fourth, 1919, progressive revolutionary writers unceasingly discussed the questions of "popularisation" and "nationalisation," but they were unable to reach a practical, thorough solution. Following the Literary Meeting in Yen-an, however, because the writers energetically joined forces with the worker and peasant masses and studied their language and their budding literature, the problem of "popularisation" and "nationalisation" approached solution, or at least the correct road was found for its solution. A unique feature of the Liberated Areas' literature indeed is that its language is popular in form.

Create New Forms Out of the Old

Language is the major element in literary works and is the primary indicator of a national form of literature. Chao Shu-li's special success, on the one hand, is indeed due to his deep understanding of rural life, of rural class relationships, of the complications and intricacies of the class struggle, and of the reflections of such relationships and struggle in the actions of the cadres—this gives his works a high ideological value. But on the other hand, his success is also due to his use of language, for his language is truly of the masses. It has been worked over and polished into such simplicity and naturalness that it is without a trace of artificiality. But, in addition to Chao Shu-li, many other writers, especially those who have worked with the masses, have done much constructive work with language.

Another important characteristic of the Liberated Areas' literature is that it preserves its close ties with the national, and particularly the people's traditional, literature. Those works which are most popular with the masses are all of this nature, for they are presented in forms which the masses are familiar with, and can readily accept. Thus we have created a new people's *yangko* on its old rural basis and its influence has spread all over China.

The Liberated Areas' woodcuts, New Year's pictures, children's picture books, etc., are all rich in Chinese style and flavour. There are many new songs, widely popular with the masses, which retain the flavour of the folk songs.

We make use of the old forms, but not simply in the way of "putting new wine into old bottles," but rather of "creating new things out of the old." This is entirely in accordance with the normal procedure of developing a national literature. Lu Hsun said, "In adopting old forms, some things must be eliminated. What has been eliminated must be replaced. The result is the appearance of a new form, and that is the change." The first step of Lu

Hsun's forecast has already been realised in the Liberated Areas. Now, no one can say that *Rhymes of Li Yu-tsai or Wang Kuei and Li Hsiang-hsiang* or the *yangko* are old forms. On the contrary, they are the new forms for which we have sought.

Formerly, we considered the forms of feudal literature as old. This is correct—but to consider the forms of bourgeois literature as being new is an error. The latter concept originated from an inclination blindly to worship the West. To put it bluntly—it was a reflection of semi-colonial ideas.

So far as the people's literature is concerned, the forms of feudal and bourgeois literature are all old forms. We do not refuse to make use of them, but they must be revised and we shall revise them from a national, scientific and popular viewpoint so that they can be used to serve the people. This is our basic attitude towards all old forms, including folk forms.

The relationship between literature and the people, and between literature and politics, have achieved such a degree of intimacy that the writers in the Liberated Areas now take the requests and reactions of their audiences and readers fully into consideration. They serve the people whole-heartedly, and consider this service an honour and a pleasurable responsibility.

In addition to the creative activities of the professional writers, there are widespread amateur literary activities among the workers, peasants and soldiers in the Liberated Areas. Thanks to political and economic reforms, the people in the Liberated Areas have been able to begin cultural reforms and the worker, peasant and soldier masses who participate in literary activities show an astonishing creative power.

Literature in the People's Liberation Army, continuing to avail itself of the fine traditions of the "Red Army period," has become a powerful political weapon. The soldiers organise their recreation centres, hold rallies, publish wall newspapers, frontline leaflets and battlefield periodicals and produce shows in the trenches—all these reflect their own life and struggles, whether in the training of recruits, in the reorganising of old troops, or in their marching and fighting. Such creative activities have become a widespread mass movement among them.

During the battle west of Chinchow in Northeast China, 71 selections of the "rifle poems," front-line propaganda leaflets, recitations, etc., written by the soldiers of a column of the Fourth Field Army, were printed in 25,000 copies. The soldiers grabbed them up and read them. Moreover, they discussed the contents and competed among themselves to create still more recitations, poems and songs which were educative in nature and stimulated their fighting spirit.



Among the "rifle poems" written by the soldier there are many excellent pieces:

Eight-two cannon, though you're not so young,
Your fame stands not so high.
Another chance for attack has come,
Don't lag again—try!

We have heard that the entire crew which manned the cannon referred to in this poem, including the author, who was a member of the crew, by careful and painstaking practice, improved the effectiveness of their weapon.

Peasants' Literary Activities

The literary movement in the rural areas has an even vaster scope and influence (than in the People's Liberation Army). In the Old Liberated Areas, the activities of rural dramatic troupes are seasonal in nature. New Year's holiday is the time of their literary festival. They do their own writing and their own acting. They write mostly about their own villages, and closely relate their plays to the current major problems. They are the leading characters in their own works. Although most of these works use the old folk forms as a basis, they have been more or less revised into the many new forms of popular literature. These plays, actually produced by the peasants themselves, are numerous, but only a small portion have been published. A great many of them have never even been written down. These works have fulfilled an immediate, direct and beneficial function in advancing the rural struggle and stimulating production, in educating and reforming the peasants. *Yangko* plays and dances have become an indispensable part of the life of the masses, but other literary forms also demonstrate the peasants' great creative ability. There are some gems of new folk poetry:

Chi' Chen Temple
Is a splendid place.
Pine trees and firs grow in its court
But rip up the flagstones and see,
How they grow on the backs of the poor.
—Rip up the Flagstones and See

To live like a man, don't borrow at compound interest:
You borrow for one year,
It takes ten years to pay back.
"Shall I repay the few dollars besides the round figure owed?"
I asked him when making full settlement.
"Don't bother, don't bother," he says.
After a couple of years he changes his mind,
And comes after you for another twenty or thirty thousand!

—Compound Interest

What a biting satire on landlord usurers!

We have not only discovered and compiled the poems and plays of the peasants, but have also discovered and encouraged hundreds of folk authors.

Because previously we did not control the big cities, the workers' spare-time literary movement has only just begun, but it has already acquired definite standards. Now, workers' *yangko* troupes exist in every city, factory, railroad station and mine. Most of the factories have wall newspapers. About 5,000 workers directly participate in literary

(Continued on page 31)

Rural-Urban Trade

Villages and Towns Draw Closer

Chen Chun

If you visit a grocery shop in Peking today, you will be surprised to find seedless oranges from Kiangsi Province, once a special gift to the Manchu emperors. In the same shop you can also buy big and juicy melons from the remote Northwestern Sinkiang Province, dates from the Taihang Mountains in Shansi Province, pumelos from Kwangsi Province and bananas from Kwangtung Province in the deep South.

Make a trip to the countryside, and you will see the booming market in the village fairs. Last month I went to Weihsi Village of Chengan County in Hopei Province. In the market there, I saw various kinds of piece goods, farm tools and fertilizer on sale. Peasant women were particularly interested in such articles as combs, mirrors, towels, stockings and even thermos-bottles, considered a luxury by them in the past. Since last year's autumn harvest, the 400 households with a population of some 1,700, which make up Weihsi Village, have purchased 110 bicycles and more than 800 electric torchlights. In other words, every four households now own a bicycle and every two persons share one torchlight.

Agricultural produce is now supplied to the cities in exchange for industrial goods on a nation-wide scale and on a scope unprecedented in China's history. This is only possible under a New Democratic economic system, because the People's Government works to bring material well-being to the largest possible number of the population, especially to the working class and the peasantry. Capitalism and feudalism serve only a handful of the wealthy.

Key to Prosperity

An abundant interflow of goods between city and countryside is the key to China's prosperity at the present stage. Increased production without a ready market does nobody any good. Co-ordination between production and distribution means the growth of New China's economy, while their dislocation would result in stagnation. This is why the People's Government has paid so much attention to organising the sale of farm products in the city and of industrial goods in the countryside. Furthermore, the heightening of the peasants' purchasing power will inevitably open up a vast market for industrial goods, one of the prerequisites for the nation's industrialisation.

Politically, the development of internal trade will result in improving the living conditions of the working class and the peasants, and will thus cement their alliance, which is the basis for the people's democratic dictatorship in New China. Experience has proved that the peasants give ever greater support to the leadership of the working class when their own interests are safeguarded and promoted. If the peasants have no outlet for their produce while their needs for manufactured articles are left unsatisfied, they will naturally grow discontented.

And this was exactly what happened with the 380 million Chinese peasants in the days of KMT misrule.

Because of the colonial character of the traitorous KMT regime, the exchange of goods between rural and urban areas was deliberately hampered. On the one hand, large quantities of foodstuffs were annually imported to China's coastal towns, and on the other, grain in the hinterland was left to rot. Similarly, cotton growers were unable to market their produce, while China's textile mills were fed chiefly with imported cotton.

The result was a drop in the prices of agricultural produce and a corresponding rise in those of industrial goods. In one year prior to the outbreak of the Anti-Japanese War in 1937, the rice price in the two provinces of Hunan and Hupeh, as a result of a good harvest, fell from the normal level of \$8 to \$3 per *shih*, while the price of one bolt of cloth went up from the normal quotation of \$7.40 to \$9. In normal times, a Hunanese peasant could buy slightly more than one bolt of cloth with one *shih* of rice. But during that year, he had to pay three *shih* for only one bolt. This meant a precipitous plunge in the peasants' purchasing power.

Little wonder then that the bulk of the Chinese peasants, noted for their industry and thrift, were

in perpetual poverty, more acutely so after crop failures. In the Northwestern provinces, it was common for peasant women to share one pair of worn-out trousers with many other family members. Millions of people died of hunger and cold annually. For example, in 1946 there were 30,000,000 people in the KMT-controlled

area struggling just to avoid starvation, and in the one province of Hunan, known as China's "Rice Bowl," some 3,000,000 people simply ran out of food of any kind and died of starvation.

With the nation-wide victory of progress over reaction in 1949, the miseries and sufferings of the people drew to an end. Daylight has returned to their lives.

Since its inauguration on October 1, 1949, the people's own government set out to revive the nation's economy and lost no time in facilitating and organising the interflow of goods both between the city and the countryside, and between one part of the country and another.



In so doing, the People's Government has encouraged free trade at home by removing all barriers imposed by the reactionary KMT. Next, it banned the import of articles which China herself can produce, including foodstuffs, industrial raw materials and various manufactured goods. It then saw to it that price stability and good social order were maintained. With the assistance of Soviet experts, it also restored and developed the nation's communications system, especially railways.

As these favourable conditions for trade were being created, the government proceeded to tackle the gigantic task of bringing back to life the nation's economy which had been strangled both by the KMT regime and by foreign imperialism.

Here, state trading companies have played a leading role in the work by carrying out a vast programme of purchasing agricultural produce at prices favourable to the peasants. During the 11 months from January to November, 1950, they bought from the peasants more than one million tons of grain, 250,000 tons of cotton, 4,500 tons of hog bristles, 950,000,000 eggs, 29,000 tons of tea, more than 30,000 tons of tea bricks, and large quantities of raw silk, wool, sausage casings, tobacco, tung oil, etc.

Co-operatives also have had a big share in facilitating the interflow of commodities. Besides helping state trading companies in the purchasing programme, they have distributed to the peasants in all corners of China such articles as cloth, daily necessities, fertilizer and farm tools. In Northeast China, the volume of trade handled by the co-operatives there amounted to 74 per cent of that handled by state trading companies during the first half of last year.

Under the encouragement and guidance of the government, private industrialists and merchants, too, have been working hard to serve the vast countryside. Private factories and plants are turning out goods that are really needed by the people. Textile mills, for example, are spinning coarser but more durable cotton yarn for those who live in the countryside. During the first nine months of 1950, the amount of cotton yarn and piece goods purchased from private textile mills by state trading companies to supply the people reached more than 70 per cent of the nation's total output.

Meanwhile, private merchants have organised themselves to carry business to villages and hamlets. The government sees to it that transactions are conducted in such a way as to be beneficial to all parties concerned—the producer, the merchant and the consumer.

What are the results of these efforts? What are

the changes in the nation's economic life that have been brought about by the increased interflow of goods?

Production in the first place has been increased at an astonishing rate. When the tillers realised that the fruits of their labour could be profitably exchanged for goods they needed, their enthusiasm in production naturally soared. This coupled with other factors, such as agrarian reform and government encouragement, account for the increase in agricultural production of 10,000,000 tons of grain and 260,000 tons of cotton in 1950 over the previous year.

Industry and Commerce Revive

On the other hand, the revival of industry and commerce in the cities has also been accelerated. After having converted their produce into good cash, the emancipated peasants have become the nation's best customers for industrial goods. As a result, more and more factories and shops have been opened in cities and towns, and the number of unemployed has been decreasing daily.

Take Shanghai, for example. The output of both state-owned and privately-run textile mills in this metropolis during November 1950 exceeded that for January of the same year by 76.6 per cent. Considerable increases have also been reported in Shanghai's production of paper, flour, rubber shoes and other manufactured products.

Particularly noteworthy is the fact that the network of commodity exchange has extended as far as the frontier provinces of Sinkiang, Chinghai, Kansu and Sikang, where national minorities live in large numbers. State trading companies have set up branches in these far-flung places to buy goods from the nomadic people and to supply them with articles of daily necessity.

To illustrate this point, let us take Chinghai Province, where trade with the national minorities had virtually come to a standstill under the KMT regime as a result of warlord Ma Pu-fang's rapacious policy. There have been great changes here since liberation. During the course of 1950, state trading companies purchased more than 8,400 tons of wool, 8.5 tons of fine wool, and 65 tons of camel hair from the people. These purchases, according to the then prevailing market prices, were valued at an equivalent of nearly 490,000 tons of wheat or more than 100 billion dollars (people's currency). Never before in history had the nomads in Northwest China netted such a huge income. After the transactions were completed, they returned home with their own purchases—quantities of cloth, grain and tea bricks.

Even the people of the Kolo tribe, also in Chinghai Province, who had fled in the face of KMT persecution to mountain tops and remained there isolated from the world for 32 long years, ventured to come out from their hide-outs to do business at the end of last year. Much to their surprise and subsequent joy, they found they could exchange every 50 kilograms of wool for eight to eleven tea bricks instead of only one as had been the case in pre-liberation days. It is the consistent policy of state trading companies to carry out fair deals with their patrons.

This explains the rapid growth of commerce in Sinning, provincial capital of Chinghai Province. The number of dealers in miscellaneous goods rose from



368 at the time of liberation towards the end of 1949 to 687 last September.

Such were the efforts exerted by the government to facilitate the interflow of goods in 1950. However, it must be pointed out that the amount, large as it was, of agricultural produce and handicraft products purchased and marketed by the government last year was inadequate when compared with the total need. Many growers of industrial crops, for instance, still found that their needs for foodstuffs, fuel, fertilizer and even cattle and fodder had not yet been adequately met. Meanwhile they were worried about the disposal of their produce on hand.

New Measures

Hence, the Central People's Government made it a top priority in the financial and economic work for 1951 to organise the increased interflow of native products on a nation-wide scale.

But in transactions of such tremendous quantities of agricultural and industrial goods, an astonishingly large amount of cash is needed, which, if not properly handled, will lead to inflation. The government has therefore devised the following ways to facilitate the interflow of goods:

(1) **Barter System.** Large quantities of native products are to be exchanged among big administrative areas, provinces and counties on a contractual basis. It has already been agreed that before June 30 of this year, Northeast China is to ship 100,000 tons each of coarse grain, bean cake and soya bean to North and East China, from which transaction Northeast China will receive in return 1,000 tons of ginned cotton and 600,000 bolts of piece goods. By another agreement among the five provinces in North China, each will exchange what it has for what it needs.

(2) **Purchase on Credit.** Through a vast network of co-operatives, state trading companies have been buying produce on credit from peasants. At a stipulated time, the sellers are either paid cash plus interest or goods they need such as fertilizer, seeds, farm tools and other such items. In this way, the peasants are able to dispose of their goods, while the government has the bulk of the nation's supplies under its control. Of course, the system works only when the peasants have faith in government trading agencies; and that they have this is beyond doubt.

The above are the two main programmes designed to regulate supply and demand without, however, involving much in the way of cash payments in transactions. They are further supplemented by three other projects.

(3) A new orientation in business policy has been set for private industrialists and merchants, who are encouraged by the government to work for the welfare of the people in the countryside where they can find a ready market for their goods. Indeed, these private industrialists and merchants can play quite an important role in facilitating the interflow of goods.

(4) Saving is promoted among the peasants, who are urged to deposit their produce with village co-operatives. In time of need, they will be granted credit for production purposes.

(5) A new commercial network adapted to the new situation is being organised. Every available means of transport has been mobilised to move goods

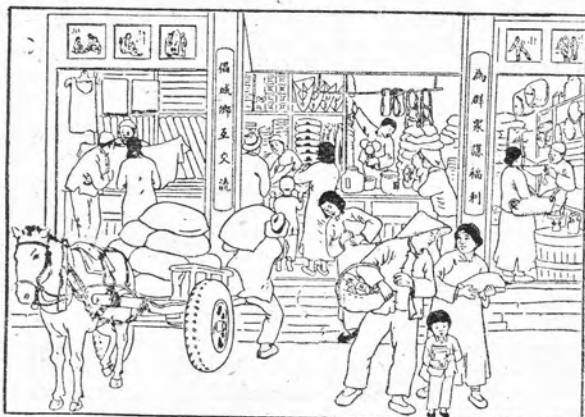
to and from the city, where store-houses and hostels are prepared. At the same time, selling and buying agents have been appointed to give assistance to their peasant customers who may come to town to do business.

Such are some of the positive measures taken by the government to revive the nation's economy. They help small producers, who predominate on the production scene in today's China, to turn their products into good money. They bring in supplies to meet the growing needs of the consumers near and afar. If the merchants participate in the process, they are assured of a reasonable profit.

But the efforts of the government do not end there. Realising that modern industrial production accounts for only 10 per cent of the nation's total wealth while agricultural and handicraft production make up 90 per cent, and that the tendency towards a widening disparity between the prices of the two categories of goods must be combated, the government has decided to institute a rationing system throughout China in 1951. A small-scale experimental rationing plan covering three million people is already in force in selected districts. This system will enable the peasant consumers to get such supplies as cloth, coal, fuel, kerosene, fertilizer and other daily necessities from co-operatives at prices much lower than the prevailing market quotations. It will also safeguard the interests of the peasants by eliminating the middlemen's exploitation, and thus enable the co-operatives to develop towards the correct direction of really serving their members, that is, the masses.

Meanwhile, the government is also endeavouring to place the whole or an overwhelmingly great part of the nation's supplies under its control for purposes of stabilising prices.

The days when the city exploited the countryside and when the two were in great disharmony have gone forever in China. A new era of mutual help between the urban and rural areas and of co-operation between industry and agriculture has opened in this part of the world inhabited by 475 million liberated people. Conditions are indeed being rapidly created to speed up the industrialisation of the country primarily through the nation's own efforts. With prospects for an abundant life for all, the Chinese people, led by their beloved leader Mao Tse-tung, stride forward with confidence and well-founded optimism.



Village Co-op

Su Chien

The Growth of the Viet-Nam People's Army

Truong Son

The Viet-Nam People's Army was six years old on December 22, 1950. Its rapid growth in both strength and numbers, thanks to the clear-sighted leadership of President Ho Chi Minh and its Commander-in-Chief, General Vo Nguyen Giap, is borne out by the deadly blows it has dealt the French colonialists throughout the territory of Viet-Nam.

The brilliant VPA victories in the Cao Bang-Lang Son Area (North Viet-Nam) in October last and in the Vinh Yen-Phuc Yen Area (50 kilometres northwest of Hanoi) in mid-January this year have eloquently demonstrated that it is not only capable of shattering the French imperialists' dream of reconquering Viet-Nam, but also of dealing smashing blows at the French imperialists and the American interventionists who are aiding them. These victories are also a stern warning to the Franco-American clique that their foolish scheme of transforming Viet-Nam into a springboard and military base for their projected aggression against the People's China and the Soviet Union is not only impossible of fulfilment but also fatal to them.

The first armed group of the Viet-Nam people's forces was formed in the Hoang Hoa Tham Area on the common border of the provinces of Cao Bang, Bac Kan and Lang Son in North Viet-Nam in 1944 as a result of the people's growing indignation against the atrocities of the Japanese occupation forces.

The Start: 34 Men, 150 Bullets

The main task of the "Viet-Nameese Liberation Armed Propaganda Squad," as it was then called, was to rouse the Viet-Nameese people to create anti-Japanese armed organisations, to spread democratic ideas, to mobilise the population to strengthen the guerrilla forces and protect their bases. The propaganda squad started with 34 members, some obsolete rifles and 150 bullets. It received from President Ho Chi Minh a donation of 500 piastres for its expenses. But precious indeed were President Ho's fatherly and prophetic words. "You are the first unit of the future People's Army," said he to the men of the propaganda squad. "Other units will come into being. Although your unit is still small, it will develop all over the country."

President Ho's six-year-old prediction has come true. The VPA is now a strong army fighting for the independence of its country and to safeguard world peace and democracy. It is pinning down and wiping out about 250,000 French and puppet troops in Viet-Nam and has considerably worn down the reactionary strength of the warmongers headed by American imperialism. Members of the "Viet-Nameese Liberation Armed Propaganda Squad" are now found among the topmost leaders of the VPA such as General Vo Nguyen Giap, C-in-C and Minister for Defence, Hoang Van Thai, Chief of the General Staff, and other commanders of different war zones.

The VPA was born and grew up in the hard struggle against the Japanese for the capture of

power, and in the war of resistance against the French which has been going on for the past five years.

Before the 1945 August Revolution, small self-defence groups had quickly developed into better organised guerrilla units. After the capture of power, the VPA enriched its equipment with arms captured from the Japanese and organised itself into companies and battalions. During the first stage of the resistance, in view of the particular conditions in the country, companies were scattered to operate independently but regrouped into battalions whenever important attacks had to be launched. With the increasing number of arms captured from the enemy during these past five years, the VPA is now capable of putting several regiments into motion simultaneously to annihilate the enemy forces in large-scale operations of mobile warfare.

A Well-Trained, Efficient Force

The Viet-Nameese High Command has paid great attention to increasing the VPA's efficiency. The slogan "Learn to fight and combine theory with practice" has spread through all the war zones. The People's Armymen have participated heart and soul

in the "master technique, perform exploits" campaign. Schools were opened to train military cadres and training courses have been given to 90 per cent of the armymen.

The core of the VPA consists of the peasants emancipated by the August Revolution. Their fighting spirit is therefore unrivalled. Their endurance is remarkable. They can walk nine kilometres in 41 minutes on hilly ground carrying their full equipment. Before coming to the army most of them were illiterate, now they can read and write. It is no longer unusual for VPA men to be able to build bridges and use wireless sets.

The colonialists believe only in the strength of their arms. They ignore the might of the people. General De la Tour, commanding French imperialist troops in South Viet-Nam in 1948, once proudly stated: "In the whole history of the war in Indo-China, we have never experienced any strong attack from the enemy."

That supercilious statement was immediately given the lie by a Viet-Nam battalion which recaptured An Lu, a French stronghold in Bac Ninh Province (north Viet-Nam) within five minutes in 1948. During the Song Thao campaign in April-May 1949, the French post of Pho Rang was seized within 35 minutes. And more recently, in October last, seven towns were recaptured and all the French forces stationed along the Sino-Viet-Nameese border completely wiped out by the VPA. That was the hardest blow ever experienced by the French during the



whole history of the war in Indo-China. It was, however, only the first of many.

The VPA started to resist the French aggression with only rudimentary arms. In South Viet-Nam, obsolete rifles, even jungle knives and bamboo sticks, were used to fight against machine guns and tanks. As to supply, it met with tremendous difficulties owing to the occupation of the cities, the control of communication lines, the destruction of crops and cattle by the French troops. But responding to President Ho's appeal that "to create a mighty national army we must have a sound war economy," the people tightly closed their ranks around the People's Government and competed with each other to increase production. While handicraft and light industries blossomed in the liberated areas, medical schools were opened to train cadres badly needed by the army. Many doctors and chemists voluntarily gave up their peaceful living to join the resistance.

Supply work has been much improved to meet the army's needs. The achievements of the war industry are outstanding. Workshops, though small, now produce not only hand grenades and rifles but also mortars, bazookas and anti-tank weapons. VPA troops are now equipped with modern arms capable of dealing deadly blows at the enemy. These tangible signs of progress have been made thanks to the Viet-Nameese people and the army's own efforts, to the Viet-Nameese working class' sacrifices and initiative, and in spite of almost insuperable difficulties.

Enemy Provides the Arms

The main arms purveyors to the VPA are the French and puppet troops. The popular slogan among Viet-Nameese troops is "Kill the enemy with his own arms." American imperialism does not cease supplying the French and their puppets with arms, but most of these finally fall into the hands of the VPA after a few campaigns. During the Hai Van battle in 1949, the people's militia captured over 50 tons of American-made arms after destroying a French convoy. The French themselves confessed that they abandoned 1,100 tons of arms and equipment when withdrawing from Lang Son in October last.

The VPA owes its rapid growth and its brilliant victories over the American-equipped troops to the brilliant leadership of President Ho Chi Minh, to the support of the whole people grouped into the Viet-Minh Lien-Viet national united front and to the fact that the Viet-Nameese resistance is part and parcel of the ever-growing international forces of peace and democracy headed by the Soviet Union.

The VPA, born of the people and fighting for the people's interests, freedom and happiness, is therefore joined by all strata of the people. Eighty per cent of the troops of the VPA are peasants, 11 per cent are petty bourgeoisie, 7 per cent are workers and 2 per cent are men belonging to other classes. There are different creeds and ethnical minorities such as the Nung, Man, Tho and Thai represented among the fighters. Conscious of their duty and animated by righteous hatred of the aggressors, the People's Army men never hesitate to sacrifice themselves for the cause of the Fatherland. In the early

days of the resistance, many members of the "Do or Die" corps rushed into enemy ammunition stores to destroy them with mines or hand grenades in their hands. A diary found on a killed French officer bore this significant sentence: "The fighting and self-sacrificing spirit of our enemy is astonishing and unimaginable." It is this spirit that has enabled the VPA to grow rapidly and become invincible.

An Army Loved by the People

The well-organised and disciplined VPA is loved by the people for its participation in their field work, its protection of workshops and crops against enemy destruction and its assistance to the population in the fight against illiteracy. Army men are welcomed and feted everywhere by the people. Their clothes are washed and mended by women villagers. "Associations of Combatants' Mothers" have been formed all over the country to care for and encourage them. Every citizen makes it his duty to help the VPA in some way. Whenever an appeal is launched by President Ho Chi Minh or by the People's Government in favour of the VPA, it is enthusiastically answered by the whole population. For instance, in a single day the population of Tuy Hoa in Phu Yen Province voluntarily contributed 42 million piastres to the Resistance Fund. Last year, on the occasion of the Independence Day, in response to President Ho's appeal, over 1,000,000 tons of rice were sold to the VPA within two weeks' time and at two-thirds the price. More recently, the successes of the VPA in the Cao Bang-Lang Son Area in October last would have been impossible without the participation of tens of thousands of civilian men and women, who had come to the area to repair roads and bridges and to transport supplies and arms.

In the VPA, the friendliest relations exist between officers and men. The political commissars and commanders regard themselves as their men's good teachers and comrades. In every unit there is a council, called the army men's council, which is elected by all its members. Its tasks consist of looking after the political education, the everyday life and health of the unit, organising entertainments and collecting fighting experiences to be reported to the commanding staff. Before carrying out an operation, the council convenes a special meeting to consider the opinions of the unit. Everyone has the right to criticise his commanders, and the latter have the duty to guide their men in the work of self-criticism. Living in this atmosphere of democracy and iron discipline, the People's Army men have the highest fighting spirit. Whenever volunteers are needed for an assault, the number of those who come forward is always several times greater than that required.

The VPA has grown through the fire of struggle and is ceaselessly strengthening itself through the victories over the French imperialists and the American interventionists. Confident in the leadership of President Ho Chi Minh and General Vo Nguyen Giap, strong with the unanimous support of its people and sure of the help of the international democratic forces, it is preparing its general counter-offensive to give the French colonialists and their American masters the knock-out blow to bring freedom to its Fatherland and contribute its great part to world peace.



THE VIET-NAM PEOPLE'S ARMY Preparing for a general counter-offensive to seal the doom of the French colonialists.



French prisoners of war taken by the VPA in North Viet-Nam last October.



American-made artillery captured from the French. "Kill the enemy with his own arms" is the VPA's slogan.

Viet-Namese people building a road for their army.

PEOPLE'S MILITIA

China's 5,000,000 strong People's Liberation Army has more than 5,500,000 people's militiamen. With the aid of the U.S. imperialists, these militiamen



Militia hero Huang Hsiao-tan of Shansi Province has a brilliant fighting record against the Japanese and the KMT.



The militiamen, most of whom are peasants, have their stake in the new society, to



Militiawomen stand guard in the Northeast China countryside.



Cultural and political study goes hand in hand with military training.

INTENSIFIES TRAINING

n Army has a reserve and auxiliary force of more
the security of their country seriously threatened
en have stepped up their military preparations.



emancipated peasants who volunteer to protect
like time to drill during the winter season.



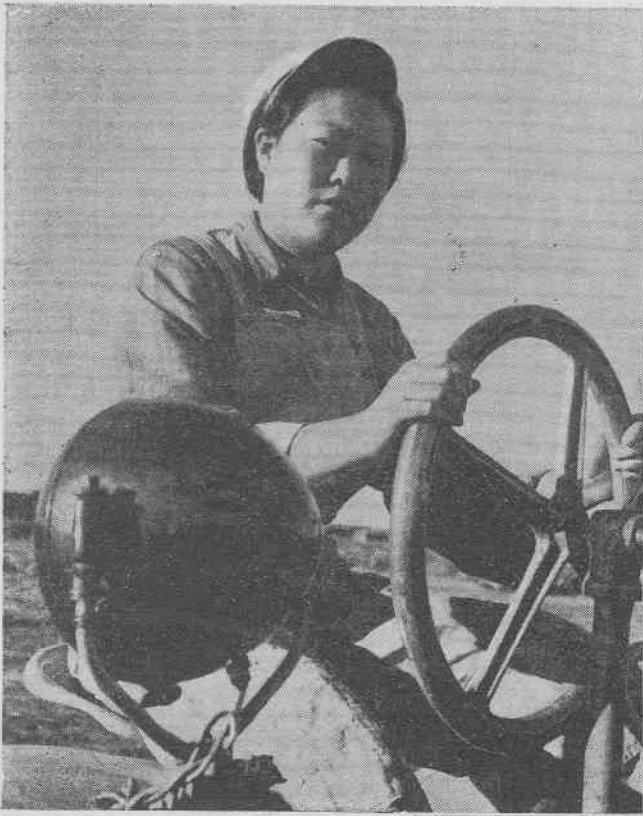
Bugle call. The peasant
fighters are alert and ready.



in hand with military training.



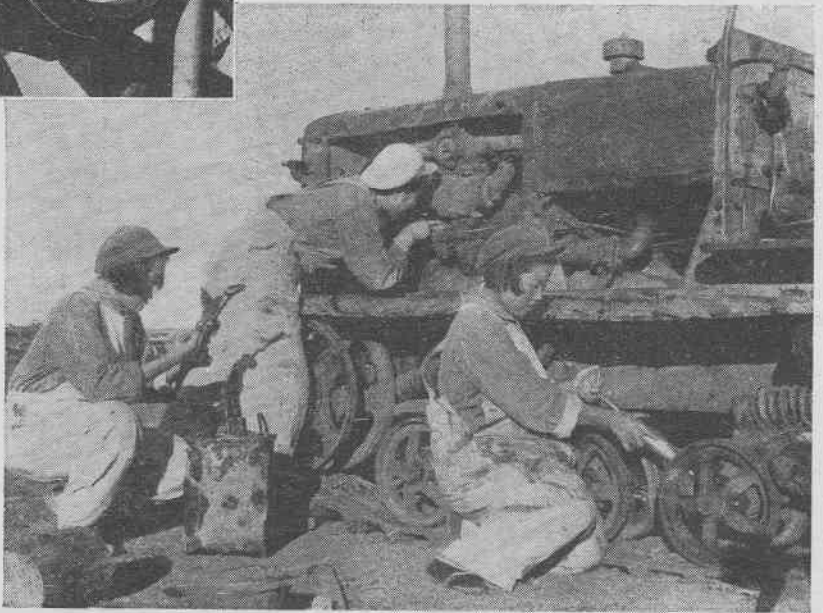
Manoeuvre—most of the weapons were captured from the KMT.



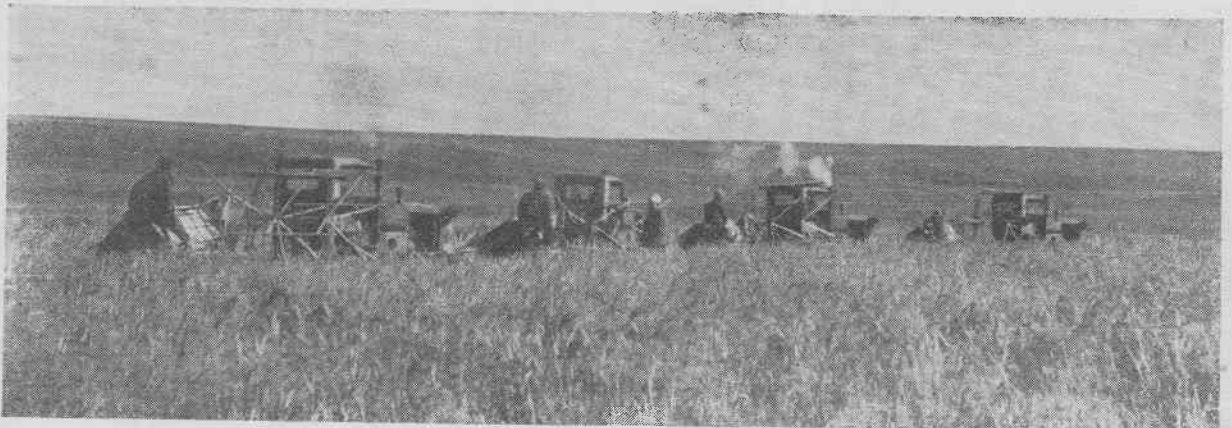
Liang Chun driving the tractor on the school's farm.

Liang Chun

Once a poor peasant girl chained to the kitchen stove, liberation helped her find her way into a school and become the first woman tractor driver in China.



Capable tractor drivers, the girls are competent mechanics as well.



Liang Chun and her comrades are turning large tracts of wasteland into a rich granary.

Girl on A Tractor

The Story of Liang Chun Is A Story of
New China's Youth

It was the picture of a smiling girl driving a tractor that decided her fate—such a picture as you or I have often admired in Soviet magazines or newsreels. For Liang Chun it meant a new life. For China it meant the opening of a new paragraph in national construction. The newspapers headed the story: "First Woman Tractor Driver in China."

At 16, Liang Chun, a sturdy peasant lass, after little schooling, was a hired hand doing the usual farm-yard chores for a landlord in a village of Mingshun County, Heilunkiang Province. But this was in 1947; the area had just been liberated from the Kuomintang. The current of life flowed fast. The peasants were on the move. Land reform was being carried out. And youth was filled with the urge to learn, create, achieve....Liang Chun had heard that there was a new school in the town of Tehtu, 100 kilometres away. Her three years of learning had whetted her appetite for knowledge. She set out for Tehtu on foot. The old ladies of the village gave her up for a lost girl.

Study While Producing

Kao Heng, a young educational worker from Yen-an, 2,500 kilometres away in Shensi, had come to Tehtu after the liberation and had organised a rural school of a new type. It was only the start of the War of Liberation. The local people's government could spare little for the school. It began with six tables, three brooms, some tools and a loan of corn from the local government. It called itself "Germination"—*Mengya*—and was entirely self-supporting. The fifty pupils, Liang Chun included, in addition to their regular studies, tilled the land, spun and wove cloth, helped build the school. In the winter, they felled wood which they later exchanged for three horses and a cart.

Liang Chun was as plucky as she was full of resource. Once when

Su Ming

they were gathering firewood, the underbrush caught fire and the flames were quickly spreading. There was a brook not far away, but nothing to carry the water in. Liang Chun snatched off her cotton padded jacket, and calling a comrade to her aid, filled it full of icy water to throw on the flames. Others followed suit and the fire was quenched.

Principal Kao Heng inspired his students with his own abounding energy. They worked out a three-year plan for reclaiming the wasteland that stretched around on every side of the school, and in the spring of 1948 actually began this work.

It was then that the school sent Liang Chun to a mill in neighbouring Peian county to learn weaving, and it was here that she saw the film of Pasha Angelina, the Soviet woman tractor driver. Her imagination was fired. When she heard that a tractor school was soon to be opened in Peian, her mind was quickly made up. Returning to Tehtu, she asked Kao Heng to recommend her for the tractor courses.

The tractor school, Kao Heng knew, was looking for students, for he had read the statement of the Communist Party provincial committee calling on students to learn tractor driving. "Now that the land reform has been completed in Northeast China, we have attained the conditions necessary to develop our agricultural productive forces in a new way. We must strive to improve our agricultural technique step by step and learn to use mechanised implements so that we can pave the way for the socialisation of agriculture in China."

Impressed by Liang Chun's earnestness, Kao Heng included her in the letter of recommendation he had written for two other students, both young men who were going from *Mengya*. The three set out together. The two boys, thinking that she was only going part of the way with them, were astonished to find



that she also was heading for the tractor training class.

Among the 70 students, Liang Chun was the only girl. The teacher-mechanic was not enthusiastic when he saw her.

There was a moment of embarrassed silence as he considered the pros and cons. "This isn't women's work," he finally announced. "It's too dirty." Some of the students also took the feminine "invasion" with ill grace. But Liang Chun stood her ground, and the principal and most of the students backed her up.

In two months she was driving a tractor. It was not the engine that she heard when she first took her place in the driver's seat. It was the throbbing of her heart. "Why are you so frightened?" She asked herself, "You are the master of this machine." She pressed the accelerator and held the strength of 15 horses curbed in her hand. The peasants looked at her with surprise and admiration. The children ran after her shouting "Look! Look! It's a girl!"

Moments that Repay

When the first tractor class graduated, the provincial Party committee presented four tractors to *Mengya*. Liang Chun and her comrades drove them proudly over the wide wastelands to the school. Word of their coming had gone before. It was one of those moments that repay months of steady study and work, months in which Liang Chun had struggled hard to show her skeptical fellow students that a girl was as good as a man. With drums and cymbals they danced a *yangko* dance in her honour.

Mengya School immediately set up a tractor team with the three graduates as teachers for 15 more trainees. Among them was Wu Yu-chen, a frail-looking, but strong-willed girl. Liang Chun taught her to drive a tractor in a month.

The battle with the wasteland began in earnest. The peasants with their wooden ploughs had never even attempted to cultivate it. The *Mengya* students took their steel horses to its edge. From sun-up to sun-down the teams worked at their task. In the evenings by lamplight or moonlight they studied the tractors and their parts, made repairs.

Life was hard. The land was uninhabited. Wolves prowled around the camps at night. The students' clothing was inadequate. It was not enough for the sub-zero weather in winter. The tattered winter clothes they wore were too hot for the summer. They had toiled now for two years on the wastelands. There were some who felt discouraged. They couldn't see the wood for the trees. Liang Chun acted on them like a tonic. Her's is an optimistic nature, and where words failed, her example of eager work drew all on in her wake. By the end of that summer, all 15 trainees were competent tractor drivers and mechanics. The crops grew richly. Five hundred hectares had been ploughed and 300 sown to wheat, corn, *kaoliang* and vegetables. Everyone had worked hard and Liang Chun hardest of all.

When winter snow settled over the fields, the whole school went up into the mountains and cut logs enough to build warm new houses. Part of the crop was sold and some timber. They bought new padded clothing.

Farm and school grew together. By 1949, thirty-five tractor drivers working in relays had ploughed more than 1,000 hectares of the former wasteland. Throughout the year regular classes were now held in the comfortable log school-rooms. Previously, cultural classes had only been possible in the slack season from October to April. By the summer of 1950, even in this busiest time of the year, there were four hours of classes daily and 1,500 hectares had been ploughed and planted. Liang Chun now had five more women colleagues and five

Women Workers in Emulation Drive

China's women workers are actively taking part in the patriotic emulation drive to support the Chinese people's volunteers fighting in Korea. Heroines of labour take the initiative.

The monthly output of a rubber plant in Mukden was raised 15 per cent as a result of the initiative of a woman worker, Pan Hsin-ying. She personally exceeded her daily production quota by 80 per cent with 100 per cent improved quality since the emulation drive began and generated an all-round improvement in the plant.

Meng Lan-ying, a shock team leader in a nail factory in Northeast China broke the highest record for women workers in the factory. The famous woman engine driver Tien Kwei-ying, who has made a run of 40,000 kms. without major repairs, now aims to carry on to reach 1000,000 kms. in the emulation drive.

The main characteristic of the emulation drive is the improvement of production methods, not reliance on labour intensification.

more women tractor driver-trainees. On June 3, 1950, an all-woman tractor team—the first in China—was formed. Liang Chun was unanimously elected captain, Wu Yu-chen as cultural leader.

The three-year plan of the *Mengya* School was fulfilled and overfulfilled. The former wasteland burgeoned with food. The school had made good its promise to teach by doing. The students themselves had created 100 rooms, a flour mill, an oil press, an iron foundry and machine-shop, a stable of 80 horses, with 12 carts, three lorries, 10 tractors and many agricultural implements. The farm's five cows provide the students with fresh milk. Meals are adequate. They eat bread of fine white flour. The 50 students of 1948 have now increased to 320 with a corps of teachers to train them. Not a few of them can afford to send home money to their families. And the school is still growing. Electricity has been installed and a brick kiln is making the bricks for new and better buildings. The district government is now considering a plan submitted by the school to open up 10,000 hectares of wasteland in the coming year.

Liang Chun has grown with the school. She has completed her middle school education. Her work with the tractor and implements is faultless. The major share of the work of tilling virgin soil was done by her team. Politically advanced, she has become a member of the Chinese Communist

Party.

In the autumn of 1949, Liang Chun was elected a delegate of the Northeast China Women's Democratic Federation to the Conference of Asian Women in Peking. It was an honour she had never dreamed of. After her return she worked with redoubled energy. "When I heard of these heroic achievements of women throughout the world I felt as if new strength grew within me...."

Elected A Model Worker

In 1950, Liang Chun was elected a Model Worker. Again she came to Peking, this time to the National Conference of Labour Models. She had a place of honour at the National Day parade on the great Tien An Men Square.

Now she has gone to the Soviet Union to study the work of Pasha Angelina at first hand, to learn more about the methods of advanced agricultural technique, and bring that new knowledge back to China.

The picture of Liang Chun at the wheel of her tractor has fired the imagination of countless Chinese girls. Her name is as well known as heroes of old. Girls have defied conservative parents, and trekked to the Northeast to seek her help and advice. Her tractors have transformed part of the Great Northern Wasteland into a fertile granary. Tractors, trucks, combines driven by girls and men with the pioneering spirit of Liang Chun will transform all the wastelands of China into food and clothes and life for the millions.

Report from the Korean Front

The Bombing of Pyongyang

Hsu Chih

Staff Correspondent

Throughout the night, the American planes wheeled in the starry sky above Pyongyang and dropped their bombs. The next day, January 2, the people worked to clear the debris, searching under the broken walls and ruins for the remnants of their goods—and for firewood, for the weather was bitterly cold. The Tatung River was frozen. These citizens, these women and children, had only just returned from the relative safety of the outer suburbs and mountains. They had not yet restored their city to even “normal” war-time life. The first need was to get firewood. There was, however, no shortage of this. Floors, walls, roofs, furniture had been reduced to matchwood. Pyongyang's citizens busily built their home fires, cooked their first hot meals in their liberated capital and warmed themselves. Then they set to work to rehabilitate their city.

The whole night the enemy planes had strafed and bombed them. The bombing had been continuous for six months—except during the hell of the American occupation. What was the fortitude of these people, that after 48 days of occupation, atrocities and daily terror, or nights hidden in mountain fastnesses around the capital, without one night of sleep in peace, yet immediately they took up the tasks of rehabilitation?

I recalled the words of the Vice Commander-in-Chief. I had seen him at his HQs in a cave in the mountains only the previous night. He was bending over a desk reading telegrams from the fronts. When he greeted us there was a natural warmth and ease in his movements. His manner was scholarly, yet militant and determined. He felt the sorrows of the people. A correspondent from Pyongyang told him about the fiendish American atrocities there during the occupation. He wiped away his tears. But his face shone as he studied the telegrams telling him that the KPA and the Chinese people's volunteers had already crossed the 38th Parallel in their liberation offensive.

Terror Raids

When he learned in this interview that water and electricity supplies had been restored and that a crowded market place had opened in Pyongyang, however, he uttered a warning that the people must be more vigilant. “Enemy planes may come over at any time for one of their ‘terror’ raids.”

He repeated the warning later. “Be vigilant. The enemy is in a desperate position at the front!”

His words were still ringing in my ears when on January 3, in Pyongyang, on the morning after the whole night of raids, I climbed

up towards the ruined Moranbang Theatre. The sunlight glittered in the snow that reflected the blue of the sky. If one's senses are keen it is easy to sense the coming of spring even in the depths of winter. Below lay the beautiful, heroic city. Although so many of its buildings had been destroyed, still its brightness and charm could be felt. From the balcony of a row of nearby one-storied buildings which must have been the tea-rooms of the theatre, you can look onto the opposite hill where a great red star shines on the monument to the Soviet liberators. Thousands of roofs stretched below and from many chimneys the morning smoke floated up into the still air from the kitchens. But this scene of peace was deceptive. In my hand I held a newspaper with General Kim Il-sung's New Year Message: “Every one of our villages had been stained with blood. What we have built has been turned to ashes. We must smite the enemy with the hammer of vengeance!”

At that moment six American B-29's appeared. The AA guns immediately went into action. We could see the shell bursts high in the sky. A moment later there was a warning shout. “More are coming!” We went to the back of the dug-out. Events moved swiftly. At 10:20 Korean time, we heard the



Pyongyang burns as defeated U.S. invaders vent their impotent rage with “terror” raids.

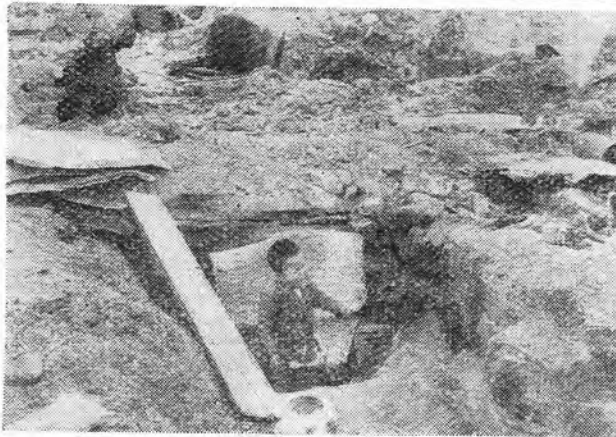
roar of the planes' engines, but this was soon drowned out by the bursting of the bombs—high explosive and Napalm. Someone cursed: "Napalm bombs again. Beaten at the front they come to hit at the people in the rear!" An observer on the Moranbang counted 84 bombers coming over in waves. Another who watched from a suburban hill-top described to me how the dropping bombs formed a curtain of threads of white smoke, lit by flames as the Napalm bombs burst in the air. Thus the American message of death descended. There had been a faint light in our dug-out, but this disappeared. Darkness flowed in, broken by flashes of fiery light. As the bombs crashed to the ground, dense smoke rose up and blew into the dug-out which was now crowded with women and children. The acrid smoke choked us and made our eyes water. Time sped quickly. Hours passed in what seemed

only minutes. Though the bombers had gone, the bombing still continued, for many were time bombs and that kept us to the shelter.

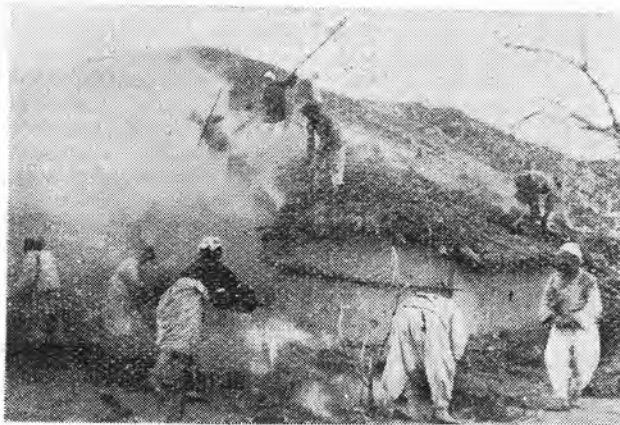
A boy rushed in for our help. He was splashed all over with jellied gasoline—his clothes, his hair, cheeks and the palms of his hands. The little grey spots were still smoking. His eyes too seemed grey. A woman stumbled into our cave from the opposite slope. She was weeping bitterly and kept repeating her words of grief. Her husband had been burned to death. The flames had caught his coat. He had torn this off. Then they took his suit. This too he managed to shell off. Then they caught his skin....

Raging Inferno

A little later we walked to Stalin Street. Smoke rose in billowing clouds from the fires which melted steel girders, licking at the houses, the telegraph poles, fences.... All the roadways were littered with the empty bomb canisters. I



A child in Pyongyang crying for his parents at the entrance of his dug-out "home."



Even this lone hut in a Korean valley is set afire by the U.S. air pirates.

picked one up. Its inscription read PT 1. 74. RMA 5-45 Lot RM 19-13-5. Let the Americans who filled that bomb know the murder it did to innocent people!

The Korean woman standing before our cave-shelter motioned to me to watch over the bundle of clothes at her feet. Then she went out into the street and began to call a name. Calling, she walked through the ruins, until her voice was hoarse. I too feared that she would never get an answer from the one she called. After such a raid, many mothers would call their children in vain. But suddenly from out of the smoke of Stalin Street came two children hand in hand and ran towards her. They rushed into each other's arms and cried and gasped for breath at the same time. They did not cry long. With anger in her eyes, the mother put the bundle on her head and with a child's hand in each of hers, walked into the ruins to continue their life.

The story of Pyongyang is that of every city and village in Korea. This is the work of the Fifth U.S. Air Force—the most dastardly among the criminal bands of the enemy. They have destroyed the villages and towns of Korea, burnt women and children alive in raging infernos.

A Korean woman was approaching her face yellow, her eyes in a fixed stare. She walked shakily with a stick in her hand. She must have lost her family. The slowness of her steps, the frozen expression on her face attracted the gaze of everyone. She was a figure of tragedy incarnate. Wrath burned in the faces of the people. I had a feeling that I was standing beside a fountain of hatred. I understood better the incredible fortitude and strength of will of the Korean people.

In World War II, two towns were destroyed completely by the German fascists: Lidice and Oradours-sur-Glane. The whole of progressive

humanity including American people denounced these acts of atrocity as among the most cruel of the war. But the American beasts in Korea have far outdone the German Nazis in Europe. MacArthur and Major-General Earle E. Partridge have outdone Hitler. Hitler destroyed two villages in the heyday of his power. These American gangsters have torn up the map of Korea in their desperation at defeat.

Even solitary huts in the remotest mountain valleys have been bombed. I saw one such where a family of six had been burned, their corpses huddled together, three children and one infant, because a truck happened to have parked nearby.

But fire can be answered with flames. The fire of vengeance burns in the breasts of the people. The Korean People's Army and the Chinese people's volunteers are annihilating the invaders. The criminals will be brought to justice.

SOVIET FILMS IN NEW CHINA



Among the first Soviet films to be shown in China was Sergei Eisenstein's masterpiece *The Armoured Cruiser Potemkin*. At the crest of the Great Revolution in 1926, the revolutionary workers and cadres of Canton saw for the first time a film that at once expressed their fury against reactionary oppression and that gave them renewed faith in the people's strength. Eisenstein was a master of revolutionary imagery. The prow of the rebel cruiser lunging through the stormy seas seemed to symbolise the mighty force of the revolutionary masses sweeping away the elements of reaction.

Potemkin set the pattern of Soviet films in China. It was hated and banned by the reactionaries—received by the masses with open arms. It was farcical even to compare this new people's film art with the puerile pre-occupation with gangsters, sex and sentimentality of the "movies" which Hollywood was sending to conquer the Chinese film market and spread the "American way of life."

It was not surprising that in the succeeding period of counter-revolutionary misrule, the Kuo-mintang, egged on by its U.S. mentors, did all it could to keep out Soviet films.

The People's Republic made Soviet films available to the wide masses of the Chinese people. Their popularity leaped. In 1948, only little over a million people could get to see Soviet films. In 1950, more than 62,000,000 people saw them, over 8,000,000 in the month of December alone.

Welcomed by the Masses

Lu Ting-yi, head of the Propaganda Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, spoke for the masses when he said: "We welcome the arrival of Soviet films on a large scale." Such films as *The Vow*—epic of the years of socialist construction under the leadership of Stalin, *The Youth of Maxim Gorky*, *The Son of Genghis Khan*—that revolutionary romance of the steppe-dwellers' struggle against

imperialism, the *Meeting on the Elbe*—the exposure of Wall Street's conspiracy against peace, the beautiful coloured *Stone Flower* and *Michurin* opened new horizons in the art of the cinema.

Thousands of letters to the press have reflected the people's appreciation: "Soviet films have given us a healthy, scientific and joyous view of life!"

The *Fall of Berlin* and the *Battle of Stalingrad* broke box-office records in Peking, Shanghai and other cities. They came at an opportune moment. The Chinese audiences, who have themselves just dealt with an evil enemy and who now again face another enemy on their doorsteps, felt newly inspired as they saw this depiction in epic proportions of the battle and victory of the Soviet people, led by the genius of Stalin, against the fascist invaders.

Among the youth, *The Young Guard* stands first in popularity. Thousands applied for membership of the China New Democratic Youth League after seeing this film of the heroism of young Soviet patriots in the underground anti-Nazi struggle. Last year, at the Conference on Workers' and Peasants' Education, Li Li-san, vice-chairman of the All-China Federation of Labour, was citing a well-known figure when he held up as an example Varvara, heroine of the *Village School Teacher*, who "gave her whole life to teach and help her students in a small village in Siberia."

In commemoration of the death of Lenin in January, *Lenin in October* was shown in all New China's great cities and in many small places by mobile projection teams. Audiences left the cinemas in reverent silence, deeply touched by the humanity and grandeur of this portrayal of mankind's greatest leader.

It is such films, created with first-class technique, superb artistry of actors, regisseurs and cameramen, dealing with the most profound and burning questions of our time on a high ideological

level, that the Chinese audience of today wants to see. The close cooperation between the Soviet and Chinese film industries, assisted in every way by the governments of the two peoples, has now made it possible for this popular demand to be satisfied to an increasing extent. Many films already shown are now, as it were, having a second and even more appreciated première, dubbed with Chinese dialogues with the voices of some of China's, finest modern actors. This year all Soviet films shown in China will have Chinese dialogue.

Fruitful Aid

Soviet films also served as pacesetters for the Chinese cinema industry. This friendly competition is already bearing fruit in such Chinese films as *Daughters of China* (warmly received recently by large Soviet audiences), and in the outstandingly successful *The Great Victory of the Chinese People* and *Liberated China* produced jointly by cinema workers of the two countries.

It is not surprising that the propaganda products of the American warmongers have been banished from their screens by the Chinese people. Under the KMT, some 75 per cent of the films shown in China were American. Eight U.S.-controlled film companies drained US\$15,000,000 a year from China and they were rapidly buying up the Chinese studios killed by their competition. Since U.S. planes bombed the Northeast and U.S. aggression was extended to Korea, the people and cinema managers of China have boycotted U.S. movies.

There is no place in New China for films propagating the backward and bloody ideology of imperialism. The people demand films that inspire them with fresh energy for the tasks of progressive construction, that teach them the great lessons of internationalism, patriotism and the invincible might of the people's cause. They want to see the creative example of socialist construction and the building of Communism—the new world of the people's peace.

Book Review

The Chinese People's Liberation Army

D. F. Springhall

"...Our planes and guns have tremendous fire-power, and I always thought that nothing could survive one of our all-out barrages. Yet the Chinese would stand up to the heaviest barrages and launch a counter-attack with machine guns and hand grenades. If I had not seen it time and again, I would not have thought it possible.

I will hand it to you Chinese—you sure can fight."

—A U.S. Artillery officer, Captain Sheer, of the 57th Artillery Battalion, when captured in North Korea.

Yes, the Chinese people can fight. The captain knows that they are a force to be reckoned with, but there are a lot of his compatriots and others who are only now getting round to realising it.

The Chinese people have been fighting almost continuously throughout nearly the whole of the past quarter of a century; fighting to rid themselves of the yoke of foreign imperialism and domestic reactionaries in order to be able to live the lives of free men and women and not of slaves.

They had no choice in the matter. There is no more peace-loving people than the Chinese. But they were confronted with an enemy who treacherously unleashed armed attacks upon them, and in collusion with foreign imperialists began to carry out a policy of White Terror and wholesale massacres. It was in 1927 that Chiang Kai-shek turned traitor to the Chinese people and entered the service of the reactionary feudal forces and foreign imperialists as their agent and placed himself at the head of the armed counter-revolution. As Mao Tse-tung expressed it, "...in face of such an enemy the methods and principal forms of the Chinese revolution cannot be peaceful but must be armed. The reason is that our enemy does not want to give the Chinese people any possibility of carrying on their activity in peace."

Growth of the PLA

The booklet *The Chinese People's Liberation Army* tells the story of how under the leadership of the Chinese working class and its revolutionary advance-guard, the

The Chinese People's Liberation Army, 62 pp., published by the Foreign Languages Press, Peking, 1950.

Communist Party, the Chinese people built up its army and went on to win victory after victory, first in the Ten Years' Civil War (1927-37); then in the Anti-Japanese War (1937-45), when it bore the brunt of the fighting against the Japanese invaders, and finally in the course of the War of Liberation (1946-50) when it smashed the American-trained and equipped armies of Chiang Kai-shek—despite their enormous superiority in manpower and armaments—and liberated the country by driving the KMT remnants from the mainland.

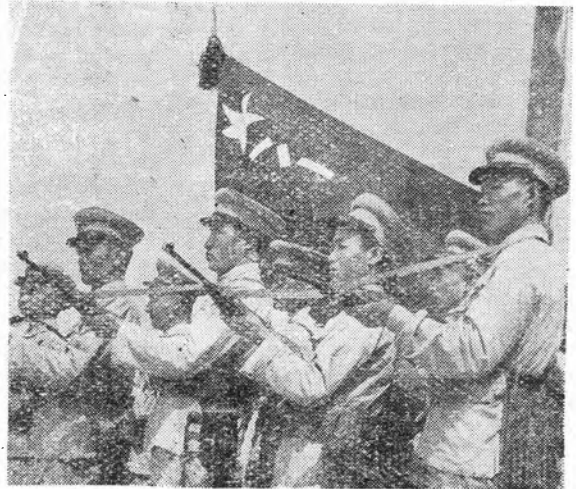
In 1927, when the Chinese Workers and Peasants' Red Army, as it was then called, was first formed by the merging of the peoples' forces led by Chu Teh with those commanded by Mao Tse-tung, their numbers did not exceed much more than 30,000 men, with very little military equipment, military knowledge and experience. At the victorious conclusion of 23 years' fighting, in June, 1950, the People's Army numbered 5,000,000 men. The opening chapter describes how this army built up its forces and, on the basis of complex political, social and military conditions existing in China, evolved new forms of strategy and tactics which time and again baffled and shattered the great armies hurled against it.

But this booklet is by no means merely a chronicle of military history. It is its great virtue that in simple but

vivid language it makes clear what were the main factors which contributed to these great historic victories of the Chinese People's Army. It shows that the key fact is that the PLA is a people's army led by the Communist Party. It was organised to fight for the interests and welfare of the Chinese nation and people as a whole. Its sacred task has been to fight a just people's war. It is an army which has been educated in Marxism-Leninism, in the teachings of Mao Tse-tung and in patriotism and internationalism. It is an army characterised by its superb discipline based on army democracy.

Army Democracy

These qualities mark the PLA out as an army entirely different from armies in capitalist countries—which have quite other functions, and whose discipline is not a conscious and voluntary discipline, but is based on fear and where the very term "army democracy" is utterly unknown. A people's army is a democratic army, whose aims are just and fully coincide with the interests of the people; a politically educated army, every member of which knows for what and for whom he is fighting. A democratic army is a cultured army. As Commander-in-Chief Chu Teh said:



The PLA—a mighty force 5,000,000 strong.

"An army without culture is a barbarous army."

An imperialist army is a class army, organised and trained to defend imperialist interests which are in conflict with the people's interests. In an imperialist army, the commanding staff are terrified beyond all else lest its soldiers become politically conscious; its training and education is deliberately designed to prevent its soldiers from knowing for what and for whom they are fighting, its regulations provide severe penalties for any of its rank-and-file who interest themselves in politics. Because of this an imperialist army cannot be a cultured army. Witness the example of the American army in Korea. Its morale is low, its soldiers are politically ignorant, it lacks high-grade discipline and as to whether it is cultured or barbaric, the atrocities proved against it testify.

The remainder of the chapters in this booklet describe with a wealth of example the meaning of democracy as practised in the PLA.

Democracy is defined as meaning close co-operation and unity between officer and soldier, and is demonstrated in various respects—political, military and economic. By political democracy is meant that officers and soldiers are politically equal. In the PLA there are Revolutionary Soldiers' Committee whose business it is to strengthen the solidarity in the army, to assist in the leadership and to ensure successful fulfilment of all tasks. Every PLA man has the right to criticise anyone who disobeys orders, or violates discipline. He has the right to criticise his superiors. However, such criticism is only conducted at certain meetings and none is allowed to indulge in irresponsible criticism outside such meetings.

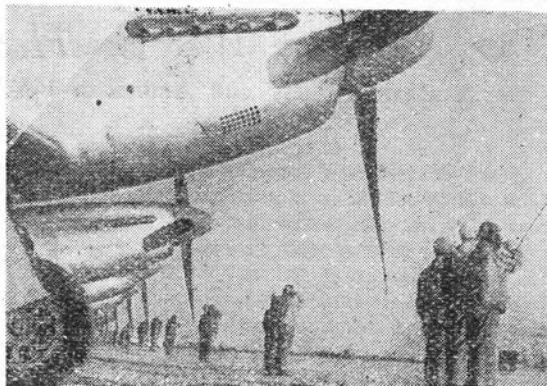
Members of the Chinese Communist Party play a leading role in the army by setting an example in every activity. Under certain conditions, non-Party PLA men are invited to state their views about Party members and Party organisations in the PLA, particularly in connection with the recommendation and admission of new members. The encouragement and development of political democracy in the PLA has resulted in a considerable

strengthening of the prestige and popularity of the Communist Party among the officers and men. It is regarded as a great honour to be a Party member. Many apply for membership in the Chinese Communist Party on the battlefield, in the hope of being accepted and admitted as a result of displaying in action their loyalty to the cause.

By military democracy is meant the development of the soldier's initiative, creative power and intellect in the course of training in actual warfare. Every man is free to voice his opinions. Before engagements, various meetings are held to discuss problems involved in the fighting and to devise practical ways and means to solve such problems. After the fighting, summing-up meetings are held to make a thorough study of the strategy and tactics used in the fighting and to see what experiences can be drawn upon and what lessons can be learnt. As long as the soldiers have a clear understanding of the relative strength of the PLA and of the enemy, and the task assigned to them, it is only natural that such soldiers who are educated politically and militarily in this way should display exceptional bravery, dogged determination, sharp resourcefulness and selfless devotion to the cause of the revolution.

Officer-Soldier Relations

The military training in the PLA is also imbued with a democratic spirit. This is what is widely known as the "mass-line" in the sphere of officer-soldier relations. Education in the PLA is a two-way process. Not only the officers teach the soldiers, but also the soldiers may teach the officers. Besides, the soldiers teach and help one another among themselves. The same is true of the officers, who also help one another. In the PLA the intellectuals and the worker-peasant elements help each other. To learn from each other, and to profit by alternately learning and teaching, constitutes the essence of PLA democratic military training.



The rapidly-growing People's Air Force.

By economic democracy is meant that the PLA's financial matters are placed under democratic control. The soldiers take part in managing their mess arrangements. Accounts are made public at fixed intervals. Each company has its own economic committee of elected representatives from each platoon and squad.

In these chapters are also described the forms of education in patriotism and internationalism which is everywhere carried on and which teaches the PLA men that the struggle of the Chinese people is closely linked up with the struggle for peace and democracy of the working people throughout the world; the variegated cultural activities which go to make the combination of the first-class fighter and a cultured person; the extremely close ties which the PLA have with the masses of the people and the services they render them in many ways, for the soldiers are taught that "An army without the support of the people is like a fish out of the water." Here also are many stirring and typical examples of heroism in battle and descriptions of the part the army plays in agricultural and industrial production, whenever opportunity permits, in order to assist the work of national reconstruction.

With the eyes of the world focussed upon the exploits of the Chinese people's volunteers in Korea, who, side by side with the heroic Korean People's Army, so swiftly transformed MacArthur's much-vaunted "final offensive" into the first of a mounting series of disastrous routs, this booklet takes on a new topicality and it deserves a wide sale.

"May We Be Heard?"

A statement by 400 American P.O.W.'s in Korea

Special Correspondent

NORTH KOREA, Feb. 1—More than 400 prisoners in a prisoner of war camp here have signed a statement in the title of which they ask the simple question "May we be heard?" I have their signed statement before me now. It is a plea that they may be allowed to tell the American people what they have learned in Korea and say what they would like to see done about the war in Korea. I give the statement in their own words. Here it is:

We are American soldiers on Korean soil. We have learned some hard lessons in this war and would like to be able to express to the folks at home and our buddies still fighting what we think.

Why were we sent here 5,000 miles across the ocean to fight in a war that had no concern to us or our loved ones, without any regard to the rights of the hard working people of this nation that has suffered so much? Korea has never harmed or threatened our nation or any other nation.

We were told it was a police action. But what has it turned out to be? And how is it going to end?

It has brought ruin to a country that was building itself up after years of oppression. We have seen the effects of indiscriminate bombing of towns and villages. We have seen civilians killed, homeless and starving women and children tramping the roads, refugees in their own country. We have seen our buddies dying on the battlefield and in the snow and ice, without even proper clothing for this climate, without proper burial. What sort of police action is it that destroys a country rather than protects it?

We are ashamed of the part we Americans have played in this senseless war. It has dragged America down and brought only hatred and contempt for us among the people of Asia. It will take many years to wipe out the stain of our action. It will take many years to build up again in Korea what we and the other troops have destroyed in these few months. We feel keenly our collective responsibility for all the suffering caused.

To the big firms, war means profits from aeroplanes, tanks, contracts for army clothing, guns, ammunition and other materials. To us soldiers it means misery, desolation and loss of life and to the folks at home it means the breaking up of the family, high taxes and hardship.

We now see through the deception of this "police action." We are especially disgusted at the order to cross the 38th Parallel and the empty promises that we would be home first for Thanksgiving and then for Christmas.

We can understand why the Chinese people have come to the aid of their neighbors, the Koreans. When we pushed on to the Yalu River, their security was threatened by the presence of the American fleet in Formosan waters. The Chinese are a great people. They have always been our friends. They are fighting in a just cause.

We should never have poked our noses in here. We had our own Civil War in the States and would have resented any other country interfering. We are a peace-loving people, we would defend our own homes at utter cost, but we resent being used for a cause such as this. To offset some of the false stories passed around about harsh treatment for our boys by the People's Army, we have this to say: Since our capture we have received the best treatment from the Chinese and the Koreans. We are receiving the best medical care available and we get as good treatment as any other

or their people. Every effort is being made for our welfare.

We say:—

1. Pull the American and all other troops out and leave Korea to the Korean people. Stop this stupid fighting. Save further loss of life of Americans and Chinese and Koreans. Let us establish peace again in the world.

2. Permit New China to occupy her rightful place in the United Nations. Our country should recognize the New China. It is a great nation. We ought to withdraw the 7th Fleet from Chinese waters to prevent further conflict.

3. We appeal that something is done immediately that no more American lives are lost. Stop this senseless, bloody war. We demand a peaceful settlement now. Let us get home where we belong at the earliest possible moment.

Here are the first of the signatories' names and numbers. Many are very poorly written but I have done what I could to check them.

Philip Aaronsen, A.F. 13158602; Lloyd H. Basett (?); Bennie L. Beaty, R.A. 38082522; Albert C. Belhommy, R.A. 13296992; A. Bell, R.A. 18276618; J. W. Branton, R.A. 14332511; Thomas D. Braswell, R.A. 18294027; Anthony Brunelo Jr., R.A. 13264979; John Christian, R.A. 13335274; Henry C. Corner, R.A. 13250890; Finley Davis, 33293511; Harold Davis, R.A. 18224704; Raymond Daniels, R.A. 16322551; John Ekenbarger, R.A. 11168550; Andrew E. Franklin, R.A. 46032325; Albino Garces, R.A. 18225243; Frank Groom, R.A. 57507807; Ray M. Guess, R.A. 14314678; Carl J. Helms, R.A. 37486590; Ernest Hess, R.A. 13331328; Robert D. Hughes, R.A. 45005070; Fred Kvale, R.A. 27361926; Billy Laroue, R.A. 18281230; Larry Story, R.A. 19242321; Donald Lever, R.A. 11187168; McGewin, R.A. 1592890; Kenneth A. McKalip, R.A. 18348729; Meiford Lang, R.A. 13343815; Herman E. Morse, (?)

R.A. 19302882; Leonard Murphy, R.A. 19335801; Gerald E. Neighbors, R.A. 18316846; Donald D. Noehren, 17252591; Charles B. Owens, R.A. 14311661; Richard Preston, R.A. 38562869; James Russell, R.A. 19335486; George S. Shaffer, R.A. 13278720; William R. Shix, R.A. 13165734; Edward Smith, R.A. 19314586; Eddie H. Talbot, R.A. 21264062; Arlone Tanner Jr., R.A. 11188299; Bobby Truelove, R.A. 14324018; Marion E. Vaughn, R.A. 14209627; Charles Williams (?).



American P.O.W.'s in North Korea sign an open letter demanding the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Korea.

THE FIRST YEAR OF THE SINO-SOVIET TREATY

(Continued from page 6)

Japanese War and this achievement is inseparable from the great assistance rendered by the Soviet Government. The same is true of rail and road transport. During 1950, the total mileage of railways in service is estimated at over 22,000 kilometres, which is double the highest mileage reached in 1936. In the corresponding period, the total mileage of highways in service was over 100,000 kilometres, whereas in 1936 it was only a little over 60,000 kilometres. These outstanding achievements would have been quite impossible but for the equipment and materials furnished by the Soviet Government and particularly the invaluable technical advice given by the Soviet experts working in China. For instance, the repair of the steel bridge spanning the Huai River took only two months when it was generally estimated that it would take at least six months. The repair work on the 61 bridges on the Canton-Hankow Railway line, which were completely wrecked by the bandit troops of Chiang Kai-shek, was completed in only six months.

The American imperialists calculated on strangling New China by trade restrictions and the imposition of a naval blockade. But during the period January—September last year, the volume of import and export trade actually showed an increase of 169 per cent over the figure recorded for the same period in 1936. This was made possible chiefly by trade with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies. These achievements in the import and export trade last year were a shattering defeat to the enemies of the Chinese people.

In many parts of the country and particularly in Northeast China, mechanised state farms have been established with modern farm implements, machinery, fine seeds and cattle breeds received from the Soviet Union. The Sino-Soviet Treaty has in this way, too, given a powerful impetus to China's agriculture and opened up new possibilities of development.

Cultural Co-operation

No less noteworthy is Sino-Soviet co-operation in the field of culture, education, public health and medicine. Many Soviet cultural and educational delegations have visited New China. The cultural delegation headed by Alexander Fadeyev and Konstantin Simonov was present at the historic occasion of the proclamation of the People's Republic. Then followed the Youth Delegation headed by N. Mihailov, Secretary of the Lenin Young Communist League; a distinguished group of educational workers including such well-known authorities as Professors Yudin, Makarova and others who lectured to keenly receptive audiences all over China; and a sports delegation.

The Chinese people on their part sent a delegation, with the well-known authoress Ting Ling as its leader, to take part in the national celebrations of the Soviet people—the 33rd anniversary of the Great Socialist October Revolution, and thereafter many groups have gone to the U.S.S.R. to study methods of economic and cultural construction.

Under the guidance of the Soviet experts, the first of a new type of university—The People's University—was established in Peking last summer. A score of Soviet professors are now on the teaching staff of this university. Their lectures are prepared in the light of the needs of New China, while the students on their part, have shown the greatest eagerness, as do the whole people of China, to learn from the Soviet Union.

All those who have seen the two splendid films depicting the epic victory of the Chinese people's revolution—*The Great Victory of the Chinese People* and *Liberated China*—will appreciate the fruitful co-operation of the two countries in the field of film-making, in which the two above-mentioned films in colour are only a beginning.

The widespread study-the-Soviet-Union movement has whetted the appetite of the Chinese people for yet wider and more comprehensive knowledge of the great Socialist state. Thousands have begun to study the Russian language and the demand for Russian literature on all subjects is immense and growing. Such cultural activities, however, by no means exhaust the list of activities through which Sino-Soviet collaboration is enriching the lives of their peoples and strengthening the links between these two great champions of world peace and friendship among the peoples.

* * *

The American imperialists spread their aggressive war in Korea to the borders of China. They have engaged in provocative aerial intrusions into China's Northeast, bombed and strafed the people there and committed armed aggression against China's Taiwan. The Chinese people have, however, shown a mighty forbearance in dealing with these and other acts of provocation. They have continued to make rapid progress in rebuilding their battle-scarred country. They have carried out steadfastly their policy of internal reconstruction to build their New Democracy. Resolute and patient in defence of peace, they have continued to demand and urge a peaceful way of solving all outstanding Far Eastern problems and particularly that of Korea and Taiwan. In carrying out these policies, the Chinese people, strong in their new freedom, can firmly rely on that great instrument of peace—The Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance—the most important factor making for peace in the Far East.

This treaty was and remains the cornerstone of the fraternal friendship and co-operation between these two great nations which comprise more than 700,000,000 people. It has made the camp of peace and democracy invincible in face of the Wall Street imperialists and their satellites.

Today, when the dark forces of imperialism are madly heading for new bloody adventures, there is a still greater urgency for all the freedom-loving peoples to be strongly united. In this situation the great solidarity of the Chinese and Soviet peoples is an inspiration to all progressive mankind. As Mao Tse-tung has tersely put it:

“The unity between the Chinese and Soviet peoples is of the utmost importance; with the hands of these two peoples firmly joined, it is not difficult for peoples in the rest of the world to be united.”

CURRENT CHINA

Jan. 26—Feb. 10, 1951



U.N. Illegal Resolution

Democratic parties and groups and people's organisations throughout China have condemned the illegal U.N. resolution submitted by the U.S. slandering China as an "aggressor." Supporting Foreign Minister Chou En-lai's statement of Feb. 2 (see Supplement), they pointed out that the passing of this resolution demonstrates clearly that the American government does not want a peaceful settlement of the Korean question. The Peking *People's Daily* in its editorial on Feb. 3, discussing the illegal U.N. resolution, stated that the American government again proves itself the deadly enemy of peace.

U.S. Re-arming Japan

The U.S. plot to conclude a separate peace treaty with Japan and to re-arm Japan has reminded the Chinese people of the incalculable losses they suffered during the years of Japanese aggression in China. People everywhere demonstrated and voiced their determination to smash the U.S. plots.

The All-China Federation of Labour in a message to Japanese workers stated that Chinese workers demand a just overall peace treaty with Japan and that in order to restore a life of peace to the Japanese people at an early date, they oppose the re-arming of Japan. The China New Democratic Youth League writing to Japanese youth emphasised that Chinese youth would join them "in defeating the American plot."

Tsai Chang, Chairman of the All-China Democratic Women's Federation, told Peking's 40,000 women paraders that Chinese women must tell their Japanese and Asian sisters that the U.S. plot to re-arm Japan will be fatal to Japan and threaten peace in Asia.

Recalling the bitter suffering brought on the Chinese people by the Japanese army during the Anti-Japanese War, men and women in Shanghai, Hankow, Canton, Tientsin, and in every centre throughout the country vowed to fight against the resurrection of a fascist, militarised Japan.

Feb. 7 Commemorated

The 28th anniversary of the "Feb. 7" Strike of Peking-Hankow Railway workers against imperialism and feudalistic warlords was commemorated with meetings and demonstrations by workers in 40 major cities throughout the country. Recalling the brave spirit of the Feb. 7 strikers despite the brutal attack of imperialist-supported warlords, workers everywhere pledged their wholehearted support to heighten the patriotic emulation drive.

U.S. Offensive Repulsed

In the period from Jan. 28 to 31, the Korean People's Army and the Chinese people's volunteers repulsed the attacking American troops at a point north of Suwon and Ryongin on the Han River front. The people's forces held their positions and punished the attackers.

Gifts to the Korean Front

Gifts totalling more than 11,490,000,000 dollars (people's currency) for the Korean People's Army and the Chinese people's volunteers were received by various branches of the Chinese People's Committee in Defence of World Peace and against American Aggression from last November to Jan. 26. During the same period, branches of the Committee in various areas received hundreds of thousands of letters, gift bags and parcels for the Korean front.

Honour the Volunteers'

Families

Families of the Chinese people's volunteers and of People's Liberation Army men were honoured throughout the country during the Spring Festival holidays. "Lunar New Year" greetings were sent to these families by workers, students and peasants. The families were entertained at garden parties, and with special performance of movies, plays, *yangko* and drum dances.

Protest to Pleven

The All-China Federation of Labour, the All-China Democratic Women's Federation and the All-China Federation of Democratic Youth in cables to French Premier Pleven, strongly protested against the French Government's action in banning the activities in France of the three international organisations: The World Federation of Trade Unions, the Women's International Democratic Federation and the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

Anti-Imperialist Buddhists

Over 2,000 Buddhists, including monks, nuns and lamas, held a demonstration in Peking on Feb. 2. At this mass rally a Committee of the Buddhists for World Peace and against American Aggression was formed.

Buddhist priest Chu Chan said, "We Buddhists inform the imperialists that every man and woman, irrespective of religious beliefs, is determined to defend China and to oppose American aggression."

Happiest Spring Festival

The second fruitful springtime of People's China was joyfully celebrated during the three-day national holidays for the Spring Festival, also the traditional Lunar New Year. Throughout the length and breadth of China, people celebrated the Festival with gaiety and determination to consolidate their hard-won victories.

Hundreds of thousands of villages throughout China had a plentiful festival this year as a result of agrarian reform and last year's bumper harvest. It was a time to wear new clothes, visit friends and exchange presents. Many Peking workers competed in holiday dancing and ice skating contests held in workers' recreation centres and in the Working People's Palace of Culture.

In more distant parts of China, the Mongolians, Moslems, Tartars, Uighurs and other national minorities held joyous celebrations too, for liberation has ended their long national oppression and brought them prosperity.

More Grain in 1951

China is planning to raise 130 million tons of grain in 1951, over 6 per cent more than last year's output, stated Li Shu-cheng, Minister of Agriculture, at a recent agricultural conference in Peking.

The total cotton output for the current year will reach 950,000 tons, an increase of nearly 34 per cent over last year's output.

Prices Stable

Reports from six leading cities—Tientsin, Shanghai, Hankow, Canton, Sian and Chungking—showed that during the three weeks ending Jan. 25, the average price index for more than 30 major commodities in daily use including grain, flour, salt, cloth and fuel rose only 0.1 per cent. Prices also remained stable throughout the country during the days preceding the Spring Festival (Feb. 6-8). This represented a Herculean feat in China's history, for in the past prices soared at stocktaking time at the end of the Lunar Year.

Agreements with Poland

Four agreements of great significance in developing economic co-operation between China and Poland were concluded on Jan. 29 in Peking. The four agreements included:

The Agreement concerning Exchange of Goods and Payments between China and Poland in 1951; the Agreement concerning Navigation and Shipping between China and Poland; the Agreement concerning Postal Services between China and Poland; and the Agreement concerning Tele-communication Services between China and Poland.

INTERNATIONAL

On the occasion of Army Day in Korea, C-in-C Chu Teh sent greetings to General Kim Il-sung on Feb. 7.

The All-China Federation of Writers and Artists and the All-China Association of Literary Workers sent a message of greetings to Ilya Ehrenbourg on his 60th birthday on Jan. 27.

The first Chinese exhibition to be shown in Sofia including more than 200 photographs, pictures and samples of Chinese porcelain, leather and tobacco products opened on Jan. 22.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung Greet Indian Anniversary

The first birthday of the Republic of India on January 26, 1951 was the occasion for a cordial exchange of greetings between India and China. Chairman Mao Tse-tung and other leaders of the Central People's Government attended a reception given by K. M. Panikkar, Ambassador of the Republic of India to the People's Republic of China.

In his speech at the reception the Indian Ambassador said: "I am profoundly grateful to you, Mr. Chairman, for your kindness in coming here to participate in the celebration of the first anniversary of the Republic of India. I look upon it as a gesture of good-will and friendship of the government and people of China to the government and people of my country...."

"To you, Mr. Chairman, I should like especially to convey the cordial and respectful greetings of the people and government of India who have shown in an unmistakable manner their admiration for your high qualities of leadership, your friendship for them and your desire for the welfare, progress and prosperity of India. We share with the people of China the pride they feel in the greatness of their leader, who has raised the stature of Asian peoples...."

Chairman Mao Tse-tung in his speech of greeting at the reception said: "The Indian nation is a great nation, and the Indian people is an excellent people. For thousands of years, excellent friendship has existed between those two nations, China and India, and between the people of these two countries. Today, in celebrating the National Day of India, we hope that the two nations, China and India, will continue to unite together to strive for peace. People all over the world need peace, only a few people want war. India, China, the Soviet Union and all other peace-loving countries and people, unite together to strive for peace in the Far East and the whole world! Greetings on the National Day of India and best wishes to the Indian people and your President!"

Commenting on the Indian anniversary, the *People's Daily* states in an editorial on Jan. 27: "The diplomatic relations between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China which have been established on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and mutual respect for territorial and sovereign rights will consolidate and develop the friendship between their peoples and help defend the lasting peace of Asia and the whole world."



Chairman Mao and Ambassador Panikkar at the Indian national day reception.

Letters from Our Readers

March Hand in Hand

Dear Friend,

The Indian people have much to learn from the Chinese people and vice versa. We must do our utmost to preserve the age-long friendship that has existed between these two neighbouring nations. You know as we do that the Americans have been trying to drive a wedge between us so that there will be no power in Asia to prevent them from exploiting the natural resources abundant in this part of the world.

But turning to your nation, the achievements of the People's Government during the past year have indeed been great. My land is a far cry from your land. Yet I can learn something about your country by reading the news in the local dailies, and this news has enriched my appreciation of the People's Government. There can be no doubt about the fact that China has undergone a thorough transformation during a very short space of time. All credit for this must go to the government which freed the land from the reactionary regime. We are sure that the Chinese people and their brothers, the Indian people, will march hand in hand to their desired goal—economic self-sufficiency—without which it is futile for them to expect peace and prosperity.

Your fortnightly has made a vigorous attempt to strengthen the political awareness of the peoples of Asia. . . . But there are a number of Chinese words in your articles which puzzle me. "Picul," for instance. What is a "picul"?

Also, according to a leading Indian daily, the name "Formosa" was first given to the island by Spanish travellers who visited this island at the beginning of the 18th century. According to this paper, the island's Chinese name is "In-sula." Which is correct?

Robin Goham

India

December 9, 1950

TAIWAN is the correct name for the Chinese island lying off the coast of Fukien Province in

East China. Please see Vol. II, No. 10, page 7 of *People's China* for the origin of the term Formosa. The latter name is used purposely by the American imperialists these days in a cunning attempt to deny the Chinese character and status of this island.

A "picul" is roughly equivalent to 133 lbs.—Ed.

U.S. Re-arming Japan

Sir,

The local papers these days are full of news about the Americans wanting a quick settlement with Japan and, of course, about the Korean war. So far, very few papers have given any reasoned comments on American diplomatic activities around the question of a Japanese treaty, but many of my friends seem to believe that America's underlying motive is to bring off a quick peace settlement in order to re-arm Japan for eventualities in Asia. I ask myself: for what eventualities?

Have the Americans forgotten about the sneak attack on Pearl Harbour in 1941? Weren't the Japanese their mortal enemy in the last war? Then, why these reports about the American government being prepared to write the Japanese peace treaty without China and Russia? These things are hard to understand, yet here they are—the United States going to re-arm a former enemy in the face of strong opposition from both China and Russia, who were only a few years ago America's allies against Japan. I have no doubt as to what the feelings of the Chinese people would be towards a remilitarised Japan because personally I was a victim of the Japanese brutes when they over-ran Southeast Asia, and I am sure I know what it would be like if the Japanese fascists were ever again let loose upon the Asian peoples.

Had it not been for the Japanese invasion, I might have been a contented, if not exactly happy, man raising a family today. Came the Japanese and my fiancée, whom I

was to marry that summer, was murdered by these barbarous troops the second day after Singapore fell. To this day I have not the heart to find out how she died. All that I was told was that she was savagely assaulted and raped by three Japanese soldiers. She was a school teacher like myself, and evidently thought that schools would be free from any molestation. She did not hide herself and the sadistic Japanese soldiers pounced on her. My fiancée was only one among many, many such tragic cases. I well remember the longish unbearable days when the Japanese occupied Singapore where I lived. Thousands upon thousands of able-bodied men, young and old, were forced into labour gangs to build roads and fortifications for the conquerors. Some were even sent out the country to Siam. There many either died out of sheer physical exhaustion, or were whipped to death because they could not drag their feet for another inch of work. Looting and violations of young women were daily occurrences, though, as the Japanese believed they were there to stay, one heard little of arson. Unless you were a collaborator, life was hell for you and your family. Singapore, Penang, Bandong—everywhere the story was the same—a story of humiliation and tragedy that followed everywhere in the wake of the fascist invaders.

Today when I read about the remilitarisation of Japan I remember these things: the rape and murder of my fiancée—and many other unfortunate ones, the terrible forced labour gangs, the looting and the wanton killing of people. The horrible past which I believed had been buried in the innermost recesses of my heart is now uppermost in my mind. A re-armed Japan threatens to bring back unthinkable horrors to Asia.

I wonder if the American government knows what it is doing. I wonder if the American government realises what a hornets' nest about its ears the re-arming of Japan will bring. This is a question of such momentum that I have written you at some length. Am I

hoping for too much to see it published in your magazine's space? You probably knows that *People's China* is banned here, but somehow I have a way of getting a copy regularly through friends in Calcutta. So please don't let the thought of perhaps my not seeing the letter in print influence your judgement one way or another.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
A. V. Mookerjee

Singapore
January 12, 1951

The question raised by our correspondent is of such vital concern that we are glad to publish this letter as it came to us. The American imperialists want to re-arm Japan because they need the Japanese people to fight their battles in Asia. America itself and its reluctant satellites are not supplying cannon fodder in sufficient quantities for the Wall Street expansionists, as their aggressive war in Korea has revealed at great cost to them. Cannon fodder—and more cannon fodder—is therefore the main preoccupation of the American imperialists who, in spite of their lessons in Korea,

still believe that they can go on with their war of aggression against the Asian peoples. John Foster Dulles, the American State Department's notorious warmonger, is at present having one talk after another with Japanese ruling circles. The substance of the Tokyo talks is revival of an imperialist Japan, pure and simple. Washington knows that both China and the U.S.S.R. are opposed to the re-arming of Japan and this fact explains why the U.S. government is plotting to exclude the two great Powers from an eventual peace settlement with Japan. Our correspondent is right: This diabolical plot will rouse a real "hornets' nest" about America's ears. In China, for instance, a movement is already afoot to expose and fight American intrigues for re-arming Japan. As the American imperialists' activities become more widely known, we believe the whole of Asia will rise to oppose America's criminal scheme. We invite our readers, particularly those in Asia, to express their views on the urgent question of the re-arming of Japan by the U.S.—Ed.

The Agrarian Reform Law

Dear Friend,

I have read with great profit the very important Liu Shao-chi's report on the agrarian reform law published in "People's China." The agrarian reform in China as well as in the European People's Democracies points out a good road to the Latin American peoples, who are subjected to a landlord regime of a feudal and semi-feudal type.

Argentina is known as an agrarian country, but one must not forget that in this country, most of the peasants are landless peasants. Only 30 per cent of the peasants own land, with this reservation, however, that this group has little importance in the sphere of cereal production, which is the fundamental branch of the country's rural economy.

The Chinese example as well as that of the European People's Democracies corroborates that the main thing is to smash the landlord system. This is why the Communist Party, in spite of the reaction and terror, will popularise among the Argentine peasants the great Chinese example.

An Argentinean

Buenos Aires

October 19, 1950.

THE PEOPLE'S NEW LITERATURE

(Continued from page 9)

activities and workers are already revealing their great creative abilities.* Because the workers' cultural level is relatively high, and because their political consciousness increases comparatively fast, the expansion of the workers' literary activities will be even more rapid in the future.

The participation of the worker, peasant, and soldier masses in literary activities has given fresh energy to the Liberated Areas' literature. The literary activities of the professional writers and the amateur literary activities of the worker, peasant and soldier masses are integral parts of this literature. The potential revolutionary vigour of these masses, once given a chance to manifest itself, is inexhaustible. Similarly, in creative writing, they have shown limitless vigour and ability. To evoke the activity of the masses is the most important requirement in popularising literature and art with the masses. Professional writers, on the one hand, direct the creative abilities of the masses, and on the other, absorb nourishment from their work to enrich their own writings. It is an error to adopt a scornful or indifferent attitude towards the creations of the masses. That kind of attitude was corrected after the Yen-an Literary Meeting. At the same time, while leading the literary activities of the masses, the professional writers must bear in mind that these activities are amateur in nature and should not interfere with production. The purpose

of our literature is to serve our politics. Practically speaking, it is to help expedite success in battle and in production.

Political Functions of Literature

Thus, we must observe the seasonal nature of rural life while not exaggeratedly stressing "routine." In the factories, we should bear in mind the collective and disciplined nature of production, and, in the army, the environment and characteristics of battle. Some dramatic groups in the rural and industrial areas have as their first rule the principle that "acting must not delay production." This is correct. In the field of literary activities, small vehicles should be selected, and the tendency to present long plays should be guarded against. It must be remembered that educating the worker, peasant and soldier masses, and raising their political consciousness and enthusiasm for production and battle, are the most important factors in expanding the literature of the masses. Literature which divorces itself from present political functions, and from the needs of the masses, will not be popular and cannot be raised to a higher level.

* Workers and peasants' literary activities have seen enormous developments in the year and half since the Writers' Congress. The workers now have their own cultural palaces, their own dramatic and dance groups, their own playwrights, newspapers and periodicals. More than 100,000 workers participate in organised literary activities—Ed.

People's China



Fighters on the Production Front

by Hua Tien-yu



Fighters of the People's Army

by Hua Tien-yu